

ATTACHMENT E

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

DRAFT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE NEW PUBLIC PARK AT HAROLD PARK DEVELOPED DESIGN 3 TO 23 MARCH 2014

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 between 9th November and 1st December 2013 seeking community feedback to inform the Developed Design. Feedback from the community was received and analysed to identify the design elements people liked, suggestions and concerns to feed into the design development.

The Developed Design was then made available for public comment between the 3rd and 23rd March 2014. Consultation activities included: exhibition of the design at the One Stop Shop (CBD) and neighbourhood centres, notification letters and email, a community information session, online consultation and a survey available both online and at the community event.

A total of sixty three submissions were received during the consultation period with:

- 19 email submissions; and
- 44 surveys (18 submitted online and 26 submitted at the community event).

The survey results indicated that there was general support for the developed design with five out of the six main design elements being rated positively. These included: the cliff edge rain gardens, the Tram Sheds Garden, the north/south link path and the swale adjacent to the link path, the cliff edge playground and the swale and Ross Street entry. Only one design element the picnic shelter was given a low rating.

From the analysis of the submissions the key issues were identified to assist in refining the design. These are: picnic shelters, playground location, habitat areas and user conflicts at the access road to the Tram Sheds development.

BACKGROUND

The Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan was prepared from June 2012 to March 2013 and adopted in August 2013. The Master Plan sets the long term vision for the Parklands and guides 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 Master 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.

The consultation on the Harold Park Public Park design was held in two phases:

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

Phase 1 Concept Design was made available for public comment between the 9th November and the 1st December 2013. Feedback from the community was received and analysed to identify the design elements people liked, suggestions and concerns to feed into the design development.

The Developed Design was then made available for public comment between the 3rd and 23rd March 2014.

The design for the public park includes 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.

CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The consultation objectives for the project are:

1. To seek feedback from the community on the Developed Design for the new public park; and
2. To identify likes, suggestions and concerns to inform the refined design.

CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The following consultation activities were conducted during the consultation for the Developed Design:

Public exhibition

The developed design was available for viewing and comment at the following venues: the One Stop Shop (CBD), the Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre, Glebe and the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Annandale.

Consultation phase notification

A total of 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.

Face to face consultation

A community information session was held on Monday 3rd March 2014 at Glebe Town Hall. The event commenced at 5:30pm and ended at 7:30pm. Over 100 people attended the event to view the developed design, speak with the project staff and provide their feedback.

A survey was also made available for people to rate the main design elements and provide their comments about the project.

Online consultation

Sydney Your Say

A webpage was created for the project on Sydney Your Say to announce the consultation period, displayed the design and supporting documents and notify people about the consultation event at http://sydneyyoursay.com.au/sydney-your-say/news_feed/have-your-say-about-the-new-public-park-at-harold-park.

During the consultation period there were 633 page views and 214 document downloads were recorded on the Sydney Your Say webpage.

City Of Sydney Corporate Website

A webpage was created on the City Of Sydney website at <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision/major-projects/parks-and-playgrounds/new-park-for-harold-park> displaying the design and supporting documents as well as explaining how people could provide feedback.

Tweets were sent out informing people about the community consultation period and inviting them to the community event.

Survey

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The Sydney Your Say webpage also had an online survey that people could download and submit electronically and anonymously. The survey asked people to rate the main design elements on a scale of very good, good, neutral, poor and very poor.

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

A total of sixty three submissions were received during the consultation period:

- 19 email submissions; and
- 44 surveys (18 submitted online and 26 submitted at the community event).

The submissions have been analysed to identify suggestions, concerns and comments about the project.

