



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Heart of Play

Heart of Play Master Plan

Phase 2 Engagement Outcomes Report

June 2021

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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. Following community and stakeholder consultation undertaken in 2020, a draft master plan was developed that will serve as the blueprint for the network of parks.

Cred Consulting, on behalf of the City of Parramatta Council, engaged with the community throughout April and May 2021 to seek feedback on the draft Heart of Play master plan and proposed actions for each park.

Community and stakeholder engagement included a range of activities: an online survey; community pop-up sessions; and online webinar. Email, phone and postal submissions were also welcomed.

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

What took place



Online community survey

Online engagement from 26 April to 24 May via Participate Parramatta - 931 submissions received.



Community drop-in sessions

Three community drop-in sessions at two parks in the Parramatta Heart of Play network. 133 attendees indicated their views on priority upgrades for each park via dotmocracy.



Webinar Q&A with the design team

3 participants attended the Webinar Q&A with the master plan designers on Tuesday 11 May 2021, 6.00pm - 7:30pm.



Submissions

Seven from community members and sporting associations related to the Heart of Play master plan.

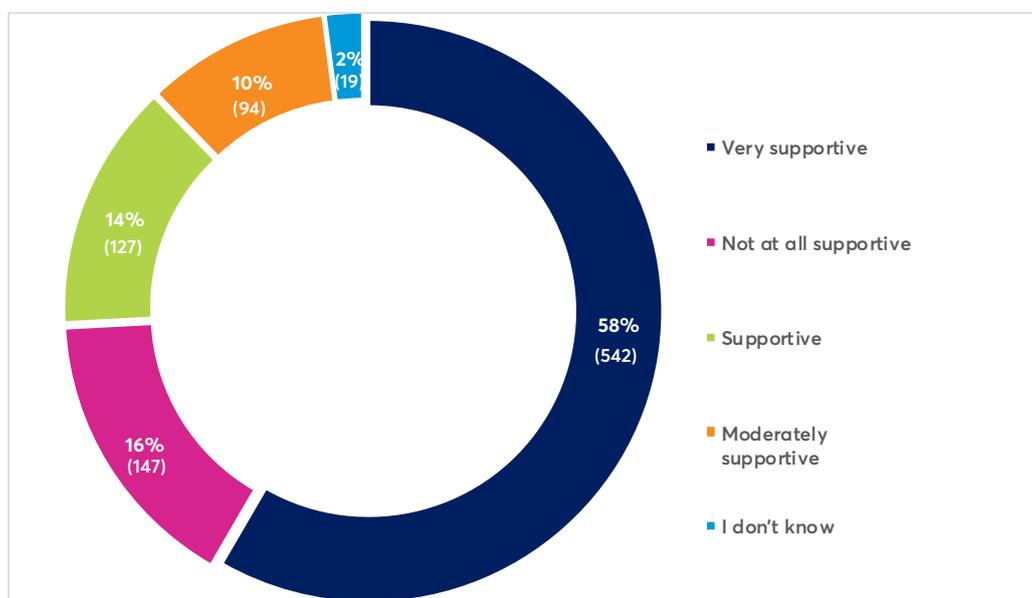
What we heard

Support for the Heart of Play master plan vision

Responses from the Participate Parramatta online survey (26 April to 24 May) showed that overall, the majority of survey respondents were 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the vision (72%; 669 respondents), followed by respondents who were 'not supportive at all' (16%; 147), 'supportive' (14%; 127), and 'moderately supportive' (10%; 984).

A connected, healthy, active and inclusive network of parks
- Heart of Play master plan vision

Figure 1 - Level of support for the Heart of Play master plan vision as indicated by survey respondents (n = 931)



Priority principles in the Heart of Play master plan

Community drop-ins attracted 133 participants, overall the majority of pop-up participants indicated their top two principles in the Heart of Play master plan were 'A welcoming place for all to play, day and night' (52 participants) and 'Improved spaces for active sport and recreation' (29 participants).

TABLE 1 - PRIORITY PRINCIPLES IN THE HEART OF PLAY MASTER PLAN AS INDICATED BY POP-UP PARTICIPANTS

Master plan principles	# of votes
A welcoming place for all to play, day and night	52
Improved spaces for active sport and recreation	29
A connected and accessible network of parks	27
A healthy and sustainable environment	25

Summary of suggestions by park

The following section provides a high level overview of key suggestions for change or improvement by park across engagement activities. More detail for each park is provided in the following chapters.

PARK	Top three actions from survey	Top suggestions across all engagement activities
<p>Doyle Ground</p> <p>(141 survey respondents; and 12 comments at pop-ups; 3 submissions)</p>	<p>1. Action 8 - lighting, seating, pathways (65%; 91 survey respondents)</p> <p>2. Action 1 - tree planting (47%; 66 survey respondents)</p> <p>3. Action 9 - Upgrade playground (40%; 56 survey respondents)</p>	<p>The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and upgrade existing playground (8 comments) Expressed need to widen the footpath circuit around Doyle Ground (7 comments), indicating there is conflict and safety concerns between different user groups using this circuit. Increase lighting (6 comments) Increase amenities across the park (6 comments) Improve drainage and irrigation of fields (6 comments) Expressed desire for basketball hoops and courts at Doyle Ground (5 comments) Expressed desire for BMX pump track and flat paved areas for skating (5 comments) Additional amenities (6 comments) Increase shade and seating (4 comments) Improve parking near Doyle Ground (4 comments) Increase amenities near the playground (4 comments), including shade, seating and picnic tables. Relocate the amenities building closer to the children's playground or provide additional toilets in close proximity to the playground (3 comments) Upgrade amenities building (3 comment) Additional cricket nets (2 comments) Safer pedestrian crossings (2 comments)
<p>Barton Park</p> <p>(218 survey respondents; 46 comments at pop-ups; 2 submissions)</p>	<p>Action 5 - Retain all athletics functions (63%; 138 survey respondents)</p> <p>Action 2 - Tree planting (35%; 76 survey respondents)</p> <p>Action 6 - Upgrade car park (34%; 74 survey respondents).</p>	<p>Most comments for Action 5 were unsupportive of the proposed football field. The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsupportive of proposed full sized football field in Barton Park (over 150 comments), with many comments focussing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed desire to retain Barton Park for athletics purposes only. Barton Park is the only 400m athletics track and field facility in the Parramatta LGA, servicing the community, events such as school carnivals and zone competitions, and is home to Olympian athletes. Athletics is an all year round sport and cannot be a multipurpose space without limiting athletics functions. Concerns about boot studs damaging the grounds. Some respondents also indicated there is poor drainage at Barton Park which would be further impacted by regularly use by football groups. Existing athletics facilities in the middle of the park allow for athletics Expressed concerns around conflict and safety between different user groups. Concerns of proposed trees impacting line of sight between Barton Park and PH Jeffrey. Concerns about safety between throwing cages and spectator seating.

PARK	Top three actions from survey	Top suggestions across all engagement activities
Barton Park (Continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase amenity such as lighting at night for safety and evening use, storage, access to toilets and change rooms. • Upgrade and improve maintenance of amenities. • Opportunity for different types of athletics tracks in Barton Park (4 comments), such as tartan or synthetic track. • Expressed concerns for asbestos on site in Barton Park (2 comments), with suggestion to raise soil levels. • Expressed desire for basketball courts/ hoops (2 comments) • Expressed desire for a pump track (2 comments), and a skate facility within the HOP network.
Dan Mahoney Reserve (94 survey respondents; and 12 comments at pop-ups; 1 submission)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action 9 - Upgrade dog park (60%; 56 survey respondents) 2. Action 1 - Shared path (37%; 35 survey respondents) 3. Action 5 - Upgrade amenities building and Action 2 - Tree planting (36%; 34 survey respondents, respectively). 	<p>The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns for practicality of sharing the flexible lawn space with other user groups (8 comments) • Increase lighting (9 comments) • Increase amenities for dogs and humans (8 comments) • Separated areas for small and larger dogs (7 comments) • Secure fencing for all users (7 comments) • Desire for a shared walking path similar to Doyle Ground (2 comments).
Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court (355 survey respondent; 5 comments at pop-ups; and 3 stakeholder submissions)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action 4 - New synthetic fields (89%; 316 survey respondents) 2. Action 5 - New sports pavilion (72%; 257 survey respondents) 3. Action 9 - new seating (53%; 188 survey respondents). 	<p>The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed need for a synthetic hockey field at Old Saleyards Reserve (207 comments): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across engagement activities, respondents expressed that hockey has a long history and connection to Old Saleyards Reserve and the North Parramatta area. • Synthetic hockey fields can accommodate other sports such as soccer, but multi-purpose synthetic fields cannot accommodate hockey due to the length of the turf. • Additional amenities such as lighting at night, fencing of fields for safety, benches for players and adequate storage is needed to support hockey,. • Increase amenities (9 comments) • Expressed concerns of proposed synthetic fields impacting access to natural grass fields for junior rugby league and local community, and loss of the athletics track (4 comments) • Opportunity for other sports and recreation at OSY (3 comments) including a basketball court, street skating area or mid sized cricket fields.

PARK	Top three actions from survey	Top suggestions across all engagement activities
<p>Sherwin Park (62 survey respondents)</p>	<p>1. Action 6 - Retain basketball court (60%; 37 survey respondents)</p> <p>2. Action 5 - More seating and picnic tables (47%; 29 survey respondents)</p> <p>3. Action 2 - continue central tree avenue (40%; 25 survey respondents).</p>	<p>The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional basketball courts (13 comments) • Opportunity for the 3m wide shared path to facilitate space for children to learn to ride bikes and use as a cycling loop (3 comments) • Increase amenities (11 comment) • Increase lighting (5 comment). • Upgrade and extend the existing playground (3 comments) • Alternative surfacing of basketball courts (2 comments). • Desire for skating and bicycle facilities for recreation (2 comments) • Preference for a refuge island rather than a pedestrian crossing on Isabella Street (1 comment). • Additional seating under existing tree canopy shaded areas (1 comment).
<p>PH Jeffrey Reserve (57 survey respondent; 8 comments at pop-ups; and 3 stakeholder submissions)</p>	<p>1. Action 7 - new multi-sport court (58%; 33 survey respondents)</p> <p>2. Action 8 - relocation and upgrade of tennis courts (44%; 25 survey respondents)</p> <p>3. Action 4 - new sports pavilion (42%; 24 survey respondents).</p>	<p>The most common suggestions for changes or improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase amenities (7 comment) • Retain, upgrade and improve tennis courts (6 comments) • Increase basketball courts (5 comments) • Expressed safety concerns for proposed seating around perimeter of field (4 comments) • Opportunity for other sports and recreation facilities (3 comments) including badminton courts, fitness training equipment and a BMX track. • Upgrade the tennis centre courts and club house (2 comments) • Desire for a playground in PH Jeffrey Reserve (2 comment) • Expressed need for a path to connect Barton Park to the discus cage to assist in carrying heavy equipment (1 comment) • Expressed concern for proposed tree canopy interfering with line of sight between Barton Park and PH Jeffrey (1 comment) • Suggestion that the proposed shared path through the tennis venue is removed and replaced with a path around the edge of the venue's boundary, connecting with the wider precinct (1 comment) • Request for proposed tennis court relocation to be discussed with Tennis NSW (1 comment) • Desire from Parramatta City Tennis and Tennis NSW for a partnership with Council to develop a site-specific concept plan and infrastructure strategy (1 comment)



Additional suggestions

Across each park in the Heart of Play master plan network, the following suggestions were commonly made by participants:

Areas for social gathering, play and passive recreation

Across community engagement, many participants expressed that they value the vision of the HOP network that serves as a 'collective backyard' for the community. Participants strongly expressed a need for the master plan to recognise and identify open spaces, amenities and facilities to support this. Suggestions for BBQ facilities, picnic tables and seating, shaded areas for relaxation, community gardens, colour and vibrancy across the parks were commonly mentioned by respondents.

Participants indicated they would like to see spaces across the HOP network for families, locals and visitors to come together and connect, socialise, relax and play. In particular, respondents indicated Sherwin Park and Doyle Ground, especially near the children's playground, were parks that could accommodate increased amenities to support family friendly spaces.

Across engagement activities, there was strong desire for inclusive playspaces for children of all ages to enjoy. Participants would like to see upgrades to existing playgrounds, particularly Doyle Ground and Sherwin Park, including new and exciting play equipment, and different play spaces.

Recreation facilities for informal play

Engagement participants emphasised the need for other types of recreation facilities such as basketball courts and BMX/pump tracks to be considered in the Heart of Play network. Participants expressed these recreation facilities are suitable for all age groups and are in demand within the LGA.

Most commonly mentioned areas for basketball courts/ hoops within the HOP network were additional courts at Sherwin Park, and basketball courts/ hoops at PH Jeffrey Reserve and Doyle Ground.

Survey respondents would like to see BMX/pump tracks and surfaces suitable for skating, cycling and scooting at Doyle Ground, PH Jeffrey Reserve and Barton Park.

Improved and increased amenities for everyone

Across engagement activities, participants expressed a strong need for improvement of existing facilities across the HOP network, as well as additional amenities to service the demand when visiting parks. Many participants indicated increasing amenities would improve and support visitation to parks, and increase accessibility.

Amenities to support formal and passive recreation across all parks in the HOP network include:

- Lighting, particularly at night to improve sense of safety and increase accessibility of park in the evening and during winter seasons.
- Access to toilets. Many participants indicated existing toilets are closed and not accessible. Participants would like to access to public toilets at all times of the day, and accessible toilets for all.
- Improved amenities, with many participants indicating they would like to see upgrades to existing amenities such as toilets, change rooms, lighting, seating and storage.
- Additional seating, particularly with backing for support.
- Shaded areas for walking, cycling and relaxing.
- Improved parking.
- Bins for general waste.
- Dog poo bags and dispensers.
- Bubblers and water stations accessible for humans and dogs.

Introduction

About the Heart of Play master plan

The City of Parramatta (Council) is undertaking a master planning process with the community to 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 the seven 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 includes:

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

Community engagement to provide feedback on the draft Heart of Play master plan

Phase 1 of community consultation was undertaken in 2020 to inform the master plan draft design. The community indicated 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, organised sport and social gatherings.

Phase 2 of community consultation commenced in April 2021. The purpose of this engagement was for the community to provide feedback on the draft master plan and the proposed actions identified for each park.

