

# Appendix A

## **WESTWOOD SPICE**

Community Engagement Report - Stage One

# RYDALMERE PARK MASTERPLAN

Community Engagement Report – Stage One  
November 2017



**WESTWOOD  
SPICE**

BETTER OUTCOMES | BETTER LIVES

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### CLIENT



**CITY OF  
PARRAMATTA**

### REPORT DETAILS

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**Reviewed by:**

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**Date:**

November 2017

**IN COLLABORATION  
WITH**

**TaylorBrammer**

## Introduction

This report, **Rydalmere Park Master Plan: Community Engagement Report - Stage One**, outlines the key themes and directions identified during the community and stakeholder engagement program, undertaken between 13 October and 15 November 2017, to inform the concept design of the Rydalmere Park Master Plan.

The goal of the Rydalmere Park Masterplan is to transform the park into a community hub providing a multi-purpose place where a variety of sporting and community activities can be pursued, amenity and usage can be increased and the open space valued and used by the community.

The Stage One consultation focused on early engagement with the community to collaboratively inform the Master Plan. The objective was to understand current usage, barriers to usage whilst encouraging the community to share their ideas and aspirations.

A Community Reference Group has been formed to provide a sounding board to the project team in developing the Master Plan.

The draft Master Plan will be subject to a second stage of community and stakeholder consultation in February 2018.

## About Rydalmere Park

Rydalmere Park comprises 6.4 hectares of land at the corner of Victoria Road and South Street Rydalmere.

The park contains community land classified as 'Park', 'Sportsground' and 'General Community Use' (the bowling club site). It is an important community asset located at a strategic position, well connected to transport within a growth precinct.

The park currently features three soccer fields, one cricket pitch, one netball court, one basketball third-court/practice hoop, a children's playground, open space for informal activities and a large bowling club facility. These facilities are complemented by amenity buildings and on-site car parking.

## Project Background

The City of Parramatta is very fortunate to have a highly active community with facilities to support sports participation and social interaction. As the population continues to grow, there is increased pressure on existing community facilities and services. Over the coming 20 years, the City's residential population is forecast to increase by 161,067 people to a total of 397,339 people. This is largely derived from an anticipated increase of 78,000 new dwellings, including 12,000 in the suburbs of Rydalmere, Ermington and Melrose Park.

Through analysis and previous community engagement, Council recognises our current social infrastructure, including facilities and services, will be inadequate to effectively support our increasing population, changing demographics and community expectations.

To meet the current and future social infrastructure needs of the community, Rydalmere Park provides an opportunity to meet some of these recreation and social needs.

## Project Timeline



## Community Engagement Undertaken

### Stage One 13 October - 15 November 2017

The community was informed of the opportunity to participate in the engagement period via a variety of channels including:

- Direct flyer letter box distribution to the 11,090 residential and business properties in Rydalmere, Melrose Park, Ermington, Dundas and Dundas Valley
- Facebook promotion to only people located in Rydalmere, Melrose Park, Ermington, Dundas and Dundas Valley
- Parramatta Advertiser: advertisement on 25 October and Mayoral column on 8 November
- Email notification to current hirers of Rydalmere Park
- Park signage promoting the engagement period
- Drop-in visits to local retailers

