



City of Parramatta
Phase 2 Engagement Outcomes Report
Shannons Paddock Landscape Masterplan

September 2022

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All care has been taken to prepare this
report for the City of Parramatta
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Acknowledgement of Country

This document acknowledges that Parramatta is on Aboriginal land where the traditional custodians, the Dharug People, have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

Executive summary

The community engagement for the Shannons Paddock Landscape Masterplan and Playspace Concept Design, held between 24 May and 28 June 2022, has captured wide spread support and excitement from the local community, with a near 100% support level from all engagement participants, across 2 rounds.

Across the drop-in sessions, surveys, submissions and ideas wall, **all but two engagement participants expressed support for the draft masterplan** for Shannons Paddock, and **98% approved of the proposed concept designs for the new district playground**. The participants widely praised the designs and were passionate about the opportunity that the project held to connect the growing Westmead community through high quality open space.

Key findings

This second phase of engagement aimed to understand if community needs and priorities, expressed in Phase 1, were responded to in the draft designs and captured community feedback on the key design moves. Most broadly, community supported all of the key design moves, with particular excitement expressed for the playground upgrades (which was considered to be operating at capacity at the moment), the bridge linking both sides of the park/suburb, and the amenities proposed across the park.

While expressing support for the proposed designs, engagement participants commonly highlighted a number of design details that would transform the park from a great open space into a park that is loved by the community, including:

- **The opportunity for the trees and native plants to serve as an educational opportunity for park goers**
- **Additional parking spaces and pedestrian safety along Darcy Road, especially near the proposed playground**
- **The need for improved wayfinding and having language-inclusive signage around the park**
- **Increasing safety at all hours of the day, including additional lighting and visibility across the park**
- **Consideration of more swing sets, in addition to the proposed upgrades**

Informing the community

1,002

Project page views

871

Website visits

Engaging the community

1

Park Drop-In sessions

28

Ideas wall comments

51

Surveys completed

3

How we engaged

The community has been encouraged to be involved, have their say, and play a leading role across the key phases in the design process. Phase 2 is the last step of this rigorous method designed to capture community values and ensure genuine engagement with the locals that care most about this valuable open space.

<p>Phase 1: COMPLETED <i>February 2022</i></p> <p>Community Ideas and Priorities</p> <p>Identified community values priorities, and ideas for the park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online Survey▪ Onsite and online project promotion▪ Written submissions▪ Letter box drop to all local residents	<p>Phase 2: COMPLETED <i>June 2022</i></p> <p>Draft Masterplan and Playground Concept feedback</p> <p>Captured feedback on the draft Masterplan and Concept Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1 Park Pop-up▪ Onsite and online project promotion▪ Online ideas wall▪ Written submissions▪ Online/Hard-copy surveys▪ Letter box drop to all local residents
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What we engaged on

Across all engagement methods (survey, ideas wall, drop-in sessions, and submissions), community members and stakeholders were asked to indicate whether they supported the draft Masterplan and playground upgrades for Shannons Paddock, why that was the case, and whether they had any additional comments that may help shape the future of this important open space.

The following report provides a summary of the findings from the Phase 2 Engagement, along with a high-level overview of the key findings from Phase 1 Engagement.

SHANNONS PADDOCK MASTERPLAN DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN



What we heard in Phase 1

Phase 1 of engagement consisted of an online survey, which was hosted on Council's community engagement platform, Participate Parramatta, and promoted via Council's social media platforms, as well as onsite posters around the park, and a letter box drop to local residents during February 2022.

The most popular vision statements were:



A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment



A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes



A community gathering place for picnics and events

The key priorities for the community included:

- Building a healthier, happier, more creative community through opportunities to play and get active.
- Revitalising the natural landscape to deliver a cool and open space for relaxation, celebration, and education.
- Strengthening the community's connection to place and landscape by bettering accessibility through and into the park.
- Facilitating a park that is welcoming and safe for all members of the community at all hours of the day.

