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**Crown Land Plans of Management
Engagement Report February 2021 – Part 1**



**Crown Land Plans
of Management
Engagement report**

City of Sydney
February 2021



Report title: Crown Land Plans of Management - Engagement report

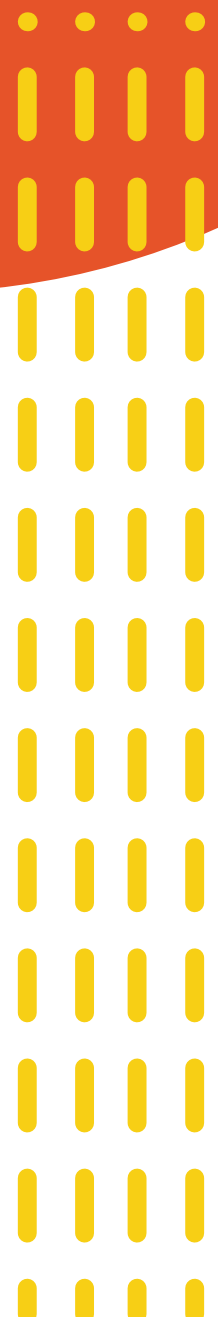
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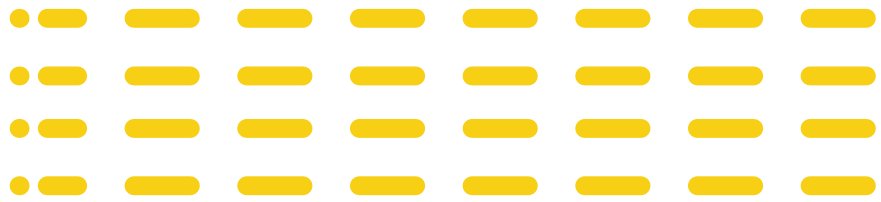


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Appendix 1



What we heard

Strong support for the recognition and practice of First Nations people's continuous connection to country and important role as caretakers and knowledge holders of these spaces.

Aboriginal community members spoke passionately about their connection to country and strongly expressed that each of these places have continuous cultural significance. They see the Plans of Management as an opportunity for the City to embed and encourage truth telling, recognition beyond signage including language/naming, Aboriginal design principles and access for cultural practice. A number of specific actions were also recommended.

Across community engagement, participants were supportive of recognising Aboriginal custodianship in Sydney's open spaces (77%) and agreed that respect for the land is important. Some participants expressed a greater desire to understand the meaning of connection to country, Aboriginal custodianship, to learn and recognise the history of First Nations people, and emphasised the importance of paying respects to the traditional owners of the land.

However, commentary from the online survey and pop-up consultation sessions indicated some participants felt unsure about the vision statements focussing on Aboriginal custodianship and what custodianship would look like in practice and expressed concern about potentially losing access to public spaces.

There was a strong appetite from participants to see more Indigenous plantings, cultural gardens and food forests in open spaces across Sydney, with some commentary from survey respondents about native plants such as eucalypts re-planted across the City.

Public open spaces are important for mental health, wellbeing and provide a place of refuge and sanctuary for all

People value their open spaces as a place of refuge and sanctuary, especially for vulnerable members of the community. The majority of participants across engagement activities strongly agree or agree that Sydney's open spaces will be places to recharge mental health, relax, connect to nature and the outdoors (97%; 416 participants).

Many respondents expressed the importance of having these spaces in the city to get away from the 'hustle and bustle'. People value open spaces that are natural, uncurated and provide an opportunity to connect with nature, take in the natural surrounds, and to enjoy peace and relaxation.

Open, green and natural public spaces in the city is highly valued and should accommodate the needs of the growing population

Across engagement activities, participants expressed strong appreciation and value of public open green spaces, noting that these spaces are important for the local community as well as for visitors to support health and wellbeing and provide opportunities to connect to nature, in particular in light of increasing population growth and high density living in the city.

Many participants referred to open spaces across the city as 'their backyard', indicating they are an important place for personal wellbeing and act as a social connector, providing a sense of connection to place and the community. They are also safe refuges and are important places for the City's vulnerable communities, in particular rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness.

