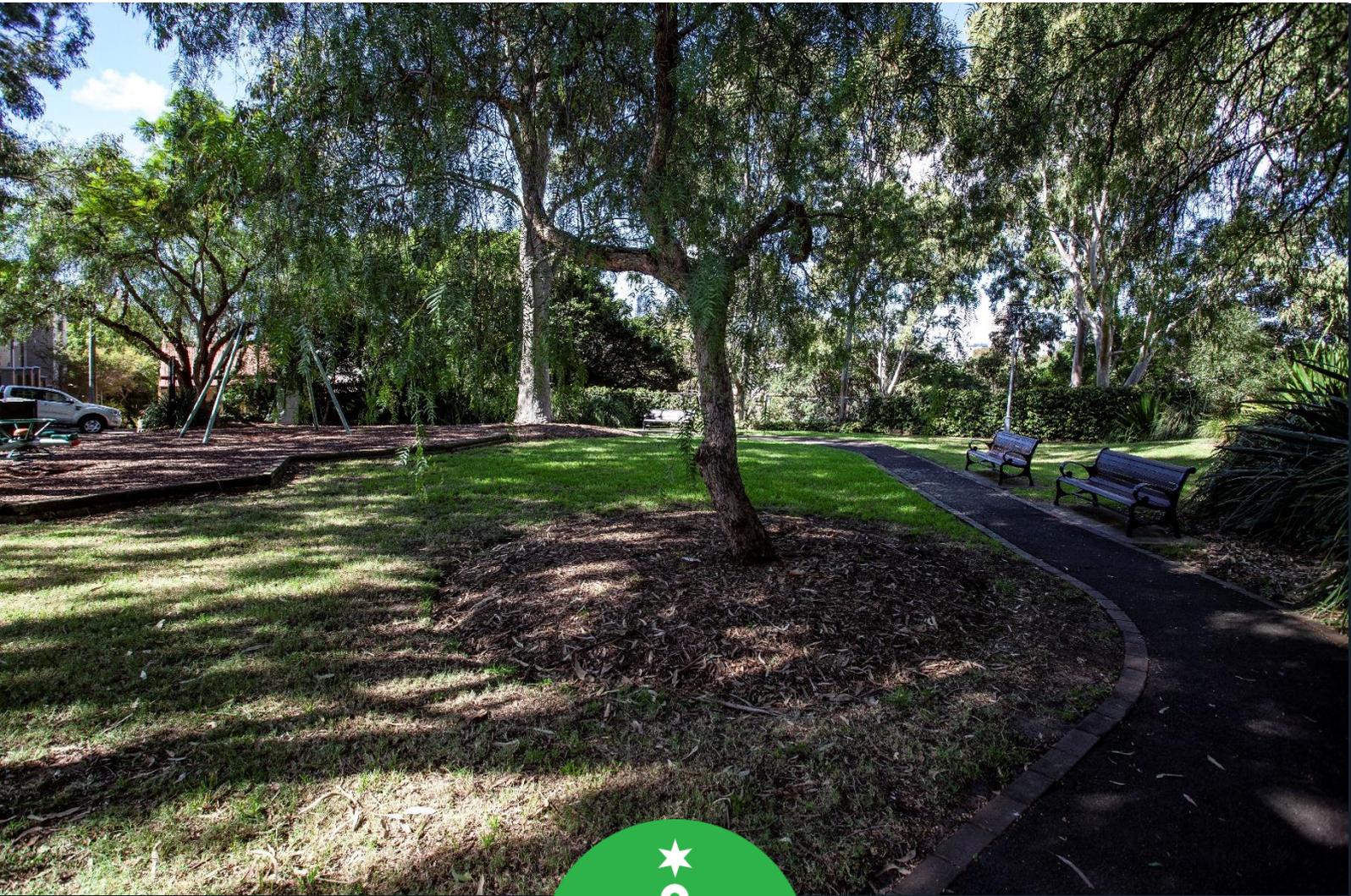


# **Attachment C**

## **Engagement Report**



# Engagement report

**Ernest Pedersen Reserve, Glebe**

March 2020



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# Background

Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney area, from small pocket parks to larger local parks.

Quality green open spaces are a high priority for our residents, workers and visitors. This network of park upgrades will create better quality open spaces for everyone to enjoy, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity in our local areas.