Email submissions

A summary of the email submissions received follows:

Suggestions:

- Provide play equipment for older children
- Make the park off leash for dogs
- Include a synthetic playing field for team sports
- Provide habitat opportunities
- Kids water play area
- Retain the trees on the cliff face
- Re-instate the memorial to tram workers who died in WWI
- Provide native habitat in an exclusion zone, with appropriate planting and for small birds

Concerns:

- Provide a shared path wide enough for cyclists and pedestrians
- Relocate play shelter coloured yellow on the plan either to the base of Toxteth Rd or to the Wigram Road end of the park
- Conflicts between increased vehicles and pedestrians /cyclists at the Tram Sheds access road
- Concerned about bridge at Rock Lane and increase pedestrian traffic
- Picnic shelters seem over engineered and large

Survey results

The survey asked people to rate on a scale of very good, good, neutral, poor and very poor the following design elements:

- Tram Sheds Garden;
- Cliff edge playground;
- Cliff edge rain gardens;
- Cliff edge picnic shelters;

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- Swale and Ross Street entry;
- North/south link path; and
- Swale adjacent to link path.

The survey results indicated that there was general support for the developed design with five out of the six main design elements being rated positively. These included: the cliff edge rain gardens, the Tram Sheds Garden, the north/south link path and the swale adjacent to the link path, the cliff edge playground and the swale and Ross Street entry. Only one design element the picnic shelter was given a low rating. See Appendix A.

The following discussion analyses the design element ratings and captures additional comments provided in the surveys.

Cliff edge rain gardens

The cliff edge rain gardens were the most popular design element with 21 responses rating it as very good and good. 3 responses rated the gardens as very poor or poor.

People who rated this design element did not make any specific comments.

Tram Sheds Garden

The Tram Sheds Garden was the next most popular design element with 19 responses rating it as very good and good with 4 responses rating it as very poor or poor.

Individual comments about what people liked include:

- The design is excellent
- Likes the elevated walkways

Individual suggestions include:

- Reinstate the World War II memorial to tram workers
- Add a water feature that children can use
- Provide habitat opportunities in the plant species used
- Use native plant species
- Include a water fountain
- Include shade for the suspended walkway
- Maximise openness of the park and focus utility around the green

Individual concerns include:

- The “rose sculpture” is not an appropriate design element for the garden and suggested a fountain, a real rose garden or planting more native species instead
- The angle of the overhead bridging element does not suit the square garden design
- Management of the ongoing maintenance of the garden

North/south link path

The north/south link path had 18 responses rating it as very good and good with 8 responses rating it very poor or poor.

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Individual suggestions include:

- Make the path wide enough for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists
- Would like route from Victoria Street to Ross Street included in the Inner City Regional Bike route because it is a direct cycle way to Sydney University/Glebe
- Off road bike lane/path along The Crescent

Individual concerns include:

- The link path ends at the northern end of the park and does not provide a cycle route from north to south

Swale adjacent to the link path

The swale adjacent to the link path also had 18 responses rating it as very good and good with one response rating it as poor.

Individual comments about what people liked include:

- The swale is a positive element.

Individual suggestions include:

- Include more habitat opportunities to enhance biodiversity and community garden plots.

Individual concerns include:

- The swale is unlikely to provide habitat due its proximity to people and traffic
- Use planting such as shrubs and vines to create habitat.

Cliff Edge Playground

The cliff edge playground had 14 responses rating it very good and good with 7 responses rating it very poor or poor.

Comments about what people liked include:

- Welcomed additional green space

Suggestions include:

- Relocate the playground away from the narrowest point of the parkland
- Relocate the playground to near The Green
- Relocate the playground to the Wigram Road end or near Toxteth Road

Concerns include:

- The current location is narrow and restricts play activities
- Relocate the playground away from the Harold Park units because the noise could impact on the residents and create user conflicts
- Playground users might feel they were under the surveillance of the residential units

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Cliff Edge Picnic Shelters

The cliff edge picnic shelters was the lowest rated design element with 13 responses rating it as very poor and poor with 11 responses rating it very good to good. There are two picnic shelters indicated on the developed design, one is coloured pink and the other coloured yellow.

Comments about what people liked include:

- Picnic shelter coloured in pink is in the right location

Suggestions include:

- Install gas barbecues at the picnic shelters
- Make the pink colour picnic shelter larger and delete the yellow colour shelter

Concerns include:

- The picnic shelters are too large
- People wanted more information about the shelter roof design
- Relocate the picnic shelter to the Wigram Road end of the park
- Relocate the shelter to the base of the cliff at Toxteth Road and closer to “The Green” and away from residences and away from the cliff edge

Specific comments about picnic shelter 7 (coloured yellow on the plan)

- Shelter is not easily visible for passive surveillance and could encourage anti-social behaviour
- Would like the shelter removed

The Cliff Edge

There were a range of suggestions and concerns about the cliff edge.