Accessible, safe and inclusive open spaces are important for everyone to enjoy

Open spaces that are accessible, safe and inclusive is a high priority for people. Participants strongly agreed or agreed that Sydney's open spaces will be accessible to everyone (95%; 410 participants). Much commentary from survey respondents focussed on parks and reserves that are accessible for all ages, abilities, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds.

People would like to see parks that are inclusive and welcoming to all, in particular, people with a disability, elderly and young people. Some respondents indicated there is an opportunity to make open spaces easier and safer to access with features such as handrails and ramps, and creating better networks within and between parks. Participants would also like to see parks that welcome young people and support their recreation, such as skateboarders and play elements that are more age appropriate for teenagers.

Staff indicated an opportunity to use open spaces to increase cultural and creative infrastructure to facilitate events and cultural practices. Survey respondents also indicated they would like to see more community and cultural events across open spaces. However, some respondents shared concerns for exclusive use of parks for private events that require paid entries or fencing of parks in the weeks leading up to events. Respondents expressed a desire for locals to be taken into consideration when planning larger events in their local public, open spaces.

Diverse and unique open spaces that manage our shared spaces fairly

People value diverse and unique open spaces, that accommodate a range of user groups. Across community engagement, 85% or 366 participants strongly agree or agree that Sydney's open spaces will be multipurpose and multifunctional to respond to the changing needs of our diverse community.

Many participants would like to see a balance between parks dedicated to recreational activities such as formal sport, and parks that remain uncurated, natural and provide space for passive recreation and relaxation such as reading and connecting to nature. There was a strong emphasis that Sydney's parks are unique and accommodate different user groups and that they don't replicate one another, they are not one size fits all.

Participants indicated they would like to see sharing and cohesion amongst different user groups and visitors to ensure safe, equal access and maximize utilisation. However, across engagement activities, there were also some perceived issues between different user groups. In particular, participants expressed concerns about increased utilisation of parks by private groups such as bootcamps.

Many participants identified that not all parks can accommodate for every user group, and that should be taken into consideration when planning for open spaces.

Open spaces that support wildlife and biodiversity

People expressed their value for open, green spaces that not only supports themselves but also supports and nurtures wildlife and biodiversity. Participants would like to retain existing open spaces and see more green, natural open spaces that are sustainable, support native species, and provide healthy habitats for wildlife and biodiversity.

Preserving our open spaces and safeguarding their history for the future

People value their open spaces and would like to see the preservation of their history and heritage for future generations.

The majority of participants across community engagement strongly agree that Sydney's open spaces will celebrate local history, which includes First Peoples of Australia, public art, heritage interpretation, and have space for community/cultural activities (86%; 370 participants).

Improving amenities in our open spaces to increase accessibility and support community use

Participants value their open spaces and would like to see increased and improved amenity to support public accessibility and community use. In particular, participants would like to see:

- Access to public toilets at all times of the day
- Lighting at night to improve sense of safety
- Increased shade including shade structures and trees for cooling and comfort in the summer
- Wider footpaths and separated cycling paths
- Shaded seating and tables, particularly for picnics and
- BBQs
- Water bubblers, and
- Accessible features such as walking rails and ramps.



1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of findings from community engagement undertaken by Cred Consulting (Cred) on behalf of the City of Sydney (the City) to inform the development of plans of management for Crown Land parks, reserves and civic spaces under the City's control.

1.1. Background and purpose

The Crown Land Management Act 2016 authorises councils that are appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown Land, to manage that land as if it were Public Land under the Local Government Act 1993. Public (or community) land is for use by the community. It is intended to benefit the community, both now and in the future. Purposes can include environmental protection, recreational, cultural, social and educational activities.

The City, as the appointed Crown Land Manager is responsible for the care, control and management of 45 Crown Reserves.

Crown reserves require a plan of management to be in place by 30 June 2021. As a Crown Land Manager, the City of Sydney is responsible for preparing plans of management for the 45 Crown reserves it is responsible for.

A plan of management is an overarching document that guides the use and management of community land. It outlines what the community values about the place, its current and future uses and how it will be managed, maintained and improved.

Cred Consulting was appointed as part of a team of consultants to assist the City with the preparation of the 45 plans of management. Cred's role was to design, deliver and support broad community engagement to inform the development of the plans of management.