Prior to finalising the designs, we are consulting the community and stakeholders on these proposed park improvements. In 2019, we consulted on our stage 14 parks, which include:

- **Ernest Pederson Reserve, Glebe**
- Fig Lane Park, Ultimo
- Kings Lane Reserve, Darlinghurst
- Clyne Reserve, Millers Point
- James Hilder Reserve, Surry Hills
- Beaconsfield Park, Beaconsfield
- Daniel Dawson Reserve, Alexandria
- Strickland Park, Chippendale
- Hollis Park, Newtown
- Palmerston Avenue Steps & Sarah Peninton Reserve, Glebe
- Cardigan Street Reserve, Glebe
- Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, Elizabeth Bay

# Engagement summary

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From 28 January to 25 February 2020, we asked the community for feedback on a revised concept plan to improve Ernest Pedersen Reserve in Glebe.

The revised concept plan reflects community feedback received when we exhibited a concept design from 17 May to 14 June 2019. Key themes raised in feedback included the importance of retaining the quiet and peaceful character of the space, recognising its heritage context, providing more space for wildlife, and requests to revise the playground design.

Consultation on the revised plans provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and comment on the revised design.

Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents, project signage at the reserve and a community meeting in the reserve.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

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## Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the proposed upgrade
  - determine the level of satisfaction with the revised concept design.
- 

## Outcomes from the engagement

### Submissions received during May/June 2019 consultation

We received a total of 48 submissions (via Survey Monkey, email, letter, and phone) during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 243 times during the consultation period.

Three submissions were made on behalf of local community groups, as listed below.

- Glebe Society
- Ferry Road Bush Care Group part of the Glebe Society Blue Wren sub-committee
- Glebe Palmerston & Surrounds Landcare Group

### Submissions received during Jan/Feb 2020 consultation

We received a total of 17 submissions during the consultation period. This included submissions via an online feedback form and the Sydney Your Say email address.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 223 times during the consultation period.

Two submissions were made on behalf of local community groups, as listed below.

- Glebe Society
- Ferry Road Bush Care Group part of the Glebe Society Blue Wren sub-committee

# Key findings

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## Overview of key findings from May/June 2019 consultation

Respondents value the quiet, reflective nature of Ernest Pedersen Reserve. There is a group of dedicated volunteers who have worked in this reserve over many years and feel very strongly about any proposals to change this reserve.

Many respondents highlighted the importance of the heritage context of the reserve (adjacent to the State Heritage listed Rothwell Lodge) and would like the proposed design to reflect the heritage context of the area.

Provision of habitat for wildlife was also raised as a key request for respondents. Fourteen submissions requested that there was no impact on the areas dedicated to wildlife habitat or existing trees. The volunteer group have worked with the City's urban ecology coordinator, community garden coordinator and parks maintenance teams to improve and support biodiversity and habitat in the reserve. Other suggestions to support biodiversity in the reserve included nesting boxes, bird baths and native beehives.

Feedback included requests to revise the design of the playground, including creating an area with more opportunity for nature play and use of natural materials with less hard surfaces.

While some respondents asked for the reserve to be left in its current state, most acknowledged the need to address the safety concerns and poor state of the existing play equipment.

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## Overview of key findings from Jan/Feb 2020 consultation

The majority of community feedback supported the amendments made to the draft concept plan. Generally respondents indicated that the revised concept plan better reflected the unique character of the reserve and balanced the need for play provision with more passive recreation activities. Specifically respondents were supportive of the proposed interpretation of the historic garden layout and of the revised materials for the play equipment and soft-fall.

A limited number of respondents considered the revised plans limited the play offering.

In response to the second round of community consultation the following amendments will be investigated during the detailed design phase:

- Review location of proposed bin to avoid conflict on footpath
- Provide a drinking fountain with dog-bowl
- Review requirement for fence rectification works
- Review if a second swing would fit within the proposed play area
- Review the number of seats provided
- Ensure that the proposed play equipment minimises any impacts on views to Rothwell Lodge
- Review construction methodology to minimise construction impact on existing habitat in reserve

## Subjects/topics raised in submissions

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received. These were presented as concerns, suggestions and/or requests and are summarised below.

