



**CITY OF  
PARRAMATTA**



# Heart of Play

**Heart of Play Master Plan & Dan Mahoney Reserve  
Engagement Outcomes Report**

September 2020

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# Executive Summary

The City of Parramatta is undertaking a master planning process with the community that will provide the blueprint for an outdoor sporting and recreation network in North Parramatta.

Cred Consulting, on behalf of the City of Parramatta Council, engaged with over 700 people between June and August 2020, to inform the master planning process.

Community and stakeholder engagement included a range of activities, including online surveys, online workshops, pop-up boards, stakeholder interviews, and a scavenger hunt. Submissions were also welcomed.

This executive summary provides a high level overview of themes that emerged from community and stakeholder engagement.



Figure 1 - The Heart of Play Master Plan area includes Doyle Ground, Dan Mahoney Reserve, Barton Park, Old Saleyards Reserve, PH Jeffrey Reserve, Sherwin Park and Corry Court.

## What we did



### 750 online survey responses

328 Heart of Play survey responses and 422 Dan Mahoney Reserve survey responses



### ~290 pop up board responses

120 Heart of Play master plan responses and 170 Dan Mahoney Reserve responses



### 15 telephone interviews

with stakeholders from peak sporting bodies and local recreation user groups



### 16 people participated in 2 online workshops

specific engagement for future use of Dan Mahoney Reserve



### 13 submissions received

from community members and sporting associations related to the Heart of Play master plan and Dan Mahoney Reserve



### 500 flyers distributed

to local households



### 10 completed scavenger hunt forms

*Please note that separate engagement activities were conducted to inform future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve including an online survey, online workshops, pop-up boards and submissions, with findings summarised in Part B of this report.*

# What we heard

Community engagement participants told us they value the unique network of open spaces across the Heart of Play master plan area, expressing appreciation for its large and diverse spaces that allow for a range of active and passive recreation activities, including play, walking, dog-walking, cycling, sport and social gatherings.

Participants also value having access to large green open spaces for relaxation and connection to nature to support community wellbeing. The majority of survey respondents (65%) would like to see more nature and biodiversity in their local parks.

Participants highlighted that these open spaces will continue to play an important role in North Parramatta as population grows and residential density increases, and to support community health and wellbeing outcomes.



## Increased amenity to support community use

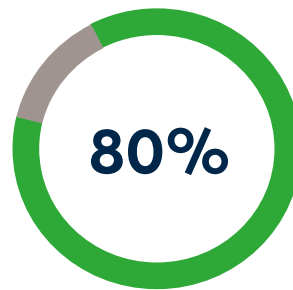
Across engagement activities, respondents said they want to see increased amenity in open spaces across the Heart of Play master plan area to support community use, including accessible public toilets, shaded seating areas and pathways, BBQ areas, water bubblers, increased maintenance and lighting to support safety and use at night.

In particular, 70% of survey respondents indicated they want more public toilets in parks in the master plan area. People also want to see longer opening hours and more facilities.

Participants suggested upgrades to existing facilities as well as new amenities to support community members of all ages and abilities to use the parks, including for social gatherings and passive and active recreation activities. This was seen to be especially important in light of population growth and increasing residential density in North Parramatta.

## Increased shade and tree canopy to provide cooling and comfort in summer

Increasing shade and trees in open spaces to provide cooling and comfort during hot summer months was a top priority across engagement activities. 80% of survey respondents wanted to see more shade across the Heart of Play master plan area, and 70% wanted to see more trees and green spaces. Priority areas for shading were pathways and streets to support walking, jogging and cycling, as well as shaded play spaces and picnic areas.



*of respondents wanted to see more shade across Heart of Play*



## Spaces for informal recreation and sharing

Across engagement activities, participants would like to see more recreation spaces that support informal and flexible recreation activities for a range of community users of all ages and abilities. In the survey, there was expressed desire for informal recreation facilities in parks across the master plan area, including outdoor courts, outdoor gyms and fitness areas, community gardens, as well as play spaces and pathways for walking, jogging, skating, cycling and scooting.

Nearly half of survey respondents (47%) would like to see more informal sports and games, while only 29% wanted to see more organised sporting spaces. In particular, people wanted to see spaces that support informal recreation for children and families that are inviting and welcoming to all members of the community. There was also strong desire for spaces for quiet passive recreation and relaxation.

Some participants expressed concerns about shared use of spaces, for example between dogs and children playing, or walkers and cyclists, and people who use parks for active versus passive recreation. People would like to see parks be accessible and safe for all community users.



## More walking and cycling pathways and connections

Increasing active transport connections for walking and cycling in and around parks was a priority for participants across engagement activities. 69% of survey respondents would like to see more spaces to walk and cycle, while 57% would like to see more pedestrian and road crossings to support access to open spaces in the master plan area.

In particular, participants value the existing walking tracks at Doyle ground, and would like to see similar tracks created at other parks in the master plan area, supported by access to shade, seating, water bubblers and lighting at night.

Open ended comments indicated that there can be conflicts on shared pathways, including between cyclists and walkers, dogs, and children, with expressed need for wider and separated paths that support shared use.

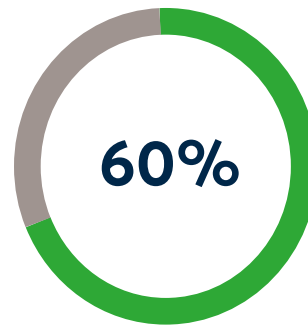


## Managing and providing for dogs across the open space network

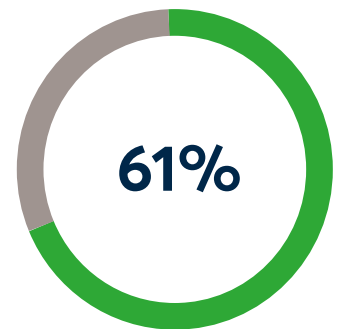
Many engagement participants like having access to open spaces in the Heart of Play master plan area that they can visit with their dog. In particular, many value Dan Mahoney Reserve as a large and well-utilised dog off-leash area that supports recreation with dogs and fosters social connections.

While 25% of respondents to the Heart of Play master plan survey expressed they would like to see more spaces for dogs to run and play, 21% wanted to see less and 43% wanted to see the same amount. Some respondents expressed concerns about conflicts arising from shared use of spaces with dogs, including play spaces, sports spaces and picnic areas.

*Please note that Part B (page 42) of this report provides an in-depth summary of key findings from consultation specifically around Dan Mahoney Reserve (DMR). Respondents to the DMR survey expressed a strong desire to retain the large area for use by dogs and did not want to see the site reduced in size. There was support for upgrades to the DMR dog off-leash area to improve amenity, including increased lighting, public toilets, shade and trees, seating, bins and safety gates.*



*of survey respondents want to see more spaces to walk and cycle in and around parks included in the master plan area.*



*of survey respondents would like to see more play equipment for kids, with support for play that is inclusive, fun and adventurous for all ages.*



## Upgraded, diverse and inclusive play spaces

Across engagement activities, participants would like to see more, upgraded and increased amenity and diversity of play spaces in open spaces across the Heart of Play master plan area. 61% of survey respondents would like to see more play equipment for kids and 56% would like to see more water play.

In particular, participants expressed desire for a wider range of play spaces, and suggested ideas for use of natural materials instead of plastic; play that invokes a sense of adventure and managed risk, and spaces that can cater for a range of ages, including children, young people and adults.

Participants also want to see existing play spaces upgraded, particularly at Doyle Ground and Sherwin Park, with increased amenity including shade, bubblers, seating and spaces for BBQs and social gatherings. Increased inclusive and accessible play spaces to support people of all abilities was also a priority.

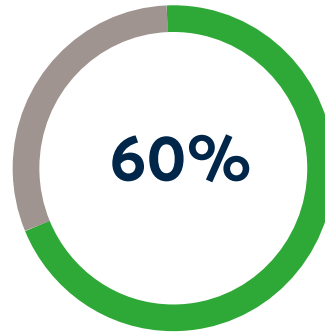


## Increasing capacity, flexibility and amenity of sporting spaces

60% of survey respondents think the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the Heart of Play master plan area is adequate, while 29% would like to see more spaces to play formal sport and 27% would like to see more formal team sports facilities.

Consultation with recreation user groups and sporting peak bodies indicated that there is a need for upgrades to and increased maintenance of facilities and sporting grounds to support utilisation of sporting spaces in the Heart of Play master plan area. Some user groups noted that lack of amenity is a challenge in retaining local players. Suggested improvements across sporting spaces include:

- Increased separated change rooms and showers to support increasing female participation in formal sports such as cricket, touch football, soccer juniors and rugby league
- Increased sporting equipment including soccer/AFL goal posts and additional cricket nets that cater to different age groups
- Increased lighting of facilities and grounds for use at night
- Increase shade, seating, toilets and bubblers in proximity to fields to increase amenity for players and spectators
- Opportunity to introduce formal booking system of spaces across the network, to support equitable use and sharing
- Upgraded canteen and kiosk facilities and access for more user groups at Doyle Ground
- Increased storage spaces, in particular to support sharing
- Improved accessibility of spaces and facilities to support inclusion of all abilities, and
- Improved playing surfaces, including surfacing, drainage and irrigation of fields.



*survey respondents think the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the Heart of Play master plan area is adequate*





# Part A

# Heart of Play

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# Introduction

**Part A provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by Cred Consulting on behalf of the City of Parramatta Council to inform the Heart of Play master planning process.**

## About the Heart of Play master plan

The City of Parramatta (Council) is undertaking a master planning process with the community that will provide the blueprint for an outdoor sporting and recreation network in North Parramatta. Council engaged Cred Consulting to conduct community consultation to inform the master planning process.

The aim of the master plan is to create a network that: maximises the use of open space for the community; improves connections between these seven existing sites; provides enhanced community and recreation facilities; and decreases water use while increasing shade.

North Parramatta and the CBD are projected to house an additional 36,353 residents by 2036, who will need a collective backyard. It is crucial that Council plan for this growing community to ensure that everyone now and in the future can enjoy open spaces.

The master planned area will include:

- Doyle Ground
- Dan Mahoney Reserve
- Barton Park
- Old Saleyards Reserve
- PH Jeffrey Reserve
- Sherwin Park, and
- Corry Court.

## Community engagement to inform the Heart of Play master plan

Part A provides a summary of findings from community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by Cred Consulting on behalf of City of Parramatta in June and July 2020 to inform the Heart of Play master planning process.

Findings in this report have been summarised by engagement activity, with key findings summarised in the Executive Summary.

## Overview of engagement activities

The table overpage provides an overview of the community and stakeholder engagement activities conducted to inform the development of the Heart of Play master planning process.

**Part B of this report provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by Cred Consulting on behalf of City of Parramatta to inform the remediation and future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve.**





## Overview of community and stakeholder engagement activities

Type	Dates	Details / location	Participants
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### Surveys

Online community survey (Heart of Play)	29 June - 3 August 2020	Via Your Say Parramatta	328
Online community survey (Dan Mahoney Reserve)	29 June - 3 August 2020	Via Your Say Parramatta	422

### Unstaffed pop-up boards

'Chalk to us' board	29 June - 3 August 2020	Doyle Ground, North Parramatta	*
Consultation boards	29 June - 3 August 2020	Doyle Ground playground, Barton Park, Old Saleyards Reserve, PH Jeffrey Reserve Sherwin Park, and Corry Court.	120 (approx.)
Consultation boards	29 June - 3 August 2020	Dan Mahoney Reserve	170 (approx.)

### Community workshops

Dan Mahoney Reserve online workshop	23 June, 5-6pm and 25 June, 10-11am	Online via zoom	16
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### Stakeholder interviews

15 telephone interviews completed with local sporting groups and associations			15
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### Scavenger hunt

	29 June - 3 August 2020	Online	10**
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### Submissions

A total of 13 submissions were received via email from community members and stakeholders in relation to Heart of Play master plan and Dan Manhoney Reserve

### Flyer drop to local households

			500
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### Total engaged across all activities:

			<b>1,066</b>
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\* Unable to accurately record the number of individual responses on the unstaffed 'Chalk to us' board

\*\* 10 fully completed scavenger hunts were logged, 50 incomplete scavenger hunts were commenced

# Online survey findings

A total of 328 people responded to the community survey which was available online via Council's Have Your Say Page between 23 June and 3 August 2020. This chapter provides an overview of findings for the overall Heart of Play master plan area, as well as a snapshot of findings for each individual park.

## Snapshot of findings

Key findings across the community survey include:

- Survey respondents were most likely to have visited Doyle Ground Reserve (87%) in the 12 months prior, followed by Barton Park (52%) and Dan Mahoney Reserve (50%). Respondents were least likely to have visited Corry Court (8%) and PH Jeffery Reserve (28%).
- The top activities that survey respondents would like to see more of in parks included in the master plan area include:
  - Spaces to walk and cycle (69%)
  - Play equipment for kids (61%)
  - BBQ and picnic areas (60%), and
  - Water play (56%).
- The top amenities that survey respondents would like to see more of in parks included in the master plan area include:
  - Shade (80%)
  - Lighting at night (73%)
  - Public toilets (72%), and
  - Trees and green spaces (70%).
- The majority of respondents (60%) think the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the master plan area is adequate.
- Of respondents who do not think there is an adequate variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the area, they would like to see:
  - More informal sporting spaces and equipment
  - Increased maintenance and improvements to existing sporting facilities and amenities, including more frequent opening times
  - Additional seating and tables, increased shade and shelter for cooling and comfort, and lighting at night; and
  - Walking and cycling infrastructure, to support connectivity and accessibility to parks, as well as for leisure and recreation within parks.

# Respondent profile

In total, the online survey received 328 responses. The following provides a snapshot of the respondent profile.

## Demographic indicators

- As shown in Table 1, more than half of survey respondents were local residents of North Parramatta (58%), and a further 35% of residents live in the Parramatta LGA.
- The majority of survey respondents were female (62%), with 37% male, and 1% preferred not to say.
- As shown in Figure 2, there was a relatively good spread of age ranges, with largest group spanning working-aged adults aged 30 to 44 years, including:
  - Aged 35 to 39 years: 21%
  - Aged 40 to 44 years: 18%.
- 18% of survey respondents speak a language other than English at home, with common languages including Arabic, Hindi, Italian and French.
- 2% of survey respondents live with a disability.
- 30% of survey respondents are members of a sporting group or association in the area.

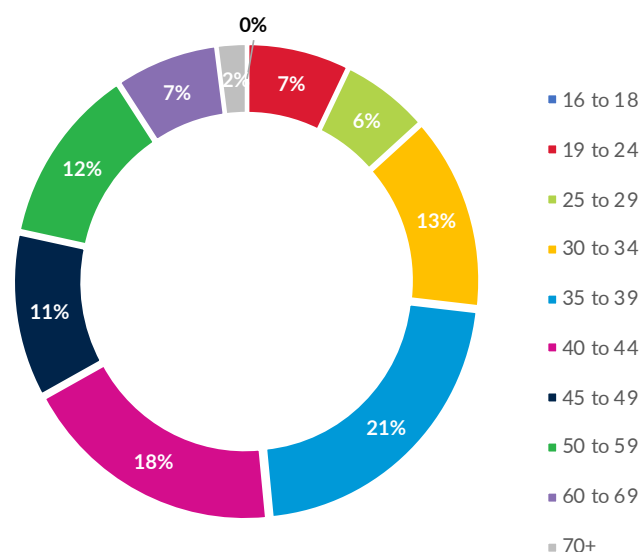


Figure 2 - Respondent age profile

TABLE 1 - WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PLAN?