Cred Consulting with Turf Design have prepared the draft master plan which provides a long-term strategic vision for a central sporting, open space, and recreation network in a rapidly growing and densifying part of the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA).

The proposed actions within the draft master plan design align with four principles:

- A connected and accessible network of parks
- A welcoming place for all to play, day and night
- Improved spaces for active sport and recreation
- A healthy and sustainable environment.

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 plan.



TABLE 2 - OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Type	Dates	Details / location	Participants
Online community survey	26 April - 24 May 2021	Via Participate Parramatta	981
Pop-up consultation session in the parks	15 May 2021, 9am - 12pm	Doyle Ground near the playground, North Parramatta	~35
	15 May 2021, 1.30pm - 4.30pm	Doyle Ground near the playground, North Parramatta	*
	18 May 2021, 2pm - 5pm	Doyle Ground near the kiosk, North Parramatta	~20
	22 May 2021, 9am - 12pm	PH Jeffery Reserve, North Parramatta	~35
Webinar Q&A	11 May, 6 - 7.30pm and 25 June, 10-11am	Online via zoom	3
Submissions	26 April - 24 May 2021	Via Council's Place Services Team at placeservices@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au	7
Total engaged across all activities:			~ 1,081

* Due to weather conditions, this pop-up session did not proceed.



Figure 2 - The Heart of Play Master Plan area includes Doyle Ground, Dan Mahoney Reserve, Barton Park, Old Saleyards Reserve, PH Jeffery Reserve, Sherwin Park and Corry Court.

Online survey findings

A total of 981 people responded to the community survey which was available online via Council's Participate Parramatta platform between 26 April and 24 May 2021. 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:

- 58% or 542 respondents were 'Very supportive' of the Heart of Play master plan vision.
- 16% or 147 respondents were 'Not supportive at all' of the Heart of Play master plan vision.
- Across all parks in the Heart of Play network, survey respondents commented they would like to see improved and increased amenities for everyone, areas for social gathering, play and passive recreation and recreation facilities for informal play.

TABLE 3 - WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PLAN?

Respondent relationship to the master plan	% of respondents	# of respondents
Hockey player	46%	450
Resident - Parramatta LGA	22%	214
Local resident - North Parramatta	22%	212
Athletics participant	21%	203
Visitor - outside of Parramatta LGA	11%	103
Student or staff of a local school	3%	33
Football/soccer player	3%	27
Tennis player	3%	25
Cricket player	2%	22
State sporting organisation	2%	19
Touch football player	2%	18
Business owner	1%	12
AFL player	1%	12
Rugby league player	1%	8
Other	5%	46

Respondent profile

The following provides a snapshot of the respondent profile.

Interest in the Heart of Play master plan

Survey respondents were asked to indicate what their interest is in the master plan by selecting from a list of options provided. Respondents were able to choose as many options that were applicable to them.

Interest by relationship to the North Parramatta area

- Resident - Parramatta LGA (22%; 214 respondents)
- Local resident - North Parramatta (22%; 212)
- Visitor - outside of Parramatta LGA (11%; 103)
- Student or staff of a local school (3%; 33), and
- Business owner (1%; 12).

Interest by sports

Overall, the majority of survey respondents indicated they were a **hockey player (46%; 450 respondents)**. This was followed by athletics participant (21%; 203), football/soccer player (3%; 27), tennis player (3%; 25), and cricket player (2%; 22).

Other:

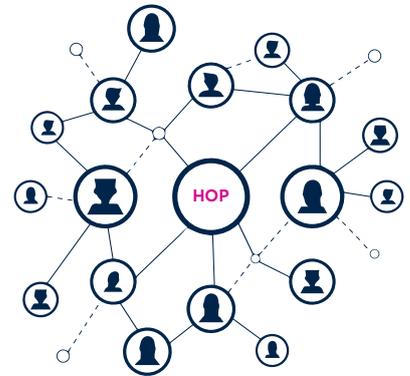
5% or 46 respondents indicated 'Other' interest in this plan, including:

- Dog owner (8 respondents)
- Member of a sporting association (7)
- Parent/relative of little athletics member (6)
- Sporting coach (4)
- Basketball player (4)
- Life Member of Parramatta Little Athletics (3)
- Roller skating (2)
- Parent of park user (2)
- Parent of sport (2)
- BMX/Skate (1)
- North Rocks LAC relative (1)
- Parks asset coordinator (1)
- Netball player (1), and
- Work in Parramatta (1).

Support for the HOP vision

Vision: A connected, healthy, active and inclusive network of parks

HOP will be an attractive, welcoming, and multipurpose recreation network that serves as a collective backyard for the community. HOP will enhance the community's sense of ownership of these connected open spaces and will encourage the sharing of flexible spaces to support a range of interests and needs.



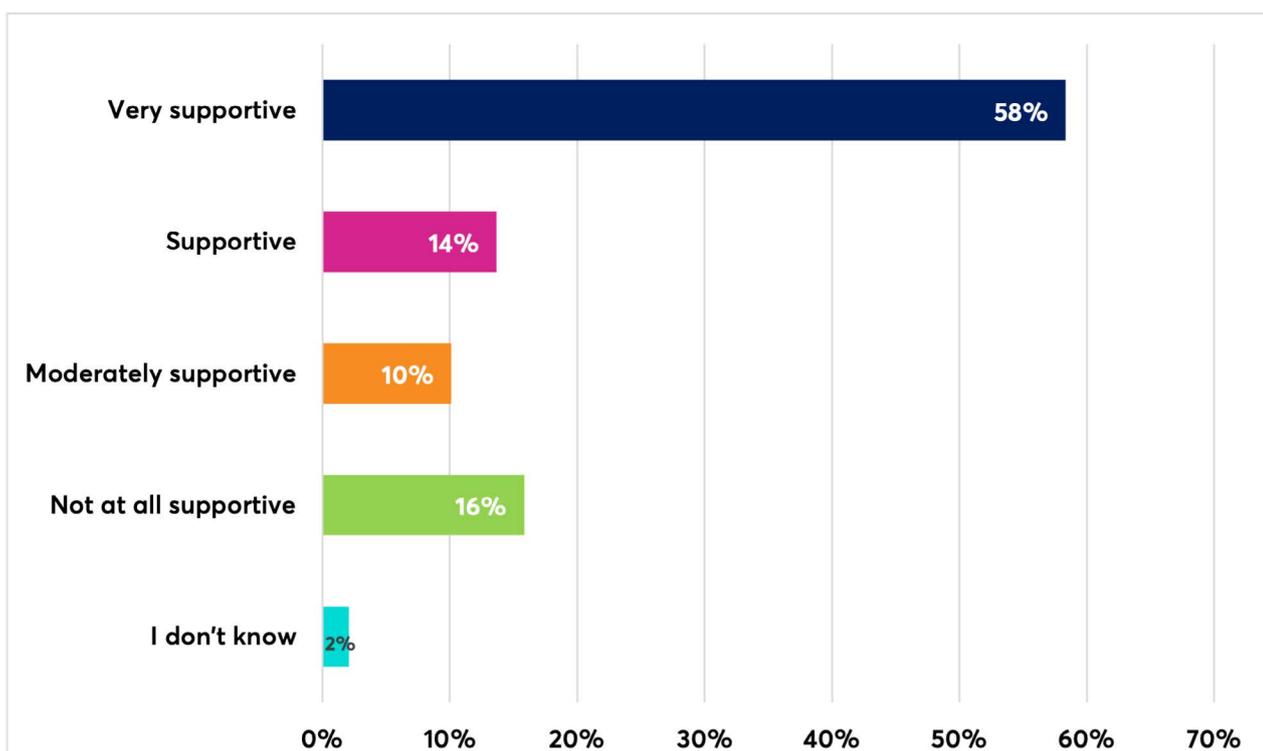
Level of support for the Heart of Play master plan vision

Survey respondents were asked to rate on a scale of 'very supportive' to 'not at all supportive', their level of support for the vision for the Heart of Play parks.

Overall, the majority of survey respondents (72%; 669 respondents) were either 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the vision. More than half of respondents were 'very supportive' (58%; 542), followed by:

- Not supportive at all (16%; 147)
- Moderately supportive (10%; 94), and
- Respondents who don't know (2%; 19).

Figure 3 - Level of support for the vision for the Heart of Play parks



Priority actions by park

Survey respondents were asked to provide feedback on any of the 7 parks that make up the master plan. The following section details survey outcomes by park.

Doyle Ground

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for Doyle Ground, and were asked to indicate the top 3 actions that are highest priority for them.

A total of 141 survey respondents completed this question for Doyle Ground.

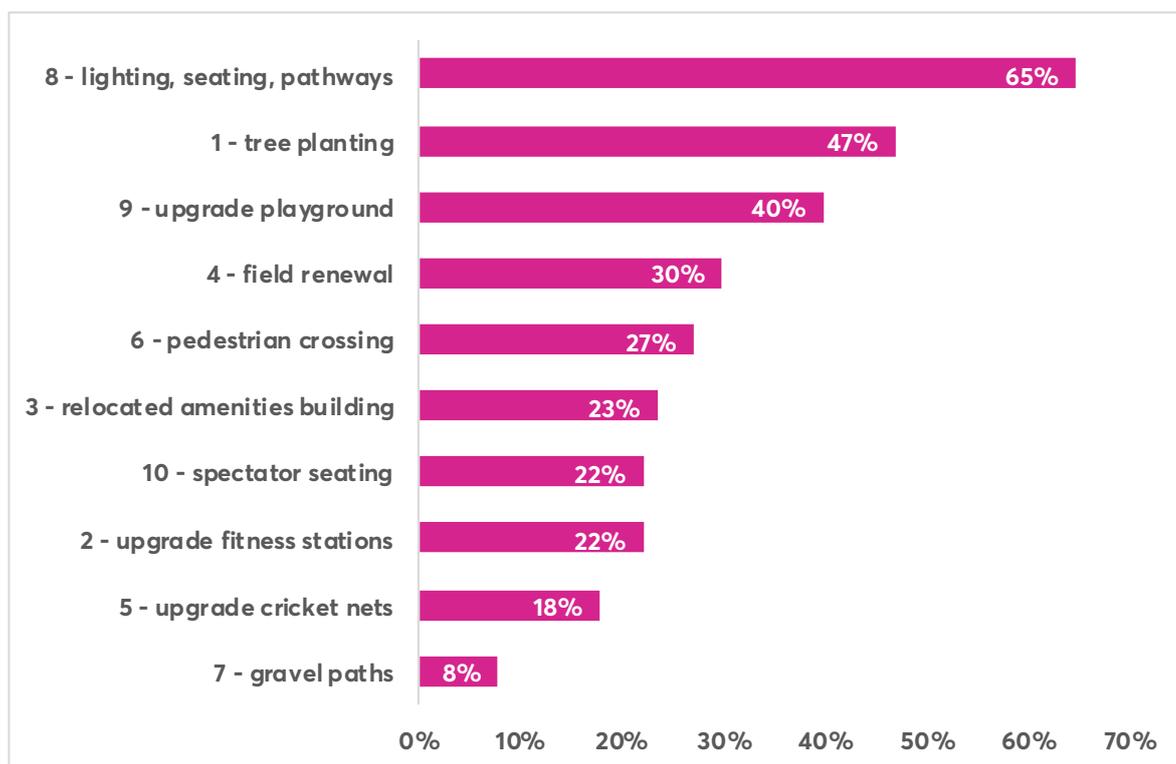
As shown in Figure 4 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for Doyle Ground were:

- Action 8 - lighting, seating, pathways (65%; 91 respondents)
- Action 1 - tree planting (47%; 66), and
- Action 9 - Upgrade playground (40%; 56).



Proposed actions for Doyle Ground as detailed in the draft Heart of Play master plan

Figure 4 - Priority actions for Doyle Ground (total responses n= 141)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for Doyle Ground

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for Doyle Ground - 60 respondents answered this question.

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 8 - Lighting, seating and pathways (23 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Increase width of footpath circuit (7 comments):
 - Respondents highly value the existing circuit path.
 - Expressed need to widen path or suggestions for a second path to increase accessibility for all user groups and all abilities (2 comments)
 - Expressed need for widening footpath to support safety of different user groups, particularly during peak times.
 - Concerns around conflicts between different user groups such as walkers, cyclists and children.
 - Support for line markings on the footpath, particularly to indicate pedestrians keep left.
 - Concerns around electric bicycles on the circuit.
- Increase lighting (7 comments):
 - Increased lighting at night to improve sense of safety and accessibility to the park (5 comments)
 - Upgrade lighting.
- Increase shade and seating (4 comments), particularly:
 - Shaded seating
 - Shade for picnics around the perimeter of the park.
- Support for footpath line markings (3 comments)

Other comments by respondents included expressed need for signage around the park about user responsibilities including cleaning up rubbish.

Select verbatim comments:

"Existing path is already insufficient width for safe walking at peak times. Painting lines is not enough for the safety of pedestrians as the many using the same path on electric/manual bicycles, scooters, roller blades etc. Either widen it to equivalent of other shared paths (3m?) - or preferably have two separate paths for this busy circuit." - Survey respondent

"Proposal does not meet the increasing needs of park users if there is no intention to widen the existing path to accommodate pedestrians safely alongside motorised and non-motorised bicycles (mostly children), scooters & skaters. At peak times in particular (any afternoon), this is an increasing safety hazard for pedestrians as those with wheels whiz by without any warning to pedestrians who do not have rear mirrors to see what is approaching from behind. As for those with sight/hearing impairment, they have absolutely no chance." - Survey respondent

"Line marking on the pedestrian footpath to include keep left and also other common courtesy hints" - Survey respondent

"Definitely better lighting, it is very scary to walk there after 6pm in non daylight savings especially in the tree lined areas" - Survey respondent

"More shaded seating and picnic areas around the perimeter of the park would also be beneficial, but there should be more signage to remind people to not litter and be respectful of the space." - Survey respondent

Action 3 - Relocated amenities building for equitable access (13 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Relocating the amenities building closer to the children's playground or additional toilets in close proximity to the playground (3 comments)
- Upgrading the amenities building (2 comments), with opportunities to include kitchen for community use.
- An additional amenities building in Doyle Ground (1 comment).
- Retaining the existing amenities building in its current location and upgrading the canteen, storage, toilets and change room facilities (1 comment).
- Toilets to be opened for longer hours in the day.
- One respondent would like to see a small, affordable community centre attached to the relocated amenities building for hire.

