

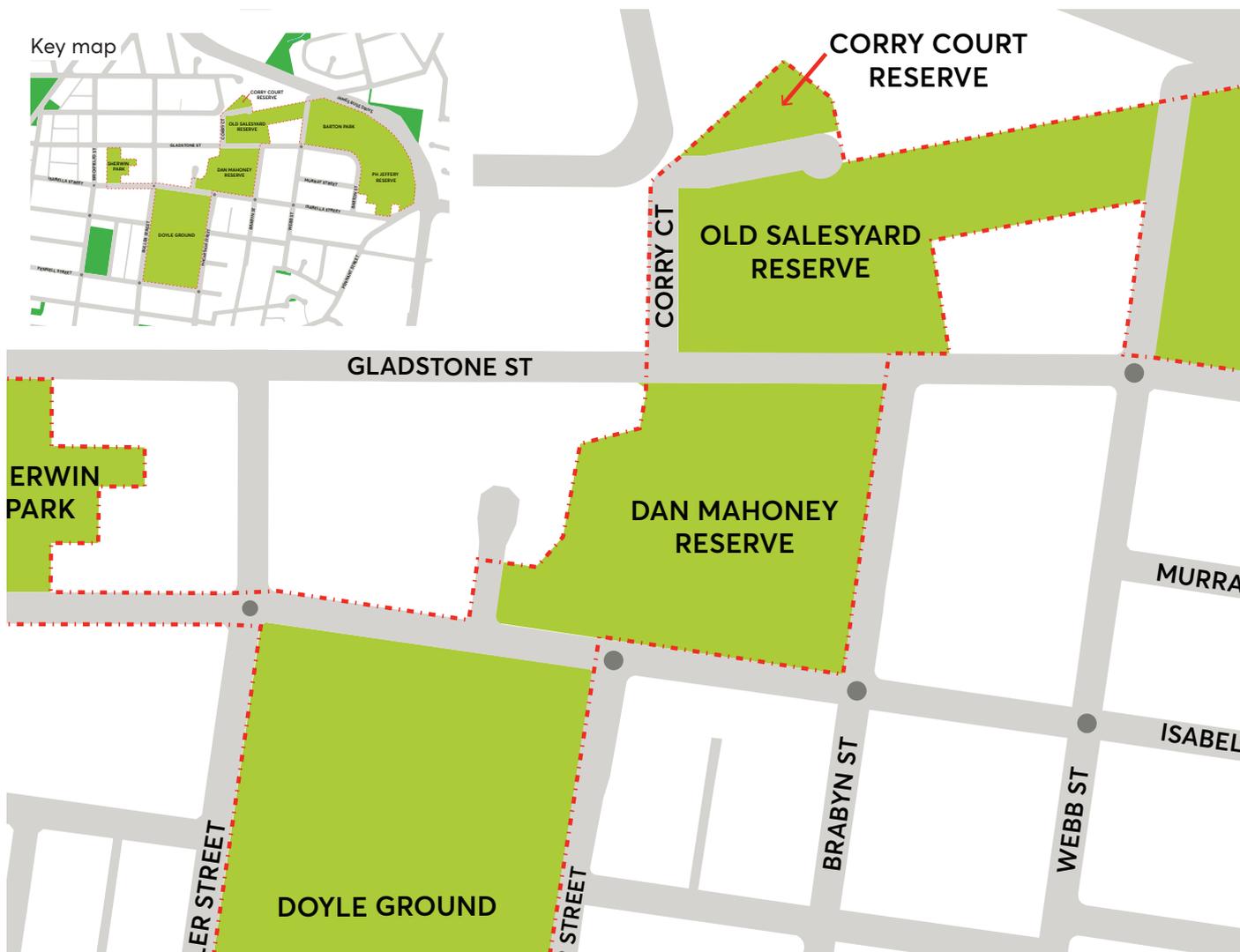
Dan Mahoney Reserve Engagement Outcomes



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.

