

ATTACHMENT D

**SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
ON THE CONCEPT DESIGN**

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE NEW PUBLIC PARK AT HAROLD PARK CONCEPT DESIGN 9 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The new public park at Harold Park is the next project following the adoption of the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan in August 2013. Extensive community consultation was undertaken to develop the Master Plan during 2012 and 2013.

A concept design for the new public park at Harold Park was made available for public comment to seek community feedback to inform the development of the detailed design.

Community consultation was held between 9th November and 1st December 2013 with activities including:

- 17,800 notification letters were sent to local residents announcing the consultation and providing information on how people could give feedback;
- Two community information sessions were held with over 100 people attending; and
- 805 page views and 734 document downloads were recorded on the Sydney Your Say webpage.

A total of 78 individual submissions were received during the consultation period. Of these, 18 submissions were outside the project scope with 15 submissions commenting on the Tram Sheds development application.

There were 60 submissions that provided comments on the Harold Park new public park concept design. Of these:

- 41 submissions provided positive feedback, identified specific elements people liked and offered suggestions; and
- 22 submissions raised concerns.

The key elements people liked in the concept design are: the cliff habitat walk, native plantings, that it is a public open space, the environmental benefits and the habitat elements.

The key suggestions people made relate to: habitat and plantings, public toilets, a water park, a pedestrian bridge at the Johnsons Creek canal crossing, pathways and access and recreational facilities.

The key concerns people raised are: pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts within the park at the intersection of the road into the Tram Sheds, retaining existing habitat and providing new habitat, and that the public park feels like a private space.

BACKGROUND

The Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan was prepared from June 2012 to March 2013 and adopted in August 2013. The Master Plan set the long term vision for the Parklands and guided the integration of new open space areas at Harold Park, the Crescent and the Hill.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken to develop the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan and was delivered in three phases. Phase 1, held between 26 June to 17 August 2012, sought the community's aspirations for the Parklands. Phase 2, held between 10 December 2012 to 14 January 2013, outlined the strategies. Phase 3, held between 19 April to 17 May 2013, developed the strategies that created the draft Master Plan. The final phase was a formal exhibition of the draft Plan.

The new public park at Harold Park is the next project following the adoption of the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan. Approximately 3.8 hectares of new open space will be dedicated from the redevelopment of the former Harold Park Pace Way and Rozelle Tram Depot site by Mirvac. Ground remediation, earthworks and stabilisation will be completed by Mirvac. In addition, the voluntary planning agreement requires the developer to provide approximately \$8 million dollars to the City towards the establishment of the public park.

The development of the Harold Park Public Park design was held in two phases:

- Phase 1: Concept Design; and
- Phase 2: Detailed Design.

The concept design for the public park comprised the following features:

- A series of open spaces and areas of habitat linked by the existing cliff line;
- The harvest and treatment of stormwater;
- A path network connecting existing and new neighbourhoods and existing parklands;
- Play spaces and community gathering spaces;
- Integrated interpretation and art opportunities; and
- Public domain lighting and park furniture.

Phase 1 Concept Design was made available for public comment between the 9th November and the 1st December 2013 prior to the development of a detailed design.

CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The consultation objectives for the project are:

1. To seek feedback from the community on the concept design for the new public park; and
2. To identify likes, suggestions and concerns to inform the development of the detailed design.

CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The concept design for the new public park at Harold Park was made available for public comment was between the 9th November and the 1st December 2013.

A range of consultation activities were conducted:

- 17,800 notification letters were sent to local residents announcing the consultation and providing information on how people could give feedback, including contact details of the project officer and details about the community information session.
- An email was sent to stakeholders who had previously shown an interest in the project, including Leichhardt Council, resident groups and community members informing them of the consultation and inviting them to the community information session.
- A community information session was held on Saturday 9th November 2013 at Bicentennial Park between 10:00 am to 2:00pm where people could see the draft concept design and supporting documents, speak to the project team and fill out feedback forms. The event was attended by the Lord Mayor.
- A community drop in session was held at the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday 13th November 2013 between 4:00pm – 6:00pm where people could see the draft concept design and supporting documents, speak to the project team and fill out feedback forms.
- A webpage at http://sydneyyoursay.com.au/sydney-your-say/news_feed/have-your-say-about-the-new-public-park-at-harold-park displayed the concept design, supporting documents and a feedback form that could be submitted electronically.
- A webpage on the City Of Sydney website at <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision/major-projects/parks-and-playgrounds/new-park-for-harold-park> displayed the concept design and supporting documents as well as explaining how people could provide feedback.