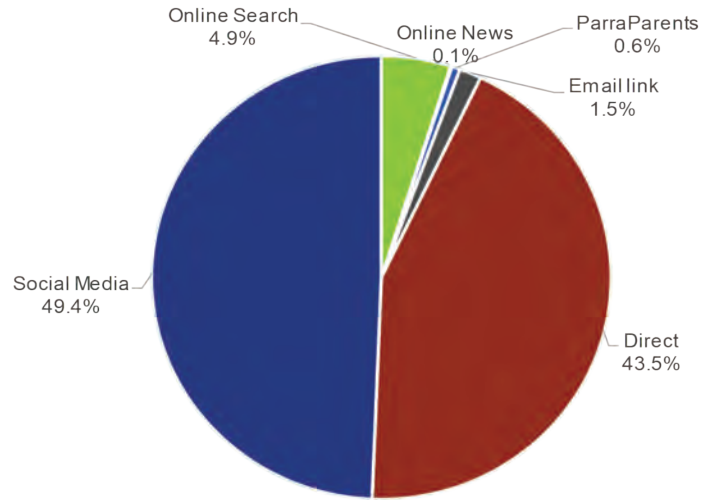


Figure 1: Traffic sources to the online engagement portal

## Engagement Snapshot - Stage One



**5**

WEEK ENGAGEMENT PERIOD



**5,028**

VISITS TO THE ENGAGEMENT HUB



**12,409**

PEOPLE REACHED ON FACEBOOK



**175**

STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATED



**95**

SURVEY RESPONSES



**50+**

ATTENDEES AT THE PARK LISTENING POST AND COMMUNITY FORUM



**10**

SUGGESTIONS POSTED ON THE IDEAS WALL



**56**

IDEAS WALL VOTES



**27**

COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK



**10**

LOCAL RETAILERS VISITED



**9**

EMAILS RECEIVED

## Engagement Opportunities and Activities



Stage One provided diverse opportunities for stakeholders and community members to participate including:

### **24/7 Online Engagement Website**

The portal, [parracity.engagementhub.com.au](http://parracity.engagementhub.com.au) visitors to view all the relevant documentation, to post ideas and undertake the community survey.

Unique visitors: 2,126

### **Sporting Groups Survey**

Sporting groups who are current hirers of Rydalmere Park were invited to undertake the sporting group survey.

### **Community Listening Post**

The community was invited to attend a park based listening post with complimentary coffee, popcorn, jumping castle and horizontal bungee.

Venue: Rydalmere Park

When: Saturday, 21 October 1 – 3.30pm

Attendees: approx. 30 people

### **Community Forum**

The community forum was run as a co-design workshop was to discuss vision, usage, facilities and amenities.

Venue: Rydalmere Central Bowling Club

When: Wednesday, 25 October 5 – 7.30pm

Attendees: 21 people

Additional channels for community members to share their ideas were:

- **Direct email:** [ideas@rydalmereparkmasterplan.com](mailto:ideas@rydalmereparkmasterplan.com)
- **Direct phone:** 1300 192 531
- **Facebook:** sharing and commenting
- **Drop-in** to local retailers
- **Direct contact** with local commercial businesses and community groups

# Community Engagement Findings

Stage One provided many opportunities for the community to share their ideas and aspirations. The most common ideas suggested have been grouped under four themes. Percentage refers to feedback from all channels.

## What are the key priorities to improve Rydalmere Park?

### Theme 1: Enhancing the existing sporting infrastructure to meet current and future needs

**Installation of synthetic pitches with the priority on Field 3**

**13%**  
of participants

**Improving and maintaining the three sports fields**

**11%**  
of participants

**Provision of sheltered spectator seating**

**11%**  
of participants

**Installation of sports field irrigation**

**2%**  
of participants

### Theme 2: Repurposing the bowling club site

**Development of a fitness / leisure centre suitable for a wide range of indoor sports and activities**

**26%**  
of participants

**Suggested features**

- 23% inclusion of water play area / water park
- 10% inclusion of a public swimming pool
- 7% inclusion of a golf driving range and/or putt putt
- 3% inclusion of a tennis court

**Adapting the existing bowling club into a multi-purpose community centre**

**23%**  
of participants

**Provision of a family friendly bistro / cafe with outdoor dining**

**39%**  
of participants



### Theme 3: Revitalising the park through the provision of a range of facilities and programs

Sheltered BBQ / picnic facilities

**24%**  
of participants

Shared cycle/walking perimeter path  
with a learner cycle track

**14%**  
of participants

Open space for passive activities and  
community events

**12%**  
of participants

Outdoor exercise equipment

**10%**  
of participants

Programmed Activities: yoga,  
handicrafts; childrens' playgroup;  
children's activities; boot camps

**8%**  
of participants

Additional sports infrastructure

**10%** provision of full basketball court  
**7%** provision of cricket nets

Fenced off-leash dog park

**7%**  
of participants

Skate park and/or ramp

**4%**  
of participants

Community garden

**3%**  
of participants

Natural play area (trees to climb,  
stepping stones etc)