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

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



Who we spoke to



422

survey responses were received for the DMR online survey



~1560

responses/votes on the unstaffed pop-up boards located in Dan Mahoney Reserve



16

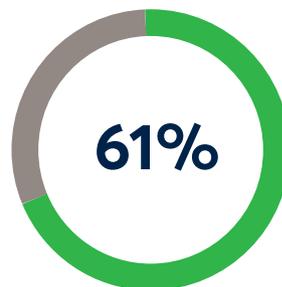
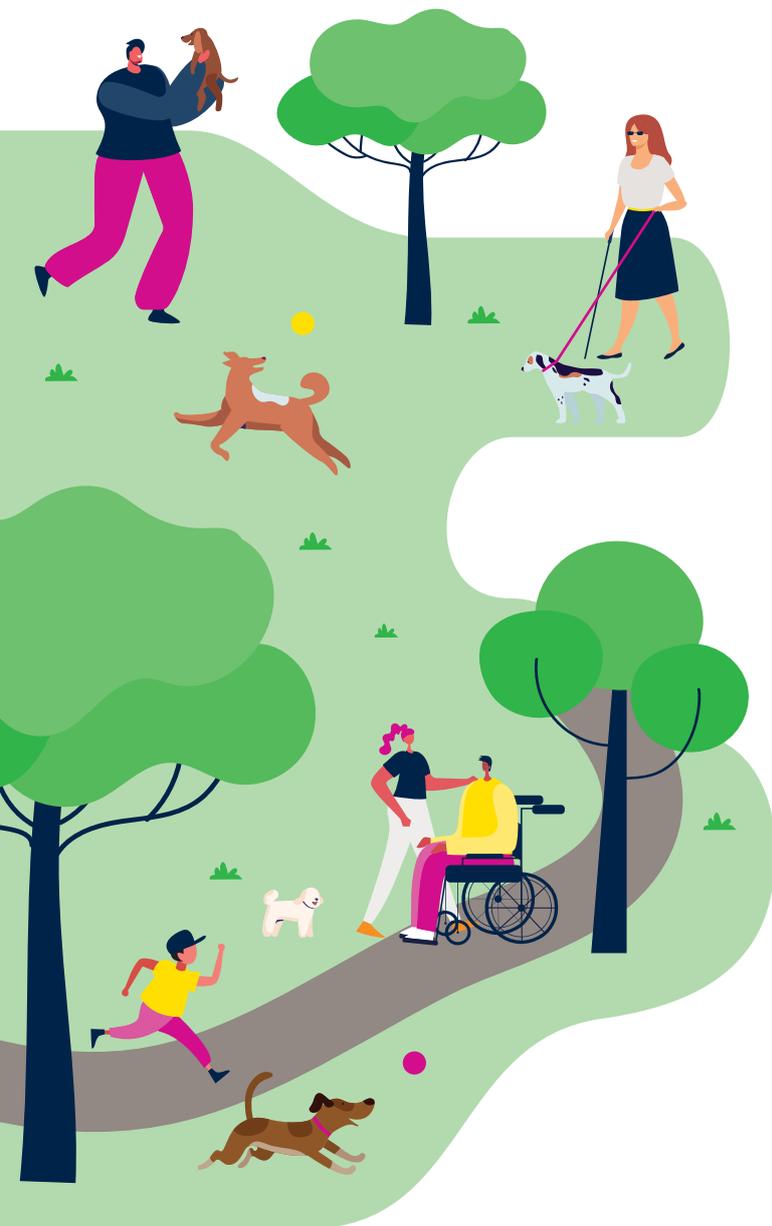
people participated in 2 online workshops relating specifically to the future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve



7

email submissions from community members and stakeholders were received

What did we hear



61% of survey respondents support Council's proposal for a purpose-built off-leash dog area at Dan Mahoney Reserve.

- Across the engagement, participants strongly indicated that the size of DMR is a key reason it is well-utilised, is highly valued by the community, and attracts visitors from across the region. 53% of survey respondents do not support the current size of the dog park being reduced owing to safety concerns with over-crowding the dog park, DMR's unique position as a large dog park, and accounting for future population growth in the area.
- Across the engagement, participants want existing facilities upgraded, including access to public toilets, more bins and dog bag stations around the park, increased lighting at night throughout the park, and improved surfacing and drainage of the grounds.
- Across the engagement, participants want to see DMR as a safe, accessible and inclusive space for both humans and dogs. They indicated a desire to provide additional concrete paths, leveled walking surfaces, wide double-gated entry and exit gates for wheelchair access and dog safety, seating close to gates and accessible toilets.
- People value DMR as an important social space for the community, for their social, physical and mental wellbeing.
- 72% of survey respondents do not support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at DMR. A majority of survey and workshop participants perceived surrounding sportsfields included in the Heart of Play master plan as under-utilised. It was expressed that there is an opportunity to improve sport utilisation in other spaces, before creating a formal sports space at DMR.

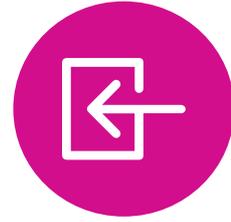
Top features that survey respondents would like to see at a purpose built dog park at DMR in the future include:



**Trees and shade
(86%)**



**Dog drinking water
(85%)**



**Double entry gates
(83%)**



Lighting (80%)



Public toilets (75%)

Highlights from the online workshop include:

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

- Comment from workshop participant

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

- Comment from workshop participant



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

- Comment from workshop participant