Some of the community's big ideas included:

- Upgrading the children's play space to encourage imaginative play and exploration
- Increasing the tree planting and landscaping to create more shaded areas
- Improving the park amenities for social and family gatherings e.g. tables, shade, bins
- Connected cycleways, bike trails and walking trails
- Additional park lighting

We heard from:

51

Community members who participated in the surveys

Ranging from 15-74 years of age

54% female, 36% male

97% local residents

985

Total site visits

774

Unique users

Feedback on the draft Masterplan

Overall, engagement participants expressed a high level of support (90%) for the draft Masterplan for Shannons Paddock. Participants especially loved the inclusion of the additional bridges connecting the two halves of the park together, improving the general connectivity within the park. In addition to this, the naturalisation of Finlayson Creek received the highest level of support with 6 up votes on the ideas wall, with participants commenting that this will improve the natural landscape and overall beauty of the park.

"The bridges will absolutely change this park and make the playground so much more attractive for us to get to."

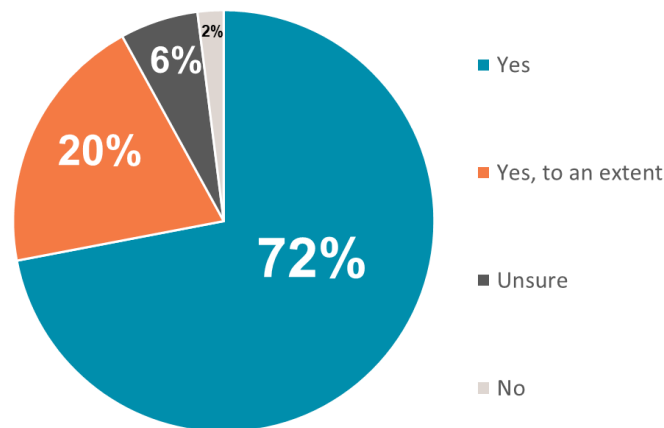
- **Ideas wall comment**

"The idea to make this an experience along the water rather than the creek currently being the worst part of the park, is such a great idea!"

- **Ideas wall comment**

The addition of a toilet block was also the equal highest voted feature in the masterplan from participants (6 up votes). Participants noting that the park currently lacks bathroom facilities, which ultimately limits the length of stay for park users, and would like to see council make this feature a priority when planning the delivery of masterplan elements.

Do you support the draft Landscape Masterplan? (N=51)



Sheltered areas for picnics and barbeques was the third most loved element by participants, gathering 5 up votes on the ideas wall. Participants highlighted the importance of having these gathering spaces for large groups, especially considering the high density of apartment dwellings surrounding the park.

Those participants who supported the draft Masterplan "To an extent" provided additional comments and feedback on how they felt it could be amended to better respond to community priorities and needs. They highlighted an opportunity to make the park safer

at all hours of the day, with additional lighting and improving visibility across the park. Other comments expressed that they wanted to see more child-friendly amenities, and better wayfinding into and around the park.

"This park is a highly popular park. I hope there will be plenty of seating and different play stations to stop congestion of people. It's a large space I would love to see utilize to its full potential."

- **Survey Participant**

These ideas and considerations are discussed further in the following pages.

General issues and considerations

The following issues have been identified for the design team to consider when finalising the draft Concept Design:

- **Tree planting and shading:** A number of comments highlighted the importance of utilising trees across the park for shade and cooling, as well as the beautification of the space. Comments also suggested that the native trees and planting can be utilised to provide an educational opportunity throughout the park, with signage and connection to traditional Aboriginal uses/knowledge for each species.
- **Parking:** Participants suggested exploring the opportunity for additional street parking around the park, and having dedicated mobility and disabled parking for accessibility.
- **Safety and visibility:** Participants wished to see the park become a safe and welcoming space at all times of the day. Additional lighting was a popular suggestion across multiple comments, with one suggesting that visibility across the entire park was important for the safety of all park goers.
- **Diverse cycleway use:** Participants value the cycleway as both an active transport route through the park, as well as a recreational feature for all park goers. To accommodate these diverse uses comments suggested a separation of use, whether it be through signage or allocating sections along the path to different users.
- **Signage and accessibility:** A number of comments emphasised having adequate signage around and into the park, indicating areas for different uses i.e. bike riding. Participants highlighted the need for translations on signs to accommodate for the large CALD community living in close proximity to the park.
- **Additional park features:** In addition to the features laid out in the draft designs, some participants suggested other park features and uses, including:
 - Community gardens
 - Shaded open areas, for community events (e.g. performances and stages, tai chi)
 - Adequate bins along the walking path

Feedback on District Playground Concept Design

Overall, participants confirmed that the design team is on the right track, with 98% of participants supporting the concept designs for the playground, commonly expressing excitement for an upgrade to this space. Most notably, the nature play area and in-ground trampoline gathered the highest number of votes on the online ideas wall.

"I love that the playground can grow and change and be gradually updated to suit our community - great design"

- **Ideas wall comment**

"There's currently monkey bars here which the kids love. It would be great to add other play elements that challenge kids such as an obstacle course - so building on the nature play elements but adding the chance to for kids to challenge themselves."

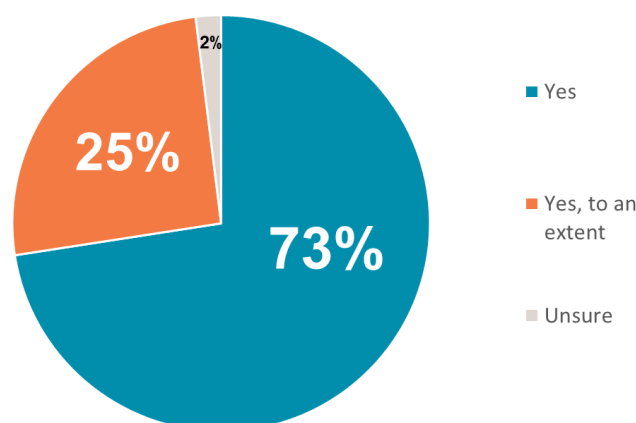
- **Survey participant**

In order to better accommodate users, many participants felt the proposed number of swings in the concept designs could be increased, and the inclusion of a flying fox also suggested by a number of participants, with a written submission from a local preschool saying this was highly requested by their students. A separate written submission received highlighted that the natural level changes within the designated play area lends itself to the installation of a flying fox feature.

"Given the popularity of swing sets and how many children use this park on a regular basis, I think it would be wise to consider an additional child swing and infant swing"

- **Ideas wall comment**

Do you support the concept plan for the new district playground at Shannons Paddock? (N=51)



General issues and considerations

The following issues have been identified for the design team to consider when finalising the District Playground Concept Design:

- **Additional swing set:** The consideration of additional swing sets - including child and infant sets - was a top priority for many participants. Comments drew attention to this urgent need, considering the wait times to use the existing swing sets.
- **Pedestrian safety along Darcy Road:** The proximity of the playground to the busy Darcy Road was a concern captured in a number of comments, particularly regarding the safety of younger children. One submission from a local preschool asked if safety fences and gates would be installed around the playground, while others suggested creating a clear buffer between the roadway and playspace.
- **Accommodating all age groups:** Engagement participants praised the design's designation of different play equipment to accommodate a range of age groups. Participants wished to see this feature emphasised in the design, to create a separation in play equipment to ensure safety for all ages.
- **Play equipment for all weather:** Comments emphasised the importance of having play equipment that will be useable throughout the year, asking for play equipment under shelter and the use of heat resistant materials. A written submission included the avoidance of 'hot-pour' crumbed rubber, as it retains heat and is a long-term environmental hazard.

Feedback on design features

Participants were asked to provide direct feedback on the key design features by leaving a comment or voting on the Social Pinpoint Ideas Wall. The word cloud below has been created using the most common phrases on the Design Board, to highlight the community's areas of interest for upgrades at Shannons Paddock.