Select verbatim comments:

"New amenities building (Canteen Change rooms, storage & Public toilets) should be built in its current location as it is the central position in the park, with a small grandstand above. Another smaller toilet block should be built near the kids playground." - Survey respondent

"I understood the amenities building was being relocated closer to the playground... but it's just a few metres! Could it not be relocated to the other side of the park so it is closer to the playground where little kids just able to hold it long enough to run across the field?." - Survey respondent

"An additional amenities block would be nice." - Survey respondent

Action 9 - Upgrade of local playground to include play for older children (ages 8-14) (11 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Expanding the playground to accommodate the demand and high utilisation (4 comments).
- Increased amenities near the playground (3 comments), including additional tables, seating, shade and BBQ facilities.
- Play equipment for children of all ages (2 comments)
- Access to toilets within close proximity to the playground (2 comments)
- More types of play equipment (2 comments), such as swings and a flying fox.
- Improved maintenance of the playground (2 comments), particularly the fencing for safety of children near the road. (1 comment)
- One respondent would not like to see bark or gravel for surfacing of the playground.

Select verbatim comments:

"More seating and shade would be great, kids love this park and as they get older it would be fabulous that the play equipment is still fun for them" - Survey respondent

"And where are the communal spaces to sit and have a picnic together while kids/ adults are playing in the playground or sport? Where's the sense of belonging?" - Survey respondent

"More than one playground option would be good as the playground gets very very very busy." - Survey respondent

"Toilets need to be closer to this park. With many small children it is hard to get them all across the field in time" - Survey respondent

"Would be great for the play equipment to be accessible for 1 year old children so I can take all 4 of my kids and they all be entertained. Keeping the shade sails would be amazing as well." - Survey respondent

"It does say upgrade playground for older children. No specifics. Does it include something like a Flying Fox at Strathfield Park or obstacle course at Fairfield Park. Suggest looking at those two parks for ideas." - Survey respondent

Action 4 - Field renewal - Retain existing 10 touch football fields, 4 full size rectangle fields, 2 cricket pitches (5 comments)

The majority of comments state they would like to see improved drainage of Doyle Ground fields, particularly in the middle near cricket pitch, to improve return to sports after wet weather.

Other comments focused on:

- Increased maintenance of fields to improve surfacing of fields.
- Field renewal.
- One respondent indicated there are enough football fields at Doyle Ground and there is no need to add another football field to Barton Park.

Select verbatim comments:

"Doyle Park subsoil drainage needs to be improved to allow the park to promptly reopen after wet weather." - Survey respondent

"Support field renewal provided it is grass" - Survey respondent

"The ground get used for Cricket and AFL training that my kids participate in. If upgrading fields look at drainage in the middle near cricket pitch" - Survey respondents

"I play hockey and the fields are not good there are holes a lot of the time making the game dangerous" - Survey respondent

Action 5 - Upgrade existing cricket nets and propose additional 2 lane cricket net (4 comments)

The majority of comments relating to Action 5 indicated support. Respondents expressed they value the existing crickets nets (2 comments) and would like to see more cricket nets in Doyle Ground to meet demand and high utilisation during the week and on weekends (2 comments). One respondent would like to see covered cricket nets for pedestrian safety.

Select verbatim comments:

"As I'm club cricket player playing from pdca from last 8 years. And coming for nets training almost every day. Now days it very busy here around 3:30 to 5:30 in winter and 4:30 to 7:30 in summers. Nets are very busy with almost more then 25 peoples. It's very hard to get chance to do training. It's our request to get more nets in Doyle ground and please (must) cover the nets. As we saw to many pedestrians got hit by cricket ball." - Survey respondent

"Additional 2 x Cricket Nets to meet demand." - Survey respondent

"Very sound cricket ovals, important for Church Cricket NSW" - Survey respondent

Action 6 - Improved pedestrian crossing to neighbouring parks and schools (3 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Safer pedestrian crossings (2 comments), particularly;
 - Towards Albert St East.
 - At the intersection at Macarthur and Isabella
- Opportunity for a bridge or a wide underpass as a crossing (1 comment).

Select verbatim comments:

"The intersection at Macarthur and Isabella gets quite busy, particularly during peak school hours, so a means of crossing would be good." - Survey respondent

"Rather than a crossing to connect parks, a bridge or underpass wide enough to allow multiple prams, bikes etc to cross without interaction with the street." - Survey respondent

"I walk across Doyle Ground daily to take my sons to school at Parramatta East Public School on Albert St East and the traffic is very busy and worrying with small children crossing the road morning and afternoon. Safer pedestrian crossing towards Albert St East would be ideal." - Survey respondent

Action 7 - Gravel paths to parking interface. 1m wide gravel paths to back of kerb, with low planting (max.1m high) buffer to street (2 comments)

Two comments were unresponsive of gravel paths. One respondent was concerned the existing surfacing of the walking circuit at Doyle Ground would be replaced with gravel.

Select verbatim comments:

"The current walking/running loop is great, and I wouldn't want it to be drastically changed. I am not in favor of replacing it with a gravel path (if that is what the change proposes)" - Survey respondent

"Don't like the idea of gravel paths." - Survey respondent

Action 2- Existing fitness stations upgraded at end of life (1 comment)

One respondent expressed a desire for more exercise equipment around the park.

Select verbatim comments:

"Have more exercise equipment around the park. It makes it more like a circuit training park." - Survey respondent

Other comments

Other comments from survey respondents included:

- Expressed desire for basketball hoops and courts at Doyle Ground (5 comments)

Select verbatim comments:

"I would like to see outdoor basketball courts that go along with the fitness facilities and the amenities being upgraded. This could become the centre of outdoor events and school activities if there were 4 basketball courts under lights" - Survey respondent

"I would like to see some basketball courts at this court too." - Survey respondent

- Expressed desire for BMX pump track and flat paved areas for skating (5 comments)

Select verbatim comments:

"Skate and flat paved area for skating. Not a skate park just a flat and smooth area to skate around like netball and basketball courts." - Survey respondent

"Please add a pump track for skateboarders!" - Survey respondent

- Additional amenities in Doyle Ground (6 comments), including:
 - Picnic tables and seating (3 comments) and BBQ facilities, particularly along the Fennel St and Isabella St grassy areas
 - Hand rails for support
 - Bubblers
 - Bins near the cafe on Buffalo St.

- Concerns around lack of parking near Doyle Ground (4 comments)

Select verbatim comments:

"It's often difficult to find parking during the day near the coffee shop and playground especially with small children.." - Survey respondent

- Opportunity for a community garden (1 comment).
- One respondent is unsupportive of extending any evenings for sports due to noise and floodlight provision.

Barton Park

Survey outcomes listed below indicate findings relating to Barton Park. Please note, due to community request, priority action 5 for Barton Park was rephrased during the consultation to more clearly state the intent to retain all existing Athletics functions.

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for Barton Park, and were asked to indicate the top 3 actions that are highest priority for them.

A total of 218 survey respondents completed the survey for Barton Park.

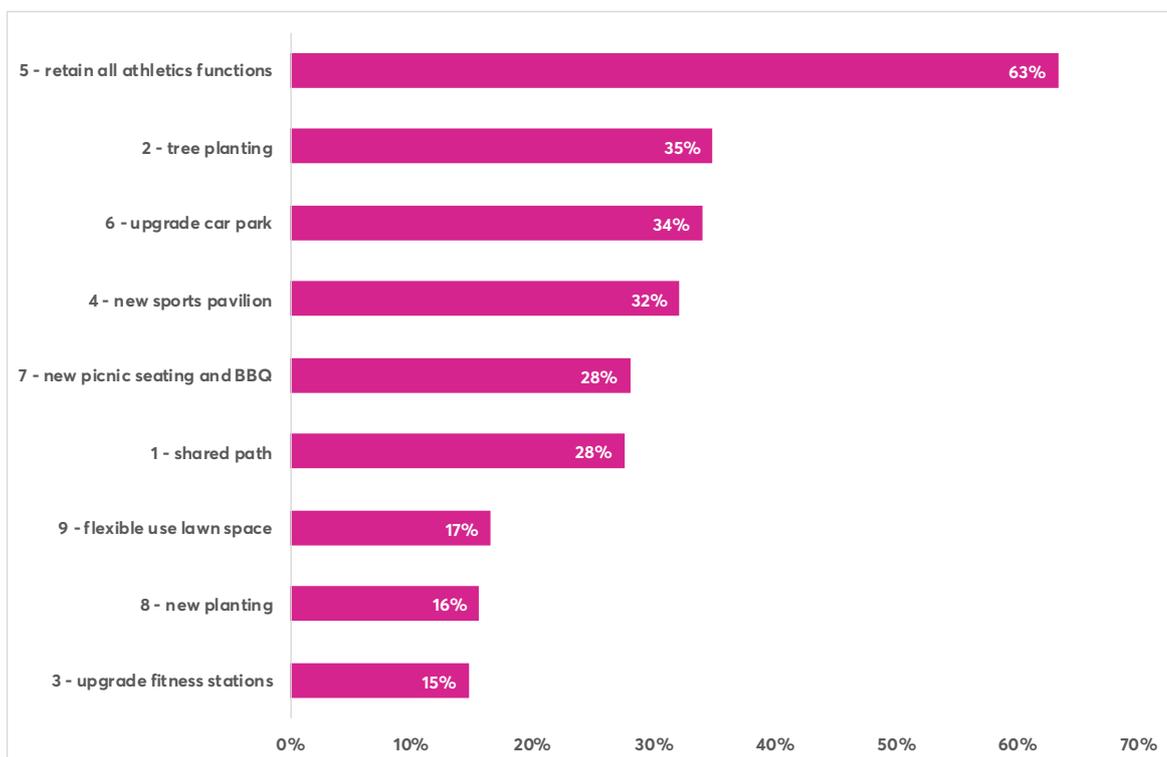
As shown in Figure 5 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for Barton Park were:

- Action 5 - Retain all athletics functions (63%; 138 respondents)
- Action 2 - Tree planting (35%; 76), and
- Action 6 - Upgrade car park (34%; 74).



Proposed actions for Barton Park as outlined in the draft Heart of Play master plan

Figure 5 - Priority actions for Barton (total responses n= 218)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for Barton Park

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for Barton Park - 218 respondents answered this question. Overall, the majority of comments were unsupportive (151 comments) of Action 5 for Barton Park, expressing strong concerns and opposition for the proposed football field.

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 5 - Retain all athletics functions (151 comments)

The majority of comments expressed opposition for the proposed full size football field. Key comments from respondents included:

- Strong desire to retain all athletics functions.
- Respondents indicated Parramatta Little Athletics has a long history and connection with the community, having operated for 50 years with hundreds of members.
- Respondents indicated Barton Park is one of the only parks that accommodates athletics, provides facilities to support athletics and events, and services the whole LGA.
 - Barton Park hosts a Zone Little Athletics Carnival and this program is reliant on the full use of the current athletics facilities and ground use.
 - Barton Park services Little Athletics Club, school carnivals, zone competitions and is home to many Olympian athletes.
 - Athletics is important and an inclusive sports for people of all ages, genders and level of experiences to participate in.
- Respondents would like to see Barton Park retained for athletics purposes only.
- Respondents indicated athletics is an all-year round sport, and Barton Park is highly utilised throughout the week and weekends for competitions and training sessions.
- Respondents expressed there are enough sporting fields for soccer in the LGA, and a football field would be better situated in Old Salesyard or Doyle Ground.

In particular, key reasons why respondents indicated opposition to the proposed football field in Barton Park include:

- Concerns about soccer boots damaging the grass track, causing safety hazards for athletics user groups (33 comments)
- Barton Park is highly valued for its 400m grass track (27 comments), which is a valuable resource to the athletics community.
- Expressed concerns around conflict and safety between different user groups (15 comments).

Select verbatim comments:

"We have very few sole purpose athletics fields in the north west area. The attempt to squeeze in a soccer field in the middle squeezes out basic athletics facilities such as long jump pits and throws circles. Why not look at upgrading the facilities that you are providing for athletes." - Survey respondent

"The soccer field will adversely affect little athletic program. Studded soccer boots will impact the athletic field and effectively make the ground a soccer field rather than an athletics field." - Survey respondent

"Athletics requires many different areas for specialised events. A dedicated throwing area where the risk of getting a life threatening injury is minimised. A perfectly smooth 110m sprint track for sprints and hurdles where there are no divots from other sports or athletes role there ankles. Shot circles for throwing basically cannon balls. These areas cant be combined or shared by the nature of the events. In pretty much all other LGA they have purpose built facilities (Sylvania,Blacktown, Narrabeen, Dubbo, Mingara, barden ridge, Fairfield, Campbelltown and many more but none in the Parramatta LGA other than Barton Park." - Survey respondent

"Adding the football field will negatively impact the athletics function of the space. There won't be enough space to accommodate all of the athletics tracks and events and athletes will either take far longer to complete their events or not be able to run them all. The impact of football games during the year will harm the turf." - Survey respondent

"Barton Park offers a facility for little athletes starting out, all the way up to Olympians who currently train without risk of injury from a compromised surface, injured by a stray ball." - Survey respondent

"I oppose this plan. My kids play soccer. However I don't want a soccer field at Barton park. There are so many other soccer fields around the area and we can keep easily going to them. All these years Barton park has been the ground for Parramatta Little As. My kids train, compete at zone on this very ground and enjoy doing athletics here. This ground is conveniently located for anyone to get through to." - Survey respondent

- Expressed need to retain existing athletics facilities as they are (63 comments), particularly the straight track and hurdles in the middle of the field:
 - Respondents indicated the middle section of the athletics field is used for shot put, discus, javelin and hurdles events.
 - Existing facilities in the middle of the field allow for events to run concurrently, which is important for training and competitions to be completed in a timely manner, as well as to facilitate Zone events.
 - A football field will impact the functionality of the space at Barton Park, and will impact how athletics and zone competitions can run.

Other comments:

- Some respondents indicated the proposed Action 5 for Barton Park does not accurately reflect the use of the park, expressing there is no rectangular field to formalise.*

*Prior to changing the language of Action 5 to clarify the intent, the Action was: "Rectangular field formalised inside running track."

- Upgrade tartan track along long jump
- More shelter and shade for athletes.