Crown Land parks, reserves and civic spaces covered by the plans of management

Generic Plans of Management

- CBD Civic Spaces** (includes Customs House Forecourt, Farrer Place, Lang Park, Macquarie Place Park, Queens Square)
- Millers Point Precinct** (includes Millers Point Recreation and Community Centre, Clyne Reserve, Munn Reserve, Dawes Point Fountain Garden, Argyle Place Park, Watson Road Public Toilets)
- Crown Reserves** (Generic)
 - Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills
 - Hollis Park, Newtown
 - Glebe Foreshore Walk East
 - Green Park, Darlinghurst

- Franklyn Park Community Space, Glebe
- Robyn Kemmis Reserve, Glebe
- Beare Park and Kings Cross Rotary Park, Elizabeth Bay
- Dr HJ Foley Rest Park, Glebe
- Andrew (Boy) Charlton Reserve (land adjoining the pool), Sydney

Specific Plans of Management

14 specific plans of management will be created for the reserves listed below.

- Belmore Park, Haymarket
- Cook and Phillip Park, Sydney
- Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville
- Hyde Park, Sydney
- Johnstons Creek, Glebe (including Federal Parks 1 and 2, Bicentennial Parks 1 and 2, Pope Paul VI Reserve, Jubilee Oval and Tram Stop Reserve)
- Martin Place, Sydney
- Observatory Hill, Millers Point (also includes Kent Street Tennis Centre and Watson Road Reserve)
- Perry Park, Alexandria
- Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills
- Rushcutters Bay Park
- Victoria Park, Camperdown
- Waterloo Park, Oval and Skatepark, Waterloo
- Wentworth Park, Glebe
- Wynyard Park, Sydney



1.2. Methodology

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the community engagement was to understand the community's vision for the Crown Land spaces, how the community use Crown Lands now and how they would like to use these spaces in the future. An important aspect of the engagement program was to recognise the important relationship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have to these spaces, strengthen the relationship with the Aboriginal community and use the PoMs as an opportunity to further recognise and foster Aboriginal peoples custodianship, living culture and connection to these places.

The opportunity to participate in the engagement program was communicated to the community via:

- A letter to all residents from the Lord Mayor
- Sydney Your Say web page
- Notification signs in parks
- Decals with QR code on footpaths in parks, reserves and civic spaces; and
- E-newsletter sent to targeted stakeholder list.

Engagement program

The engagement program consisted of an online survey, intercept surveys and pop-ups at some of the Crown Land spaces, a conversation guide and community and staff workshops. The surveys and pop-up boards sought to gather statistical data around community values and uses of Crown Lands, and the workshops provided an opportunity for more in depth discussions around Crown Lands within different locations across the city and specifically with the Aboriginal community. The City also sought submissions from community members (data from submissions does not form part of this report).



Online and intercept survey

The online survey received 189 responses and the intercept surveys (undertaken at 12 Crown Land locations, see Table 1) collected a further 126 responses. Responses were collected between 10 November and 15 December 2020. The survey was open to anyone (residents living in and outside of the City of Sydney LGA, businesses, visitors) and available online at the City of Sydney's Your Say webpage.

The survey aimed to:

- Provide respondents with an opportunity to comment on any of the Crown Lands for which PoMs are being prepared.
- Gain an understanding of community values and current and future uses of Crown Lands.
- Understand the level of support for a range of general principles and concepts for the City to consider when managing open space.



Pop-ups

Cred held six consultation pop-ups across the city at Crown Land sites, including:

- Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay
- Green Park, Darlinghurst
- Victoria Park, Camperdown
- Federal Park, Glebe
- Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills, and
- Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville.

Participants were presented with three consultation activity boards that asked:

1. What they value most about the place
2. What activities they do there now and what they would like to do there in the future, and
3. How strongly they agree with a series of principles and concepts about open space in the City of Sydney.