Respondent relationship to the master plan	% of respondents	# of respondents
Local Resident - North Parramatta	58%	142
Resident - Parramatta LGA	35%	84
Football/soccer player	14%	34
Tennis player	12%	29
Athletics participant	10%	25
Touch football player	9%	23
Rugby league player	6%	14
Hockey player	5%	11
AFL player	5%	11
Student of a local school	5%	11
Cricket player	5%	12
Visitor - outside of LGA	4%	9
Business owner	4%	9
State sporting organisation	4%	9

# Findings across all parks

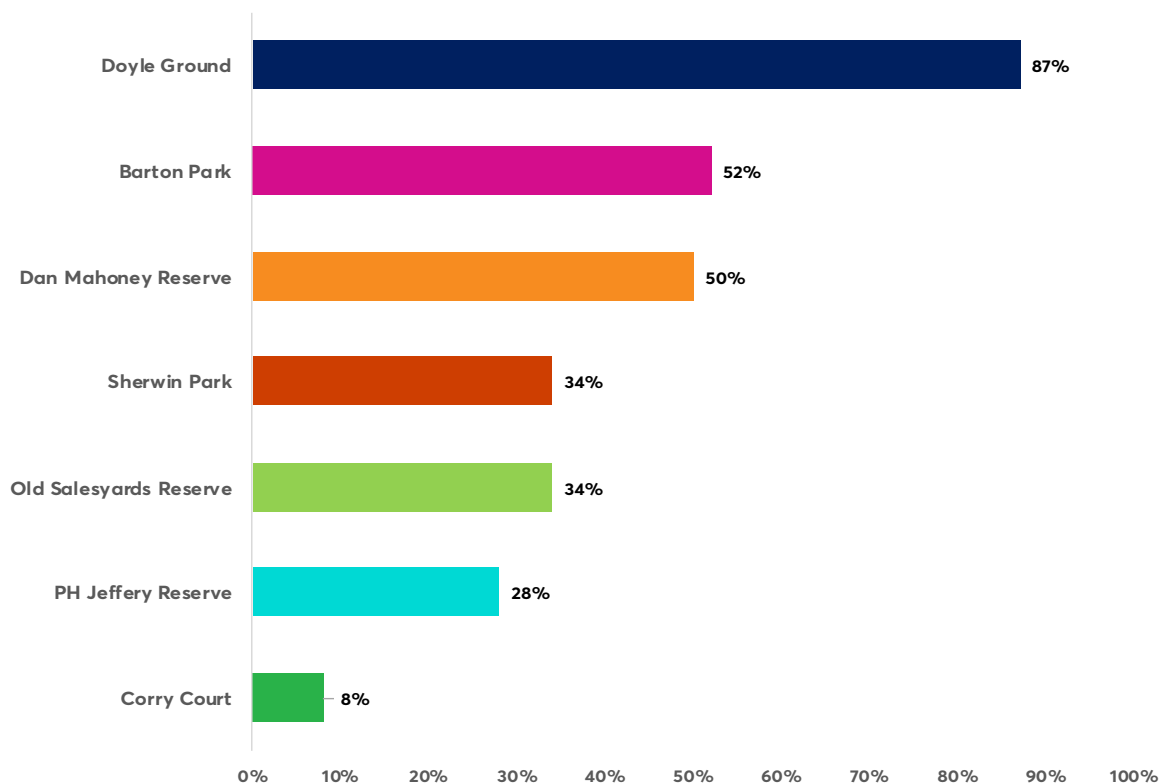
The following details findings from the online survey across all parks included in the master plan area.

## Visitation to Heart of Play master plan parks

Within the past 12 months, respondents were most likely to have visited Doyle Ground Reserve (87%), followed by Barton Park (52%) and Dan Mahoney Reserve (50%). Respondents were least likely to visit Corry Court (8%) and PH Jeffery Reserve (28%).

Respondents were also asked how often they visit the parks within the master plan area. Across all parks, respondents were most likely to visit at least once a week, while Doyle Ground (27%) and Dan Mahoney Reserve (13%) had a higher proportion of respondents visiting daily.

Figure 3 - Visitation within the past 12 months



## Desired activities for the master plan area

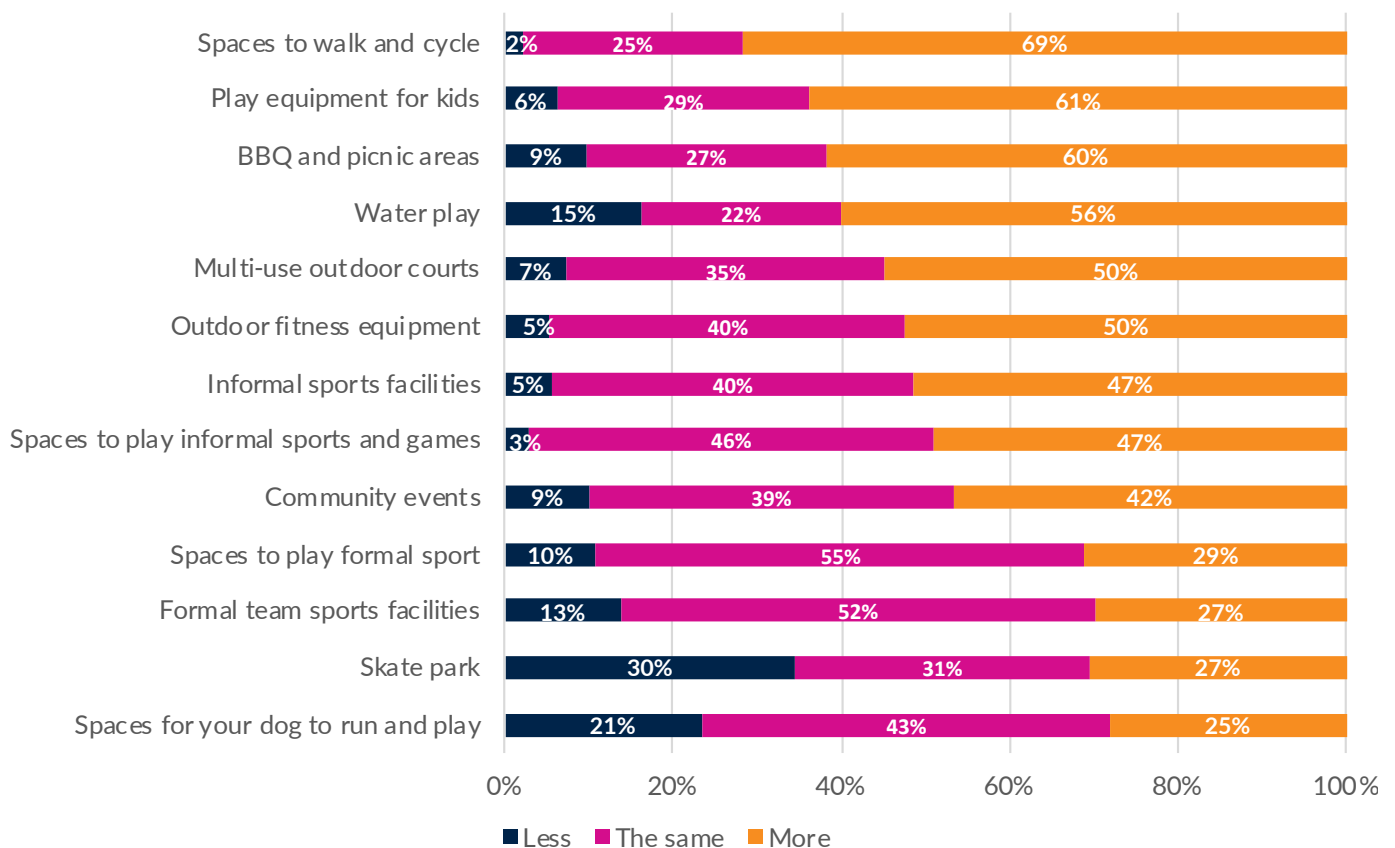
Respondents were asked whether they wanted to see more, less or the same of the following activities in and around the parks included in the master plan area. Key findings:

- As shown in Figure 4, the majority of survey respondents would like to see more spaces to walk and cycle (69%) in and around the parks included in the master plan area. Other popular activities included play equipment for kids (61%), BBQ and picnic areas (60%) and water play (56%).
- 30% of survey respondents would like to see less skate parks in and around the parks included in the master plan, followed by less spaces for dogs to run and play (21%).
- Whilst water play was a popular activity, there was also a proportion of survey respondents who would like to see less water play (15%).
- More than half of survey respondents would like to see the same amount of spaces to play formal sport (55%) and formal team sports facilities (53%).

Comments included a focus on a need for more:

- Passive and informal sport and recreation spaces (26 comments) that all members of the community can enjoy, including
  - Sports equipment such as basketball hoops
  - Spaces to ride a bike and skate
  - Outdoor gym equipment
  - Places to rest and have picnics, and
  - Community gardens.
- Improved walking and cycling infrastructure, including wider footpaths, separated walking paths and cycleways, and improved connections across the network (19 comments)
- Accessible and inclusive play and open spaces, for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds (13 comments)
- Spaces for dogs (13 comments), including off-leash dog areas, wider footpaths to share with walkers and dog-walkers, with comments also indicating to keep Dan Mahoney Reserve as a dog park, and
- Family friendly open spaces, for shared use of recreation facilities and amenities including walking and cycling paths, play spaces, and exercise equipment (11 comments).

Figure 4 - Do you support more, less or the same of the following activities in and around the parks included in the master plan area?



## Desired amenities in and around the parks included in the master plan area

Respondents were asked whether they wanted to see more, less or the same of the following amenities in and around the parks included in the master plan area, with key findings including:

- As shown in Figure 5, the majority of survey respondents would like to see more shade (80%) in and around parks included in the master plan area. This was followed by lighting at night (73%), public toilets (70%) and trees and green spaces (70%).
- Survey respondents would like to see less public art (16%), less meeting/event spaces (13%) and sportsground lighting (8%) in and around parks included in the master plan area.

Comments included a focus on:

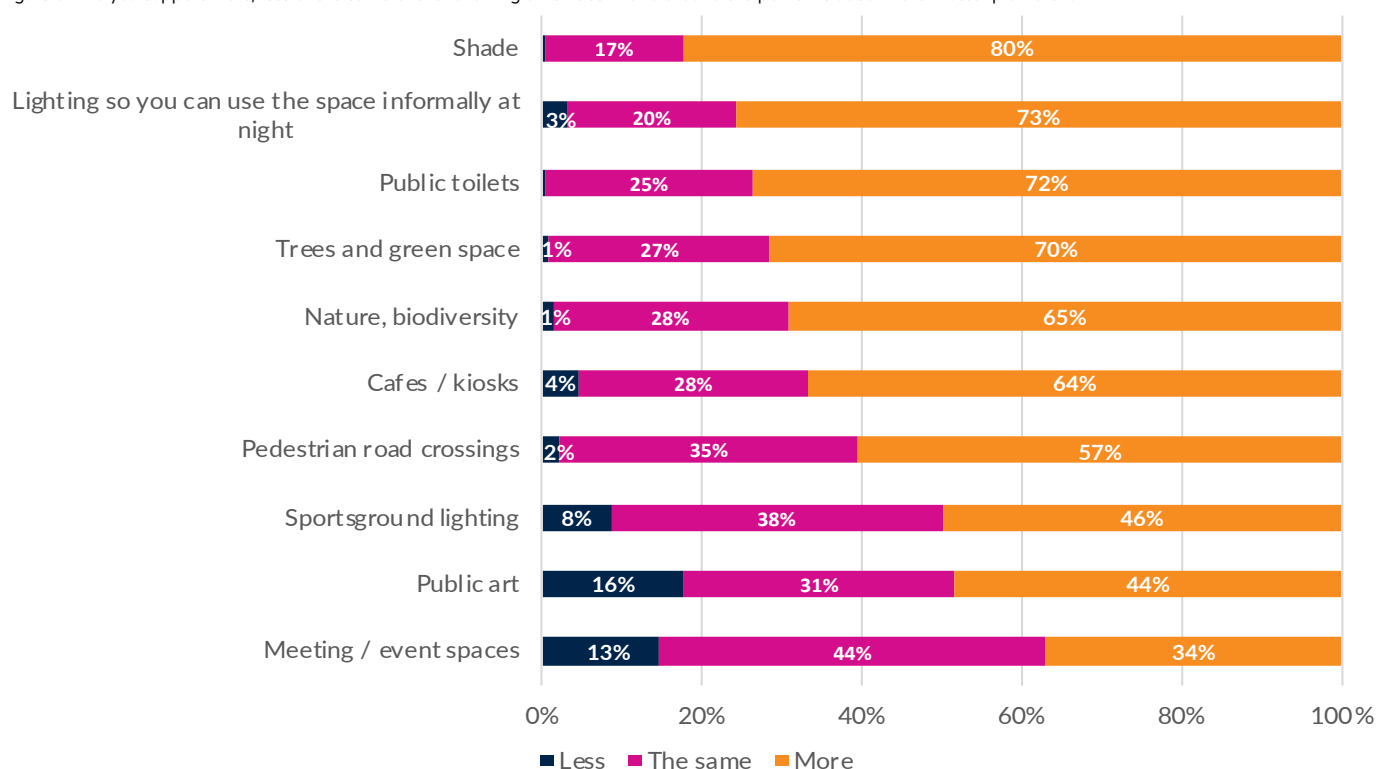
- Desire for increased lighting at night, to encourage nighttime activation and exercise, and increase sense of safety during the evening (18 comments)
- Increased shade and tree canopy coverage for comfort and cooling, particularly in summer (13 comments), and
- More greenery in open spaces, to support nature and wildlife, and provide a backyard for the community to share and enjoy (10 comments).

## Other features respondents would like to see more of

Overall, across all parks included in the master plan, survey respondents would like to see more:

- Seating and shelter (15 comments) for gatherings and casual amenity, including informal seating and sheltered picnic tables
- Informal and formal sporting equipment (13 comments) including basketball courts and hoops, tennis courts, cricket nets and AFL goal posts
- Play spaces (12 comments), including more inclusive play for people of all ages and abilities, as well as improved equipment in existing playgrounds, and
- Improved walking and cycling infrastructure (12 comments), including wider footpaths, improved surfacing, shared paths and improved pedestrian connections.

Figure 5 - Do you support more, less or the same of the following amenities in and around the parks included in the master plan area?



## Satisfaction with variety of sporting and recreation activities

As shown in Figure 6, 60% of survey respondents think the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the area is adequate.

Respondents who did not think the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the area is adequate were asked what additional sporting and recreation activities would they like to do. Comments pertaining to specific parks have been outlined in each of the corresponding sections overpage.

Across all parks included in the master plan, respondents would like to see:

- More informal sporting spaces and equipment, including:
  - Spaces to play soccer
  - Basketball courts and hoops
  - Skate parks and BMX tracks
- Additional toilets and amenities, that are accessible and inclusive to all users, as well as frequently opened during the day and in the evenings
- Walking and cycling infrastructure, included separated and dedicated walking and cycling paths, and improving walkability within and around parks, and
- Increased seating, shade and lighting at night.

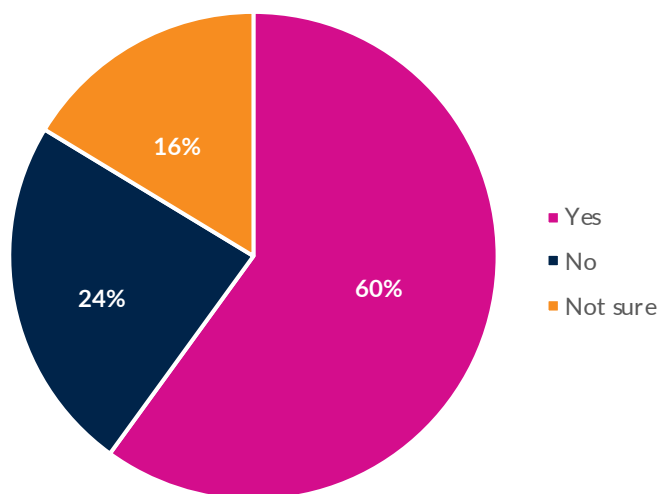


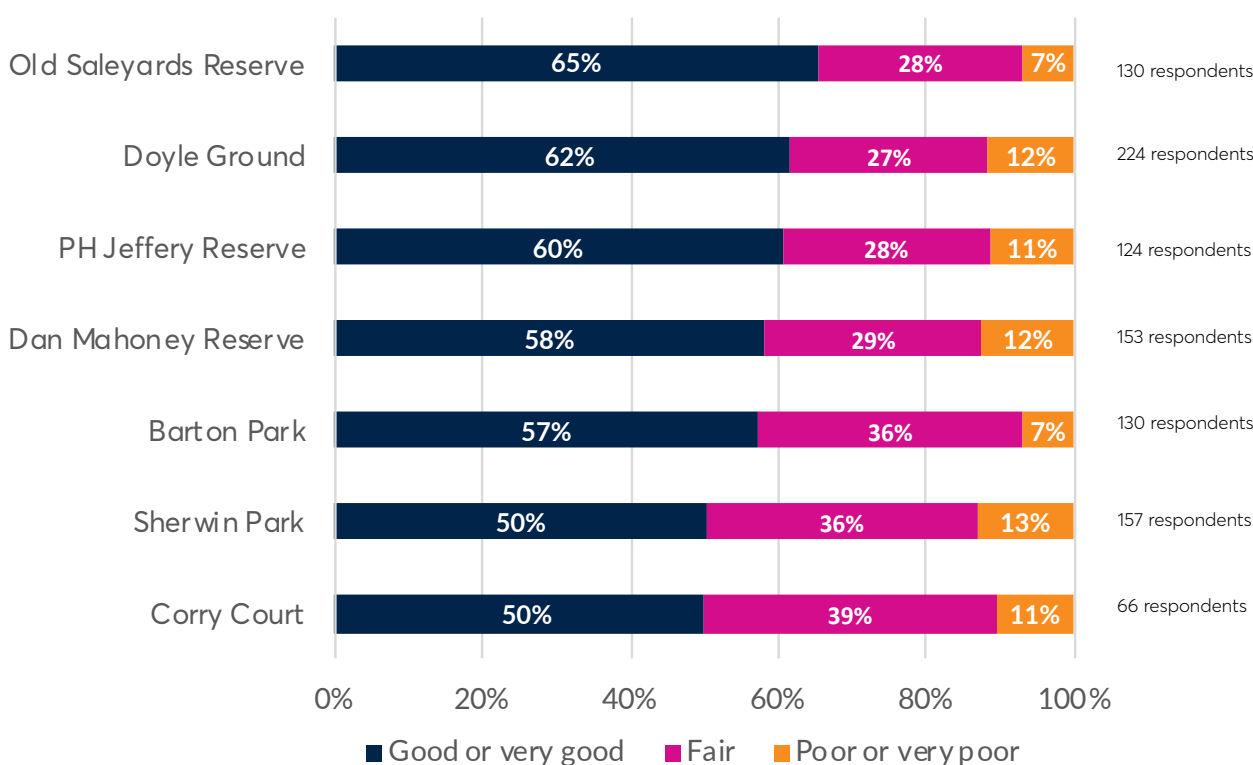
Figure 6 - Do you think that the variety of sporting and recreation activities accommodated for in the area is adequate?