Select verbatim comments:

"Barton Park is the athletic jewel in the crown of Parramatta. Every year the Northern Metropolitan Zone Championships are held on Barton Park because it has the facilities to run 2 straight/hurdle tracks and a circular track concurrently. Many athletes have trained/competed on Barton Park and gone on to represent Australia due to the facilities and closeness to their residence. Local Parramatta residents deserve a dedicated athletic facility. There are many soccer fields in the Parramatta area but just one athletics field. Give local kids who rely on public transport and can't afford to travel outside the area to run, jump, throw deserve a place to engage in their chosen sport." - Survey respondent

"Little athletics involves the whole family- every child can participate all at the same time while parents have volunteer roles like time keeping. All ages of kids are exercising together. Barton Park is the only Surveyed 400m grass track and field facility in the area. There are currently 33 existing sportsground sites with 64 sporting fields which cover approx. 53.6ha of playing surface in the Parramatta LGA. And only one track and field facility. The condition of the middle of the field would be compromised making it unsuitable for sprinting on, unstable for setting hurdles up on, and often unavailable to train for field events on. Loss of separate straight track and hurdling tracks in the infield will delay the program for Friday night competition meaning longer later nights for young athletes, or fewer events able to be offered. Zone and other carnival programs would also take significantly longer to run without the opportunity to run concurrent straight and circular track events." - Survey respondent

"Disagree with the introduction of a full sized football field. This will lead to a degraded and worn centre area that will reduce the capacity for athletics events. Without a safe, pothole/divot free area with good grass coverage, out of duty of care athletics will need to abandon this area in order to avoid significant injuries. This would mean that during normal carnivals or weekly community activities (e.g little athletics), participants will need to wait for extended periods to complete their events due to the decreased area for events to be held safely. Currently a combination of activities can be completed simultaneously - longer running on outer perimeter and sprints etc on inner field area." - Survey respondent

Barton park is the only full size athletics park in Parramatta LGA. Currently we have local, state national and Olympic athletes that train there regularly all year round. The addition of a playing field means that there will not be a straight track nor throwing cages for such athletes. Parramatta little athletics have hundreds of kids each summer and many local schools use Barton park for school carnivals. Parramatta Merrylands also use the field for their zone field carnivals which they will not be able to do if the throwing cages are removed. Please leave Barton park as an athletics park as there is no other athletics park in the area but there are plenty of playing fields all over the Parramatta LGA. - Survey respondent

Action 7 - New picnic seating and BBQ spaces under existing trees on Gladstone St frontage, with lighting for early evening use (4 comments)

- Increased lighting for use at night (2 comments), particularly around the walking track.
- One respondent expressed support Action 7, and would also like to see another BBQ facility on Webb Street.
- One respondent expressed concerns new picnic and lighting amenities will impact local residents and cause traffic and antisocial night time behaviour.

Action 4 - New sports pavilion to service both fields. Existing Barton Park building retained until end of life (3 comments)

- Two respondents would like to see increased access to toilets, including longer hours
- One respondent would like to upgrades to amenities.

Action 6 - Formalise and upgrade car park to maximise capacity (3 comments)

- Expressed support for upgrading the car park (3 comments)

Action 2 - Additional canopy tree planting for improved shade (2 comments)

- One respondent would like to see deciduous trees, to balance sun and shade during the winter and summer months.
- One respondent expressed concerns for Action 2, indicating the area proposed for additional canopy tree planting is often used for athletics warm ups.

Action 1 - 3m wide shared path to the perimeter of park (1 comment)

- One respondent indicated support for a path around the Barton Park, separate to the athletics track.

Action 3 - Existing fitness stations upgraded at end of life (1 comment)

- One respondent indicated the fitness station is not used often and doesn't serve a purpose, and would be better utilised as a kids play area.

Action 9 - Flexible use lawn spaces for athletics events, team warm-ups and casual use (1 comment)

- One respondent indicated the proposed flexible lawn area is not sufficient size.

Other comments:

Other general comments expressed by survey respondents include:

- Opportunity for different types of athletics tracks in Barton Park (4 comments), including:
 - A tartan running track (3 comments)
 - Synthetic/all weather athletics track (1 comment), and
- One respondent would like to see the existing grass track retained.
- Expressed concerns for asbestos on site in Barton Park (2 comments), with suggestion to raise soil levels.
- Expressed desire for basketball courts/ hoops (2 comments)
- Expressed desire for a pump track (2 comments), and a skate facility within the HOP network.
- One respondent would like to see a cafe for the public (1 comment)
- Opportunity for better use of existing field adjacent to PH Jeffrey (1 comment)
- Upgrade amenities, car parking and walking paths (1 comment)
- Expressed desire to expand existing playground (1 comment).

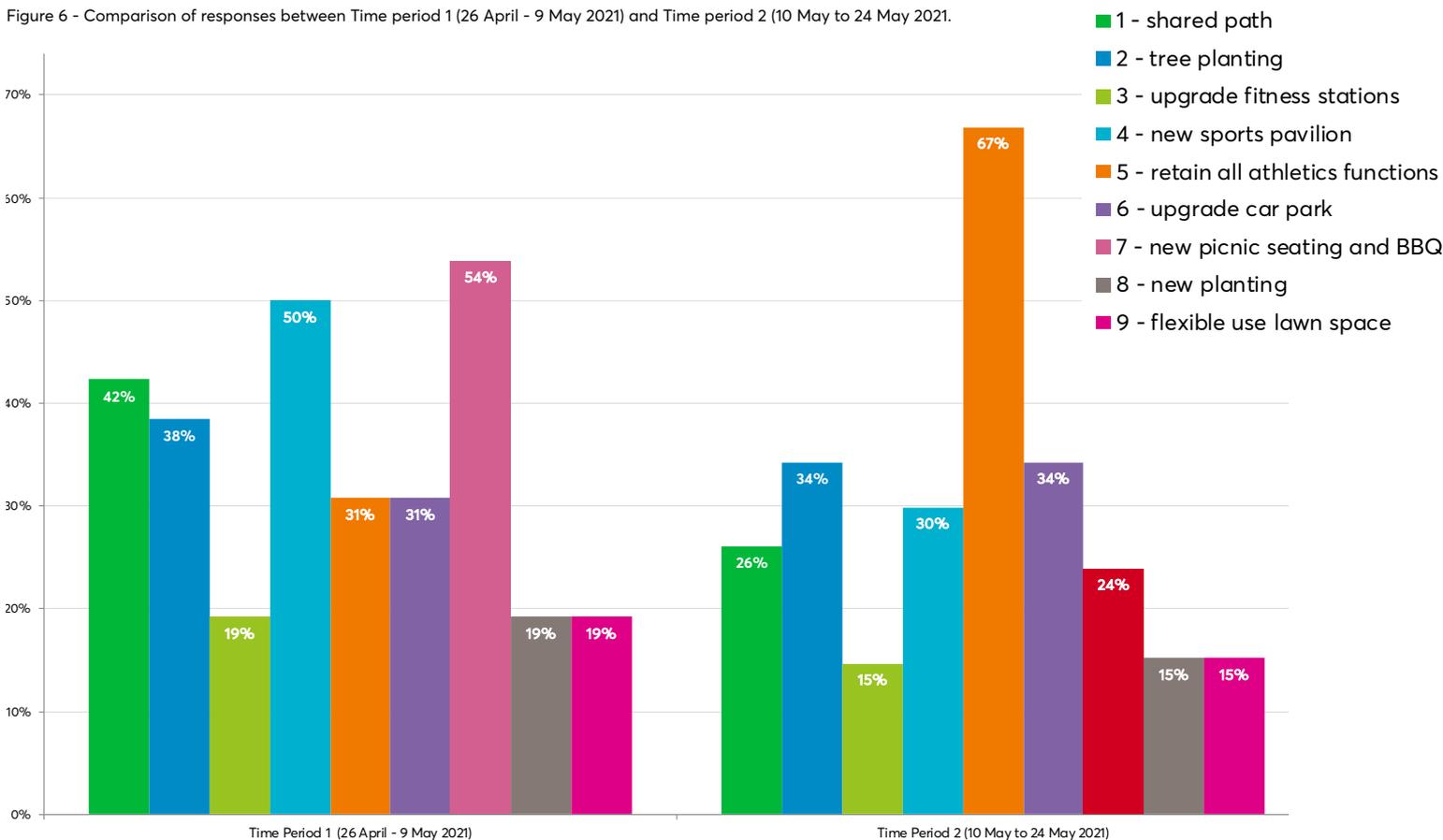
Changes in the survey

During the consultation period, priority Action 5 for Barton Park was rephrased due to community request. Action 5 was amended from 'Rectangular field formalised inside running track.' to 'Retain all athletics functions. Relocate throwing cages to accommodate full size football field and extend gate for athletics' straight along southern track.'

Changes were made to the online survey on Monday 10 May 2021.

Figure 6 shows difference in survey results between Time Period 1 (26 April - 9 May 2021) and Time Period 2 (May 10 - May 24 2021). Overall, the number and proportion of responses received for Action 5 doubled since changes were made in the survey, making this the highest priority action for Barton Park. The majority of responses were unsupportive of Action 5 (151 comments), expressing strong opposition for the proposed full sized football field.

Figure 6 - Comparison of responses between Time period 1 (26 April - 9 May 2021) and Time period 2 (10 May to 24 May 2021).



Dan Mahoney Reserve

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for Dan Mahoney Reserve, and were asked to indicate the top 3 actions that are highest priority for them. Please note that all actions proposed at Dan Mahoney reserve are pending the ongoing investigations to treat asbestos contamination at the site.

A total of 94 survey respondents completed the survey for Dan Mahoney Reserve.

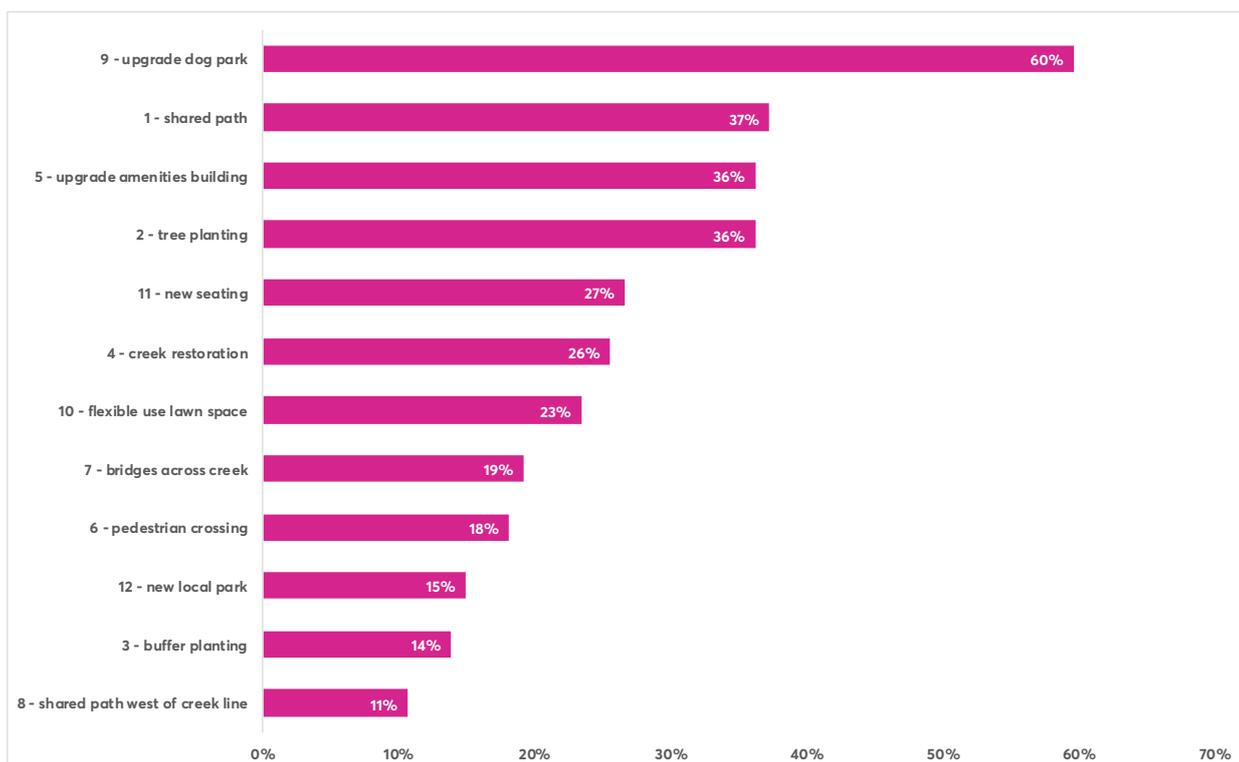
As shown in Figure 7 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for Dan Mahoney Reserve were:

- Action 9 - Upgrade dog park (60%; 56 respondents)
- Action 1 - Shared path (37%; 35)
- Action 5 - Upgrade amenities building and Action 2 - Tree planting (36%; 34 survey respondents, respectively).



Proposed actions for Dan Mahoney Reserve as outlined in the draft Heart of Play master plan

Figure 7 - Priority actions for Dan Mahoney Reserve (total responses n= 94)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for Dan Mahoney Reserve

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for Dan Mahoney Reserve - 37 respondents answered this question.