A summary of responses collected on the Social Pinpoint Design Board is provided in the table on the following page, feedback has been categorised according to the key design features of the masterplan and playground concept design.

Feedback on Design Features

Design feature and description	Community Support	What did the community like?	Additional ideas from the community
A place to move through nature			
Pedestrian paths and walking loop	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a new use for the park Inclusion of the bridge to connect the two sides of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation between different uses of the path (e.g. bikes, walking) Additional lighting Improvement of access points into the park Bins and amenities along the loop
Connected Cycleway as part of Finlayson Creek Trail and up to Wentworthville Station	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages pedestrian access into the station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage separating bike riders and pedestrians Additional lighting increased spacing between the treeline and the cycleway
Outdoor exercise equipment and fitness stations	Up Votes: 3 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Useful addition for the surrounding residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaded areas for informal exercise Accessible and inclusive equipment for all ages and abilities
Naturalise Finlayson Creek	Up Votes: 6 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating an experience out of a functional element of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration to combat a history of flooding in the park Wanting to see commentary from Sydney Water about how this project fits into their asset planning Additional bins and signage to deter littering
Increased native planting throughout the park	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalising the natural feel of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a small nature reserve onsite, encouraging wildlife Additional large, native trees for shading throughout the park Educational signage near gardens

Design feature and description	Community Support	What did the community like?	Additional ideas from the community
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens
A place for play and activity			
Playground suspension bridge	Up Votes: 3 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Nature play area comprised of cubby houses, balance obstacles, imaginative play elements, natural logs, and sandstone blocks	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating natural play elements to create a challenging obstacle course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monkey bars - a well-loved feature of the current playground to be retained A mix of challenging and educational, creative play Accommodating play for all age groups Other suggested features: sandpit, climbing wall, and flying fox
Large rope climbing frame with slide	Up Votes: 1 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular playground feature with a large capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising the natural slope of the playground area to incorporate an additional slide
Triple swing with basket swing, regular swing and infant swing	Up Votes: 1 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts for the high demand for the existing swings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional swings needed - proposed number isn't enough considering its current popularity
In-ground trampoline	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using recycled and sustainable materials

Design feature and description	Community Support	What did the community like?	Additional ideas from the community
A place to gather with community			
Sheltered picnic and BBQ areas of different sizes	Up Votes: 5 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the parks use as gathering space for large groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheltered areas separate to picnic areas for other uses e.g. stage for community events, tai chi
Open community lawns throughout the park	Up Votes: 4 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining the open feel of the parkland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider goal posts to facilitate ball games Planting more trees for natural shading Visibility across the park for safety Public artwork
New toilet facilities to accommodate longer park stays	Up Votes: 6 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate for the parks' role as a district park A need to prioritise this feature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family friendly toilet facilities
Extra seating to stop and take a break	Up Votes: 1 Down Votes: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating an accessible park for elderly visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-spaced across the park to limit congestion Adequate shaded seating Visibility of seated areas for safety

Where to from here

The draft Landscape Masterplan and Playspace Concept Design for the upgrades to Shannons Paddock have been well received by participants. Through the course of community engagement, the community have helped shape a vision to inform the design team, and valuable feedback on the draft design was captured along with additional design ideas and elements for consideration.

Next steps

- The Draft Masterplan and District Playground concept designs will be further developed based on the findings from this report, to ensure future developments meet community requirements and expectations.
- A summary of findings will be reported back to the community, highlighting how community feedback has influenced the project.
- A full Draft Landscape Masterplan Report (including the overall site plan) will now be prepared. The draft report will be presented to the elected Council to seek approval to commence a 28 day public exhibition period (Phase 3 Engagement). The public exhibition period provides the community an opportunity to comment on the draft report.
- The District Playground will be detailed designed for procurement and construction in 2023.

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