**2%**  
of participants

### Theme 4: Improving the overall amenity including access, movement and comfort

Restroom facilities available to all  
users

**29%**  
of participants

Shaded areas including a shade cloth  
over existing playground

**23%**  
of participants

Increased parking with improved  
lighting

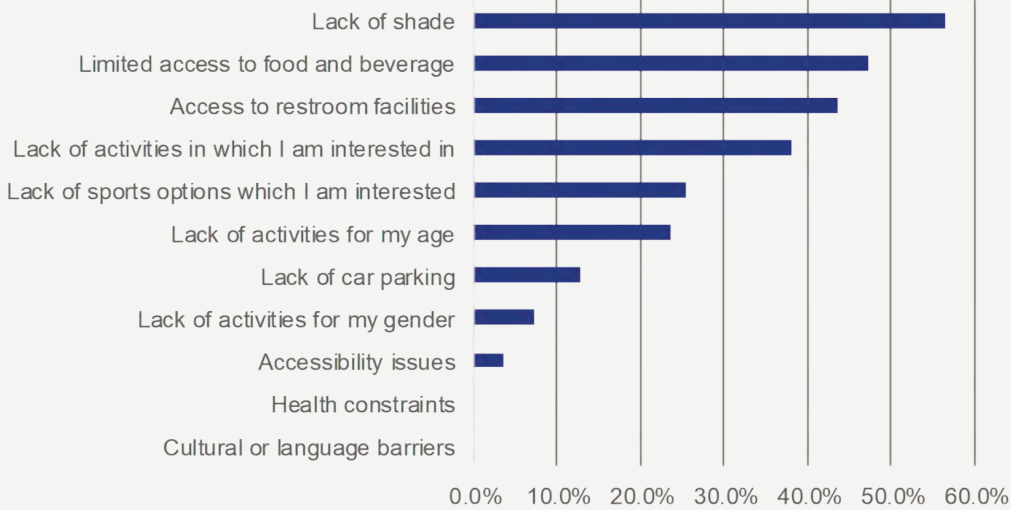
**14%**  
of participants

Drinking fountains

**13%**  
of participants

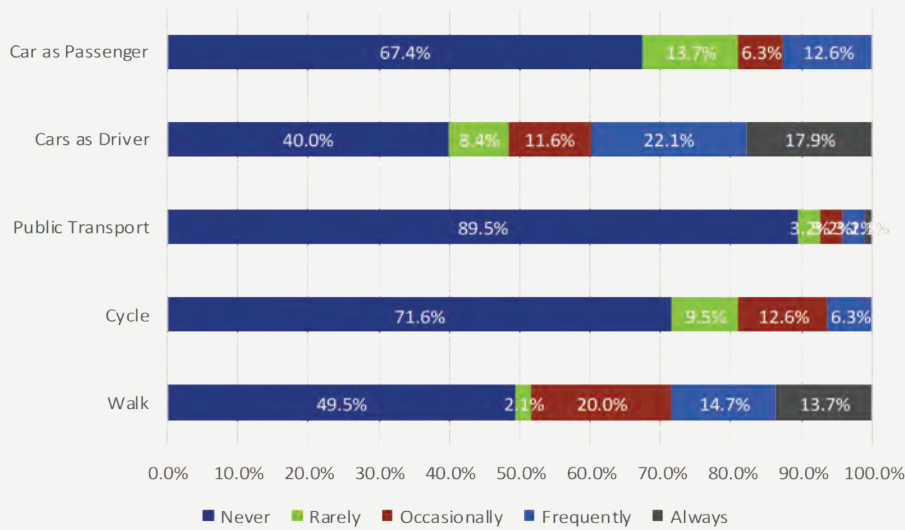






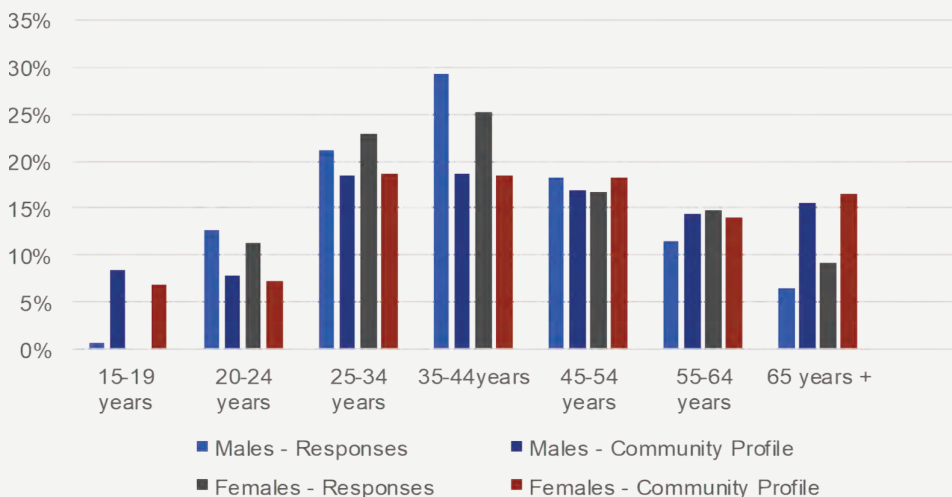
**If you do not visit or use the facilities at Rydalmere Park what are the main reasons why?**

11% of survey respondents do not visit Rydalmere Park



**What modes of transport do you use to visit Rydalmere Park?**

Top transport modes  
39% Car as driver  
29% Walking  
15% Car as passenger

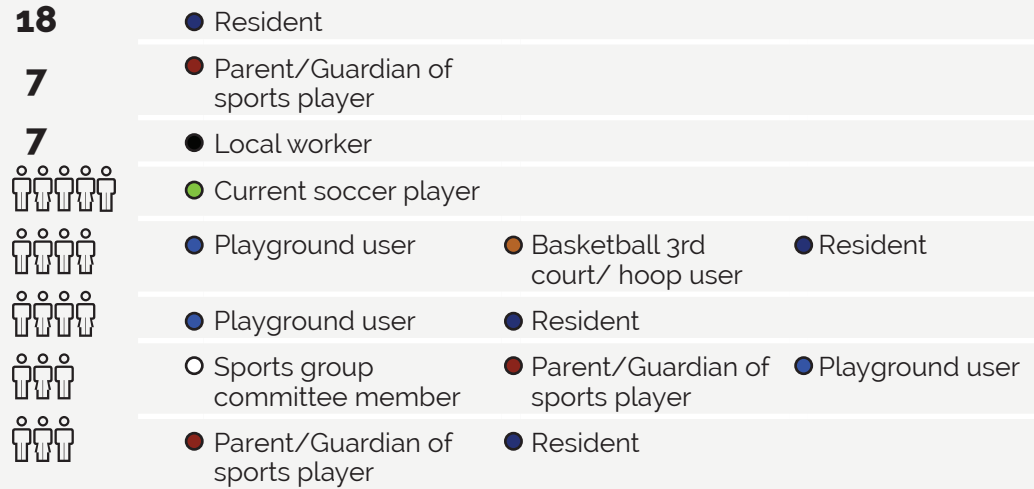