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 9 - Dog park with upgraded amenities and facilities. Agility elements, amenities (shade, trees, drinking stations, seating) at regular intervals around the boundaries of the park. Double locked gates for all entries to dog park. (26 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Increased lighting (9 comments):
 - Expressed need for increased lighting, particularly at night and during winter to support access to the park (5 comments).
 - Opportunity for solar lighting (3 comments).
 - Improve sense of safety at night.
- Increased amenities for dogs and humans (7 comments), including:
 - Increased bins and dog poo bags around the park to dispose of dog poo bags (3 comments).
 - Expressed desire for agility equipment (2 comments) particularly in the centre of the park.
 - Station for dog poo bags and bins (1 comment).
 - Double gates for safety of pets (1 comment)
 - Increased water stations (1 comment)
 - Washing facilities for dogs (1 comment)
 - Water play for dogs (1 comment)
 - Increased bins for general waste (1 comment)
 - Increased frequency of waste removal (1 comment)
 - increased signage around dog owners' responsibilities and penalties for non compliance such as cleaning up after dogs (1 comment)
 - Installation of CCTV cameras (1 comment).
- Separated areas for small dogs and all sized dogs (7 comments), particularly:
 - Expressed need for separated areas for small dogs and large dogs, particularly to improve safety between dogs and minimise conflict between dog owners (3 comments)
 - Expressed desire for amenities such as water and dog poo bags and bins in all areas for dogs (1 comment)
- Fencing (6 comments), including:
 - Expressed need for fencing to ensure safety of dogs (1 comment)
 - Fenced areas for different sized dogs (1 comment)
 - Complete fencing around the creek (1 comment)
 - One respondent would like to see fencing around Dan Mahoney Reserve remain the same or increase in height to ensure safety of dogs (1 comment)

Select verbatim comments:

"Solar powered lights for winter evenings would be great too." - Survey respondent

"Lights for late night dogs walkers especially in winter when it become darker earlier. Being a resident that arrives home at 5:30, it becomes dark and my dog loves to be off lead. However, because it is darker in winter the feeling of being unsafe due to lack of light." - Survey respondent

"Waste bins and bag dispensers need to be accessible at all Dan Mahoney entrances as a minimum" - Survey respondent

"More agility and climbing objects for the animals in the centre of the park" - Survey respondent

"Yes make a small breed section that has water and poo bags because the area I'm constantly told is for small dogs has a fenced "creek" running through it and no water or poo bags available. My dog and numerous others have been attacked by larger breed dogs. I shouldn't have to travel to another area so that my dogs can play safely without being attacked." - Survey respondent

"Can we please have a section dedicated for small dogs and one for larger dogs. There have been countless incidents with dog fights occurring between small and large dogs. 2 separate areas would make everyone happier and also safer for the dogs!" - Survey respondent

"it would be really amazing to have a couple of fenced runs for the dogs so we can pop our pooches in a run; in the vicinity of but apart from the other dogs in the park. Especially good for nervous, aggressive or feisty dogs." - Survey respondent

"Please make sure the bordering fence remains the height it is now or taller. The nearby dog park at Northmead has a low fence that is completely unsuitable for a dog park. Also we need double gates for extra animal safety. More agility and climbing objects for the animals in the centre of the park." - Survey respondent

Action 10 - Flexible use lawn space (12 comments)

12 comments related to Action 10 creating a flexible lawn space for varied use. Of these comments, 8 were unsupportive of this action, with respondents indicating:

- Concerns for practicality of sharing space with other user groups (6 comments)
- Expressed desire to retain DMR as a local, large open space for dogs to run and play.
- Do not want fencing in the middle of Dan Mahoney Reserve.

Other comments focused on:

- Suggestion to make the flexible use of lawn space a dedicated area for dog related events and activities such as agility or dog training classes.
- Opportunity for trees to create a barrier in the middle of the park rather than a fence.
- Suggestion for flexible use lawn area to be near the toilet block.

Select verbatim comments:

"Cannot see how splitting the park in two will be managed safely and practically if a "casual" group are using the "flexible lawn space" at peak time for dog park visitors. Waste bins and bag dispensers need to be accessible at all Dan Mahoney entrances as well," - Survey respondent

"To cut the dog park in half and only allow dog users to use space 9 would be just terrible. How likely is there to be informal ball games and casual use when players will have to watch out for dog poo in the grass. It should remain a fenced dog park especially considering there are more dogs in the neighbourhood due to Covid." - Survey respondent

"An extra area of half of Dan Mahoney won't provide more leisure area nor will be used properly given many other parks and playgrounds not being utilised most of the times. Therefore, this is big objection on dividing the park and put a so-called flexible use lawn space in Dan Mahoney. It's a unnecessary and useless proposal." - Survey respondent

"If the park was to be divided into 2 halves, the "flexible use lawn space" should be dedicated to dog related events/ activities such as agility, dog training classes, etc. Dan Mahoney dog park is one of the largest off leash dog parks in Western Sydney and that is important to our community." - Survey respondent

"Flexible use lawn area should be near the toilet block. This is currently the area used by the agility group and more desirable for hire from other groups." - Survey respondent

"Natural tree canopy shade should be developed throughout the park, not just the perimeter. Perhaps this could be used down the middle of the park as a "natural divider " rather than physical fence between areas 9/10 as per proposed plan." - Survey respondent

Action 1 - 3m wide shared path to the perimeter of park (4 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Supporting the idea of a shared walking path around Dan Mahoney Reserve, similar to Doyle Ground (2 comments).
- Expressed desire for a sealed surface walking track inside the perimeter of the park, especially as the existing grass track has been worn down.
- One respondent indicated the 3m wide footpath is too much for the amount of people that visit the path.

Select verbatim comments:

"Sealed surface walking track inside the perimeter of the park. There is grass track that is worn down to dirt and council continues to waste money making the grass grow back when a permanent sealed track will fix this problem. People want to walk with their dogs in this space. People want to exercise with their dogs." - Survey respondent

"Upgrade to amenities should ensure bathrooms can be used during same hours as those on Doyle Ground + cafe." - Survey respondent

"Require circuit path within the park. Something similar to what exists at Doyle Ground today. Proposed circuit path in south west corner of park, should also be considered throughout Dan Mahoney." - Survey respondent

Action 5 - Upgrade to existing amenities building to provide more facilities and storage (4 comments)

All responses indicated they would like to see increased access to toilets throughout the day and later in the evenings, similar to access of toilets in Doyle Ground.

Select verbatim comments:

"Toilets to be accessible and open during daylight hours." - Survey respondent

"Upgrade to amenities should ensure bathrooms can be used during same hours as those on Doyle Ground + cafe." - Survey respondent

Action 11 - New seating at regular intervals around perimeter of active spaces. (4 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Additional seating (3 comments), with shade covers.
- One respondent does not support additional seating in Dan Mahoney Reserve, expressing concerns dog owners will not adequately supervise their dogs.

Select verbatim comments:

"Seating with shade covers" - Survey respondent

"Adding more seating just gives the irresponsible dog owners more places to sit and not take any notice of what their dogs are doing." - Survey respondent

Action 2 - Additional tree planting for improved shade (2 comments)

Responses focused on:

- Providing tree canopy for shade throughout the park, not only on the perimeter (2 comments)
- Concerns proposed tree planting will not provide shade to the park or users.

Select verbatim comments:

"Natural tree canopy shade should be developed throughout the park, not just the perimeter." - Survey respondent

"Where the proposed tree planting is will not provide shade to the park nor its users" - Survey respondent

Other comments

Other comments from survey respondents included:

- Retaining Dan Mahoney Reserve as a large open space for dogs (6 comments)

"I'd like the dog park to remain just a dog park. The whole park is utilised and the large space is what makes it the best." - Survey respondent

- Secure fencing around the creek for safety of all users (3 comments), particularly on the west side of the creek.

"Action 11 and 12 - great idea but will not be used if creek is not fenced. The creek is steep and dangerous for dogs and children. Don't spend money on seating if council is not prepared to secure creek with fence to ensure safety of children and animals." - Survey respondent

- Expressed need for a synthetic field for hockey (2 comments)

"We desperately need a synthetic field for Hockey. It is a nursery for many families who want their children to play field hockey." - Survey respondent

- Opportunity for a community garden for all ages (2 comments). One respondent suggested the community garden could be planned at the south west corner of DMR, expressing it could provide a larger space for it.

"South west corner an alternative site for community garden? More central for community than proposed site and potentially larger area for garden?" - Survey respondent

- An additional basketball court (1 comment)
- Concerns the shipping containers in DMR pose a safety hazard (1 comment).

Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court, and were asked to indicate the top 3 the actions that are highest priority for them.

A total of 355 survey respondents completed the survey for Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court.

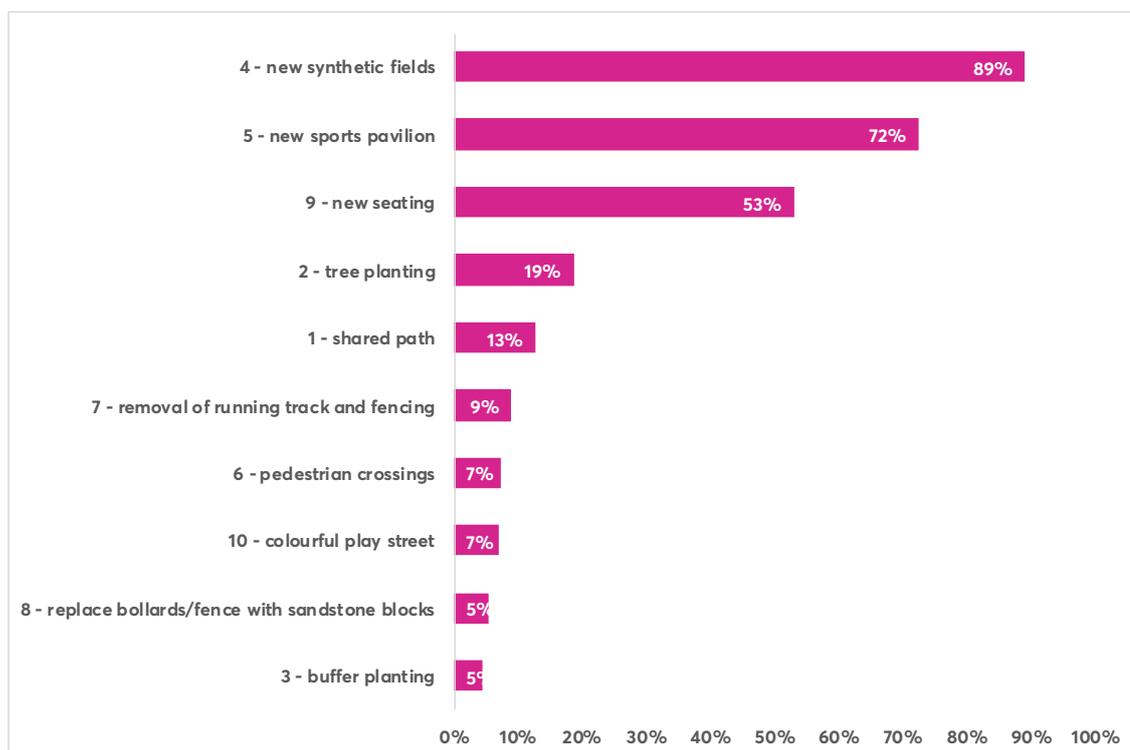
As shown in Figure 8 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court were:

- Action 4 - New synthetic fields (89%; 316 respondents)
- Action 5 - New sports pavilion (72%; 257), and
- Action 9 - new seating (53%; 188).



Proposed actions for Old Saleyards Reserve + Corry Court from the Heart of Play master plan

Figure 8 - Priority actions for Old Saleyards and Corry Court (total responses n= 355)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for Old Saleyards Reserve and Corry Court

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for Old Saleyards Reserve (OSY) and Corry Court - 219 respondents answered this question. Overall, the majority of comments focused on the need for synthetic turf that will accommodate hockey (196 comments).

Synthetic turf for hockey (196 comments)

The majority of comments received for Old Saleyards Reserve indicated a need to support and accommodate hockey in the Heart of Play network (196 comments were received). Key comments from respondents include:

- Hockey has a long history and connection to Old Saleyards Reserve and the North Parramatta area.
- Respondents expressed hockey has been pushed out of the area, with many respondents indicating they would like to return to play hockey in North Parramatta.
- Respondents indicated one or both of the proposed synthetic fields in OSY should be suitable for hockey, expressing 'all-purpose fields' predominately suit soccer.
 - In particular, the length of the artificial turf (a shorter length) and water-cannon facilities should allow hockey to be played.
 - Respondents expressed synthetic turf fields should allow for a range of sports to be played, further indicating turf for hockey fields can accommodate sports such as soccer, hockey, touch football, and tennis.
- A strong desire for an accessible, modern hockey field in the Parramatta LGA to attract more interest to field hockey, particularly as there are no synthetic hockey fields west of Olympic Park, until the Penrith area.
- Respondents indicated the drainage design of synthetic hockey fields allows for regular use of fields for training and games, regardless of inclement weather.
- Respondents indicated hockey is an inclusive sport played by all members of the community, including females, migrants and people of all ages.
- To support hockey, respondents would like to see amenities such as lighting at night, fencing of fields for safety, players bench for each team on the side of each field and adequate storage.

Select verbatim comments:

"Please make new synthetic fields suitable for hockey. Hockey has long association with Old Salesyards & Nth Parramatta." - Survey respondent

"Hockey is a female dominated sport - by providing easily accessible, relevant and contemporary facilities will help keep our young girls active - a key government objective. Hockey historically played at these fields - it will be wonderful to see it being played again in the area. Synthetic hockey fields are more environmentally friendly than football fields as the carpet is short and dense and does not require any infill. Please consider this in your design of the fields." - Survey respondent

"An accessible, modern hockey field in the Parramatta LGA would attract more interest to field hockey, given there are no synthetic hockey fields west of Olympic Park, until the Penrith area. The surface of the synthetic grass should be suitable for playing hockey on, specifically the length of the artificial turf and water-cannon facilities, as 'all-purpose fields' predominantly only suit soccer, and there are plenty of those fields as options for that sport across the region already. Due to the drainage design of synthetic hockey fields, games are rarely cancelled due to inclement weather, meaning the fields are used regularly for training and scheduled games. A decision in favour of synthetic hockey field(s) would support the development of 'grass-roots' and premier level hockey on a modern surface in the Parramatta LGA.." - Survey respondent

"The proposed synthetic turf should consider use for multiple sport types. It is noted that hockey cannot be played on turf the length of the soccer specific synthetic turf. There are numerous examples of turfs which allow soccer, hockey, touch football, tennis etc to all be played on the surface. Examples include the synthetic turfs at Abbotsleigh school and Pymble Ladies College school." - Survey respondent

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 4 - 2 new synthetic fields to increase playing hours and reduce irrigation demand (4 comments)

Four respondents were unsupportive of Action 2. Reasons for this include:

- Synthetic fields will cause the junior rugby league team to relocate (2 comments)
- All weather field for little athletics
- Retaining natural grass for locals.

Select verbatim comments:

"The synthetic fields will mean that the local junior rugby league team will have to leave. They have already been relocated due to changes at their previous field. How will you provide for them?" - Survey respondent

"Natural grass only; no synthetic. These fields feel like they are not for locals, only for sporting teams training." - Survey respondent

Action 1 - 3m wide shared path to the perimeter of park (1 comment)

- One respondent indicated there is no need for a shared path as it is a quiet area.

Action 6 - Improved pedestrian crossings to Dan Mahoney and Barton (1 comment)

- One respondent would like to see an innovative bridge/underpass connecting parks together without touching the street, keeping pedestrians away from vehicles.

