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Summary of Past Consultations

Summary of past consultations

Crown Land Plans of Management

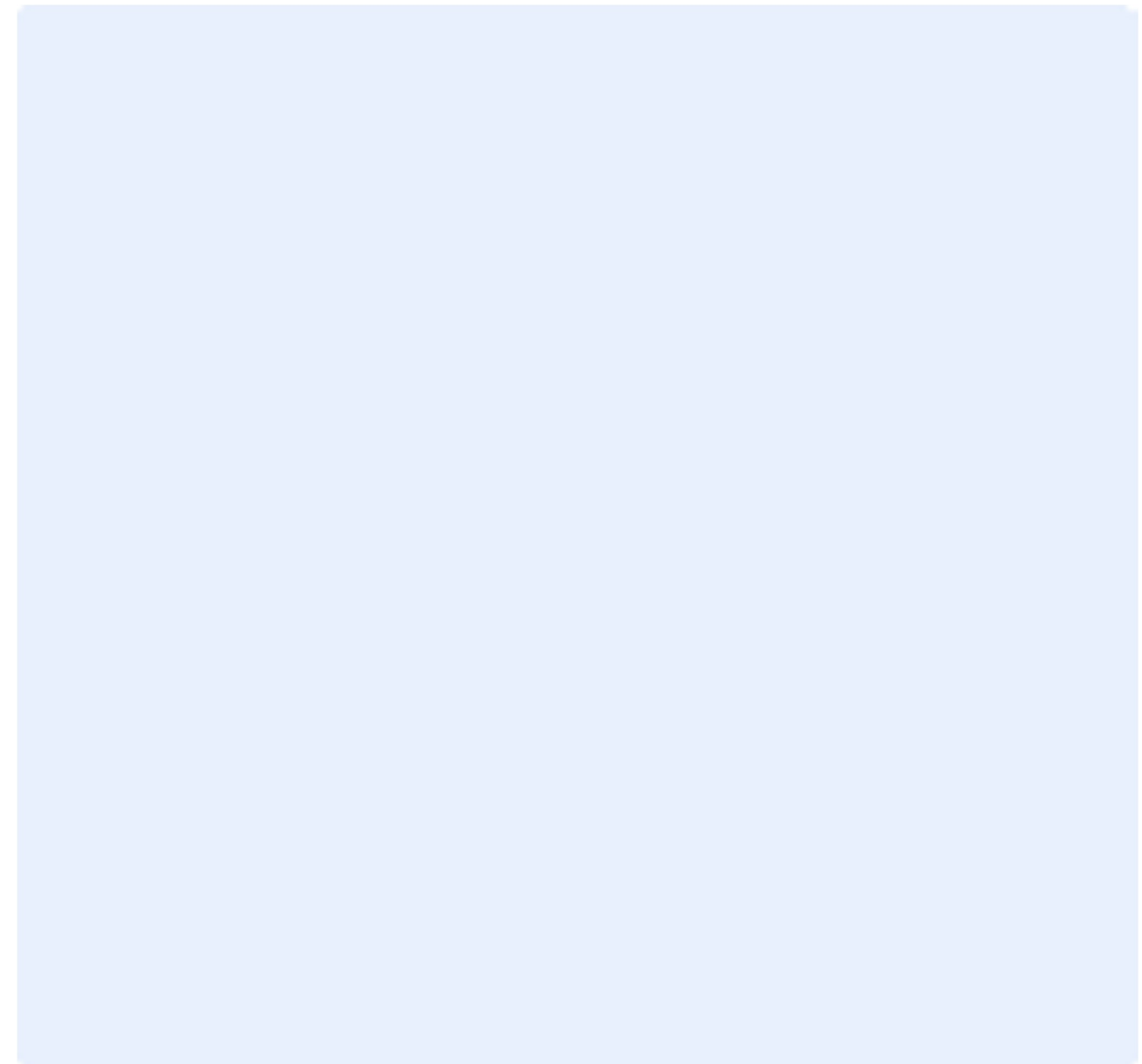


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Overview

This **Stage 1** of the Engagement Plan for the Crown Lands Plan of Management includes a review of consultations that have taken place for the parks listed below and in regard to parks in general over the last 5-10 years. These include:

- Masterplans (The Crescent/Johnstons Creek)
- Park upgrades (Shannon Reserve, Victoria Park, Clyne Reserve, Hollis Park)
- New playgrounds (Cook + Phillip Park)
- Naming proposals (Equality Green in Prince Alfred Park, Robyn Kemmis Reserve)
- Public domain plans (Observatory Hill/Harbour Village North)

As well as the regular park user surveys and Sydney 2050 community engagement.