## Rating the quality of the sporting and recreation spaces

As shown in Figure 7, the majority of respondents rated the quality of sporting and recreation spaces across the master planning area as 'very good' or 'good' for the majority of parks. Please note that some parks received a higher number of responses than others as indicated in the graph.

- Old Saleyards Reserve was the highest rated park in the master plan area, with 65% of respondents rating the quality as 'good' or 'very good'.
- Sherwin Park, Doyle Ground and Dan Mahoney Reserve received the highest proportion of respondents rating their quality as 'poor' or 'very poor'.

Figure 7 - Rating the quality of the sporting and recreation spaces across the master plan area (graph does not show respondents who indicated 'Don't know')





## Other ideas to help improve the Heart of Play recreation and open space network in the future

### *Increased public amenity and improved maintenance of facilities in our open spaces (22 comments)*

Overall, respondents would like to see increased accessible public amenities for sporting and recreation users of parks in North Parramatta. Respondents indicated increased amenities including accessible toilets, water stations/bubblers, bins for regular waste and recycling, change rooms, and seating and tables are important facilities for visitors and users of the parks.

Similarly, respondents indicated improved maintenance and upgrades to existing facilities including amenities blocks, fitness and play equipment, as well as maintenance of grounds including improved drainage and surfacing.

### *More trees, landscaping and greenery to create beauty, shade and cooling in our parks (19 comments)*

Respondents would like to see more trees, landscaping and greenery in the open space network in the future, to create beauty in their natural environment that is welcoming and friendly. The majority of respondents indicated more trees and plants, including deciduous trees, to improve the aesthetics of open spaces as well as increase tree canopy coverage and shade for cooling and comfort in summer.

"Be a world leader. Think big and reach for the stars. Make the spaces unique and a draw card for the community. Use the diversity in our community to its fullest. Create access and equity for people with disability, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, for women and children."

"Be fair in your allocation of spaces. Make sure all sports know what the rules are - there is often serious aggression from some of the sports about how much space their training sessions can take up. Consider implementing turf surfaces, as it is better for drainage and ease of play."

"Finding the right balance between passive and active recreation, and structuring in a way that both can be maximised within the same group of spaces is key to this plan being a successful endeavor."

"Increased emphasis on family focused recreation facilities - especially as residential density is increasing in this area."



"All the grounds must be connected by safe and accessible routes. With raised and marked pedestrian crossing links between each park. Wider connecting and shaded footpaths and directional signage at each ground plus event indicator boards so you know what is one and coming up. No good going to one of these parks for a quiet walk when there is large sporting event scheduled."

### *Improved, accessible and connected walking infrastructure (19 comments)*

Respondents would like to see improved, accessible and connected walking infrastructure in and around the open space network in the future. Respondents indicated including pedestrian crossings around the network is important in creating safe and efficient connections and improve active transport links.

The majority of respondents would also like to see wider footpaths, flat surfacing and shared paths with cyclists that are child-friendly, to improve leisure and passive recreation in open spaces in North Parramatta.

### *Shared spaces for informal and formal sporting activities (16 comments)*

Respondents would like to see more spaces for informal sporting activities including more basketball hoops, soccer goal posts, skate park and BMX track facilities, tennis court, and spaces for fitness and boot camp.

Respondents also indicated surfacing of existing courts and sportfields surfaces could be improved, as well as an opportunity for indoor multi-purpose sporting complexes to support organised sporting groups.

### *More dedicated dog off-leash areas (10 comments)*

Respondents would like to see more dedicated off-leash dog areas in the open space network in the future, with majority of comments expressing concern around reducing the size of Dan Mahoney Reserve.

## What was your favourite and most memorable outdoor recreation space to go to as a child?

### Survey respondents were asked to describe their most memorable childhood outdoor recreation space and what made this space special.

Survey respondents recalled spaces within the Heart of Play master plan area, including Dan Mahoney Reserve, Doyle Ground, Old Saleyards Reserve and Barton Park. They also discussed open spaces elsewhere in Sydney, such as Lake Parramatta, Centennial Park, Bicentennial Park, Yeo Park, Strathfield Park, Cronulla Beach, Tumbalong Park, Sherwood Park, Shrimpton's Creek, Greenup Park, Boronia Park and Ringrose Park.

There were some common themes across respondent's comments, including, unsurprisingly **a strong focus on play spaces**, with common favourite features including swings and tall climbing structures.

*"Swings. Anywhere with swings are best memory as a child."*

*"For me it was the roundabout things as a child. You could make them spin so fast. For my child it is the climbing and having like a obstacle course, so that the playground swirls around rather than in one area."*

Some respondents noted that they preferred play spaces that featured natural materials such as wood instead of plastic and invoked a sense of adventure and risk. Respondents also valued parks that had **informal natural areas for exploring** including bushes, trees and waterways.

*"Park with a form of adventure playground, less formal, more free range play"*

*"Nothing beats nature for an exciting place to play when you are a kid. It was a place we could make our own, to escape others, to ride our bikes and to build cubby houses, catch fish and other wildlife and generally learn about nature by touching and feeling."*

Many respondents recalled enjoying recreation spaces that had **access to waterways**, whether it be waterplay, creeks, lakes, pools or the ocean.

*"Shrimpton's creek, North Ryde. Catching tadpoles (then releasing them). It was the wildness of it and the magical quality of the creek; the trees and being outside."*

*"So many to choose from, but I would say the beach, the pool and Lake Parramatta. Water is incredibly important for us all, for our emotional and physical well-being."*

Respondents spoke about how they enjoyed recreation spaces that had **trails, tracks and loops for walking, cycling, skating and scooting**.

*"Doyle - the running/walking track around the outside of the field was great and still is"*

*"The bike track! Loved riding my bike around and around."*

Respondents also had fond memories of outdoor recreation spaces with **picnic and BBQ areas**, and of sharing meals with their families in the park.

*"We used to go for picnics a lot as an extended family. We would go to parks that had a lot of open space with cooking facilities and opportunities for swimming (e.g. lakes or water play) or informal sports/games."*

A number of respondents indicated that they enjoyed parks that had **different areas to explore and activities to do**, which made them interesting.

*"Bicentennial park, West Pymble. There were so many different areas to explore that had different purposes and were easy to cycle or walk to. Lots of seating, picnic spaces and space to play basketball or netball."*

*"I can't remember one but I do know that I had more fun when there were multiple activities available in a space so that the experience could move between different spaces to increase enjoyment. They also had shade available."*

Respondents also had memories of **playing sport** as a child, including at spaces in the Heart of Play master plan area.

*"Barton park, my first soccer club"*

*"Old Saleyards Reserve. I'm an adult now and I use to play there with the local kids almost everyday. When hockey training/ games weren't on we'd play soccer and rugby league until it was dark. When my kids were very little I would bring them to old saleyards all the time and was absolutely horrified when the Eels took the park and fenced it and removed an amazing community resource. I just want it available again for ever"*

Other features that made outdoor recreation spaces special included dog off-leash areas such as at Dan Mahoney Reserve, large open areas for running around, grassy areas, shade, cafes and a sense of safety.

# Doyle Ground

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Doyle Ground.

## Current visitation to Doyle Ground

- Doyle Ground was the most visited park in the Heart of Play master plan area over the past 12 months (87%).
- The majority of respondents visit Doyle Ground at least once a week (41%) or at least once a day (27%).
- Respondents usually visit Doyle Ground in the morning from 9am to midday (45%), followed by the afternoon from 3pm to 5pm (38%) and evening after 5pm (38%).
- More than half of respondents mainly walk (53%) to Doyle Ground, with 36% driving a car and 3% cycling.

## Current satisfaction with Doyle Ground

- Over half of survey respondents rated the quality of Doyle Ground as 'very good' or 'good' (57%).
- 11% of respondents rated the quality of Doyle Ground as 'very poor' or 'poor', and 25% rated it as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Doyle Ground

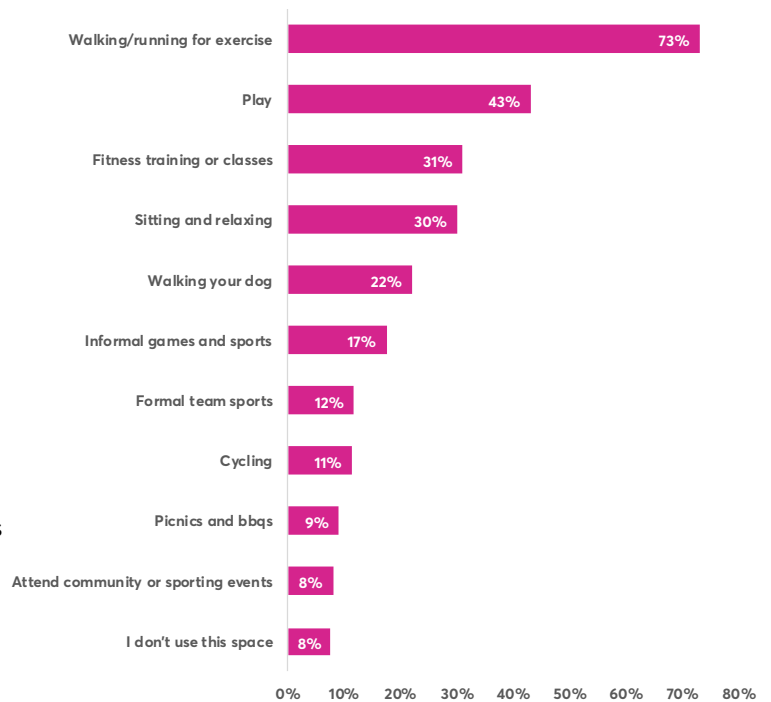
As shown in Figure 8, walking/running for exercise (73%) was the most popular activity that survey respondents currently do at Doyle Ground.

This was followed by play (43%), fitness training or classes (31%), sitting and relaxing (30%) and walking their dog (22%).



Doyle Ground, North Parramatta

Figure 8 - Current top activities at Doyle Ground



## Desired amenities and features at Doyle Ground

In total 42 open-ended comments were received regarding Doyle Ground. Comments indicated that people would like to see the following features and amenities at Doyle Ground:

- Increased lighting around the walking track at night to improve sense of safety (5) (e.g. not just sporting spaces) with an opportunity for solar power lighting
- Increased tree canopy and shade structures for cooling and comfort (4), particularly in summer
- Increased pedestrian access in and around the park (4), including:
  - Improved footpaths, including wider paths (4), and improved maintenance of footpath markers
  - Improved pedestrian crossings to and from the commercial strip opposite the park (2)
  - Additional pedestrian crossing at Isabella St and Macarthur St, to improve connections between Doyle Ground and Dan Mahoney Reserve
- Increased seating, tables and BBQ facilities (3)
- Upgrades to the amenities building (2), particularly improvements to public toilets
- Separated cycling paths (2 comments), particularly for children and people who walk their dogs
- Improved drainage, surfacing and irrigation
- Improved maintenance of the grounds, particularly clearing of bindi weeds and dog poo
- Improved cleaning of the grounds, particularly during sports seasons
- Opportunity for Indigenous public art
- Improved wayfinding and signage
- Improved cleanliness of grounds, particularly on weekends during competition sports
- Opportunity for a skate park, and
- Opportunity for sporting equipment, including AFL goals.

Additionally, survey respondents would like to see more amenities in the Doyle Ground Playground, including:

- Additional nature and adventure play, with opportunity for water play (3)
- Additional accessible public toilets near the playground (2), as well as baby-change facilities
- Opportunity for paperbark playground similar to Parramatta Park (2)
- Accessible and inclusive play equipment for people with a disability, as well teenagers and young people, and
- Additional shade structures at Doyle Park playground, particularly to minimise equipment becoming too hot to use.



Doyle Ground Playground. Source: Cred Consulting

## Desired sporting and recreation activities in Doyle Ground

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Doyle Ground:

- Basketball courts (10 comments), including half courts and more hoops
- Water play (7 comments), including a water play park and activities for children
- Increased running/walking and cycling infrastructure (6 comments), including improved footpath markings, shared paths for people of all ages, and better access to other parks within the master plan area
- Soccer (6 comments) including synthetic fields and goal posts, and
- Opportunity for a skate park/bmx track (5 comments).

# Barton Park

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate survey responses in relation to users and visitors of Barton Park.

## Current visitation to Barton Park

- Barton Park was the second most visited park in the Heart of Play master plan area over the past 12 months (52%)
- The majority of respondents visit Barton Park at least once a week (26%) or at least once a month (24%).
- Respondents usually visit Barton Park from after 5pm (26%) and from 3pm to 5pm (24%).
- The majority of survey respondents mainly walk (35%) to Barton Park, with 33% driving a car.

## Current satisfaction with Barton Park

- Barton Park received the second highest rate of satisfaction by participants, with 41% rating the quality of Barton Park as 'very good' or 'good'.
- 5% of respondents rated the quality of Barton Park as 'very poor' or 'poor', with 25% of respondents rating it as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Barton Park

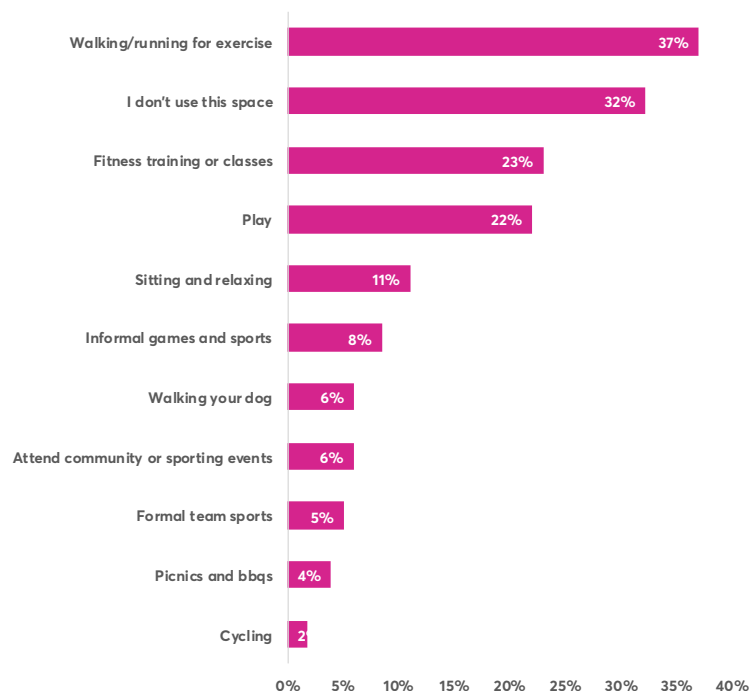
As shown in Figure 9, the majority of respondents indicated walking/running for exercise (37%) was the most popular activity they do at Barton Park.

This was followed by fitness training or classes (23%), play (22%) and sitting and relaxing (11%).



Image of Barton Park

Figure 9 - Current top activities at Barton Park



## Desired amenities and features at Barton Park

In total 2 open-ended comments were received regarding Barton Park. Comments indicated that people would like to see the following features and amenities at Barton Park:

- Increased water bubblers/stations, and
- One respondent indicated fewer shade structures in Barton Park makes it more enjoyable in the winter.

## Desired sporting and recreation activities in Barton Park

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Barton Park:

- Basketball courts (7 comments), including half courts and more hoops
- Improved walking and cycling infrastructure (7 comments), including opportunity for a synthetic track for running, improved shared pathways, and a cycling track for children
- Increased seating and tables (2 comments), for relaxation and picnics
- Increased soccer equipment (2 comments), including goal posts
- More netball courts (1 comment)
- Increased amenity (2), including access to public toilets and more lighting, and
- Opportunity for indoor multi-purpose hard courts.