<b>General</b>		
<b>Project Scope/Timing/Budget</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
<p>Supportive comments about the revised concept plan e.g.:</p> <p><b>“I think the new plans are really great, really commend the council for responding to community feedback and think the new park will be a fabulous resource for the community”</b></p> <p><b>“I like the appreciation for heritage and nature in this upgrade!”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Recognises the unique heritage value and its principal use as a passive park”</li> <li>• “More in keeping with the neighbourhood than earlier plans”</li> <li>• “Pleased with the enhancement of historical significance and wildlife”</li> <li>• “Design highlights and respects the adjacent heritage property”</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	10	Noted.
<b>Layout</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
Request to remove secondary path on Ferry Road side of the play equipment.	1	This path forms part of the historic garden layout and will form an edge to the play area.
Request to swap position of swing (12) and see-saw (13) so swing doesn't impact the vista of Rothwell Lodge from Ferry Rd.	1	The swing and see-saw have been positioned to minimise impact on views to Rothwell Lodge. We will review the location in the detailed design phase to ensure that any impacts are minimised.
<p>Concern new location of the bin may make the footpath crowded.</p> <p>Suggestion to relocate bin near the exit on Avon Street.</p>	2	The City will review the bin location in the detailed design phase to ensure that clear pedestrian access is maintained.
Request to link to the green space beyond the park (William Carlton Gardens) and improve connection and wayfinding to light rail station.	2	Works beyond Ernest Pedersen Reserve are not part of the scope of this park upgrade. Requests have been passed to the City's parks team for consideration.
<b>Play space</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
Concern play area doesn't align with local demographics (used mostly by adults and	1	The City is committed to providing local scale play opportunities within 500m of

## Engagement report

<p>teenagers). Request young children's play area is further reduced in size including removal of seesaw.</p>		<p>all residents. Ernest Pedersen Reserve forms part of this provision.</p> <p>After reviewing the local play offerings and demographics, the City continues to support the inclusion of a small low-key play offering in Ernest Pedersen Reserve.</p>
<p>Concern condition of the reserve is poor with not much to do.</p> <p>Concern that the updated play area is too limited and does not meet the needs of residents with small outdoor spaces.</p>	1	<p>The proposed upgrade is a result of the current asset condition of Ernest Pedersen Reserve. Annual audits are carried out on all parks. Upgrades are programmed to ensure all city parks are in an acceptable condition.</p> <p>This upgrade will provide an improved reserve for all community members and aims to balance the needs of the range of existing and potential visitors who use the reserve for passive recreation, quiet reflection as a place for dogs, and for play.</p>
<p>Preference for a more substantial playground.</p> <p>Local families would like to see a decent playground in the area.</p> <p>Disappointing that a boring playground is replaced with a similarly basic, boring one. Only one swing and see-saw. Stepping stones and balance wall don't count as we already balance along the existing wall.</p>	1	<p>The revised concept design aims to address the broad range of feedback raised during the original consultation.</p> <p>The revised design provides for a range of user groups and responds to the feedback we received.</p> <p>Whilst a play offering is considered as an important provision in the reserve, maintaining the unique character of the reserve as a place passive recreation and quiet reflection has also been prioritised.</p> <p>The provision of a swing, see-saw and the natural play elements such as steppers, balance beams etc. will provide a range of play experiences for children.</p> <p>It is considered that the upgraded landscape setting and new play elements installed will provide children with a variety of opportunities for more self-directed, flexible play and opportunities to engage with the unique features of the reserve.</p>
<p>Request to install at least two swings.</p>	2	<p>We will review any opportunity for this in the detailed design phase.</p>
<p>Disappointed cubby house has been removed from revised design.</p>	1	<p>The cubby-house was removed in response to strong opposition during the first round of community consultation.</p>