First Nations community conversations

Three online workshops were held with First Nations community members, including elders, a representative of the Metro Aboriginal Land Council, local residents and business owners and specialised academics. These sessions were facilitated conversations that were guided by the following questions:

- How should we approach parks with cultural and community significance e.g. - Victoria Park, Hyde Park. Are there any parks that you want to particularly identify?
- How can we approach the management of parks with colonial artifacts e.g. statues or names such as Cook and Phillip Park?
- What about opportunities for economic outcomes for Aboriginal community?
- Do you have examples or ideas about shared management of crown land?
- Are there over-arching principles we should apply to the management of all our Crown Land reserves?



Online community workshops

The City offered an online workshop to local residents and community groups. Two online workshops were held with representatives of local residents groups from Millers Point and Glebe. A third online workshop was held with representatives from local community gardens and bushcare groups.

These sessions were facilitated conversations that were guided by the following questions:

- What do you value about these spaces?
- What do you do there now and what would you like to do there in the future?
- What would you preserve or enhance?
- How can we celebrate connection to country in our parks? What does that mean to you?
- How can we ensure our parks/reserves meet contemporary needs and values while maintaining historical identity?



Schools activity kit

An activity kit that was based on the conversation guide was compiled and sent to the City of Sydney's existing contacts in schools throughout the area, including:

- Glebe Public School
- Forest Lodge Public School
- St James Primary
- St Scholastica's College
- Blackwattle Bay
- Erskineville Public
- Darlington Public
- Alexandria Park
- Millers Point
- Fort Street Primary
- Bourke Street Primary
- Sydney Girls High School, and
- Plunket Street Primary.

Completed activity sheets were returned from 23 students from years K-6 attending Bourke Street Primary school.



Internal staff online workshop

Cred facilitated a workshop with City of Sydney staff to discuss how Crown Lands parks, reserves and civic spaces can help staff to achieve the commitments in Sustainable Sydney 2030 for which their area of Council is responsible.

24 staff members attended the workshop.



Conversation Guide

An online and printable PDF conversation guide was designed to guide community groups to host their own consultation conversations. The guide mimicked the structure of the online survey and asked participants about values and uses. The conversation guide was available online via the City's Sydney Your Say website and was emailed directly by City staff to an extensive stakeholder list of community groups.

Two completed conversations guides were submitted.



Community submissions

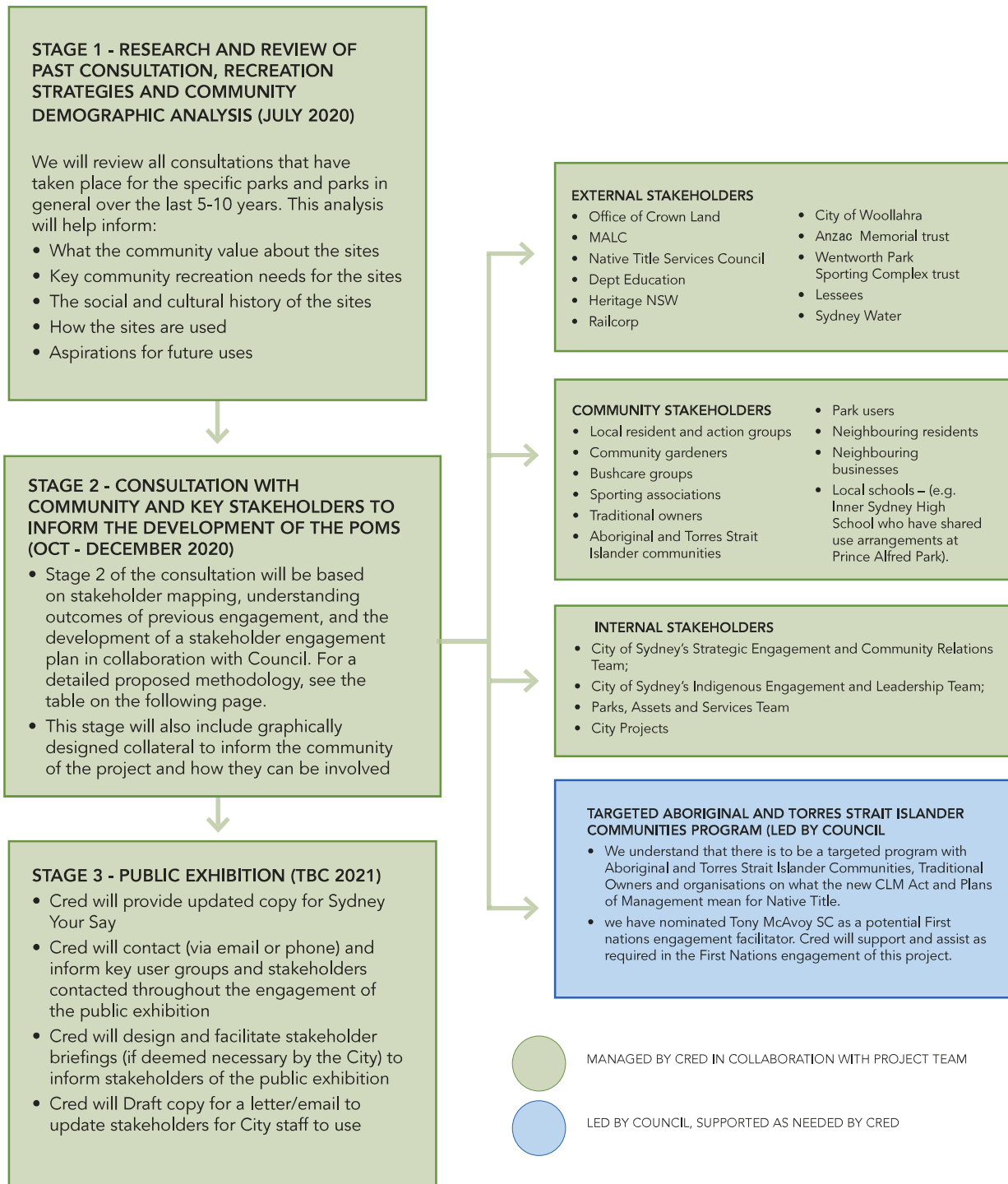
The City accepted written submissions as a way for community members to provide feedback and input to the plans of management. Nine submissions were received from community members. These submissions were responded to and their content recorded by City of Sydney staff, they do not form part of this report.