Barton Park running track



Barton Park Little Athletics. Source: Parramatta Athletics Facebook

# Dan Mahoney Reserve

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Dan Mahoney Reserve. Please see Part B (page 42) to read the full report of engagement findings relating to Dan Mahoney Reserve.

## Current visitation to Dan Mahoney Reserve

- Dan Mahoney Reserve (50%) was the third most visited park in the Heart of Play master plan area over the past 12 months
- Respondents most likely visit Dan Mahoney Reserve at least once a week (25%) or at least once a month (18%).
- The majority of respondents usually visit Dan Mahoney Reserve after 5pm (27%), between 3pm to 5pm (26%) and from 9am to midday (23%).
- One third of survey respondents who visit Dan Mahoney Reserve mainly walk (31%) and drive a car (31%) as their main mode of transport.

## Current satisfaction with Dan Mahoney Reserve

- 39% of survey respondents rated the quality of Dan Mahoney Reserve as 'very good' or 'good'.
- There was also a higher proportion of survey respondents who rated the quality of Dan Mahoney Reserve as 'very poor' or 'poor' (8%), with 20% of respondents rating it as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Dan Mahoney Reserve

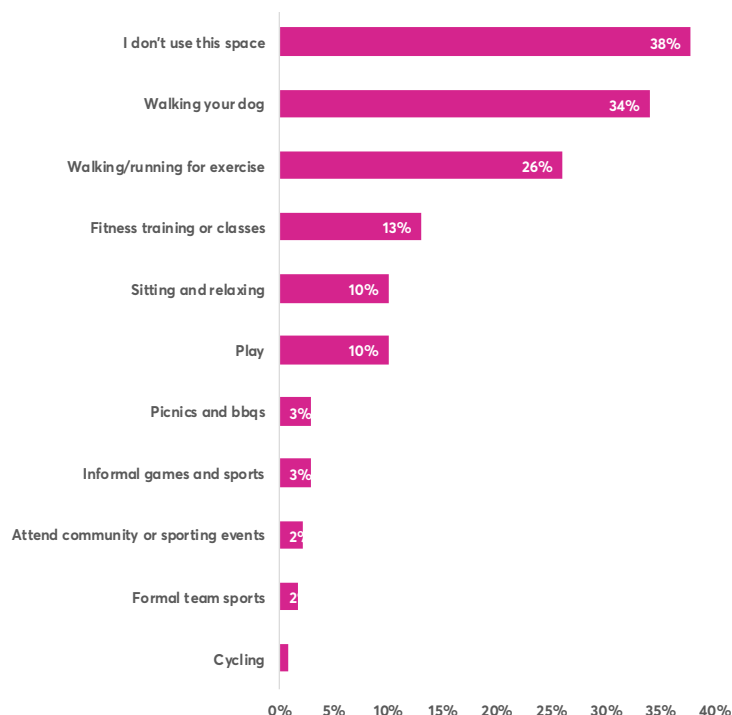
As shown in Figure 10, the majority of respondents walk their dog (34%) as the most popular activity they currently do at Dan Mahoney Reserve.

This was followed by walking/running for exercise (26%), fitness training or classes (13%), play (10%) and sitting and relaxing (10%).



Dan Mahoney Reserve

Figure 10 - Current top activities at Dan Mahoney Reserve



## Desired amenities and features at Dan Mahoney Reserve

In total 21 open-ended comments were received regarding Dan Mahoney Reserve. Comments indicated that people would like to see the following features and amenities at Dan Mahoney Reserve:

- Access to toilet facilities (5), current facilities are closed
- Improved pedestrian access to and from the reserve, with additional pedestrian path along the western side of Brabyn St
- Access to dog agility equipment (2)
- Additional seating and benches (2)
- Opportunity for a cafe in the clubhouse (2)
- Increased tree canopy for shade, and
- Improve safety of park through double-gated fencing.

## Desired sporting and recreation activities in Dan Mahoney Reserve

The majority of survey respondents indicated they would like to see Dan Mahoney Reserve remain as an off-leash dog park.

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Dan Mahoney Reserve:

- Soccer (5 comments), including a field, goal posts and astro turfing
- Basketball (4 comments), including basketball half courts and hoops
- Hockey (3 comments)
- Skate park (3 comments), and
- Increased lighting at night (2 comments).



Clubhouse at Dan Mahoney Reserve



# Old Saleyards Reserve

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Old Saleyards Reserve.

## Current visitation to Old Saleyards Reserve

Over the past 12 months, 34% of survey respondents visited Old Saleyards Reserve.

- The majority of respondents visit Old Saleyards Reserve at least once a week (20%) or at least once a year (13%).
- Respondents usually visit Old Saleyards Reserve after 5pm (23%), followed by from 9am to midday (14%) and between 3pm and 5pm (13%).
- The majority of survey respondents mainly drive to Old Saleyards Reserve with a car (26%), with 23% walking.

## Current satisfaction with Old Saleyards Reserve

- 39% of survey respondents rated the quality of Old Saleyards Reserve as 'very good' or 'good'.
- 4% of survey respondents rated the quality of Old Saleyards Reserve as 'very poor' or 'poor', with 16% of respondents rating it as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Old Saleyards Reserve

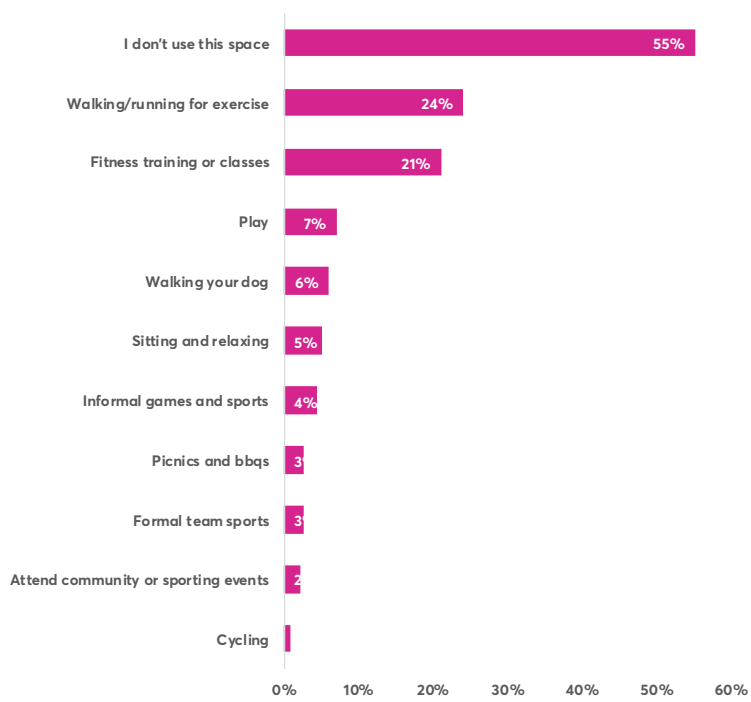
As shown in Figure 11, the majority of respondents indicated walking/running for exercise (24%) was the most popular activity they currently do at Old Saleyards Reserve.

This was followed by fitness training or classes (21%), play (7%) and walking their dog (6%).



Old Saleyards Reserve

Figure 11 - Current top activities at Old Saleyard Reserve



## **Desired amenities and features at Old Saleyards Reserve**

Respondents did not make comment on specific desired amenities and features at Old Saleyards Reserve.

## **Desired sporting and recreation activities in Old Saleyards Reserve**

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Old Saleyards Reserve:

- Walking and cycling infrastructure (5 comments), including shared footpaths and cycling tracks
- Soccer (3 comments), including fields and goal posts
- Increased lighting at night (3 comments)
- Access to toilet facilities
- Rugby league and rugby union (2 comments)
- Increased shade and tree canopy coverage (2 comments)
- Improved drainage of the grounds
- Increase usage of grounds for passive recreation, rather than formal sporting
- Skate park
- Opportunity for community gardens, and
- Opportunity for aquatic facilities.

# Sherwin Park

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Sherwin Park.

## Current visitation to Sherwin Park

Over the past 12 months, 34% of survey respondents visited Sherwin Park.

- The majority of respondents visit Sherwin Park at least once a month (21%) or at least once a week (17%).
- Respondents usually visit Sherwin Park in the morning from 9am to midday (26%), between 3pm to 5pm (25%) and from midday to 3pm (18%).
- The majority of respondents mainly walk (36%) to Sherwin Park, with 17% driving a car.

## Current satisfaction with Sherwin Park

- As 51% of respondents don't visit Sherwin Park, the majority of survey respondents indicated they 'don't know' (44%) the quality of Sherwin park.
- 28% of survey respondents rated the quality of Sherwin Park as 'very good' or 'good', while 20% of respondents rated Sherwin Park as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Sherwin Park

As shown in Figure 12, the majority of respondents indicated play (33%) was the most popular activity they currently do at Sherwin Park.

This was followed by walking/running for exercise (20%), sitting and relaxing (17%) and for picnics and bbqs (9%).

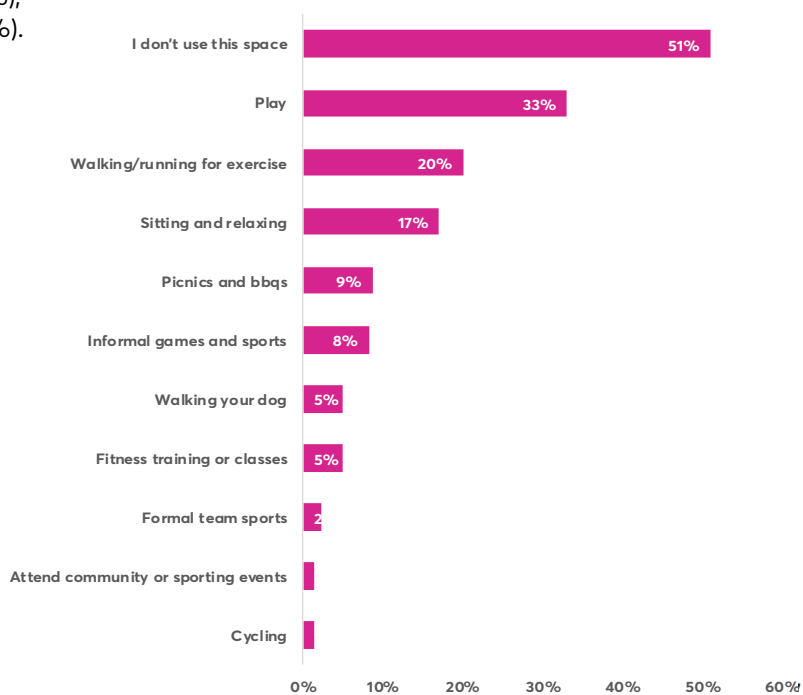


Sherwin Park playground



Sherwin Park basketball court

Figure 12 - Current top activities at Sherwin Park



## Desired amenities and features at Sherwin Park

In total 6 open-ended comments were received regarding Sherwin Park. Comments indicated that people would like to see the following features and amenities at Sherwin Park:

- Upgrade the basketball court, to include a full court and lower hanging hoops for children (2)
- Increased lighting at night to improve sense of safety, and minimise loitering at night
- Upgrades to public toilets
- Improved maintenance of the grounds, particularly bindi weeds
- Additional casual seating for family and group gatherings

Survey respondents would also like to see improvements to the playground at Sherwin Park, including:

- Upgrade the concrete play area.
- Additional play equipment for adults, including a flying fox
- Addition of sand and water play , and
- Reservable picnic/BBQ spaces for gatherings.

## Desired sporting and recreation activities in Sherwin Park

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Sherwin Park:

- Basketball (7 comments), including more courts, full courts, improved surfacing of current courts, and more hoops
- Skate park facilities (5 comments)
- Waterplay (3 comments)
- Playground/play spaces (2 comments), including adventure play and improved play equipment
- Soccer (2 comments), including goal posts
- Outdoor fitness stations (2 comments), including equipment and spaces for bootcamp
- Shaded seating and BBQ facilities (2 comments)
- Increased tree canopy and shading (2 comments)
- Tennis, and
- Cycling track for children.

# PH Jeffery Reserve

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to PH Jeffery Reserve.

## Current visitation to PH Jeffery Reserve

Over the past 12 months, 3% of survey respondents visited PH Jeffery Reserve.

- The majority of respondents visit PH Jeffery Reserve at least once a month (18%) or at least once a week (15%).
- Respondents usually visit PH Jeffery Reserve after 5pm (19%) or from 9am to midday (15%).
- The majority of survey respondents drive a car (25%) to PH Jeffery Reserve, with 22% walking.

## Current satisfaction with PH Jeffery Reserve

- The majority of survey respondents indicated they 'don't know' (43%) the quality of PH Jeffery Reserve.
- 34% of survey respondents rated the quality of PH Jeffery Reserve as 'very good' or 'good', while 16% of respondents rated PH Jeffery Reserve as 'fair'.

## Current activities at PH Jeffery Reserve

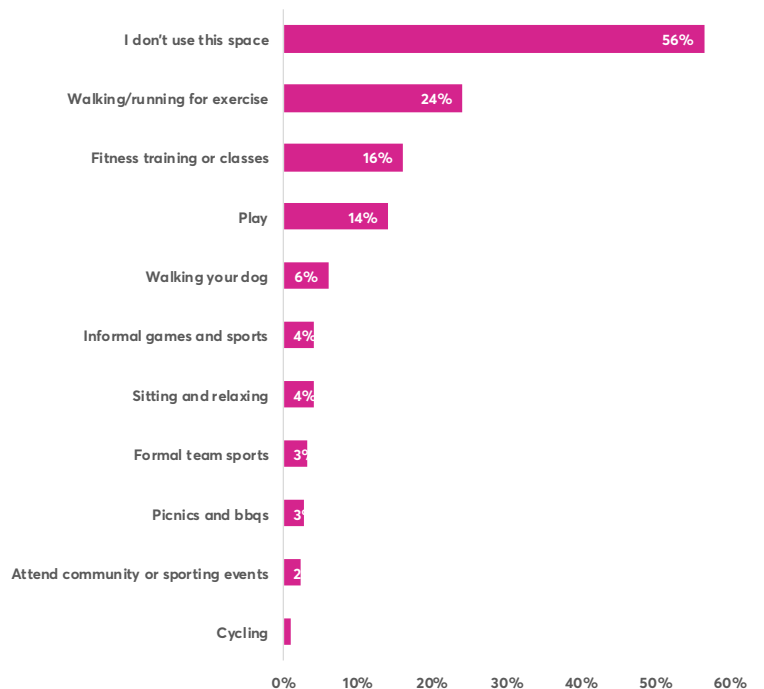
As shown in Figure 13, the majority of respondents indicated walking/running for exercise (24%) was the most popular activity they currently do at PH Jeffery Reserve.

This was followed by fitness training or classes (16%) and play (14%).



Community festival at PH Jeffery Reserve

Figure 13 - Current top activities at PH Jeffery



## **Desired amenities and features at PH Jeffery Reserve**

There was 1 open-ended comment received regarding PH Jeffery Reserve. The respondent indicated they would like to see the following features and amenities at PH Jeffery Reserve:

- Improvements and restoration to the concreted area uphill to the south of the reserve (behind tennis courts), particularly to manage running water and trenches.

## **Desired sporting and recreation activities in PH Jeffery Reserve**

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in PH Jeffery Reserve:

- Basketball (5 comments)
- Walking track (4 comments)
- Increased lighting (2 comments)
- Disc golf
- Off-leash dog areas
- Opportunity for an art circuit
- Increased tree planting around the perimeter of the reserve, and
- Aquatic facilities.

# Corry Court

Survey respondents were asked about their experiences across different parks included in the Heart of Play master plan area. Outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Corry Court.

## Current visitation to Corry Court

Corry Court was the least visited park in the Heart of Play master plan area over the past 12 months (8%).

- The majority of respondents visit Corry Court at least once a year (10%).
- Respondents usually visit Corry Court in the morning from 9am to midday (9%), followed by the afternoon from 3pm to 5pm (8%) and evening after 5pm (8%).
- The majority of survey respondents mainly walk (15%) to Corry Court, with 9% driving a car.

## Current satisfaction with Corry Court

- Respondents were more likely to be uncertain about the quality of Corry Court, with 68% of respondents indicating they 'don't know'.
- 16% of survey respondents rated the quality of Corry Court as 'very good' or 'good', while 16% of respondents rated Sherwin Park as 'fair'.

## Current activities at Corry Court

Respondents indicated walking/running for exercise (11%) was the most popular activity they currently do at Corry Court, followed by play (5%), sitting and relaxing (4%) and walking the dog (3%).

## Desired amenities and features at Corry Court

There was 1 open-ended comment received regarding Corry Court. The respondent indicated they would like to see the following features and amenities at Corry Court:

- Extend the no parking on Gladstone St between Brabyn St and Corry Court.