Select verbatim comments:

"I believe this would be a great asset to the community and will encourage more team sports to be played, building a healthy and happy community!" - Survey respondent

"I think these changes will make the park safer, and more attractive so that it increases the communities desire to become involved, and the opinions of others on the community in general." - Survey respondent

Other comments

Increased amenities (8 comments)

Respondents would like to see increased amenities at OSY, including:

- Access to a clubhouse or unit with adequate storage space (2 comments)
- Benches for players on each side of the field.
- Access to toilets for longer hours in the day.
- Lighting at night.
- Increased bubblers and bins.
- A cafe in the pavilion.
- Increased access to parking.
- Spectator seating.

Community use and accessibility (3 comments)

- One respondent expressed they would like to see OYS returned to the community for local sports for people of all ages.
- One respondent would like to see colour in this area and a sense of place through its history.
- Ensure safety and accessibility for all users.

Sports and recreation (3 comments)

Respondents would like to see other sporting and recreation facilities in OSY and Corry Court, including:

- Opportunity for a street skating areas
- Opportunity for basketball court.
- One respondent indicated the sportsfields Cricket: run East-West, and cannot be used for any high level sport. This respondent expressed this cannot justify the large investment and upkeep of the synthetic surface, and would like to see two mid sized cricket (multi-purpose) fields.

Sherwin Park

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for Sherwin Park, and were asked to indicate the top 3 the actions that are highest priority for them.

A total of 62 survey respondents completed the survey for Sherwin Park.

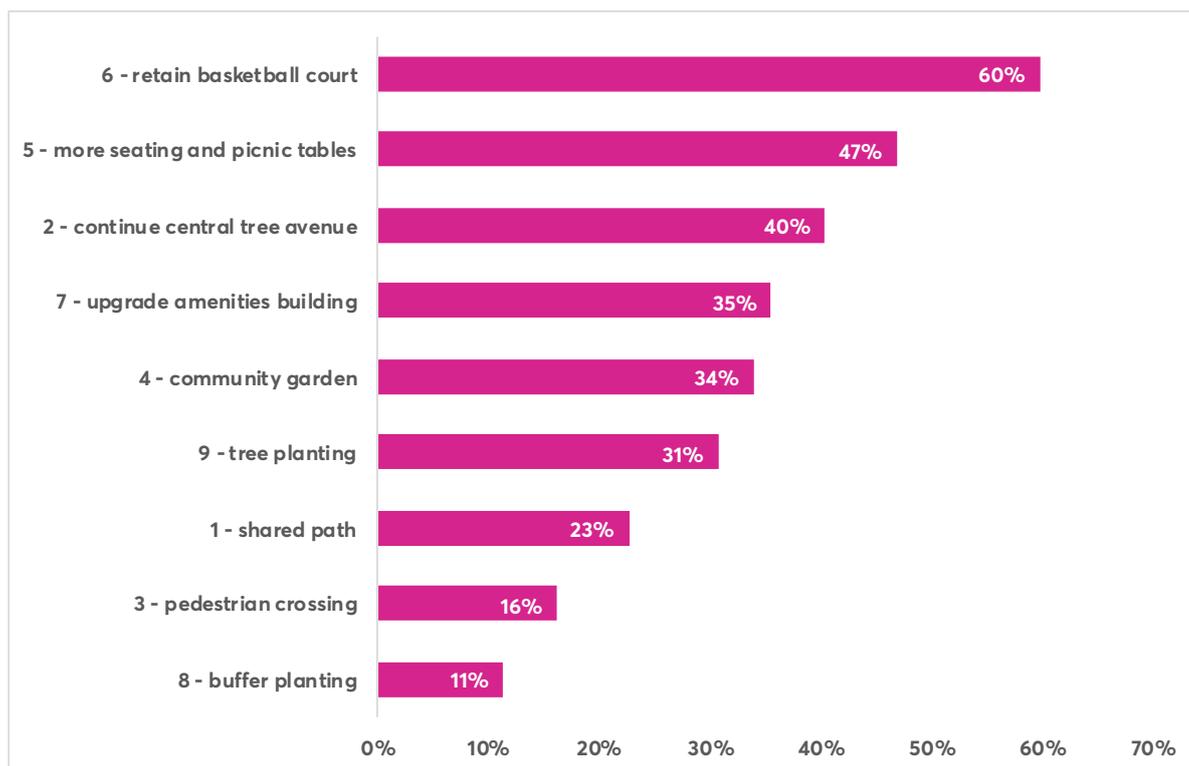
As shown in Figure 9 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for Sherwin Park were:

- Action 6 - Retain basketball court (60%; 37 respondents)
- Action 5 - More seating and picnic tables (47%; 29), and
- Action 2 - continue central tree avenue (40%; 25).



Proposed actions for Sherwin Park from the Heart of Plat master plan.

Figure 9 - Priority actions for Sherwin Park (total responses n= 62)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for Sherwin Park

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for Sherwin Park - 22 respondents answered this question.

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 6 - Retain existing basketball court at Sherwin Park, and provide additional lower hoops for younger children (15 comments)

Respondents would like to see:

- Additional basketball courts in Sherwin Park (12 comments), including:
 - Full courts (3 comment)
 - A half or 1/3 courts with high hoops (3 comments)
 - Small court for children (2 comments)
 - Two respondents indicated the existing court is highly utilised by the same people, and would like to see additional courts to accommodate other users.
- Alternative surfacing of basketball courts (2 comments).
- Increased lighting at night to allow for play at the basketball courts (2 comment).
- Opportunity to fence the basketball court (1 comment).
- One respondent indicated they would like to see the existing court retained, particularly as it accommodates netball. This respondent would like to see an additional full or half court to be added in the higher section of the park.

Select verbatim comments:

"I love the idea of smaller hoops for younger kids" - Survey respondent

"Would like to see additional basketball courts provided, a full court and with much better flooring on the basketball court then asphalt which tends to damage the kids shoes. There are a lot of local kids utilising that one half court and it would be nice to see more ample courts and better quality provided." - Survey respondent

"Instead of adding lowed hoops to the existing basketball court, please add a smaller one for kids. There are always some teens shooting hoops and it will become a problem if they have to share with the little ones. Keep them apart and keep everyone happy." - Survey respondents

"This basketball court is often used by the same people. Is it possible to even build another smaller court for younger children. We can never access it because it is 'taken.'" - Survey respondents

"Additional 2 half court basketball courts as well as lower (junior) courts. - Survey respondents

"Let us play basketball at night time, keep the lights on. And fix the concrete, it's too rough. Make it clay. So it's less dangerous. Maybe cage the basketball court." - Survey respondent

"Lights which are timed for evening play this could be a little gem for the community." - Survey respondent

"Please retain the netball ring and half/half netball/basketball style court. Could an additional court be added in the space on the high side of the park, or a half court with rings for additional practice?" - Survey respondents

Action 1 - 3m wide shared path to the perimeter of park (3 comments)

Three comments were received for Action 1. The majority of comments focused on a desire for the proposed shared path to facilitate space for children to learn to ride bikes and use as a cycling loop. One respondent indicated they like the proposed path for recreation use.

Select verbatim comment:

"The perimeter path can be integrated into some sort of stop/start scooter track for kids." - Survey respondent

"Pathway could be a cycle learning loop (i do not see one elsewhere in plan??)"- Survey respondent

"Path all the way around would be great for walking/riding." - Survey respondent

Action 3 Provide pedestrian crossing across Isabella St to improve pedestrian connectivity to Doyle Ground (2 comments)

- One respondent were unsupportive of Action 3, indicating there are already enough pedestrian crossings and concerns of traffic along Isabella Street. This respondent would prefer to see a refuge island.
- One respondent indicated the proposed pedestrian crossing should not interfere with the bus stop.

Select verbatim comment:

"Absolutely no to the pedestrian crossing, there are so many already and the traffic on Isabella st is nowhere near extreme enough to require one, perhaps a refuge island is more suitable." - Survey respondent

"A pedestrian crossing might be useful (at least for young families) although the traffic on this stretch of Isabella is very light. It would also need to not interfere with the bus stop, and will detract from parking along this stretch (which is very limited and usually full)." - Survey respondent

Action 7 - Upgrade existing amenities building at end of life (1 comment)

One respondent would like further clarification of what "upgrade" means.

Action 9 - Additional canopy tree planting for improved shade (1 comment)

One respondent expressed opposition for Action 9, indicating there is plenty of shade in certain areas and an opportunity for these shaded areas to be better utilised with seating.

Select verbatim comment:

"Not convinced more tree coverage is needed in Sherwin Park. The shade is already extensive (with very thick coverage in parts) and the existing trees host large numbers of birds (which while good from a ecological point of view, does cause disruption for neighbouring residents at times). The existing shade could be much better utilised with increased seating in those areas." - Survey respondent

Other comments

Other general comments received for Sherwin Park include:

Increased amenities (14 comments)

Respondents would like to see increased amenities at Sherwin Park, including:

- BBQ facilities (5 comments), particularly near the picnic tables
- Lighting at night (3 comments), particularly during the winter months and when daylight savings ends.
- Shade sails for increased shade (3 comments)
 - Over the playground, as it get hot in summer (2 comments)
 - For the morning sun.
- Increased toilet amenities including extended opening hours to access toilet and additional toilets (2 comment)
- Water bubbler facilities (1 comment)
- Fencing for safety of children (1 comment)
- Opportunity for a cafe (1 comment).

Select verbatim comments:

"Also would be great to fence off the two entrances so kids don't run onto the road." - Survey respondent

"So much more could be done to this park to create the collective backyard that you say you are trying to provide the community. Where's the extension of the play space, BBQs, gardens and offering the community a lovely shaded open backyard for families and other to come together." - Survey respondents

"Also would be great to fence off the two entrances so kids don't run onto the road." - Survey respondents

"Not convinced more tree coverage is needed in Sherwin Park. The shade is already extensive (with very thick coverage in parts) and the existing trees host large numbers of birds (which while good from a ecological point of view, does cause disruption for neighbouring residents at times). The existing shade could be much better utilised with increased seating in those areas." - Survey respondent

"Lights which are timed for evening play this could be a little gem for the community." - Survey respondent

"A kids playground with water park could make this a more family oriented destination." - Survey respondent

Upgrade Sherwin Park playground (3 comments)

Three respondents expressed a desire to see the existing playground in Sherwin Park upgraded to make it a family friendly destination, with comments focussing on:

- A desire for an extension of the playground.
- Upgrade the castle.
- Add colour to the park.
- Create an exciting and fun park for children.
- Opportunity for a water park.

Select verbatim comments:

"So much more could be done to this park to create the collective backyard that you say you are trying to provide the community. Where's the extension of the play space, BBQs, gardens and offering the community a lovely shaded open backyard for families and other to come together." - Survey respondent

"A kids playground with water park could make this a more family oriented destination." - Survey respondent

"Upgrade the castle make it more exciting. Add colour to the park. Give the park a sense of place and it's history. Make it fun and children fantasy fairy tail fun - Survey respondents

Skate and bike facilities (2 comments)

Respondents expressed a desire for skate/ bike facilities, particularly:

- For people of all ages, and
- Young children (under 8 years of age).

Select verbatim comments:

"Would love a bike track for under 8's, with stop signs and safety signs." - Survey respondent

PH Jeffrey Reserve

Top 3 highest priority actions

Survey respondents were shown the list of actions proposed for PH Jeffrey Reserve, and were asked to indicate the top 3 the actions that are highest priority for them.

A total of 57 survey respondents completed the survey for PH Jeffrey Reserve.

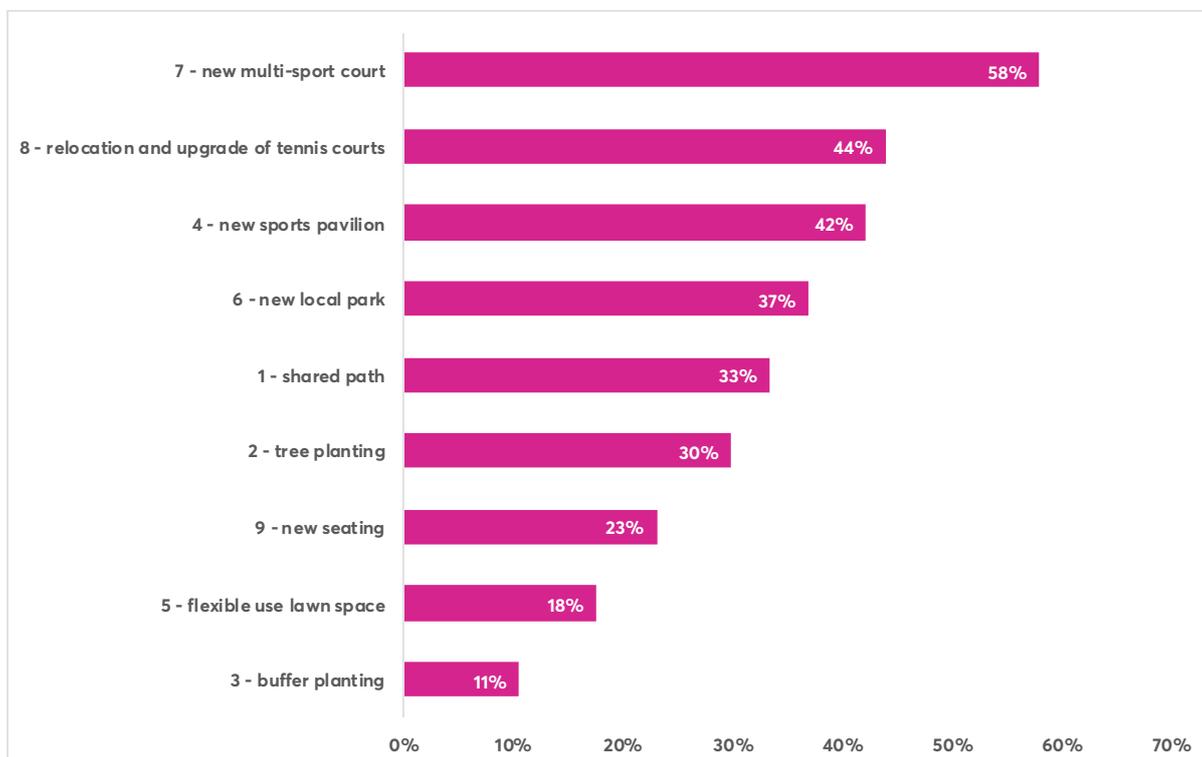
As shown in Figure 10 and detailed in the following pages, the top priority actions for PH Jeffrey Reserve were:

- Action 7 - new multi-sport court (58%; 33 respondents)
- Action 8 - relocation and upgrade of tennis courts (44%; 25), and
- Action 4 - new sports pavilion (42%; 24).