## Engagement report

		A cubby structure is provided in Kirsova 3 on Wigram Lane and at Sarah Peninton Reserve.
Habitat and planting	Total	City of Sydney Response
Hope native plants are included. Local wildlife in the reserve brings neighbourhood together. Please support this aspect over generic man-made play equipment for kids that can be found in other parks.	1	New native planting which provides habitat for local wildlife will be included in the reserve upgrade.
Request for a native bee hive and nesting box for wildlife	1	Request has been referred to the City's ecologist.  Priority sites for nesting boxes have been identified across the local area by a consultant ecologist. Based on this work, Ernest Pedersen Reserve will not have a nest box installed at this stage.  The City is currently developing guidelines with regard to the installation of native bee hives in open spaces.
Recommend the Red River Gum (07) be replaced with a different, drought resistant species that won't be subject to infection.  Will end up with the same problem planting the same species. Replace with something reflective of 19th century trees in the area such as Cooks Pine - Araucaria columnaris	1  1	We will review species selection during the detailed design phase.
Recommended that shrubs are planted along the new habitat fence to discourage dogs and people from entering garden areas.	1	We will review in the detailed design phase.
Planting scheme should reflect and further bolster the history of the site.	1	The proposed planting within the reserve will provide a mix of plant species which reflect the form, colours and textures of a late Victorian period garden. The species will generally be native and also provide an increase in habitat across the reserve.
A few exotics have their place, and there are already quite a few in the park. Some of these have been there for decades. Others were planted by residents. Native plantings also planted by resident. Retain these plantings.	1	Noted.
"More wildlife habitat with larger garden beds and a new bird bath" - Can we include local indigenous plant names as well as botanical terms on signage, also for the birds we hope to attract?	1	The inclusion of ecological information on the reserve signage is not currently part of the signage scope. We will investigate further during the detailed design phase.

Fitness equipment	Total	City of Sydney Response
Fitness equipment would be great for everyone, including supervisors/carers to get exercise and stretch. Something simple to attach bands will do.	1	<p>The City has a Park Fitness Equipment Plan which defines the provision of fitness equipment across the local area.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/257228/Park-Fitness-Equipment-Plan-v3.pdf">https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/257228/Park-Fitness-Equipment-Plan-v3.pdf</a></p> <p>Ernest Pedersen Reserve is not part of this provision. The closest fitness equipment is at Bicentennial Park and Wentworth Park.</p>
Materials	Total	City of Sydney Response
Path and surface (05) should be compatible and safe for toddlers to elderly; from beginners to intermediate wanting to learn to roller skate, skateboard, scooter etc. and for toddlers to ride a push along. Could be great for learners where it's quiet and outdoors.	1	The proposed material will meet minimum standards for accessibility. The scale and character of the reserve is such that the main existing use is for quiet, passive recreation. It is anticipated that whilst the paths may be used for small scooters etc. there are other parks within the local area which will provide more appropriate path surfaces for these types of activities.
Could be interesting to use re-cycled plastic bottles for play equipment and seat. Used in other councils and countries quite successfully.	1	<p>This may be investigated as part of future projects.</p> <p>As part of this upgrade we will be using standard park furniture and generally natural materials such as timber and stone.</p>
Historical information	Total	City of Sydney Response
Can some history about First Nations Peoples in the new history pieces be included? Updated signs: include references to the indigenous people in the area and their history	2	<p>The updated signs will include a welcome, <i>bujari gamarruwa</i>, which means 'good day' in the language of the Gadigal.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au">cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au</a> for more information on the work the City is doing to recognise and celebrate the First Peoples of Australia in the public domain.</p>
Seating	Total	City of Sydney Response
Another seat along the southern pathway could be useful as they're often used at lunchtime	1	The City will review seating numbers during the detailed design phase. This proposal aims to maintain the existing provision of formal seats as well as provide a range of informal seats such as sandstone logs which can function as both play elements and seats.
Appears to be insufficient seats / benches.	1	The City will review seating numbers during the detailed design phase. This proposal aims to maintain the existing provision of formal seats as well as provide a range of informal seats such as sandstone logs which can function as both play elements and seats.

## Engagement report

The new seating - seats with a back, not benches. More comfortable.	1	Benches and seats with backs will be provided in the proposed upgrade.
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
Add a dog waste bag dispenser.	1	The re-located bin enclosure will include a dog-waste dispenser.
Dog owners have used it as a toilet area and do not pick up. Additional signs needed to improve behaviour.	1	Regulatory signage will be reviewed as part of the signage upgrade in the reserve.
<b>Water fountain</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
Request for a drinking (council) fountain bubbler	2	The City will investigate the provision of a drinking fountain in the detailed design phase.
<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Sydney Response</b>
The small "look out" on the southern border adjacent the chain link fence (03) should be preserved, not converted to a garden.	3	The City will review how this area is treated during the detailed design phase to ensure that access to this view is maintained.
Concerned that all grass area will be lost for free play	1	The proposal aims to balance the provision of open grass, habitat planting and play to meet the needs of all community members.

# Engagement activities

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## Overview of engagement undertaken in 2019

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 660 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

Two workshops were undertaken with children from Forest Lodge Public School and Glebe Library storytime in June 2019.