Corry Court

## Desired sporting and recreation activities in Corry Court

Survey respondents who think there are currently not enough sporting and recreation opportunities would like to see the following sporting and recreation features in Corry Court:

- Basketball (2 comments)
- Increased shaded areas (2 comments)
- Skate park (2 comments)
- Soccer (2 comments), including goal posts
- Seating and tables
- Improved access to the park, including access ramps
- Off-leash dog areas
- Intense habitat reconstruction planting, retaining remnant bracken
- Increased lighting, and
- Access to toilet facilities.

# Sports group interview findings

A total of 16 phone interviews were conducted with 19 members of sports groups and associations. This chapter provides an overview of findings for each park included in the master plan.

## About the stakeholder interviews

Sixteen telephone interviews were conducted with nineteen local sporting group members. Interviewees were invited by Council to express interest in participating. Stakeholders represented the following organisations and sporting bodies:

- Parramatta Touch Football Association
- Parramatta Little Athletics
- Parramatta Junior Eels
- Parramatta International Canine Sports
- Parramatta City Football Club
- Parramatta District Cricket Association
- Parramatta City Tennis, and
- Wenty Hockey Club.

The purpose of the stakeholder interviews was to understand sporting and recreation needs, participation trends and how sporting group users utilise parks included in the master plan now and in the future.

Table 2 shows a summary of the stakeholder groups interviewed and the spaces they use.

TABLE 2 - WHICH OF THE SITES INCLUDED IN THE MASTER PLAN DO YOU USE AND WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?

Stakeholder	Membership	Sporting spaces used
Parramatta District Cricket Association	26 members	None. Desire to use Doyle Ground because of its cricket facilities
Wenty Hockey Club	Approx. 9 juniors Womens team (unspecified no. of members)	Doyle Ground, field 3
Parramatta Touch Football Association	130 teams	Doyle Ground, 4 nights per week and 1 day per week
Parramatta City Football Club	100 members (6-13 years of age)	None. Desire to use Doyle Ground
Parramatta Little Athletics Centre	500-600 little athletics	Barton Park and PH Jeffery Reserve
Parramatta International Canine Sports	Less than 10	Dan Mahoney, once a week
Parramatta Junior Eels		Old Saleyards Reserve
Parramatta City Tennis	400 direct members, open to general community and observes over 900,000 visits per annum	PH Jeffery Tennis Complex



## Participation trends

Respondents were asked about their sporting groups' member-base now, and any future demographic needs and trends. The following summarises findings.

### Cricket

- Increasing participation and membership in cricket by culturally diverse community members, particularly from Indian backgrounds living in typically high rise dwellings
- Increase in female participation in cricket which will require female changerooms and toilets

### Hockey

- Decrease in hockey participation due to loss of playing space at Dan Mahoney Reserve and Old Saleyards Reserve, and lack of turf fields
- Decrease in junior hockey memberships due to lack of turf playing fields
- Difficulty attracting junior participants to hockey, as it is not a sport traditionally played in Australia

### Touch football

- Increasing junior participation in touch football, particularly in Asian and south Asian communities, because it is more affordable than other sports and non-contact, meaning it is more flexible and casual
- Increasing female participation in touch football, with more female teams than men, which will require female showers and changerooms
- High participation in touch football with students from schools

### Soccer

- Increasing junior female participation in soccer each year, however they tend to decrease at age 10-12 years. Need to create and support female-friendly environments to stay in the game longer
- Increasing cultural diversity in soccer
- Over the years, Parramatta City FC has grown from a traditionally Greek-based club, to more culturally diverse members, particularly from Indian background
- Decline in Parramatta memberships over the years due to previous training and playing location being outside of the local area

### Athletics

- Senior groups in athletics tend to specialise in one area as individuals, compared to juniors who will participate in a range of little athletic activities as a group

### Canine Sports

- Decreasing membership in canine sports due lack of clear training grounds in an off-leash dog area
- Decrease in agility dog training and flyball teams due to the lack of separated areas for dog training

### Rugby league

- Decline in Parramatta Junior Eels memberships due to previous training and playing location outside of the local area
- With an increase in women's league, Parramatta Junior Eels club is looking to grow female participation, which will mean a need to access female-friendly facilities
- School programs encourage growth in Parramatta Junior Eels club, increasing participation from girls, particularly from an Indian background, and children with a disability

### Tennis

- Desire for Parramatta City Tennis club to engage more culturally and linguistically diverse communities in tennis
- Junior weekend competitions are popular for tennis

## Expressed need for sporting facility and management improvements

Respondents were asked what Council could do to improve sporting facilities for sporting groups and associations, with key findings including:

### Overall

- Multiple sporting groups are open to sharing fields (3 comments)
- Improved wheelchair accessibility (2 comments), including footpaths and pavements closer to sporting grounds and disabled parking
- Cricket club would prefer to see turf wickets instead of artificial in future
- Need for womens changerooms to support increased female participation across Parramatta District Cricket Association
- Expressed need for additional sporting facilities including:
  - Dressing rooms to accommodate home and away sporting groups
  - Referee's room
  - Canteens, to support clubs and generate revenue to improve facilities
  - Desire for small hall for meetings and events, post-game gatherings
- Cricket nets that are co-located with recreation facilities including walking and skate tracks, to cater for children who play sports and their siblings
- Need flat surfaces and grass for turf hockey training and competitions
- Additional and separate changerooms, particularly for women (3 comments)
- Private showers for women to access (2 comments)
- Additional changerooms for home and away teams, with extra facilities for away teams
- Additional toilets are needed, particularly on game days when the grounds are at capacity. Currently port-a-loos are hired to relieve pressure from amenities.
- Increased amenities in the park, including:
  - Additional amenities block to service the large number of sporting groups that use the fields
  - Water stations/ bubblers, particularly to reduce risk of heat for women wearing hijabs playing in the heat
- Need for improved booking system for cricket nets, including ability to book further in advance
- Need for improved booking system for fields, to share sporting spaces efficiently between male and female groups (female hockey team)
- Need for fencing around the park to prevent cars coming onto the fields and damaging the grounds
- Additional parking around the facilities shed
- Opportunity to create an adaptable and multi-use space
- Additional storage space and facilities for soccer goal posts and other equipment
- Opportunity for increased football fields

### Doyle Ground

- Improved drainage and irrigation (3 comments)
- Increased lighting at night (2 comments)
  - To enable training into the evenings
  - Increase utilisation at night, and
  - Provide a sense of safety (2 comments)
- Additional cricket nets (2 comments):
  - That are different sizes to cater to different age groups, and
  - To encourage shared use between male and female players
- Increasing participation rates in cricket requires more than one cricket facility, which is currently located in Doyle Ground
- Addition of a 'mini' grandstand (2 comments)
- Access and upgrades to the pavilion to use kitchen facilities and canteen (3 comments)
- Improvements to the amenities building, including:

### Barton Park

- Need for additional storage, preferably a storage locker or lowline shed, to cater for heavy and bulky athletic equipment, including high-jump mats, hurdles etc. with wheel access to storage on the field
- Addition of a synthetic track to foster and encourage athletic talent, support the development of the sport
- Upgrades to amenities including toilets and the clubhouse
- Increased wheelchair accessibility, including concrete pathways along streets
- Improved drainage and irrigation, particularly with the bottom field
- Need for shade and shelter, particularly for the marshaling area at the start of the 100m track, the opposite corner near the clubhouse, and where the BBQ area is
- Desire for a hard stand with a roofing over it to create shade near the clubhouse, as well as ease of moving BBQ in and out

- Desire for additional lighting behind the clubhouse, as recent lighting installation only focuses on the field
- Opportunity to create an adaptable and multi-use space

### ***Old Saleyards***

- Need improvements to canteen, particularly the rollerdoor and shelving which is not fit-for-purpose
- Expressed need for additional storage spaces, as current storage is at capacity and using the canteen. Opportunity for storage container to be provided.
- Improve the amenities around clubhouses with features such as BBQs and awnings to attract spectators
- Upgrades to toilet facilities, particularly mens toilets
- Expressed desire to retain the reserve as a dedicated rugby league field
- Additional parking around the reserve, particularly for weekend competitions
- Opportunities to share the space better between fitness group and hockey players

### ***Dan Mahoney Reserve***

- Increased lighting at night (2 comments), for
  - Recreational use, and
  - Sports training and competition purposes
- Expressed need for fenced separated area for dog training, due to conflict between the public, off-leash dogs and dog training group
- Need to replace bunting with a permanent fence for separation of different users
- Visibility of signage in the park could be improved, particularly at night during winter

### ***PH Jeffery Reserve***

- Expressed need for upgrades to club house, including creating more space
- Additional lighting (2 comments), including LED lighting for tournament and competition play
- Opportunity to create an adaptable and multi-use space

### ***Corry Court***

- Participants spoke about how Corry Court is currently not useable or suitable for hockey as it is sloping

# Unstaffed consultation board findings

7 unstaffed consultation boards located at spaces included in the master plan area were available between 29 June and 3 August 2020 for community consultation. This chapter provides an overview of findings for the overall Heart of Play master plan area, as well as a key findings across parks included in the master plan area.

## About the unstaffed consultation boards

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Cred Consulting developed unstaffed consultation boards located across all parks included in the master plan area, to safely engage with the community from June 29 to 3 August.

The consultation boards asked participants to indicate whether they would like to see less, the same or more of a range of activities and amenities in the parks included in the master planning area. Dan Mahoney Reserve had different consultation boards to align with the specific engagement for that park; findings are outlined in "Part B - Dan Mahoney Reserve", page 42.

Responses were recorded twice a week by Cred Consulting staff, and then covered by blank stickers, so to create more space for community feedback.

Please note that as the consultation boards were unstaffed, the data is indicative only.

## "Chalk to us" consultation board

Two chalkboards were installed at the Doyle Ground amenities building.

The community was invited to share their ideas by writing down what they currently like about the parks included in the master planning area, and what they would like to see in the parks in the future.



Unstaffed consultation boards at Barton Park playground. Source: Cred Consulting 'Chalk to us' boards located in Doyle Ground. Source: Cred Consulting

# Consultation board findings





















Overall, respondents would like to see more water play (95), play equipment for kids (81), space to walk and cycle (76), outdoor fitness equipment (71), public toilets (70) and a cafe/kiosk (70) included in the 'Heart of Play' master plan area.

While respondents would like to see more fitness and outdoor equipment included in parks in the master plan area, however 24 out of 25 dots that wanted less fitness equipment came from Sherwin Park. This was followed by spaces to play formal sport (15), spaces for community events (13), skate park (12) and public art (12).

Across each of the parks included in the master plan area, respondents would like to see more:

- Water play (56) and play equipment for kids (35) in Sherwin Park
- Play equipment for kids (29), cafe/kiosk (21), trees and shade (20) and water play (20) in Barton Park
- Public toilets (16) and play equipment for kids (14) in PH Jeffery Reserve, and
- Outdoor fitness equipment (18), space to walk and cycle (17) and nature and biodiversity (12) in Doyle Ground.

## Do you want more, less, or the same of the following activities and amenities in and around the parks included in the 'Heart of Play' master plan area?

 <p><b>Water play</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Less</th> <th>Same</th> <th>More</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Less	Same	More	4	2	95	 <p><b>Play equipment for kids</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Less</th> <th>Same</th> <th>More</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>81</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Less	Same	More	3	2	81	 <p><b>Spaces to walk and cycle</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Less</th> <th>Same</th> <th>More</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>9</td> <td>76</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Less	Same	More	2	9	76	 <p><b>Outdoor fitness equipment</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Less</th> <th>Same</th> <th>More</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>7</td> <td>71</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Less	Same	More	25	7	71
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# 'Chalk to us' board findings

## What the community currently like about parks included in the master plan area

Respondents were asked to write down what they like most about the parks included in the master plan area, with key findings shown below.

**Respondents comments indicated that they like the size of open spaces, informal sporting facilities and equipment, the natural green environment, pet-friendly open spaces, maintenance of amenities and facilities, play equipment and play spaces and pedestrian walkways.**

### **The size of our open spaces (38 comments)**

Overall, the majority of comments from the community indicated they like the large size of open spaces, as well as the greenery that allows for a range of passive, active and sporting activities for everyone to participate in.

*"A lot of big grass to play"*

*"We enjoy the parks!"*

### **Informal sporting facilities and equipment (20 comments)**

The majority of comments expressed they like informal sporting facilities, equipment and spaces across parks included in the master plan, such as cricket nets, soccer fields, and tennis courts.

Respondents also like current spaces in parks that allow for recreation and leisure, including free outdoor gym classes and fitness equipment.

*"I like that we can play soccer here"*

*"Lots of sports"*

*"Lovely large field"*

### **Natural, green environment (15 comments)**

The community said they like the natural green environment, that makes recreation and leisure in parks much more enjoyable.

Some comments also indicated they like trees and greenery for cooling and shade.

*"Energy, nature, sunset, sunrise birds"*

*"I like the trees because it gives us shade"*

### **Pet-friendly open spaces (11 comments)**

The community like there are open spaces that are pet-friendly, particularly for dogs.

*"Nice to walk dogs around"*

*"It is a nice experience for pets"*

### **Maintenance of amenities and facilities (10 comments)**

The community indicated they liked how well-maintained open spaces are across North Parramatta, as well as the maintenance of amenities.

Some comments would like to see improved maintenance of grassed-areas.

*"The park is well maintained"*

*"Thank you the council workers love your work"*

### **Play equipment and play space (7 comments)**

The community said they like the amount of playground and play spaces in the area, and particularly enjoy the variety of play equipment and activities.

*"Lots of playgrounds"*

*"I like the way the park has different structure of equipment"*

### **Pedestrian walkways (7 comments)**

The community said they like walking tracks in the area, with most comments referring to the walking track around Doyle Ground.

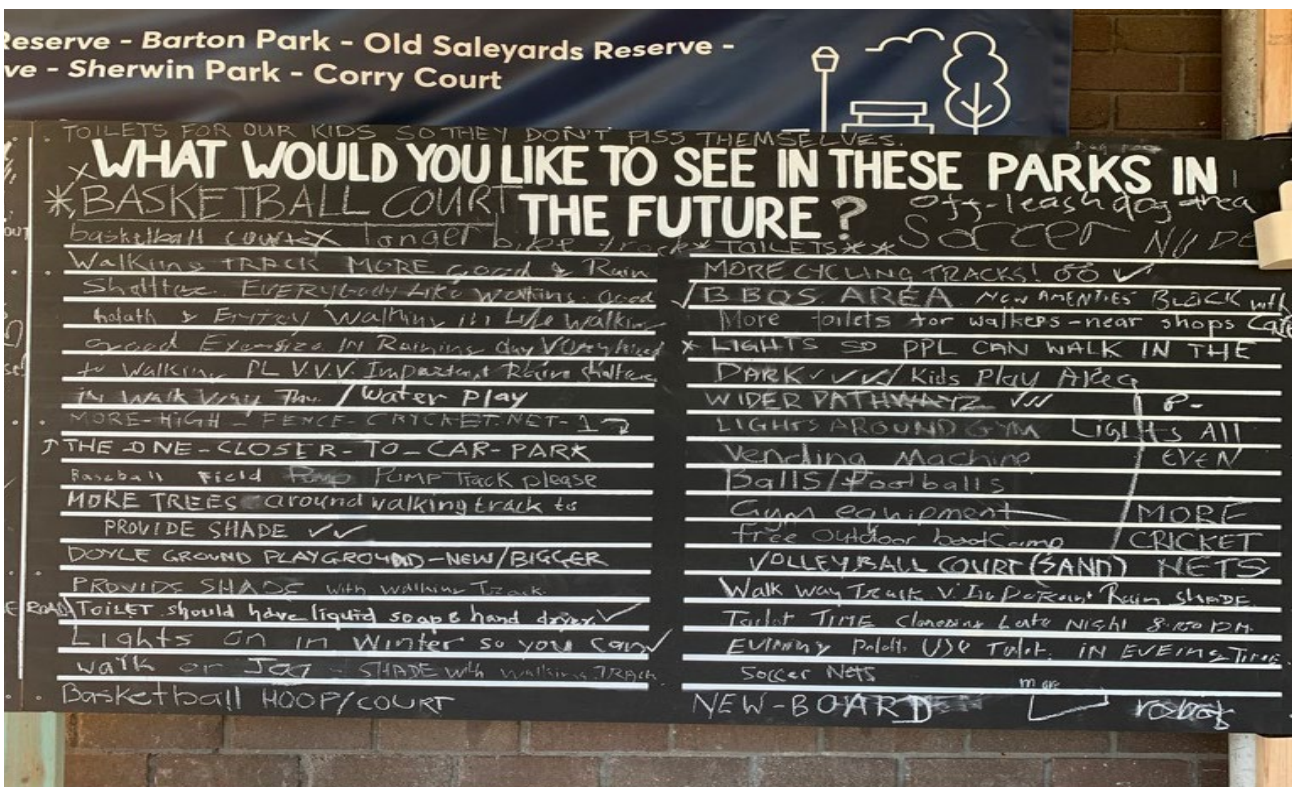
Other comments indicated the community would like to see more running tracks and wider paths for users.