Proposed actions for PH Jeffrey Reserve from the draft Heart of Play master plan.

Figure 10 - Priority actions for PH Jeff Reserve (total responses n= 57)



Additional comments on the actions proposed for PH Jeffrey Reserve

Survey respondents were asked if they had any additional comments on the actions proposed for PH Jeffrey Reserve - 23 respondents answered this question.

Common themes that emerged from comments are outlined by Action below.

Action 8 - Relocation and upgrade of 4 existing tennis courts. New courts will include structured shade, seating, and water refill station (6 comments)

Six comments related to Action 8. Responses focused on:

- Upgrade the tennis centre (1 comment)
- Retain existing tennis courts (2 comment). One respondent was concerned about any reduction in the number of tennis courts, stating that the courts that exist currently are always busy.
- Expressed desire for covered tennis courts (1 comment)
- One respondent is unsupportive of the relocation of tennis courts as they have been resurfaced recently.
- One respondent would like to know what is planned for the old tennis courts.

Select verbatim comments:

"Covered tennis courts, newer facility to encourage kids to play." - Survey respondent

"The tennis centre in general is in dire need of modernisation and upgrade!" - Survey respondent

"Why relocate 4 courts that have been resurfaced in the last 2 years? Waste of money." - Survey respondent

"I have always seen those tennis courts busy, why would you reduce the number of them. I think it has been changed enough and nothing else needs to be done" - Survey respondent

Action 9 - New seating at regular intervals around perimeter of fields. Combination of formal seating and informal seating (e.g. sandstone blocks) (3 comments)

Three respondents expressed concerns for the proposed seating along the perimeter of the fields, indicating it would be a safety hazard for people within close proximity to the discus cage, and would damage equipment and the proposed seating.

Select verbatim comments

"The throwing events will be very difficult to conduct in that small area allocated to a discus. The likelihood of a discus landing on the new seating at item 9 is high." - Survey respondent

"The proposed seating appears to be directly affecting the throwing areas used." - Survey respondent

Action 2 - Additional canopy tree planting for improved shade (1 comment)

One respondent expressed concerns for Action 2, indicating proposed trees may disrupt the view from either side of the park for the athletics club.

Select verbatim comments

"Trees planted may disrupt the view from both areas." - Survey respondent

Action 4 - New sports pavilion to service both fields. Existing Barton Park building use retained until end of asset life.

One respondent would like to see toilets opened for longer hours.

Action 5 - Flexible use lawn spaces for athletics events, team warm-ups and casual use (1 comment)

One respondent indicated there is currently a discus cage in the area of Action 5, and would like the existing discus cage recognised in Action 5. This respondent would like more information around safeguards that would prevent the PH Jeffrey soccer field and the proposed flexible space being booked at the same time.

Select verbatim comments

"Assuming the sector shaped sketch at action 5 is the existing discus cage, it is inaccurately positioned. Action 5 should say Athletics Field event throwing facility unless the intention is to remove the newly installed facilities there. It would be impossible to have seating along the perimeter of the soccer field closest to section 5 as discus would hit the seats and people on them endangering equipment and safety. I would like more information around safeguards that would prevent the PH Jeffrey soccer field and the #5 "Flexible space" being booked at the same time." - Survey respondent

Other comments

Other general comments received for PH Jeffrey include:

Recreation and sporting facilities (10 comments)

Respondents would like to see additional recreation and sporting facilities at PH Jeffrey Reserve including:

- Increased basketball courts (5 comments)
 - One respondent would like to see basketball courts and fitness training equipment
- Increased badminton courts (1 comment)
- One respondent would like to see street hockey (roller blades) to be allowed at the proposed multi-sport court (1 comment)
- Opportunity to upgrade the existing soccer field at PH Jeffrey's to improve utilisation and accessibility (1 comment)
- Expressed desire for a playground in close proximity to the tennis courts (1 comment), especially to accommodate parents that can watch their children play tennis and other children to enjoy play.
- One respondent questioned if PH Jeffrey will accommodate a pump track.

Select verbatim comments:

"There is so much unused space here. A multi court would be amazing with basketball courts being the focus sport. You would have schools and local communities coming to this place more often. The tennis courts could also serve as outdoor basketball courts if you decided to renovate them. 4 x Outdoor basketball and fitness training equipment under lights would be great to complement the running and tennis in the area making it the jewel for sports in the parramatta area. Name another council that would have these sports all in one place." - Survey respondent

"4 x Outdoor basketball and fitness training equipment under lights would be great to complement the running and tennis in the area making it the jewel for sports in the parramatta area." - Survey respondent

"Please include basketball as there are so few courts in parramatta area" - Survey respondent

" Please allow for street hockey (rollerblades) at the multi sport court." - Survey respondent

"A playground will be great for kids when parents are watching their kids playing tennis." - Survey respondent

Increased amenities (4 comments)

Respondents would like to see increased amenities in PH Jeffrey Reserve, including:

- Lighting (3 comments), including
 - Upgrade lighting
 - Lighting for shared path
 - Lit outdoor basketball and fitness station equipment.
- Expressed need for multi-purpose water stations for pets.

Select verbatim comments:

"Lighting for shared path please to enable safe use day & night." - Survey respondent

"Ensure water stations are multi-purpose with a "flippable" bowl at ground level for the provision of water to domestic pets. (Apply throughout Heart of Play plan). A flippable water bowl enabling replacement of water (as opposed to a fixed bowl) is Important to minimise the transmission of pathogens between animals." - Survey respondent

Athletics (3 comments)

Respondents indicated PH Jeffrey is used for athletics events and training. Responses focused on:

- One respondent indicated PH Jeffrey is used by the athletics club, and would like to see a path that connects the gate on Barton Park to the discus cage to assist carrying heavy equipment.
- One respondent would like Council to consider how PH Jeffrey is used by Parramatta Little Athletics club.

Select verbatim comments:

"The use of PH Jeffrey is also part of the athletics club program, using the additional shot put and discus cages allows for more athletes to participate in events. If a path can be made from the gate on Barton Park to the discus cage this would help with taking heavy equipment between the two. Tress planted may disrupt the view from both areas." - Survey respondent

"PH Jeffery is used for throwing events such as discus, shot put and javelin. The proposed seating appears to be directly affecting the throwing areas used." - Survey respondent

General comments

Survey respondents were asked if they had any other comments about the draft masterplan. Below provides a summary of responses by park, and general responses across the Heart of Play network.

Supportive of master plan (12 comments)

Twelve comments indicated general support for the master plan. Participants felt that the master plan is long overdue and will be an asset for the area, and they were excited by the revitalisation of parks, open space and recreation areas for the community. Participants noted that green space is essential and provides benefits for mental health, physical health and social connection. Participants also indicated support for shade coverage, trees and play areas for children of all ages, suggesting that this would allow the master plan to reach its full potential.

Select verbatim comments:

"This will be a wonderful asset for the whole community. If designed well with shade and canopies to manage heat amplification it will become the focal point for an active Parramatta. This is what our communities need to get more people active again and our young kids off screens." - Survey respondent

"Updating and returning long term park space to the Parramatta community has been a long time coming." - Survey respondent

Unsupportive of master plan (44 comments)

Forty-four comments indicated that participants were unsupportive of the master plan. The majority of unsupportive comments (41 comments) were related to the proposal to accommodate a football field in Barton Park.

Other comments expressing concern included that the master plan is wasting taxpayer money, and that the master plan does not include a lighting plan for Dan Mahoney Reserve.

Select verbatim comments:

"Existing athletics field at Barton Park will be compromised by trying to fit football in. It cannot be done without severe negative effect on the existing athletics usage." - Survey respondent

"Having other sports interacting in the same space will create a very unsafe environment and unproductive training situations." - Survey respondent

Location-based comments

Barton Park (33 comments)

Comments related to Barton Park primarily indicated concern about the proposal to accommodate a football field in the park. Many participants expressed that they would like Barton Park to be a dedicated athletics facility. Participants noted that the proposal would negatively impact on athletics functionality, due to the nature of athletics events requiring the entire field.

Participants were also concerned that the co-location of a football field in the park would create an unsafe environment, due to potential damage to the field, injury to athletes from balls and injury to football players from athletics throwing events. Some participants expressed concern about the wording of Action 5 for Barton Park in the survey. Participants felt that this was misleading.

Old Saleyards Reserve (5 comments)

Participants indicated a need for a synthetic hockey field to be provided in the area, referencing Old Saleyards Reserve's history as a hockey facility and noting the value that could be provided in converting it into a hockey facility once again. Participants noted that the length of the artificial turf for a synthetic hockey field needs to be the correct length to be suitable for the sport.

Dan Mahoney Reserve (1 comment)

One participant expressed concern that the master plan limits the ability for dog owners to exercise their pets off-leash at Dan Mahoney Reserve, pointing out that areas for sports to be played are already readily available.

Doyle Ground (1 comment)

One participant indicated support for retaining the cricket field.

Select verbatim comments:

"Let Barton Park remain as an athletic park providing a wonderful service for the community via Paramatta Little As. It is a convenient location for the community and a safe place for our kids to do athletics." - Survey respondent

"Field Hockey has such a long history of being played at the Old Saleyards Reserve. It will be invaluable to the sport to offer this as a venue again." - Survey respondent

"There are plenty of spaces for people to play sports. Please don't limit the ability for dog owners to exercise their pets off leash at Dan Mahoney Reserve." - Survey respondent

Non-location based comments

Non-location based comments centred around several key themes.

Hockey (35 comments)

Participants felt that hockey was not adequately represented in the master plan. They emphasised the need for a synthetic hockey field, with a turf length short enough to be suitable for hockey. Participants noted that while soccer can be played on a hockey field, hockey cannot be played on a soccer field due to the length of the turf.

Amenities (9 comments)

Participants indicated support for the area to be designed well with adequate shade coverage and tree canopy. Participants felt that lighting in and around the parks at night needs to be improved, and they saw a need for an increase in parking, and for parking spaces to have time limits.

Play areas (5 comments)

Participants saw a need for increased play and recreation areas that cater to children of all ages, and suggested features including pump tracks for bike riders and water play.

Other non-location based comments

Participants indicated the need for diversity and accessibility in the parks. Participants also felt that it is important to ensure the parks are improved for the benefit of the whole community, not just those who visit the area for organised sports.

Participants expressed the importance of genuine consultation with the local community, with one participant concerned that the consultation process appears to be too brief.

One participant noted the value of quality over quantity, stating that beyond just upgrades, the master plan needs to demonstrate more innovative solutions. Another participant stated that the facilities are aging and require renewing, suggesting that developing purpose-made areas may be more financially viable.

Select verbatim comments:

"Western Sydney desperately needs more synthetic hockey fields." - Survey respondent

"The height of the artificial turf is what has hampered our use of many other 'multi-purpose' fields, as it is normally too long for field hockey... It would be great to finally have a field of artificial turf that we could play hockey on, and in such a historical place." - Survey respondent

"Shade coverage and more trees are definitely a main priority in summer." - Survey respondent

"Active recreation with parking is a must for this area." - Survey respondent

"Would like to see playgrounds accessible for younger children as well." - Survey respondent

"A water park in any of the parks would be a good idea." - Survey respondent

"Diversity and accessibility make for a well used park." - Survey respondent

"Would like to see more focus on developing these green spaces for the benefit of all residents of the community and not just those who visit the area for organised sports." - Survey respondent

"Initial consultation seems too brief and I wonder how much consultation has occurred with existing users and its real effects on their ability to function fully." - Survey respondent

"It is not enough just to have an upgrade, but rather show why we are the next great city." - Survey respondent

"Any projects that increase the opportunity for people to be outside and healthy are beneficial to the community. Facilities are aging and require renewing, surely to develop purpose made areas would be more financially viable." - Survey respondent

Drop-in session findings

Three community drop-in sessions were held across the Heart of Play network to collect feedback on the master plan. This chapter provides an overview of findings from the sessions.

About the pop-up engagement sessions

Three community drop-in sessions were held across the Heart of Play network, with the aim of reaching park users and visitors of the parks, as well as local residents who may not otherwise participate in the online engagement.

Details of the pop-up sessions are as follows:

- Saturday 15 May 2021 at Doyle Ground (near the playground)
- Tuesday 18 May 2021 at Doyle Ground (near the kiosk)
- Saturday 22 May 2021 at PH Jeffrey Reserve

A second pop-up was planned and advertised for the afternoon of Saturday 15 May 2021, however due to unexpected poor weather and associated safety risks, it did not proceed.

In total, approximately 90 people attended the pop-up sessions across the Heart of Play network.

The locations of the pop-ups were chosen in order to have the largest reach.

Each pop-up event was facilitated by three Cred Consulting staff members. A representative from the Turf design team also attended the pop-up at PH Jeffrey Reserve on Saturday 22 May 2021.

The pop-up activities included 5 consultation boards. The first board was an information board and provided an overview of the purpose of the Heart of Play master plan and consultation process, alongside a map of the network. The second board was a dotmocracy activity, which aimed to understand the main priorities for master plan principles. The third, fourth and fifth boards listed the Heart of Play master plan actions for each park in the network, alongside a map of each to show which area each action related to.

Participants were also encouraged to complete the online survey, either with a staff member on an iPad or by scanning a QR code on their smartphone at the session.



Image: Pop-up stall at PH Jeffrey Reserve. (Source: Cred Consulting)

Findings

Participants at the pop-ups were invited to vote for their top two Heart of Play master plan principles by placing two sticky dots on the board.

Overall, participants indicated that their top two master plan principles were 'A welcoming place for all to play, day and night' and 'Improved spaces for active sport and recreation'.

Master plan principle	# of votes
A welcoming place for all to play, day and night	52
Improved spaces for active sport and recreation	29
A connected and accessible network of parks	27
A healthy and sustainable environment	25

Additional comments

Participants provided additional comments about the Heart of Play master plan at the pop-up sessions. These comments are summarised below.

Doyle Ground

Participants expressed support for upgraded play spaces in Doyle Ground. One participant requested a playground for children younger than the 8-14 year old age group. Participants felt that more garbage bins and dog poo bag dispensers are needed in Doyle Ground, in addition to signage reminding park users to keep dogs on a leash. Participants noted that more lighting is needed in and around Doyle Ground at night, including along the crossing from Macarthur Street.