Suggestions include:

- Inclusion of security lighting
- Providing functional habitat opportunities such as wetland features or stormwater fed ponds as part of the design
- Provide a 10 metre exclusion zone that is densely planted with vegetation at different structural levels.

Concerns include:

- stability of the cliff face
- Retaining the existing trees on top of the cliff

Habitat

Individual suggestions about habitat included:

- Provide habitat opportunities in the design

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- Ensure wildlife corridors are developed / maintained
- Provide more detail on the habitat areas and elements

General design suggestions

Individual comments on the design included:

- A kids water play area
- More active open space
- Acknowledging trotting history of the site including recognition of the 'winning post' as an element in its original position
- Provide a fitness area for adults
- Play equipment for older children e.g. climbing equipment, flying fox, basketball hoops, skate ramp
- Make the park off leash
- A bridge over the canal for pedestrians/cyclists related to traffic increase
- Include signage for the park
- Include a lift/escalator to scale cliffs for pedestrians and cyclists
- Use non-spike plants in landscaping
- Include security gates into the park
- Include a synthetic multipurpose sporting field for organised sports

Individual concerns included:

- Park is over designed and there's a loss of land to walk on
- Building overshadowing the planting in the landscaped areas
- Not enough detail provided for some design elements such the Rock Lane access
- Stair from Toxteth Street previously proposed (this access is not included in the current design)
- Bridge at Rock Lane be removed
- Don't like "The Green"

TRAM SHEDS DEVELOPMENT

A number of submissions made comments about the Tram Sheds development which is outside the scope of this project. These are:

- An increase in traffic as a result of the development
- Impacts on the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles using the park
- A pedestrian crossing across Wigram Rd near Ross Street
- Separate access for vehicle and pedestrians

These submissions have been forwarded to the City's Planners assessing the Tram Sheds Development application.

KEY ISSUES

From the analysis of the submissions the key issues and suggestions were identified assist in refining the design. These are:

Picnic shelters

Two picnic shelters are shown on the developed design. Feedback on the pink coloured picnic shelter stated that it's in a good location and consistent with the adopted master plan. Feedback for the yellow coloured picnic shelter requested this shelter be relocated to a more visible location to allow for passive surveillance to discourage anti-social behaviour. There were also individual comments that requested this shelter be removed altogether.

Playground location

Feedback on the playground stated that the playground was too close to the residential units in the Harold Park development and could cause noise impacts to the residents by the users. Also the proximity could make the users feel they were under surveillance by the residents.

Habitat areas

Feedback received about habitat areas suggested: including habitat opportunities in the design, ensuring wildlife corridors are developed / maintained, retaining the tress on the cliff edge, creating habitat exclusion zones to enhance biodiversity, creating a functional habitat area along the cliff walk area and providing more detail on the habitat areas and elements

User conflicts at the access road to the Tram Sheds

Feedback received about the Tram Sheds access road raised concerns about: an increase in vehicle traffic and safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists using the park.

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APPENDIX A SURVEY RESULTS

1) Please give us your response to the following elements within the detailed design.

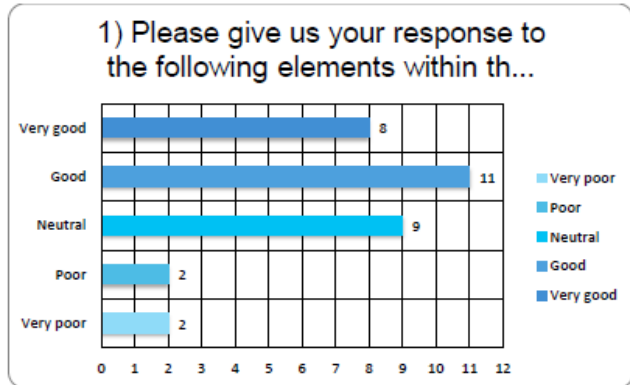
Please tick one box only.