*"The walk track"*

*"Soft running paths"*



'Chalk to us' board. Source: Cred Consulting



'Chalk to us' board. Source: Cred Consulting

## What the community would like to see across parks included in the master plan in the future

Respondents were asked to write down what they would like to see in the parks included in the master plan in the future, with key findings shown below.

**Respondents comments indicated that they would like to see more spaces for informal and formal sporting recreation, increased and improved amenities, upgraded and diverse play spaces, increased shade and shelter during the day and lighting at night to improve pedestrian accessibility, upgrades and maintenance of grass-areas and open spaces and more cycling tracks.**

### **More spaces for informal and formal sporting and recreation (36 comments)**

Most comments would like to see more spaces for informal spaces for sporting and recreation including basketball courts and hoops, cricket nets, soccer goals, table tennis, squash courts and running tracks.

*"Basketball courts" (7)*

*"More high fence cricket nets like the one closer to the car park" (5)*

The community would also like to see spaces and equipment for formal sporting and recreation including hockey fields, baseball fields, volleyball courts, netball courts, soccer and AFL posts.

*"Soccer goals" (3)*

*"Proper hockey fields"*

### **Increased and improved amenities (22 comments)**

The majority of comments indicated the community would like to see more and improved toilets and amenities buildings across parks included in the master plan in the future, particularly improved maintenance and more toilet blocks available in parks and open more often for use. The community would like to see more toilet blocks located near walking tracks close to shops and cafes, as well as children's playgrounds.

*"Toilets near playground"*

*"Toilet time closing late night 8:50pm"*

*"New amenities block with more toilets for walkers near shops/caf "*

The community would also like to see more picnic tables and seating, BBQ facilities and more bins for waste and recycling in parks.

*"Picnic bench with bbq"*

*"More rubbish bins"*

### **Upgraded and more diverse play spaces (19 comments)**

The community would like to see upgraded and more play spaces for children in parks in the future, including a wider range of play equipment and spaces to accommodate for a range of ages and all abilities.

*"Playground for people with a disability"*

*"Playground for bigger kids and adults"*

### **Increased shade and shelter during the day and lighting at night to improve pedestrian accessibility (17 comments)**

The majority of comments indicated walking paths and tracks could be improved by providing shelter with trees to create cooling during the day, and shade for wet-weather conditions. Comments also indicated increased lighting at night along footpaths and walking tracks would improve accessibility and safety for users, as well as increase utilisation of open spaces in the evening.

*"Lights along walkway so we can walk and run after dark, especially in Winter"*

*"Provide shade with walking track"*

### **Upgrades and maintenance of grass-areas and open spaces (10 comments)**

The community would like to see increased maintenance of open spaces including better drainage of grounds, leveled surfacing of grassed-areas and pavements,

*"Better drainage"*

*"Smoother pavements"*

### **More cycling tracks (9 comments)**

The community would like to see more spaces for cyclists and bike riders, including cycling paths and mountain bike tracks.

*"Pump track please"*

*"MTB track"*

*"More cycling tracks"*



# Scavenger hunt findings

The Heart of Play Scavenger Hunt was available online and in paper form between 29 June to 3 August.

In the scavenger hunt, participants were invited to explore 6 of the open spaces that are part of the Heart of Play master plan area and provide feedback on what they like, don't like and would like to see in their future parks. The scavenger hunt took about an hour to complete.

In total, 8 walking tours were completed (around 50 were incomplete), with findings shown below.

Respondents think that trees add value to Sherwin Park because:

- Trees create peace, serenity and community (2 comments)
- Trees make the park welcoming in the summer months by providing shade (2 comments)

Respondents said about the exercise equipment at the corner of Isabella St and Macarthur St that:

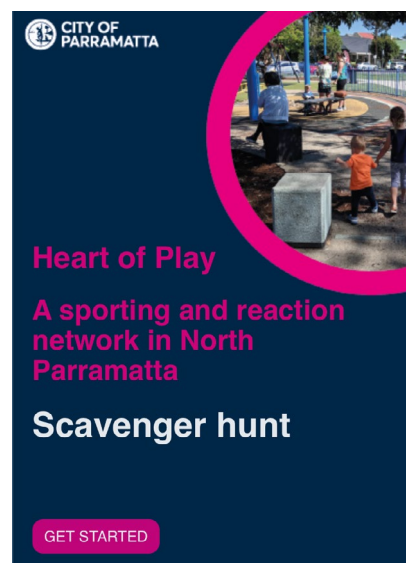
- They like the seating, quiet environment and tree cover
- They use the equipment occasionally, including the step up, bench dips and pull up bars
- They would like to see lighting here and all the way around the park in the early morning and evening for workers.

Respondents said about PH Jeffery Reserve:

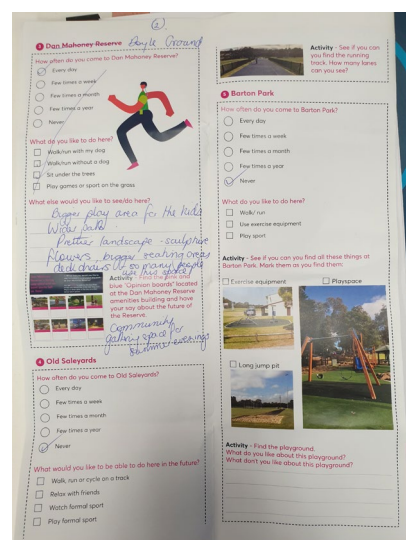
- Things they like to do here include walking, including walking the dog because it is less busy than Dan Mahoney Reserve
- They would like to see a Badminton field
- They would like to see improvements to the tennis centre, including new courts with proper surfacing (not synthetic grass) which is a higher priority than a new clubhouse.

Regarding the sensory walk at PH Jeffery Reserve, respondents said:

- They would like to see smelly herbs, balancing logs, water feature, nature musical instruments (like in Parramatta Park) and different textures to walk on
- It is in poor condition
- It is in a "forgotten" part of the park and could be located elsewhere, somewhere flat so that people with a disability can enjoy it.



Online scavenger hunt. Source: Cred Consulting



Completed scavenger hunt. Source: Cred Consulting

# Submissions

**During the consultation period, the community and organisations were invited to write a submission to City of Parramatta Council and share their thoughts in relation to the Heart of Play master plan area. Key themes included in the submission are outlined below.**

The City of Parramatta Council received 6 submissions relating to the Heart of Play master plan, 2 of which were from sporting associations including the NSW Touch Football Association and the NSW Cricket Association.

## ***Across all parks included in the Heart of Play master plan***

Submissions received included a focus on:

- Increased toilet facilities (3 submissions) that are:
  - Accessible throughout the day and at later times in the evening
  - Accessible for female players, and
  - Elderly and people with a disability.
- More basketball courts, with soft surfacing (1 submission)
- Additional adventure play (1 submission)
- Shade and shelter to enable activities in wet weather conditions (1 submission)
- Separated walking and cycling tracks (1 submission)
- Additional pedestrian crossings to ease pedestrian accessibility (1 submission), particularly along:
  - Macarthur St near Albert St east, to promote walking to school
    - A footpath along the length of Corry Court, on both sides of Gladstone St and Brabyn St.

## ***Doyle Ground***

In regards to Doyle Ground, submissions received included a focus on:

- Larger and easily accessible toilets (2 submissions)
- Male and female changerooms (1 submission)
- Private showers, especially for female participants (1 submission)
- Improved drainage system (1 submission)
- Irrigation system (1 submission)
- Meeting room, small office and storage area with power (1 submission)
- Improved canteen facilities
- No dogs or cyclists, particularly adult cyclists, on the walking track (1 submission)
- The inclusion of an additional synthetic cricket wicket at the northern end (1 submission)
- Redevelopment of existing cricket nets to a minimum three or four-lane practice facility(1 submission), and
- Upgrade to amenities block with the provision of change facilities (1 submission).

## ***Old Saleyards Reserve***

In regards to Old Saleyards Reserve, submissions received included a focus on:

- The inclusion of junior sized synthetic pitches (potentially drop ins) on each field for use of Under 10s to Under 13s cricket (1 submission)
- Minimum three-lane synthetic cricket practice facility (1 submission), and
- Opportunity for a walking track, similar to Doyle Ground (1 submission).

## ***Barton Park***

In regards to Barton Park, submissions received included a focus on:

- Additional bubblers/drinking fountain
- Opportunity for a walking track, similar to Doyle Ground (1 submission).

## ***Dan Mahoney Reserve***

In regards to Dan Mahoney Reserve, submissions received included a focus on:

- Potential for a 'Regional/Premier' Tier 3 or 4 cricket facility (1 submission), and
- Minimum three-lane synthetic cricket practice facility (1 submission).

Note submissions related to the dog off leash area are included within Part B of this report.

## ***Corry Court***

In regards to Corry Court, submissions received included a focus on:

- The inclusion of junior sized synthetic pitches (potentially drop ins) on each field for use of Under 10s to Under 13s cricket (1 submission), and
- Minimum three-lane synthetic cricket practice facility (1 submission).

## ***Sherwin Park***

In regards to Sherwin park, submissions received included a focus on:

- Upgrade lighting for basketball court users, particularly for evening use to play (1 submission).



# Part B

# Dan Mahoney

# Reserve

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# Introduction

**Part B provides a summary of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by Cred Consulting on behalf of City of Parramatta to inform the remediation and future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve. This engagement was a component of the broad engagement undertaken to support the development of a master plan for seven open spaces in North Parramatta.**

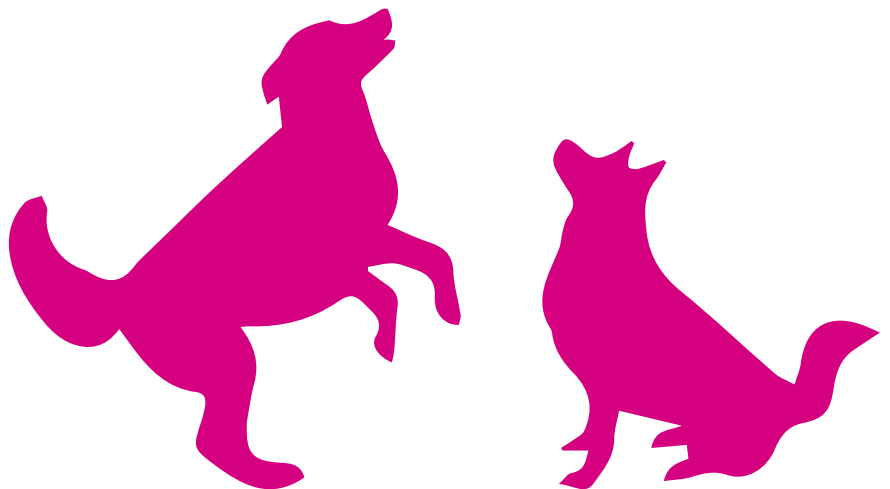
## About Dan Mahoney Reserve

One of the seven open spaces included in the master plan area is Dan Mahoney Reserve (DMR). Because it will be remediated and upgraded as a first priority due to asbestos contamination, Council engaged Cred Consulting for more detailed and specific consultation about this site, to inform the future master plan.

## Engagement Activities

Cred Consulting delivered community engagement from 29 June - 3 August 2020.

Over 300 people were engaged throughout the consultation period across a range of activities, including via an online survey, 2x online workshops, remote pop-up boards located in Dan Mahoney Reserve, and submissions to the City of Parramatta Council.



# What did we hear?

**Key findings that emerged across all engagement activities about Dan Mahoney Reserve included:**

## **The size of Dan Mahoney Reserve makes it unique and is important to accommodate community demand for off-leash dog areas for the population now and in the future**

Throughout consultation, participants strongly indicated the size of Dan Mahoney Reserve (DMR) is one of the reasons it is well-utilised, is highly valued by the community, and attracts visitors from across the region. The size allows for shared mixed-use spaces, avoids clusters on days with high foot traffic, and allows enough space for dogs of all sizes to safely socialise and exercise.

As engagement occurred during COVID-19 restrictions, participants highlighted how visitation of DMR increased substantially, and reiterated the importance of maintaining a large space for users to safely socially distance while also getting needed exercise and fresh air with their dogs.

With an increase in high density dwellings, more residents living in apartments, and a forecast growing population in the area, participants expressed DMR is a 'backyard' for a lot of residents who don't have one, and plays an important role in their social interaction not just their dogs.

## **A safe, accessible and inclusive space for humans and dogs**

Participants would like to see Dan Mahoney Reserve as a safe, accessible and inclusive space for both humans and dogs. The large space at DMR enables safe distancing and behaviour management for dogs, which is particularly important for young people, elderly and people with a disability.

Participants indicated accessibility to DMR could be improved for both humans and dogs to enter, exit and use. Additional concrete paths, leveled walking surfaces, wide double-gated entry and exit gates for wheelchair access and dog safety, seating close to gates and accessible toilets were expressed as needed improvements to enhance inclusive accessibility and visitation to DMR.

Many participants expressed concerns around sharing sporting and community spaces in DMR including ball-sports, children's playgrounds and BBQ facilities that could create a source of conflict between dogs and other users.

## **Dan Mahoney Reserve is an informal social place to gather, exercise and relax**

Participants recognised DMR as an important social space for the community, and for residents in neighbouring LGAs who visit regularly for their social, physical and mental wellbeing. Participants also expressed DMR is an opportunity for their dogs to act as social connectors within the community, meeting new people from different cultures, backgrounds, ages and abilities.

## **The community would like to see upgrades to facilities and amenities including shade, seating and lighting**

Participants indicated existing facilities at Dan Mahoney Reserve are under-serviced, inaccessible and under-utilised. Desired upgrades to existing facilities include access to public toilets, more bins and dog bag stations around the park, increased lighting at night throughout the park, and improved surfacing and drainage of the grounds is important for users and their dogs.

In particular, participants indicated there is an opportunity for the clubhouse to become more activated, with the toilets opened more frequently, and a potential space for a dog-friendly cafe.

## **The community would like to see existing sporting grounds better used, instead of introducing a new sport space at Dan Mahoney Reserve**

The majority of participants perceived surrounding sportsfields included in the Heart of Play master plan as under-utilised. It was expressed that there is an opportunity to improve sport utilisation in other spaces, rather than creating a formal sports space at Dan Mahoney. As Dan Mahoney is the only fenced off-leash dog park in North Parramatta, participants indicated it is a unique space for both dogs and their owners, with the perception that the current and future sporting needs of the community should be met within existing fields and spaces.

*"For me, it is very much a social interaction, and I live in an apartment so it's important for my dog to have that interaction with other dogs as well, other than being on a leash. That's my backyard."*

*- Comment from workshop participant*

# Online survey findings

An online survey was available Council's have your Say page between 29 June and 3 August 2020. In total, 422 people responded to the survey of which the majority (55% or 196 people) live in the local area and walk/exercise their dog at Dan Mahoney Reserve.

## Key findings

### There is limited support for a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve

Overall, the majority of survey respondents (61%) support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve, however, the majority (72%) do not support the proposal for a sporting space.

Many survey respondents expressed concerns that the proposal would see the current size of the dog park be reduced. Respondents commented that the dog park is currently very well-utilised and highly valued by the community, and attracts visitors from across the region, in part due to its large size which allows enough space for dogs to safely socialise and exercise. Respondents also noted that forecast increased population growth in North Parramatta will see further pressure on this already busy dog park.

With regards to the proposal for a sporting space, many survey respondents commented that there are already a number of sporting spaces in North Parramatta and in proximity to Dan Mahoney Reserve, with some noting that existing sporting spaces are not very well utilised. Respondents also raised concerns about the impact of an additional sporting space on traffic congestion in the area, and conflicts due to shared use of the space (e.g. between dogs and children, sports balls in the dog park etc).

### Snapshot of findings

- The majority of survey respondents (61%) support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve. 25% do not support Council's proposal and 14% are unsure.
- The majority of survey respondents (72%) do not support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve. 20% do support the proposal, while 8% are unsure.
- Features that survey respondents would like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future regardless of future use include:
  - Lighting (80%)
  - Public toilets (75%)
  - Trees and plants (74%), and
  - Shade (71%).
- The most popular features that survey respondents would like to see included in a purpose-built dog park are:
  - Trees and shade (86%)
  - Dog drinking water (85%), and
  - Double entry gates (83%).
- Of respondents who support the proposal for a sporting space, the most popular types of activities they would like to do at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future include:
  - Walking or running (57%)
  - Informal sport (kicking a ball) (54%), and
  - Exercising with outdoor equipment (54%).