Participants indicated that Doyle Ground has drainage issues and needs an upgrade. One participant commented that there is a need for two new amenities blocks, and another suggested that Doyle Ground be converted into a hockey field.

PH Jeffrey Reserve

Participants provided several suggestions around the layout and usage of PH Jeffrey Reserve. One participant suggested realigning the throwing cages slightly towards the road to prevent shot puts and other athletics equipment being left on the field, and another suggested having a playground at the reserve. A participant felt that more storage space is needed for football equipment at PH Jeffrey Reserve, with another suggesting a lease

extension for sporting teams, canteen and updated maintenance plan for the toilets.

Participants noted that the utilisation of PH Jeffrey Reserve is at capacity on tennis tournament days, but has low utilisation on regular days. They suggested that footsal could be held at the reserve during the week. Another participant asked whether the proposed multi-sport court and tennis courts at PH Jeffrey Reserve could be used for footsal, or alternatively the area to the west of the multi-sport court. A participant also indicated a need for more shaded, fenced outdoor multi-use courts with removable nets to allow for flexible use.

A participant suggested moving the proposed multi-sport court as the tennis court is more important, and another suggested that the tennis club house be upgraded in place of the new sports pavilion.

Barton Park

Participants expressed strong concern about the proposal to accommodate a football field in Barton Park alongside the athletics functions, requesting that the park remains as a dedicated athletics area. Participants noted that it is the only athletics site in the area and the only zone centre without tartan, and it is used by a multitude of sports organisations, Olympians and the broader athletics community exclusively for athletics, track and field events. Participants suggested that Belmore Park in North Parramatta should be used for football instead.

Participants emphasised the importance of athletics and noted that Barton Park cannot be a multi-purpose space, because having a football field would limit the athletics functions of the park significantly. Participants stated that the straight runs inside the circuit track would be lost if a football field was created, impacting athletics events.

It was pointed out that there are safety risks for athletics users involved with co-locating a football field with athletics functions in Barton Park, including trip hazards associated with balls and divots in the ground from football boots. Participants also pointed out that athletics is a year-round sport and that the peak hours of athletics use are the same as peak hours of football use. They noted that if athletics functions are to be given priority in Barton Park, there would be no point in changing the design to accommodate a football field that would not be used.

Participants noted that historically, Barton Park contained a hockey field, however an investigation concluded that hockey was not viable in the middle of the park due to conflicting use.

Some participants who expressed concern about how users would co-exist in Barton Park with the proposed football field suggested enclosing the field so players, spectators and balls can be contained. They felt that this would allow both activities to occur more safely and with less disruption.

Participants felt that there needs to be a dedicated space for javelin and discus in Barton Park, including discus circles. Participants noted that there needs to be a safe interface between throwing cages and spectators, and that shot putting circles are too close together, with another participant noting that the proposed relocation of the javelin space does not safely align with the athletics track. Another participant indicated that there is liability with discus and javelin to use the equipment if there is a shared space. Participants suggested a path connection between equipment storage and shot put areas to enable easy transfer of heavy equipment.

One participant suggested the installation of a cyclone fence for the athletics field and changing the field to tartan. Another participant felt that it is important to retain the grass running track, as tartan tracks are available at other facilities. They suggested creating a new three-lane 60m tartan running track at Barton Park. It was suggested by another participant that resurfacing the long jump run could be a good alternative to additional tartan for sprints.

Participants indicated that the drainage in Barton Park is poor, suggesting that if the grass field was used for football, it would get destroyed quickly. It was noted that the park would need to have sports field-quality drainage systems. Participants also suggested having hardstand areas around the park where the drainage is poor.

Participants suggested implementing car parking under the proposed new sports pavilion in Barton Park. Participants felt that the new pavilion should include a cafe or kiosk, with one participant also noting that the park needs shelter during the rain for 300 people, questioning whether the new pavilion could potentially fulfill this need.

Participants noted that the trees between the new club house and the athletics track is not ideal for viewing and announcing, and that there are dark spots on the field and track that require improved lighting, including the long jump area. One participant was concerned about Barton Park being contaminated.

Some participants expressed concern about the survey being changed during the consultation process, in relation to the wording of Action 5 for Barton Park. Participants felt that this was misleading.

Dan Mahoney Reserve

A participant noted that they would like the dog park to remain as is, and that they do not want any other uses on Dan Mahoney Reserve.

Old Saleyards Reserve

A participant commented that Old Saleyards Reserve should be made into a hockey field.

Non-location specific comments

Participants provided non-location specific comments around general improvements to parks in the Heart of Play network. Participants suggested the implementation of barbecue facilities, security cameras around the toilets, bubblers, a community garden and dog poo bag dispensers. Participants felt that a mix of native and exotic plants in the area would grow well, absorb carbon dioxide and provide shade. Participants also indicated a need for accessible toilets and family accessible toilets.

Participants felt that more garbage bins are needed at all parks and that they need to be emptied more often. A participant indicated that there are drainage issues that need to be resolved in the parks. Participants noted that footpaths in the area, particularly in the shared zones, need to have directional arrows to remind people to keep to the left, speed limits and specific labelled zones for cycling and walking. Participants noted that the blades of grass in a synthetic field do not cater for soccer because they are too long, and as a result, multi-purpose turf does not support soccer.

Participants noted that storage space is important for all new amenities buildings in the master plan, in addition to facilities for young people, such as courts and skate parks. A participant suggested that some of the circuits around the fields could be bitumen or a softer surface that is more gentle on joints and shins. Other participants commented that improved lighting is needed along the entire circuit route around the parks, for evening use and safety. They suggested solar lighting as an option.

One participant questioned why Belmore Park, North Parramatta, was not included in the master plan, as it is important and well-used. Another participant noted the importance of skate parks. Participants felt that it is important to engage with children and parents during the consultation process.

Online webinar Q&A

An online webinar was hosted during the consultation period to provide community members with an opportunity to learn about the Heart of Play master plan and ask questions of the design and project team. Key themes from the webinar are summarised below.

About the Webinar Q&A

On Tuesday 11 May 2021, the City of Parramatta Council hosted an online webinar Q&A session that was facilitated by Cred Consulting. Members of the community were invited to register to participate and to pre-submit questions. Eight people registered to attend the webinar and 3 questions were pre-submitted at registration. Three people attended on the night.

A presentation was delivered to participants during the webinar, which provided them with the following information:

- Introduction to the Heart of Play master plan
- Feedback from the community that was considered in the master plan
- Overview of the vision, principles and actions
- How to get involved in the consultation
- Next steps for the master plan

Participants were then given the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.

Key themes

Key themes raised during the Q&A and in the online chat box throughout the webinar included:

- The importance of ensuring accessibility in every aspect of the master plan, including toilets, seating, walkways and amenities.
- Support for more trees to provide shade and cool down the area. Participants felt that this was particularly important due to the increased concrete paths being delivered as part of the master plan, which contribute to the urban heat island effect.
- Pedestrian and user safety in and around parks. Participants expressed concern about the safety of pedestrian crossings and sandstone seating blocks.
- Concern about the proposed accommodation of a football field in Barton Park and how this would impact athletics functions.
- Requests for the toilets in Doyle Ground to be located closer to the playground to enable easy access for children.
- Concern about synthetic playing surfaces generating too much heat.
- Interest in increased play spaces and recreational spaces to deliver on the 'shared backyard' vision, not just formal sport facilities.
- Concerns about flooding issues and change of levels around PH Jeffrey Reserve and Barton Park.
- Need for directional and wayfinding signage around the Heart of Play network, indicating features such as toilet locations and water refill points.
- Amenities such as water bottle refill stations, barbecues, bike racks, street libraries and public art.



Webinar presentation slides. (Source: Cred Consulting)

Agenda

- Introduction to the Heart of Play masterplan
- What we heard from the community
- Vision
- Principles
- Network actions
- Actions by park
- Q & A
- How to get involved in the consultation and next steps

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 the Heart of Play master plan. Key themes are outlined below.

The City of Parramatta Council received 8 submissions during the consultation period.

Submissions were received from the following stakeholder groups:

- Tennis NSW
- Football NSW
- Parramatta Little Athletics Centre
- ParraParents
- Hockey NSW
- North West Sydney Hockey Association (with letter of support from The Hon Alex Hawke MP)
- Community members

Key themes from submissions across all parks in the Heart of Play network

Submissions received included a focus on:

- Support for the master plan and increased provision of football fields.
- Support for the master plan's overarching goal of creating a shared backyard, however concern that the plan does not deliver this adequately.
- Concern that while the master plan provides a network of sporting spaces and walking tracks, it does not necessarily meet the needs of the athletics and hockey community.
- Request for more seating areas with back support.
- Concern that there is limited increase of play spaces for children in the master plan.
- Request for more shade in the Heart of Play network, particularly to offset the heat contribution of the new paths around the parks.
- Concern that hockey has not been mentioned in the master plan.
- Request for hockey facilities in the Heart of Play network.
- Concern that there is limited parking around the network, particularly Doyle Ground and Sherwin Park.
- Request for the master plan to include additional picnic areas, barbecues, public art and street libraries.
- Request for the master plan to include more informal recreational spaces, as opposed to formal sport spaces.

Barton Park

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

- Request for toilets to be open more frequently to ensure functionality.
- Concern about the proposed football field limiting athletics functionality.
- Support for the proposed football field inside the athletics track.
- Concern about survey being changed during the consultation process, in relation to the wording of Action 5 for Barton Park, and potentially misleading respondents.
- Concern that community consultation around use of Barton Park will not have a meaningful bearing on the final master plan, and request that the master plan considers the option of removing the proposed football field.
- Request that the new amenities building is large enough to support both Barton Park and PH Jeffrey Reserve.
- Request for the new amenities building to contain adequate storage space.

A formal submission from the Parramatta Little Athletics Centre (PLAC) indicated rejection of Action 5 for Barton Park. The submission noted:

- Barton Park is the only 400m athletics track and field facility in the Parramatta LGA.
- PLAC implore Council to consider the configuration of other venues or other public space suitable for conversion to sporting fields before compromising the only full 400m athletics track and field facility in the Parramatta LGA.
- Barton Park is in no way underutilised as it is.
- There are signs at all entrances to the oval prohibiting use of studded footwear because the condition of the track and field areas are extremely important to athlete safety and performance.
- Best practice risk management of facilities (if not legislation in some places) prohibits the use of the circular track while team ball sports are being conducted in the middle. This means Athletics would not have a single 400m circular track in all of Parramatta LGA to train and complete at.
- Athletics is not a summer / winter seasonal sport. Athletics is a year-round sport with competition for varying age groups and disciplines at all periods throughout the year.

- Athletics demand would prohibit the use of the team sport field being used based on their existing requirements.
- Adjustment to the field layout would make the annual zone championships and other carnivals prohibitive to run.
- Adjustment to the field layout would make Friday night competition significantly less efficient.
- Athletes from other clubs with facilities dominated by rectangular team sports report detriment to the condition of the ground.

Parramatta Little Athletics Centre also suggested improvements and considerations for Barton Park's Athletics Track and Field Facility, including:

- Additional shelter at the front of the existing clubhouse.
- Additional concrete hardstand at the front of the existing clubhouse leading to the vehicle entry gate to assist with the equipment vehicle movements through the gate (water pooling in this area has changed since the reconstruction work of the hill).
- Significantly more equipment storage to accommodate hurdles, high jump mats, equipment vehicle etc.
- Consideration of outdoor in-situ lockable shelter facilities for high jump mats to avoid the need to bring high jump mats in and out of the weather each time.
- A permanent shelter at the top of the 100m track (nearest James Ruse Drive and PH Jeffry) where the athletes marshal during competition.
- A wide footpath (offset from the fence) that runs all the way around the track to assist with mobility for spectators.
- NBN and wifi boosting facility.
- A Hammer cage / Hammer throwing facility.
- Levelled and re-surfaced synthetic long jump run up tracks with additional informal synthetic surface lanes between long jump run up and circular track for drills and sprint start practice.
- Bollards between sandstone blocks along the existing driveway to improve safety by discouraging jumping between the blocks.
- New clubhouse to have unimpeded line of sight across all of the Barton Park Track and Field to assist with managing carnival and Friday night competition.
- A lockable portion or office of the clubhouse facility for Athletics users for secure storage of electronics and equipment.
- Consider a raised clubhouse structure with significant shelter capacity for unexpected weather conditions (both shade and storms)

Dan Mahoney Reserve

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

- Request for toilets to be open more frequently to ensure functionality.
- Support for proposed flexible use lawn space to allow for sports to be played.
- Suggestion of amenities upgrade.

Doyle Ground

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

- Concern about proposal to demolish the existing toilet and suggestion that it is renovated instead.
- Request for a new toilet to be constructed near the playground.
- Request for toilets to remain open longer in the evening.
- Suggestion for Doyle Ground to be used for football during the winter season.

Sherwin Park

In regard to Sherwin Park, submissions received included a focus on:

- Suggestion that the park is turned into a shared backyard, with play spaces for people of all ages, including nature play elements and intergenerational play, such as chess.
- Support for the addition of a community garden.

Old Saleyards Reserve

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

- Support for the proposal to convert the rugby fields into multi-purpose synthetic fields.
- Suggestion that fencing is retained and reduced in height to protect the space.
- Support for new sports pavilion and recommendation that it meets future requirements, with gender neutral changerooms, referee rooms, canteen facilities and storage.
- Request for the proposed synthetic fields to be multipurpose, to accommodate full-sized hockey fields.

PH Jeffrey Reserve

In regard to PH Jeffrey Reserve, submissions received included a focus on:

- Support for the proposed multi-sport court with seating, water refill and shade structures.
- Request that the master plan acknowledges the tennis centre and its role in the precinct more clearly, and identified priority facility upgrades within the tennis venue, such as a new clubhouse.
- Desire from Parramatta City Tennis and Tennis NSW for a partnership with Council to develop a site-specific concept plan and infrastructure strategy.
- Request for proposed tennis court relocation to be discussed with Tennis NSW.
- Support for using underutilised green space better through tennis court relocation, however concern expressed about the land conditions not being conducive to tennis court construction.
- Suggestion of expanding tennis court footprint further with acrylic hard courts, multipurpose courts or additional synthetic grass courts.
- Recommendation of a management model for the tennis venue.
- Suggestion that the proposed shared path through the tennis venue is removed and replaced with a path around the edge of the venue's boundary, connecting with the wider precinct.