Trams Sheds Garden:

- Very poor
- Poor
- Neutral
- Good
- Very good

Counts

- 2
- 2
- 9
- 11
- 8

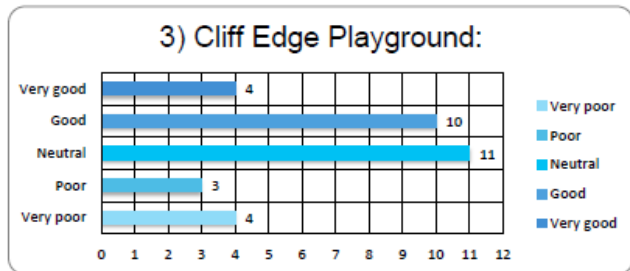


3) Cliff Edge Playground:

- Very poor
- Poor
- Neutral
- Good
- Very good

Counts

- 4
- 3
- 11
- 10
- 4

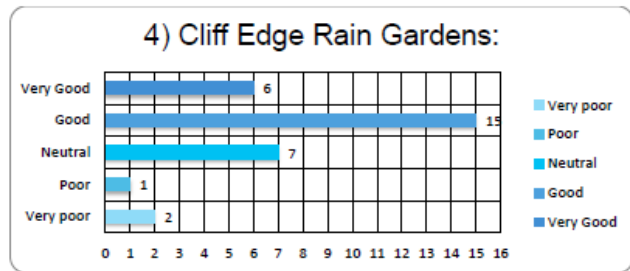


4) Cliff Edge Rain Gardens:

- Very poor
- Poor
- Neutral
- Good
- Very Good

Counts

- 2
- 1
- 7
- 15
- 6

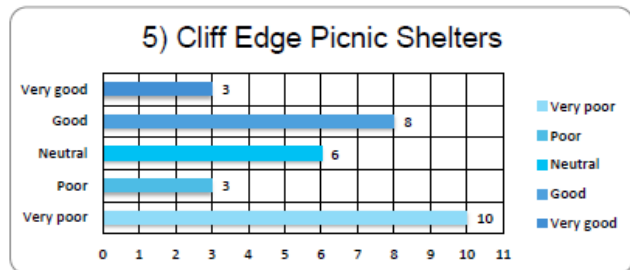


5) Cliff Edge Picnic Shelters

- Very poor
- Poor
- Neutral
- Good
- Very good

Counts

- 10
- 3
- 6
- 8
- 3

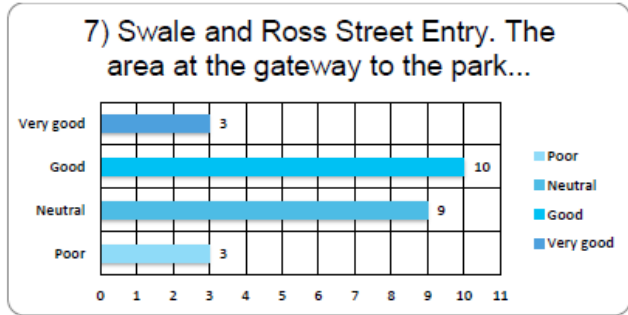


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7) Swale and Ross Street Entry. The area at the gateway to the park at Ross Street:

Poor
Neutral
Good
Very good

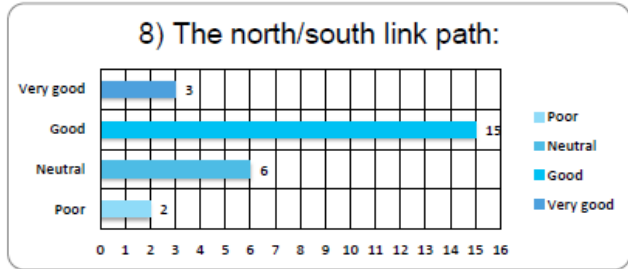
Counts
3
9
10
3



8) The north/south link path:

Poor
Neutral
Good
Very good

Counts
2
6
15
3



9) The swale adjacent to the link path:

Poor
Neutral
Good
Very good

Counts
1
7
11
7