The review details what the community has told us about these parks in the past - how they use them and what they value about them.

This analysis will help inform the section of the plans that document:

- What the community values about the site
- The community and cultural history of the site
- How it is currently used
- Aspirations for future uses

It will help identify key stakeholders to be included in stage 2 consultations. It will also identify potential gaps in our knowledge.

Documents provided and reviewed

- Clyne Reserve, Millers Point (Including Heritage Impact Statement) (194 pages)
- Cook and Phillip Park, Sydney (including 1997 Heritage Assessment) (246 pages)
- Hollis Park, Newtown (including 1990 Plans of Management) (59 pages)
- Johnstons Creek (Including 2011 Aboriginal Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Report) (396 pages)
- Observatory Hill (including 1997 Plans of Management) (306 pages)
- Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills (263 pages)
- Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe (13 pages)
- Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills (65 pages)
- Victoria Park, Camperdown (including 1993 Plans of Management, 2012 and 2015 Heritage Impact Statements and 2015 Aboriginal Heritage Report) (235 pages)

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- Schools engagement relating to parks, play and open space 2012 – 2018 (19 pages)
- Community Engagement Strategy 2019 (24 pages)
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016 (504 pages)
- Sydney 2050 – Community Insights Report (32 pages)

Stakeholders

The City of Sydney engages an extensive range of stakeholders through consultations and engagement activities. Through these varying activities there is a good indication of what the City of Sydney community's aspirations are and what they value.

As outlined under major themes, there were some common topics that arose out of these consultations dating back to the 1990s.

The Sydney 2050 Community Insights Report was one of the reports reviewed to get an indication of the overall aspirations of community members. Almost 10,000 participants were engaged in that process.

The engagement was open to the City of Sydney's community and included:

- Residents
- Workers
- Visitors
- Students
- Property owners
- Business owners
- Multicultural community
- Resident Action Groups
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory panel
- Children and young people
- Retail advisory panels
- Disability (inclusion) advisory panel
- Design advisory panel
- Public art advisory panel
- Nightlife & creative sector advisory panel
- Curatorial Advisory panels
- Small to medium business community - retail, property, finance and services, tech start-ups, tourism and hospitality, creative, social enterprise, education and government

Further to this, the park consultations included groups listed above, as well as:

- Crown Lands NSW
- Cultural institutions
- Primary Schools
- Non-Profit organisations

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- Childcare Centres
- Peak inclusivity groups
- Pop-up consultations
- Intercept surveys
- Sporting and community groups
- Park users
- Universities
- Community care and bush care groups

Other potential stakeholders to include in Crown Lands engagement activities:

- Secondary schools
- Youth groups
- Aboriginal organisations and groups
- University students
- Primary schools

Approach to engagement

The City offers an extensive range of opportunities for residents, workers, community groups, business, government and industry stakeholders to share their ideas, insight and feedback on projects and policies to help inform council decisions.

The 2019 “Our approach to engaging the community” strategy outlines the City of Sydney’s Community Engagement Principles and approach to engagement.

For each park project the City provided numerous avenues for the community to access information on the ongoing projects, as well as opportunities to provide feedback.

The broad messages on engagement demonstrated in the engagement reports analysed are:

- The residents, visitors, workers, businesses and students of Sydney value the opportunity to engage with the City.
- Our communities have high expectations when the City engages with them.
- People want to co-design, collaborate and take responsibility for creating change.

Community members expressed a strong desire for local solutions for local problems. There is a clear view that challenging issues cannot be solved alone and that partnerships deliver better results. There is also growing interest in co-created solutions particularly at a neighbourhood level.

Government and industry groups are increasingly seeing the benefits of collaboration to define and deliver initiatives that can reshape our city. There is a strong desire for decision making to be as transparent and local as possible. Business and residents have indicated that they value face-to-face events. The community wants the City to use digital channels for sharing real-time information and data.

Review of the engagement activities indicates there is a strong interest from the community to be involved in the decision-making around the Crown Lands.

Overall, the review of the consultations shows that the community is eager to engage with the City of Sydney, there is a level of trust in the projects that the city is committed to, and the City often responds to community feedback by reviewing and altering the plans.

Key themes

Across all the reviewed parks documents there were common and key themes that arose.

GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

The consultations consistently mentioned the desire for a “green city”, a “city for the people” that is “sustainable” and “environmentally conscious”. And one that allows for “open spaces” that provides room for recreation, relaxation, exercise and sporting activities.