This graph represents the gender and age of participants pegged against the 2016 Census Community Profile data for the suburbs of Rydalmere, Ermington, Melrose Park, Dundas and Dundas Valley.

### Stakeholder Identification

Survey respondents were asked what was their relationship to Rydalmere Park from 11 options. 58% of respondents stated they had more than one relationship to Rydalmere Park.

### Top 8 relationships including combinations to Rydalmere Park



## Online Ideas Wall

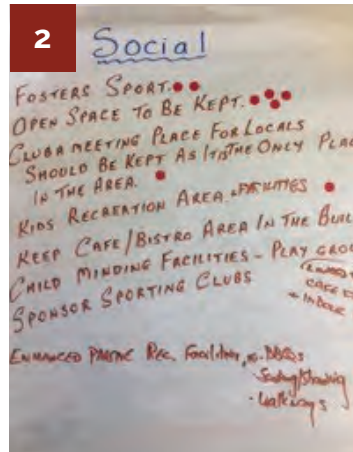
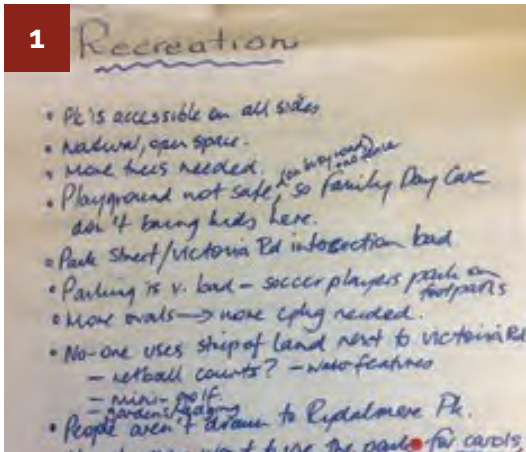
The online ideas wall provided an opportunity for community members to suggest ideas with other members voting for and against those ideas. 10 ideas were posted which collectively attracted 56 votes for or against the idea. One idea received no support and has been excluded from this report.