Before consultation began, the project team met onsite on 5 February 2019 with members of the Glebe Society Blue Wrens and Bushland Volunteer groups.

The project team attended a Glebe Society meeting to update them on 8 August 2019.

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## Overview of engagement undertaken in 2020

### 1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/your-say/park-playground-upgrades/revised-plans-improve-ernest-pedersen-reserve-glebe> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the revised concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

### 2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

### 3. Sydney Your Say e-News

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say February 2020 e-Newsletter (4,070 subscribers).

### 4. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 660 letters were distributed.

### 5. Notification email

An email was sent to key stakeholders, including the Glebe Society Blue Wren Group, Ferry Road Bush Care Group, Glebe Point Residents Group, Glebe Community Action Group, Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal.

## 6. On site signage

Two notice boards were installed at Ernest Pedersen Reserve, inviting people to give feedback on the proposal.

## 7. Community meeting

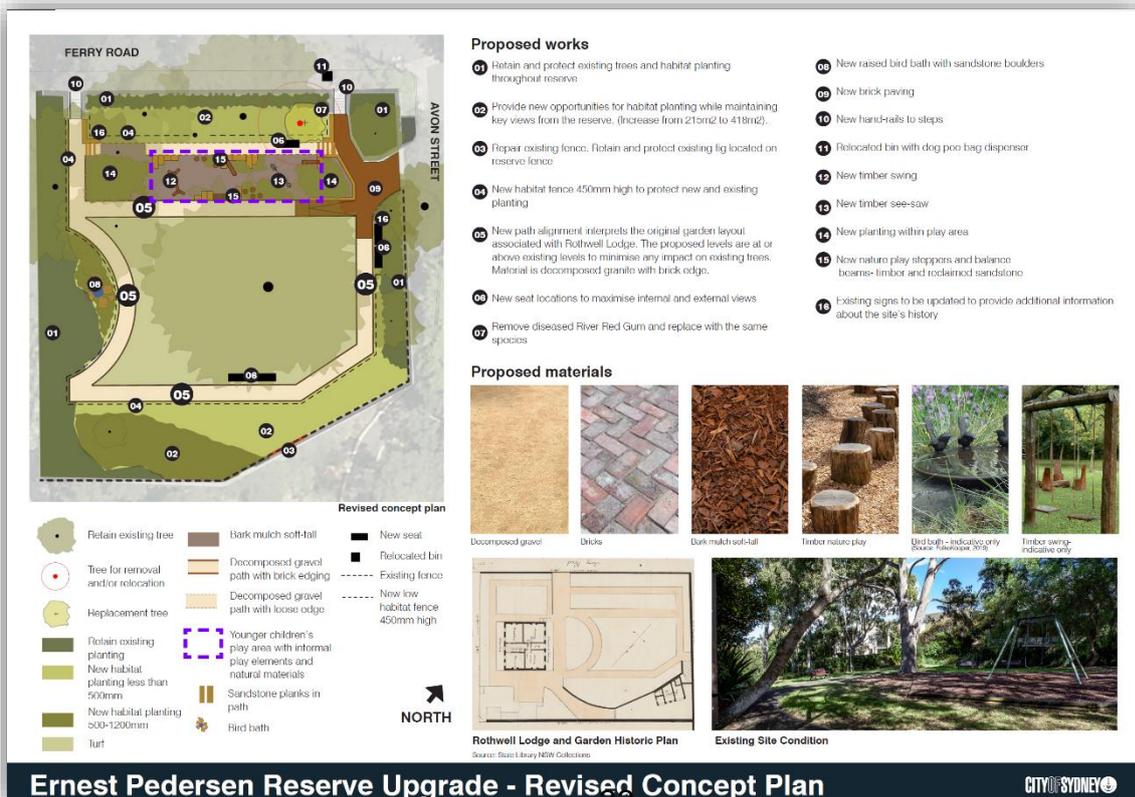
A pop-up information session was cancelled due to wet weather on 8 February 2020. A meeting onsite was rescheduled for 20 February. Approximately 15 people attended this meeting and feedback is incorporated in the table above.

# Appendix

## Appendix A: 2019 concept design



## Appendix B: 2020 concept design (revised)



Appendix C: photos from Glebe Library storytime session on 11 June 2019



# Revised plans to improve Ernest Pedersen Reserve, Glebe



## Under review

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.