# Respondent profile

In total, the online survey received 422 responses, with respondents' relationship to Dan Mahoney Reserve and demographic characteristics outlined below.

## Relationship to Dan Mahoney Reserve

The majority of respondents live nearby and walk/exercise their dog in Dan Mahoney Reserve (55%), while 23% travel from elsewhere to walk/exercise their dog there. 15% live nearby but don't use the park very often and 11% live nearby and use the park for activities other than dog walking. 6% are in a local sports club/association and interested in the future use of the park.

- The majority of respondents visit Dan Mahoney Reserve a few times a week (42%) or every day (25%).
- Respondents were most likely to visit Dan Mahoney at different times (43%), in the early evening (39%), in the morning (28%) and in at night time (16%).
- 21% of respondents visit multiple times throughout the day, while 14% visit only on weekends and 5% visit only on weekdays.

## Demographic indicators

- The majority of survey respondents were female (65%), with 31% male, 1% non-binary and 4% prefer not to say.
- The largest age group who responded spanned working-aged adults aged 25 to 59 years:
  - Aged 25-29 years: 13%
  - Aged 30-39: 32%
  - Aged 40-49 years: 20%, and
  - Aged 50-59 years: 14%.
- 17% of respondents speak a language other than English at home.

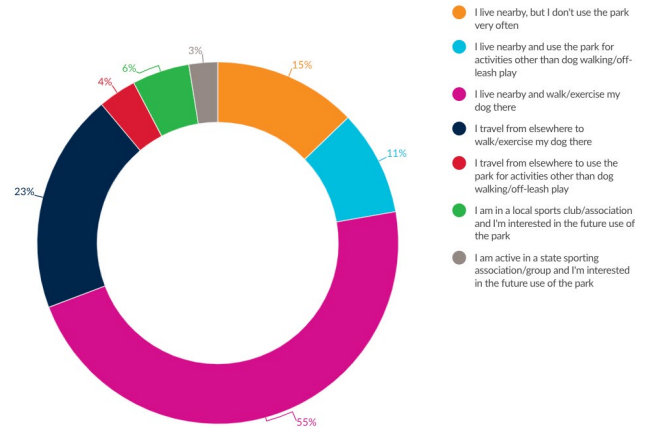


Figure 14 - What is your relationship to Dan Mahoney Reserve?

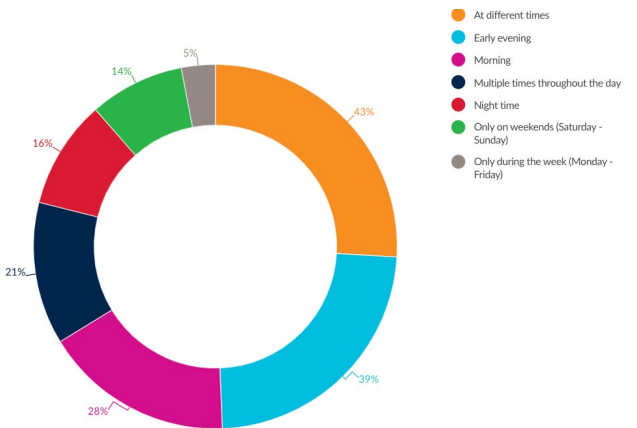


Figure 15 - What time do you typically visit Dan Mahoney Reserve?

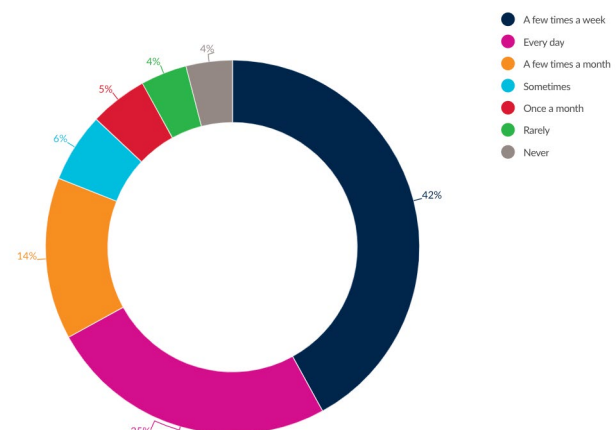


Figure 16 - Thinking back over the last 12 months, how often did you visit Dan Mahoney Reserve?

# Detailed findings

## Do you support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve?

As shown in Figure 17, the majority of survey respondents support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve (61%). 25% do not support Council's proposal and 14% are unsure.

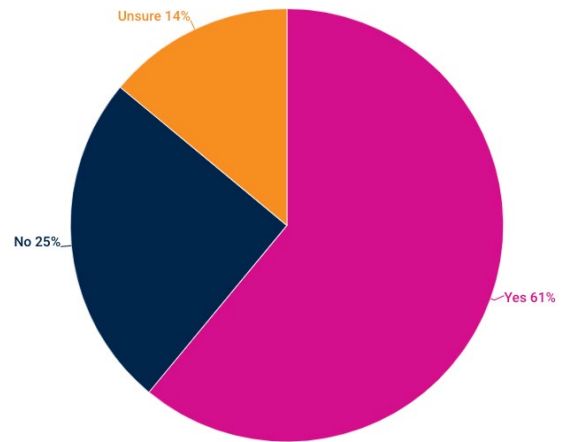


Figure 17 - Do you support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve?

## Why don't you support or are you unsure about a purpose-built dog park being created at Dan Mahoney Reserve?

Common reasons that respondents do not support or are unsure about a purpose-built dog park being created at Dan Mahoney Reserve include:

- 53% of respondents do not support the current size of the dog park being reduced because:
  - it is already highly utilised and loved by the community
  - future population growth will place increased pressure on the dog park
  - it is a unique space that attracts visitors from across the region
  - safety concerns with over-crowding of the dog park
  - there are not many large or quality dog parks in the region
- 26% of respondents are happy with the park as it currently is
- 6% of respondents would like to see more uses for the community, including walking paths, a dog-friendly cafe, and for sport, and
- 4% of respondents said they think the proposal is unclear.

Other reasons with fewer than 5 comments include: would like to see more sporting and recreation uses for humans in the park (e.g. not just dogs); there is no need for sporting spaces.

### Comments:

- "The current space is suitable for the amount of dogs and owners that use the park. There are lots of different sized dogs that use the park and a large space allows for safe play. Making it smaller will increase the risk of danger for dogs and people."
- "The dog park should remain a dog park. It is the best one in Sydney and many people from all over the region travel to come here. Maintenance and rebuilding of the park to improve its purposes as an off-leash dog park is perfect and vital to the needs of the community. Despite what the council thinks, there is no need to "re-purpose" an area of the park as a sporting space. There are multiple sporting fields surrounding Dan Mahoney reserve including Doyle Ground, Barton Park, Sherwin Park, and the EELS home training ground. Dan Mahoney is the one place people can take their dogs without having to worry about being trampled or interrupted by athletes. It's relaxing, has community tiles and positively serves the community."
- "I prefer the area being used more for sporting and recreational activities for humans, rather than off leash dogs."
- "It's a great sized park and is very well used. With all the apartments and townhouses being built people with dogs need large accessible spaces for their dogs. North Parramatta already has so many parks and that's great but dogs are also part of our lives and our health and well-being just as much as sport."



## What features would you like to see included in a purpose-built dog park?

As shown below, the majority of survey respondents supported all of the listed features. The most popular features were: trees and shade (86%); dog drinking water (85%); and double entry gates (82%).

Other common features that survey respondents commented they would like to see include:

- Increased dog poo bags and bins (21%, 21 comments)
- Increased access to public toilets (12%, 12 comments)
- Dog play equipment and obstacles (7%, 7 comments), and
- Increased amenity for humans including seating and shelter (5%, 5 comments).

Other features with fewer than 5 comments include: fencing, café, dog washing station, increased space, no seating, increased signage and rangers to improve safety, storage for dog agility equipment, walking path outside the dog park.



*Trees and shade*

**86%**



*Dog drinking water*

**85%**



*Double-entry gates*

**82%**



*Seating*

**80%**



*Lighting*

**80%**



*Dog-friendly cafe*

**63%**



*Dog agility equipment*

**59%**



*Small and large dog areas*

**57%**

## Do you support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve?

As shown in Figure 18, the majority of survey respondents (72%) do not support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve. 20% do support the proposal, while 8% are unsure.

### If you do not support or are unsure about a sporting space being built at Dan Mahoney Reserve, please tell us why?

Common reasons that respondents do not support or unsure about a sporting space being built at Dan Mahoney Reserve include:

- 78% of respondents don't support reducing the size of the dog park to accommodate sporting space
- 40% of respondents think there are already enough sporting spaces in North Parramatta and in close proximity to Dan Mahoney Reserve, including facilities that are under-utilised, and
- 4% of respondents have concerns about sharing space in Dan Mahoney Reserve, including safety concerns around locating a playground in proximity to the dog park and about balls from a sporting space flying into the dog park.

Other reasons with fewer than 5 comments include: depends on what kind of sporting space; would like to see uses that are more accessible to the whole of the community not just those who play sport, including seniors.

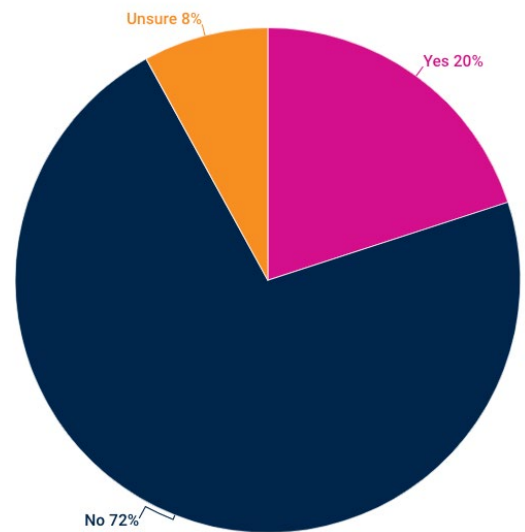


Figure 18 - Do you support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve?

#### Comments:

- "Believe the existing sporting spaces can be more efficiently used and redesigned to be suitable for a multitude of sports - today none are used to capacity for any single organised sport. Not all members of the community are interested in or physically/financially able to participate in organised sport. As a dog park, Dan Mahoney today provides an opportunity for a wide demographic of the community to enjoy a large green space open to the public without restriction. Dog ownership is increasing along with the growing Parramatta CBD population which means many more people in the future looking for safe environments near to home, to exercise and socialize their dog while interacting with others members of the community. Dan Mahoney (DM) is the only dog park and the nearest dog park for Parramatta CBD so it is vital that this be maintained."
- "In peak times, the dog off leash park is packed full. Reducing the size would greatly impede the exercise of both the owners and dogs. For larger dogs, more running space is required and reducing it could deter many owners who may already have concerns about larger dogs playing with their small dogs. The space currently caters well for all trained breeds. I personally have a Labrador that loves to run the whole field and even this doesn't tire him entirely. Reducing, in my opinion, would be unhelpful for the dog community."
- "You will create an inherent conflict within community. Sporting use will draw children and citizens who may not have much comfort / confidence with dogs. It will quickly garner resentment between dog owners and non-dog owners who are using the same /adjacent space and shared parking footpaths on approach."

## What types of activities would you like to be able to enjoy at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future?

As shown in the graph below, of survey respondents who support Council's proposal for a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve, the majority would like to be able to engage in walking or running (57%) and informal sport (54%).

Survey respondents commented that they would also like to see a skate park/BMX track (18%) as an activity to participate in at Dan Mahoney Reserve.



Walking or running

57%



Informal sport (kicking a ball)

54%



Exercising with outdoor equipment

54%



Bike riding

49%



Playground for children

49%



Formalised sport

45%



A quiet place to relax

45%



Picnics/BBQs

43%



Tai chi/Yoga/Dance

31%



Table tennis

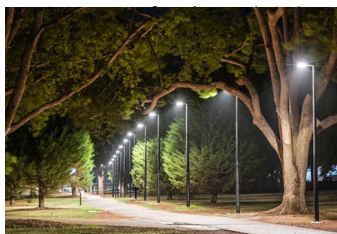
31%

## What features would you like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future regardless of its future use?

As shown in the graph below, the most popular features that respondents would like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve regardless of its future use are lighting (79%), public toilets (75%), trees and plants (74%) and shade (71%).

Respondents commented that other features they would like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future include:

- Continued use as a dog park (12%)
- Double-entry gates (11%)
- Increased dog poop bags and bins (10%)
- More / taller fencing (5%)
- Increased shade (5%), and



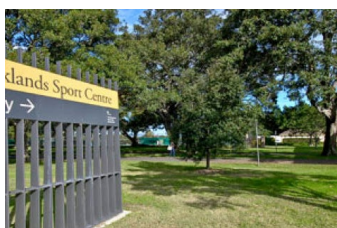
Lighting

79%



Public toilets

75%



Trees and plants

74%



Shade

71%



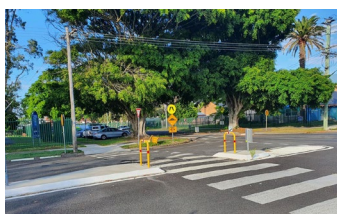
Seating

66%



Bubblers/drinking fountains

56%



Good pedestrian access

52%



Cafe

48%



Circuit paths

46%



Community meeting space

20%

# Online workshops findings

## About the online workshops

The workshops were promoted via an online survey for participants to register their interest in taking part in the either of the two workshop sessions.

The first online workshop was held on 23 July 2020 at 5pm to 6pm, followed by a second online workshop held on 25 July 2020 at 9am to 10am. A total of 16 participants took part in the online workshops.

## Overview of workshop activities

### Mapping of DMR

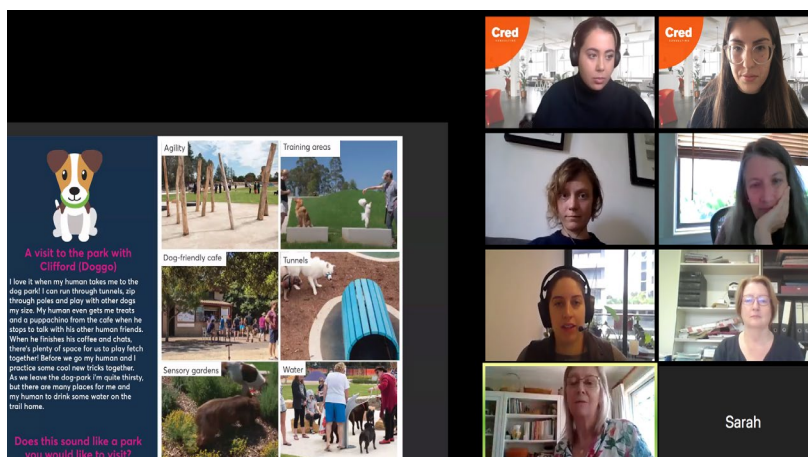
In this activity, participants were shown a map of Dan Mahoney Reserve, and were asked to pinpoint which parts of the Reserve are used, who by and what for.

### Love/Change

In this activity, participants were shown pictures of different features in Dan Mahoney Reserve. Each participant was asked to write down one thing they love about each photo, and one thing they would change.

### Imagine this...

In this activity, the facilitator read out 3 different scenarios to prompt discussion around future park elements that participants would like to see in Dan Mahoney Reserve. Participants were asked to indicate whether they agree, disagree, or somewhat agree for each idea shown in the scenario card, and to tell us 'what' and 'why' they would or wouldn't like these ideas to take place in Dan Mahoney.



## Key findings

Overall, the majority of workshop participants would not like to see a sporting space in Dan Mahoney Reserve, indicating the current size of the dog park is important for the community, particularly with a growing population over the next years.

Keeping the park as a large, flexible and informal space is preferred for users and their dogs. Dan Mahoney Reserve is recognised as an important space in the community to gather, socialise, exercise and relax.

Participants would like to see improvements and upgrades to Dan Mahoney Reserve, that are functional from a human and dog perspective, including lighting at night, access to toilets, increased shade, shelter and seating, and improved surfacing. Dog facilities such as increased water bubblers, dog poo bags/stations, additional waterplay and secure fencing were also a key priority for the future of Dan Mahoney.

Similar to survey respondents, workshop participants expressed concerns for shared use of Dan Mahoney Reserve with a sports space. The majority of participants indicated it is a highly utilised park, and particularly with Covid-19 it has seen a greater demand in usage. Participants indicated formalised sports, particularly ball-sports, are a distraction for dogs and could cause tension between sporting users and dogs and their owners. Community facilities such as BBQs and children's playgrounds were also a concern for participants, who felt they would have to be much more vigilant of their dogs around food and small children.