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Face to face consultation

Two face to face consultation activities were held for the project.

A community information session was held on Saturday 9th November 2013 at Bicentennial Park. A notification letter was sent to 7,800 residents and an email sent to a database of people who had previously registered their interest about the project. A marquee was set up to display the concept design panels and staffed by the project team. The event commenced at 10am and ended at 2pm. The Lord Mayor launched the event with a welcome speech. There was a barbeque and children's activities. Over 100 people attended the event to view the concept design, speak with the project staff and provide their feedback.

A second community drop in session was held on Wednesday 13th November at the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre. A notification letter was sent to 10,000 residents. The event commenced at 4:00pm and ended at 6:00pm. The project team were available to discuss the concept design. About ten people attended the drop in session and provided feedback either on the day or via email.

Online consultation

A webpage was created for the project on Sydney Your Say to announce the consultation period, displayed the concept design and supporting documents and notify people about the consultation events. A feedback form was available so that people could download and submitted electronically and anonymously.

During the consultation period there were 805 page views and 734 document downloads recorded on the Sydney Your Say webpage.

Tweets were sent out informing people about the community consultation and the two community events inviting people to attend.

Submissions received

A total of 78 individual submissions were received during the consultation period. These were submitted at the community events, via the Sydney Your Say website and by email to the community engagement coordinator.

Of the total submissions received, 18 were outside the project scope. 15 submissions commented about the Tram Sheds development application which is outside the scope of this project. These submissions were forwarded to the City's planner responsible for the development application.

There were 60 submissions that provided comments on the concept design:

- 41 submissions provided positive feedback, identifying specific elements people liked and offering suggestions; and
- 22 submissions raised concerns about elements in the concept design.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE CONCEPT DESIGN

There were 41 submissions that provided positive feedback on the concept design, identifying specific elements people liked and offering suggestions.

Some of the individual comments people made in support of the project are:

"The overall design is great. Different components offer a variety of styles and cater to the different needs of both residents and the environment".

"Just about everything. A wonderful use of a largely former wasteland".

"More green space is a great idea".

"Always good to have another park".

Specific elements that people liked

In response to the survey question "What do you like about the concept design", people made comments about specific elements in the design. These comments have been ranked by the number of times they occurred in the submissions and grouped into elements that relate to the concept design.

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Cliff Habitat Walk

The most popular element that people liked is the cliff habitat walk (10 comments). People who liked the cliff habitat walk commented on: liking design elements that enhance natural features and the habitat elements such as the small wetlands along the habitat walk. There were also individual comments about people liking the cliff face as a feature in the design and liking the exposed sandstone wall.

Some of the individual comments are:

“The walkways, cliff walk and use of swales and other features to manage the environment and the featuring of the cliff and inclusion of open green areas are excellent”.

“We like using the cliff face as a feature, and the main link path located on the eastern side of the overland flow swale”.

“The cliff face promenade looks fabulous”.

Native Plantings

The use of native plantings was ranked as the second highest element (7 comments). People who liked the use of native plantings commented on: liking the significant planting of native varieties, the use of native plantings in the landscaping and the use of natural vegetation.

Public Open Space

Public open space was also ranked as second highest element (7 comments). People who liked the park being a public open space also commented on: liking the land being given back for public use, a dedicated public space, public access to a previously closed off and little used site, opening up the space for the public and providing more green space in the area.

Some of the individual comments are:

“The natural aspects of the plan and we are opening up the space for the public”.

Habitat Elements

The habitat elements in the concept design were ranked third highest (5 comments). People who liked the habitat elements also commented on: liking the small wetlands and the natural features in the design.

One person commented on habitat area 10 saying they liked this as a quiet place away from the residences with visual links and possible habitat extension across the canal to the Annandale side.

Environmental Benefits

The environmental benefits of the concept design were ranked fourth highest (4 comments), in particular the ecological considerations and the natural aspects of the concept design.

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Other aspects of the concept design that people liked (2 to 3 comments) about the concept design are:

- The village green
- Inclusion of a formal garden
- The swales
- Use of water sensitive urban design
- Use of creative materials
- Linkages with the network of pathways in the area
- Retention of the cliff face

Suggestions about the concept design

There was a range of comments about what people would like to see included in the concept design. The comments made in the submissions have been ranked by the number of times they occurred and grouped into elements that relate to the concept design.