We've updated our plans to upgrade the park and playground at Ernest Pedersen Reserve and invite your feedback on the design.

The updated plans reflect community feedback in 2019 on the importance of retaining the quiet and peaceful character of the space, recognising its heritage context and providing more space for wildlife. We've also revised the proposed playground elements and design.

The revised proposal includes:

- a path layout that reflects the original garden of the state heritage-listed Rothwell Lodge and Factory
- updated signs with more historical information
- more wildlife habitat with larger garden beds and a new bird bath
- discreet low fencing for new plants to establish.

The proposed play area will be more informal in character and incorporate natural materials and nature play into the design. The footprint of this area will reduce by around 20% compared to its current size.

Play elements for younger children will be installed away from main views to the nearby heritage building and include:

## Key dates

Public consultation period  
28 January to 25 February 2020

## Contacts

Helen Rogers  
Design Manager

02 9265 9333  
[sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

## Related projects

- [Improving Ernest Pedersen](#)



## [Revised plans to improve Ernest Pedersen Reserve, Glebe](#)

The updated plans reflect community feedback in 2019 on the importance of retaining the quiet character of the space, recognising its heritage and providing more space for wildlife. We invite your feedback on the revised design.

[Read more](#)

## Appendix D: Jan/Feb 2020 consultation letter



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28 January 2020

### Revised plans to improve Ernest Pedersen Reserve, Glebe

We have updated our plans to upgrade the park and playground at Ernest Pedersen Reserve and invite your feedback on the design.

The updated plans reflect community feedback in 2019 on the importance of retaining the quiet and peaceful character of the space, recognising its heritage context and providing more space for wildlife. We have also revised the proposed playground elements and design.

The revised proposal for Ernest Pedersen Reserve includes:

- a path layout that reflects the original garden of the State heritage-listed Rothwell Lodge and Factory
- updated signs with more historical information
- more wildlife habitat with larger garden beds and a new birdbath
- discreet low fencing for new plants to establish.

The proposed play area will be more informal in character and incorporate natural materials and nature play into the design. The footprint of this area will reduce by around 20% compared to its current size.

Play elements for younger children will be installed away from main views to the nearby heritage building and include:

- informal nature play, including sandstone balance wall, stepping stones and logs
- a timber single swing
- a timber see-saw
- bark mulch softfall.

We will retain and protect existing plants and trees. Due to the effects of drought and disease, our arborist has indicated one *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum) tree will need to be removed. It will be replaced with a tree of the same species (item 7 on the plan). So we can keep the remaining trees, we will avoid altering the levels in the park where possible. We will follow arborist recommendations in the detailed designs and during construction.

We will schedule construction outside of kookaburra breeding season and follow all recommendations to protect wildlife.

The revised design is available to view online at [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades). Feedback can be provided until 5pm on Tuesday 25 February 2020.

You can also view the revised design and talk to us at Ernest Pedersen Reserve on Saturday 8 February from 9am to 11am.

If you're unable to look at the plans online, you can contact Rhianna McAlary on 02 9265 9333 or email [sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) to request a printed copy. A printed copy is also available at Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road.

#### Next steps

Following community consultation, the design will be presented to Council, along with any feedback received. You are welcome to attend Council Committee to provide any additional comments. You can find guidelines for speakers at Council Committees on the City's website [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council)

We will notify everyone who has made a submission ahead of the Committee meeting and will keep you updated on times for construction.

For more information about the project, please contact Helen Rogers, Design Manager on 02 9265 9333 or email [sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,

Belinda Graham  
Delivery Manager

**CITY OF SYDNEY** 

# Have your say

## Improving Ernest Pedersen Reserve

In mid-2019 we consulted on plans to upgrade the park and playground at Ernest Pedersen Reserve. Following feedback from the community, we have updated the plans and invite your feedback on the revised concept design.

**Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney, from small pocket parks to larger local parks.**

Quality green open spaces are a high priority for our residents, workers and visitors. This network of park upgrades will create better quality open spaces for everyone to enjoy, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity in our local areas.

You can view the revised design and give feedback at [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades](https://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/park-playground-upgrades)

Consultation closes at **5pm on Tuesday 25 February 2020.**

You are invited to speak with project staff about the revised design at Ernest Pedersen Reserve on **Saturday 8 February from 9 to 11am.**

For more information about the project, please contact Helen Rogers, Design Manager on **02 9265 9333** or email [sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)