*"...For a person with disability, the social connection and friendships I have formed would not exist without this park. It has decreased my isolation and drawn many broader benefits. The restorative benefits of standing in large open grass land and hearing the joy of dogs play also supports my mental health and helps me reduce my stress"*

- Comment from workshop participant

*"The other thing I find fantastic about Dan Mahoney is that dogs are great connectors. So with the space, you can actually move around and meet a whole range of different people from different cultures, all different ages and different abilities."*

- Comment from workshop participant

# Activity 1 - Mapping

In this activity, participants were shown a map of Dan Mahoney Reserve, and were asked to pinpoint which parts of the Reserve are used, who by and what for. The exercise aimed to highlight and map different zones of use that naturally occur across the park.



Figure 19 - Findings from workshop mapping activity

Figure 19 above illustrates the findings from the mapping activity. Key discussion points include:

- The area in-front of the clubhouse is used for dog agility training on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
- The area in-front of the clubhouse is also regularly used as a German Shepherd meetup.
- There is an informal walking loop in the bottom half of the park that is often used by small dogs, as well as an informal 'small dog zone'.
- The hilly area to the right of the park is well loved and used.
- There is a need for safer double gate access.
- New seating has no shade, and the seating that exists

- under the shade can get crowded in summer.
  - The central area of the park gets bindi weed in summer which limits it's useability. It can also get really hot in summer due to a lack of shade.
  - The small area to the left of the creek is not as well used, but is sometimes used as a 'time-out' zone for dogs who are overstimulated. The creek is also not safe which means some dogs jump in at times.
- Other discussion points included the importance of the size of the park in allowing for multiple uses and users, as well as the need for more water stations and bins distributed across the park.

# Activity 2 - Love/Change

This activity aimed to understand what is special and important about different elements within Dan Mahoney Reserve and opportunities for improvement in the future. Each participant was asked to write down one thing they love about each photo, and one thing they would change.



## What do people love?

### Some common themes:

- It is a social place to be, for gatherings or to celebrate pup birthdays
- Disbursed seating around the park, not just near the clubhouse
- Love the benches that dogs can climb on
- Love the random chairs people bring

## What do people want to change?

### Some common themes:

- Seating catering for all different ages and mobilities (2)
- Seating away from the gates, but still convenient for less mobile
- More seating around the perimeter, the middle is busy
- More seating near the park along Isabella street that is shaded
- More fixed seating, less movable
- More communal seating
- Comfortable seating with backs

### Other comments:

- Would like to see picnic tables



## The clubhouse



### What do people love?

#### Some common themes:

- Onsite storage space for equipment
- Public art on the metal container, particularly the mural of dogs

#### Other comments:

- Opportunity for a cafe as part of the building (3)

### What do people want to change?

#### Some common themes:

- Can block visibility
- Lack of shade
- The tarmac is hot in summer, dogs like to rest in the cool
- Improved maintenance of the building
- Improved access to the toilets and canteen, could be opened more often
- Upgrade toilets, including current issues with leaking
- Better delineated area for training, improve access for dog trainers
- Access to the building in the early mornings
- Better night lighting

#### Other comments:

- Unsure of the clubhouses purpose
- Would like to have a space booked exclusively for training





## Fully grassed and off-leash dog area



### What do people love?

#### Some common themes:

- Love the size of the park (4)
- Really large space for many different types and breeds of dogs

### What do people want to change?

#### Some common themes:

- Include a double gated entry and exit for the park (2)
- Upgrade infrastructure
- Opportunity for safe, smoother surfacing
- More rubbish bins around the park, currently they are on the other end

#### Other comments:

- Grass gets worn out around where people sit and therefore gets muddy

## Shade and shelter



### What do people love?

#### Some common themes:

- In winter it's nice to have lots of sun
- Love the trees

### What do people want to change?

#### Some common themes:

- Not enough shade, especially in summer because the centre is very hot
- The direction of the sun means the trees around the edge don't always shade the right spots of the park
- Immature trees also mean not much shading for many years
- Opportunity for shade sails in the park
- More trees for shade
- Retractable shading for summer

#### Other comments:

- My dog is black and we have to be very careful in summer with the heat

## Night time lighting



### What do people love?

#### Some common themes:

- There is adequate lighting, particularly at the clubhouse and in the northern end of the park

#### Other comments:

- People sit near club house in the evening near the lights to socialise

### What do people want to change?

#### Some common themes:

- Improved lighting at night (3), particularly till 9pm for people to play ball with their dogs
- During Winter, lights to be turned on earlier during the day
- Lights at the southern end of the park need to be turned on
- Evenly distributed lighting to help avoid clustering in the park
- More consistent lighting throughout the week, Council turns only a few lights on in certain areas

#### Other comments:

- Opportunity for automatic lighting
- Particularly on the weekends, the lights aren't on for users of the park

## Dog facilities



### What do people love?

#### Some common themes:

- Watering station now has cement around it, reducing mess
- Bags for dog faeces
- Fully fenced dog park

### What do people want to change?

#### Some common themes:

- Increased distribution of watering stations throughout the park
- Increased distribution of dog poop bags and bins throughout the park
- Opportunity for water play in summer
- Opportunity for a small dog/big dog area - Shale Hills just opened sensory play, an agility course offering training areas spread around the park
- More professional dog training areas

#### Other comments:

- Need to regulate dog bags to ensure a constant supply. Regularity will potentially stop hoarding.

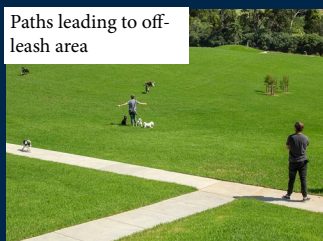
# Activity 3 - Imagine this...

This activity presented three scenarios and asked participants to indicate whether they agree, disagree or somewhat agree to the ideas expressed in each scenario followed by discussion. A total of 16 participants took part in the online workshop. However in this activity some participants did not vote, and only suggested comments.



## A visit to the park with Roy (78 years old)

I like to take my dog Coco to the off-leash area for him to play and meet with friends and for me to socialise too! There is a safe and level concrete path for me, but mounds give Coco some diversity and let him burn off some energy. There's also plenty of seating in the shade for when I need to rest. For when I want to move, there's a circuit for me to walk with Coco within the fenced off-leash area. I like that just next to the off-leash area, the park also has areas for sport and play - I can listen to the sounds of kids running around like I used to!



Paths leading to off-leash area



Wide footpath



Shade and seating



Kids playing



Training mound



Shared running track

Yes	No	Maybe	Did not vote
4	7	2	3

44% of participants disliked the idea of an off-leash dog park with a concrete walking circuit, mounds for dogs, seating and shade, and sport and play spaces.

Overall, participants liked the features and elements of this dog park, however the majority of participants indicated they would not like to see a sports space in Dan Mahoney, particularly if it reduces the size of the dog park.

### Reasons for voting 'yes' to this scenario include:

- Features are great can be used in other spaces.
- I like the paths that's circuit inside the off-leash area
- Safe place for owners and the dog community
- Being able to walk on an even ground would be beneficial, however it needs to be suitable for dogs and their owners

### Reasons for voting 'no' to this scenario include:

- Shared zone is not good (5), there can be problems with interaction of dogs and people playing sport (people kicking the dogs away, dogs interfering in ball-sports). Sports and dogs should be kept in different areas.
- The size of the dog park is reduced (4)
- Unsure of how useful a training mound will be, it may get in the way
- Don't formalise the space, we are okay with sharing space with people kicking a ball around
- This type of space already exists, we already have something like this
- Track is not a good idea to be used for bikes
- With a growing population, whilst there is more people there will be more people with pets
- I like walking on the grass

### Reasons for voting 'maybe' to this scenario include:

- There needs to be signage for when users are coming in and out of the park, particularly children leaving gates open



## A visit to the park with Clifford the dog

I love it when my human takes me to the dog park! I can run through tunnels, zip through poles and play with other dogs my size. My human even gets me treats and a puppachino from the cafe when he stops to talk with his other human friends. When he finishes his coffee and chats, there's plenty of space for us to play fetch together! Before we go my human and I practice some cool new tricks together. As we leave the dog-park i'm quite thirsty, but there are many places for me and my human to drink some water on the trail home. It's fun to watch all the other humans chase after a ball too on the sportsfield!

Does this sound like a park you would like to visit?



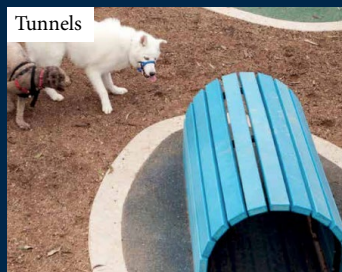
Agility



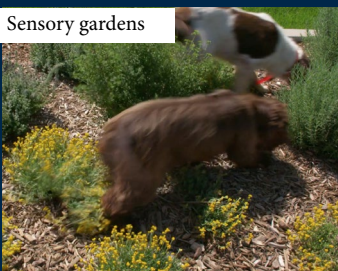
Training areas



Dog-friendly cafe



Tunnels



Sensory gardens



Water

Yes	No	Maybe	Did not vote
8	2	1	5

50% of participants liked the idea of an off-leash dog park with training and agility areas, tunnels, sensory gardens, water stations and a dog-friendly cafe.

Overall, participants liked the features and elements of this dog park, and the strong focus on dog-friendly spaces and activities.

### Reasons for voting 'yes' to this scenario include:

- Gives people an opportunity to have a separate zone in the park and have a safe space for their dog
- Interested in agility training
- Would like to see a cafe

### Reasons for voting 'no' to this scenario include:

- I don't like split dog parks because the small dog spaces are always too small and become crowded, limiting my dogs option to run
- Dan Mahoney Reserve is big enough not to have separate gated areas
- It is too cluttered and it loses the informal open space. There is freedom in Dan Mahoney Reserve now. If more equipment is set up, it reduces opportunity; less equipment increases flexibility in terms of toys, etc.
- With sports like cricket, the ball is too hard and can be a threat to dogs, so maybe not wise to co-locating both children and dog areas.

### Reasons for voting 'maybe' to this scenario include:

- The grassed section along the creek of Dan Mahoney Reserve could be used as a 'time out area' for dogs that need to calm down
- The water in the creek isn't clean or safe, and the cats and rats around that section make dogs more hyper. If we could fence it off from the water that would be good
- There is an opportunity for a notice-board for Dan Mahoney Reserve to let users know what programs are happening



## A visit to the park with Abi (36 years old)

Juggling being fit myself and keeping the kids and dog active is easy thanks to my local park that has something for everyone. My older kids can play team soccer while I play with our dog Beka in the park or take my youngest to the amazing inclusive adventure playground. The sports amenities block with separated The amenities block also doubles as public toilets that are always clean thanks to smart sensors. This means I can wash my hands after playing with Beka and meet up with family and friends at the picnic area to have a summer BBQ.

### Does this sound like a park you would like to visit?



Yes	No	Maybe	Did not vote
0	11	0	5

69% of participants disliked the idea of an off-leash dog park co-located with a multipurpose park, sporting space, BBQ area and adventure play.

Overall, participants expressed strong concerns of conflict between dog and other users, particularly with food around dogs, as well as ball-sports. The majority of participants indicated this scenario would create a less relaxing space, and cause more anxiousness for dog owners and dogs.

#### Reasons for voting 'no' to this scenario include:

- Dogs, food, children don't always mix well together (3), and depends on if it is fenced off from one another. It becomes a liability.
- This scenario is stressful, I will need to be more vigilant ensuring my dog doesn't take other people's food etc.
- Some dogs are scared of kids and vice versa
- People feel like we don't need more sports spaces. Sports field is a definite no from the community
- I would love to see the other parks change into this. I have 2 kids who play AFL on grounds that don't drain well. Doyle ground can be converted into multi-purpose sports fields

#### Other comments include:

- Having two fields that don't drain well – It could be converted one side into a astroturf soccer field. The main thing with Dan Mahoney Reserve is the size, it's what makes people like it

# Unstaffed consultation boards

Unstaffed consultation boards located in Dan Mahoney Reserve, North Parramatta were available between 29 June and 3 August 2020 for community consultation.

## About the unstaffed consultation boards

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Cred Consulting developed unstaffed consultation boards located within Dan Mahoney Reserve to safely engage with the community from June 29 to 3 August.

Community consultation for Dan Mahoney Reserve included 2 specific boards which asked what types of features users would like to see in a purpose-built off-leash dog park, what types of active and sporting activities users would like in the future and what types of community facilities users would like to see in the future at Dan Mahoney Reserve. The community was invited to place up to 3 sticker dots on each board.



Unstaffed consultation boards located in Dan Mahoney Reserve. Source: Cred Consulting



Unstaffed consultation boards. Source: Cred Consulting

## What features would you like to see included in a purpose-built dog park?

As shown in the graph below, the most popular features that participants would like to see included in a purpose built dog park are double entry gates (176), lighting (175), dog-friendly cafe (167) and trees and shade (148).

Other popular features that participant would like to see included in a purpose built dog park include:

- Dog drinking water (114)
- Seating (109)
- Dog agility equipment (83)
- Small and large dog areas (37), and
- Signage and information boards (7).



*Double-entry gates*

**176**



*Lighting*

**175**



*Dog-friendly cafe*

**167**



*Trees and shade*

**148**



*Dog drinking water*

**114**



*Seating*

**109**



*Dog agility equipment*

**83**



*Small and large dog areas*

**37**



*Signage and information boards*

**7**

## What types of active and sporting activities would you like to use at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future?

As shown in the graph below, the most popular types of active and sporting activities that participants would like to use at Dan Mahoney Reserve for in the future are walking or running (43), exercising with outdoor equipment (28), gardening (20) and picnic/BBQs (16).

Active and sporting activities including formalised sport (0) and tai chi/yoga/dance (0) were least likely to be chosen by participants, followed by riding a bike (2), table tennis (4) and playground for children (9).



*Walking or running*

**43**



*Exercising with outdoor equipment*

**28**



*Gardening*

**20**



*Picnics/BBQs*

**16**



*Playground for children*

**9**



*Table tennis*

**4**



*Bike riding*

**2**



*Informal sport (kicking a ball)*

**1**



*Tai chi/Yoga/Dance*

**0**



*Formalised sport*

**0**



## What types of community facilities would you like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future?

As shown in the graph below, the most popular types of community facilities that participants would like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future are public toilets (149), a cafe (71), lighting (48), trees and plants (47) and shade (45).

Other common types of community facilities participants would like to see at Dan Mahoney Reserve in the future include:

- Circuit paths (24)
- Seating (20)
- Good pedestrian access (10), and
- Bubblers/ drinking fountains (10).
- Community meeting space (2) was least likely to be chosen by participants.



Public toilets

149



Cafe

71



Lighting

48



Trees and plants

47



Shade

45



Circuit paths

24



Seating

20



Good pedestrian access

10



Bubblers/ drinking fountains

10



Community meeting space

2

# Submissions

**During the consultation period the community was invited to write a submission to City of Parramatta Council and share their thoughts in relation to future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve. Key themes are outlined below.**

The City of Parramatta Council received 7 submissions relating to Dan Mahoney Reserve from the community.

Submissions received included a focus on:

- General objections to the proposal (5 submission)
- Concerns around reducing the size of Dan Mahoney, and the impact it would have on dogs and users (4 submission)
- Dan Mahoney Reserve offers a safe, inclusive space for people of all ages and abilities and their dogs (2 submissions)
- Dan Mahoney Reserve is unique and is the only fully enclosed off-leash dog park within the Parramatta area (2 submission)
- A growing population will increase demand for access to an off-leash dog park (2 submission)
- There are already enough sporting spaces in North Parramatta (1 submission)
- General upgrades and maintenance of facilities in Dan Mahoney Reserve including access to toilets and improved fencing (1 submission)
- Increased amenity for dogs and their owners in Dan Mahoney Reserve including more trees for shade and cooling, seating, poo bag stations, dog-friendly cafe, dog agility and equipment, and water play for dogs (1 submission)
- There is an opportunity for more dog parks that are within Parramatta CBD and within close walking distance to residence (1 submission),
- There is an opportunity for a small section of Dan Mahoney Reserve to be fenced with a separate entry to allow for a BBQ area and play for children (1 submission),
- Dan Mahoney Reserve is a space that attracts visitors from outside of the local area (1 submission)
- Dan Mahoney Reserve is a social space for all people to enjoy, even people without a dog (1 submission), and
- To ensure upgrades to Dan Mahoney Reserve are safe, accessible and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities, dog-friendly, including additional concrete paths, leveled walking surfaces, wide double-gated entry and exit gates for wheelchair access and dog safety, seating close to gates and accessible toilets (1 submission).

In addition, 1 submission wanted more information regarding the proposed changes to Dan Mahoney Reserve, with some submissions posing questions to the proposal including:

- How much of Dan Mahoney Reserve will be used as a sports space? (1 submission)
- Where will the proposed sporting space go in Dan Mahoney Reserve? (1 submission), and
- What size will the dog park be reduced to? (1 submission).