<p>15 October, 2017 AP says:</p> <p><b>Heated indoor pool</b></p> <p>8 thumbs up, 4 thumbs down</p>	<p>16 October, 2017 GP says:</p> <p><b>Secure bike rack</b></p> <p>6 thumbs up, 1 thumbs down</p>	<p>16 October, 2017 MC says:</p> <p><b>Community garden</b></p> <p>4 thumbs up, 3 thumbs down</p>
<p>16 October, 2017 GP says:</p> <p><b>Full basketball court</b></p> <p>4 thumbs up, 1 thumbs down</p>	<p>22 October, 2017 KD says:</p> <p><b>Learn to ride bike track</b></p> <p>4 thumbs up, 1 thumbs down</p>	<p>17 October, 2017 RD says:</p> <p><b>Parramatta Memorial Pool relocation</b></p> <p>3 thumbs up, 3 thumbs down</p>
<p>15 October, 2017 KD says:</p> <p><b>Outdoor playgroup and soft play area</b></p> <p>1 thumbs up, 0 thumbs down</p>	<p>5 November, 2017 RD says:</p> <p><b>New location of the WS-Wanderers Soccer Club</b></p> <p>1 thumbs up, 2 thumbs down</p>	<p>13 October, 2017 KD says:</p> <p><b>Obstacle Course for children and adults</b></p> <p>6 thumbs up, 1 thumbs down</p>

# Community Forum Findings

On Wednesday, 25 October 2017, a community forum was held at Rydalmere Bowling Club from 6pm - 7.30pm. The forum attracted 21 participants and was centred around workshopping ideas under the themes:

- Recreation
- Social
- Physical feature
- Inclusivity



## 1. Recreation Priorities

- Diversity of use for both organised and non-organised activities
- Retain the bowling club building for non-sport community use
- Park for Carols
- More botanical in style
- BBQs / Picnics
- See-saw + sandpit
- Golf club

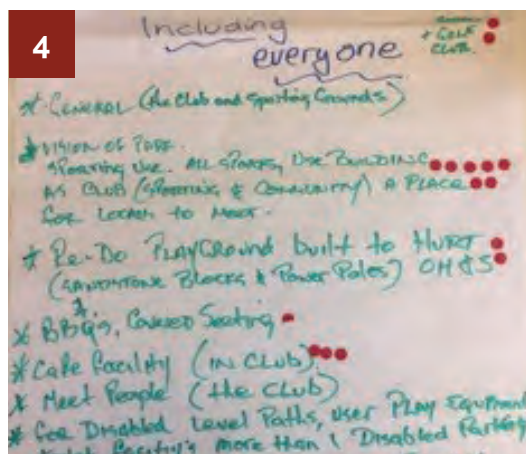
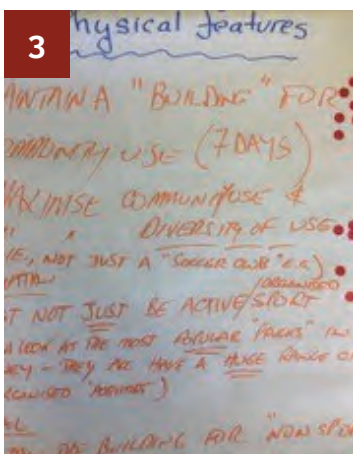


## 2. Social Priorities

- Open passive space
- Club to be kept as a community meeting space
- Children's recreation area and facilities
- Maintain a cafe/bistro

## 3. Physical Priorities

- Maintain a building for all of community use
- Restrooms
- Car parking not to encroach on park
- Network of safe paths with lighting
- Water play feature



## 4. Including Everyone Priorities

- Youth programs and activities
- Retain club but make more family friendly
- All sporting groups to use bowling club facility
- Make the park a community hub for all to meet



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