Public toilets

Having more public toilets was the highest ranked suggestion (7 comments). People suggested having toilets at this end of the parkland and more toilets near the playground.

Water park

Having a water park in the new public park was the second highest ranked suggestion (6 comments). People who made this suggestion said they wanted a water park similar to the one at Darling Harbour or the Cairns promenade.

Pedestrian bridge

Incorporating a pedestrian overpass/underpass at the intersection of the new vehicle bridge and existing pathway at the canal crossing was the third highest ranked suggestion (3 comments).

There was a spread of other suggestions made by one or two people:

Habitat/Planting

- Recognition of the Toxteth Orchard in the plantings and design
- Engage an ecologist to advise on habitat elements and species selection
- Use indigenous trees to that area that are sourced and grown from seeds
- Less grass and more shrubs in Village Green to manage feral bird species
- Use appropriate planting in the design
- Placement of trees to allow for views through park
- Use Water Sensitive Urban Design elements for the park plantings
- Habitat planting on cliff walk should be augmented with stormwater-fed ponds modelled on those at White Creek Canal Annandale

Design

- Include more security lighting in the design

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- Make shaded seating areas an alcohol free zone
- Ensure solar access is maintained to surrounding residents
- Move walkway beside residential development further away to minimise noise to residents

Pathways and access

- A bike track for kids
- Use high quality signage
- Informative and clear logos and signs for shared paths
- Separate pedestrians from cyclists on pathways
- Pathway 1 should be curved to break up hard lines of development

Recreation

- Would like the park to be off-leash
- Would like dog free picnic areas
- Would like a basketball court
- Would like AFL posts
- Would like Exercise equipment
- Would like a pool

Other

- Community input into the naming of the park
- Reinstate the original Tram Sheds war memorial which is currently at the Leichhardt Bus Depot
- Request to remediate toxic land
- Make construction period short and keep people informed
- Would like a community garden

Concerns about the concept design

In response to the survey question “Do you have any issues or concerns with the design”, there were 22 submissions that raised concerns. These comments have been ranked by the number of times they occurred in the submissions and grouped into elements that relate to the concept design.

Parklands user conflict at the access road to the Tram Sheds

The conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and cars in the parklands at the access road to the Tram Sheds was the highest ranked concern (18 comments).

People who raised concerns commented on: separating people and cyclists from vehicles and providing safe access for pedestrians to the Tram Sheds area, the existing path on the western side of the canal is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists who would be endangered by vehicular traffic, there should be separate access for people and cyclists from vehicles, include a raised bridge to separate users, include a pedestrian underpass, elevate the road over the pedestrian path along the canal, the risk of vehicles colliding with

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pedestrian users and concerns about the intersection of the new vehicle bridge over the canal entering the Tram Sheds.

Habitat

Retaining existing habitat and providing new habitat was the second highest ranked concern (6 comments). People who raised this concern made comments such as:

- Inadequate provision of habitat in the cliff walk
- Habitat potential of water retention is not being utilised
- Request to retain the trees along the cliff edge as they provide habitat for wildlife
- Fairy wren habitat will be lost when trees and plants area cleared from the cliff face
- Retain trees along cliff edge as they provide wildlife habitat
- Fence off a 10 metre exclusion zone from cliff habitat plantings to keep people and dogs out to protect habitat area. Ideally without a path or a narrow unformed path

Park feels like a private space

The public park feels like a private space for the Mirvac development was the third highest ranked concern (5 comments).

There was a spread of concerns about the concept design made by one or two people:

Pathways and access

- A traffic management study had not been undertaken to determine points where pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles clash
- Conflicts between pedestrians and bikes on path 1
- Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and dogs
- A lack of access into the park with entry points being at either end of the park
- Disappointed stair access will be lost

Design

- Public park will be overshadowed by the development, be dark or windy
- Narrow proportions of the green space and lack of trees
- Lack of linkage with existing green space along Johnson's Creek
- Swale is very close to the buildings
- Safety in children's playground if there are dogs allowed off leash
- Seems very landlocked, lots of concrete

Other

- Not enough sporting facilities
- Proposed entry from Rock Lane into the park will impact residents parking
- Loss of parking for surrounding residents