The City of Sydney community wants to see:

- a city that is green with trees, plants and flowers
- quality public spaces
- The opportunity for action activities away from play equipment (running, water play, sand play, role play, bike tracks, skate, obstacle courses)
- Sport facilities (especially for older age groups, including table tennis, basketball, fields)
- Incorporation and preservation of native plants and trees
- Places which respond to the natural environment (incorporates and enhances natural greenery, natural habitat for fauna, cliffs and waterways, connection to water)

PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE

Feedback was consistently given around preserving, celebrating and displaying information around the historical significance of the parks.

Community ideas included:

- A lively, cultural and creative city
- A vibrant city, weaving its culture and heritage through the workings of the city.
- Playing up the City’s unique character, such as local architecture and beautiful public spaces, as well our unique heritage which includes First Peoples of Australia.
- Preserving heritage landmarks and structures
- Parks displaying information about the Indigenous history of the area and any other culturally significant information
- Children wanting to learn from Indigenous community members and through authentic practical activities – making, dancing, eating, sharing culture.

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- Links and stories that connect with the traditional owners of the land and also colonial history.
- Incorporating native local flora, bush tucker and even prehistoric elements such as megafauna.
- Children identified possibilities opened up by virtual reality and video games for exploring places and cultures.
- A cultural place, celebrating local heritage (a place which signposts and celebrates local history, public art, heritage interpretation, space with opportunity for community/cultural activities)

SAFETY

Often mentioned in relation to parks was the desire for safety. This was talked about in a number of ways including:

- Improved lighting
- Addressing homelessness
- Regular cleaning and maintenance of parks (particularly in relation to needles and other dangerous items)
- Improved fencing and boundaries
- Play equipment that is safe and suitable for all ages from infancy to adults

IMPROVED AMENITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Most consultations mentioned improved amenities and continued or increased maintenance of parks.

This feedback included:

- More seating and shade
- More bubblers and bins
- Increased amount of routinely cleaned toilets
- BBQs, places for picnics, cafes
- Well maintained and carefully managed (better and properly maintained facilities, appropriate treatment of water features and grass areas)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Feedback varied when it came to public transport, parking and car use. Some community members feel there needs to be more parking available, some less, and that promoting car use should be minimised. Most community members called for better public transport connections, but others were hesitant to establish any new bus stops, or other public transport hubs.

Some of the most common feedback included:

- People want to be using public transport, walking and bikes to move around.
- A reduction of cars, where streets and public spaces are easily accessible to people.

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- Integrated and efficient transport system to use throughout the city with the possibility of less cars leading to more open public space.
- Accessible and well-connected parklands (Within the park, with the neighbourhoods around it, including parking and public transport)
- Encouraging people to find alternative modes of transport to the parks, while allowing enough parking to provide easy access for people with mobility issues, small children or who live outside the area
- the need for balance between pedestrian use, parking, public transport, cycling and traffic
- Parking to cater for less mobile individuals and disability parking

IMAGINATIVE SPACES

Consultations showed a desire for imaginative play spaces, that wasn't necessarily just conventional play equipment.

Ideas included:

- play experiences that were physically challenging and exciting – giant slides, tunnels, climbing walls, pits of foam to fall in
- interesting combinations of technology and nature – animatronics, arcades alongside apple trees, butterflies, long grass
- water play features and nature play experiences
- More playgrounds where children can use their imaginations
- More things to climb / obstacle courses / challenges
- emotional and creative connections with spaces
- Children value the quality of play equipment and different experiences it offers (to climb, slide, swing, hide, balance, jump)
- Incorporating cultural and educational elements

Some of the most commonly mentioned playground/play ideas across consultations included:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) slides | 7) pools |
| 2) water play | 8) sand play |
| 3) swinging | 9) spinning |
| 4) tree house | 10) flying fox |
| 5) climbing | 11) jumping |
| 6) cubbies | 12) running |

INCLUSIVE

Inclusivity was consistently mentioned and referred to ideas such as:

- places with multiple activities for different ages, abilities and interests
- Better disability access

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- Social / community elements to provide children with a place to connect with their peers, families and other members

BALANCING DIFFERENT USES

With a diverse community, comes diverse needs. The consultations consistently showed a need for a balance in the different uses of the parks.

The community consultations showed:

- There are competing priorities for larger parks and that community members talked about a range of uses to meet different needs that serve different purposes.
- Parks need to be a space for everyone (appropriate for all ages, flexible spaces, diversity of use, distinct spaces for active and passive recreation)
- Conflicting views on what large parks should prioritise, such as support for off-leash areas for dogs or on-leash/banning of dogs, sporting facilities or requests for more open recreational spaces.
- Often the conflicting views are based on feedback from locals and residents versus those visiting the parks from other areas.
- Young people often advocate for more skating facilities, basketball hoops, sporting areas or fields, whereas residents are often opposed to these.