1.3. Summary of engagement activities

Table 1 - Overview of consultation activities

Type	Date	Location	Participants
First Nations Community Conversations			
First Nations community	7 December, 12pm - 1pm	Online via Zoom	6
First Nations community	8 December, 11am - 12pm	Online via Zoom	4
First Nations community	15 December, 11am - 12pm	Online via Zoom	3
Survey			
Online community survey	17 November - 15 December 2020	Online via Council's Have Your Say page	189
Intercept surveys	10 November, 9am - 11am	Cook & Phillip Park, Sydney	126
	10 November, 11.30am - 1.30pm	Hyde Park, Sydney	
	12 November, 9am - 11am	Martin Place, Sydney	
	12 November, 11.30am - 1.30pm	Wynyard Park, Sydney	
	12 November, 2.30pm - 4.30pm	Customs House Square, Circular Quay	
	14 November, 9am - 11am	Rushcutters Bay Park	
	14 November, 12pm - 2pm	Observatory Hill Park, Millers Point	
	14 November, 2.30pm - 4.30pm	Clyne Reserve, Millers Point	
	21 November, 9am - 11am	Shannon Reserve, Surry Hills	
	21 November, 11.30am - 1.30pm	Belmore Park, Central	
21 November, 2.30pm - 4.30pm	Dr HJ Foley Rest Park, Glebe		
Pop-ups			
Pop-ups	21 November 2020, 9.30am - 12pm	Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay	23 (approx.)
	21 November 2020, 1.30pm - 3.30pm	Green Park, Darlinghurst	14 (approx.)
	5 December 2020, 9:30am - 12pm	Victoria Park, Camperdown	36 (approx.)
	5 December 2020, 1:30pm - 3:30pm	Federal Park, Glebe	28 (approx.)
	5 December 2020, 1:30pm - 3:30pm	Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills	8 (approx.)
	5 December 2020, 1:30pm - 3:30pm	Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville	17 (approx.)
Online & PDF conversation guide			
Conversation guide	17 November - 15 December 2020	Printable PDF and online form via Council's Have Your Say page	2
Schools activity kit			
Schools activity kit		Emailed to school contacts	23
Online community workshops			
Millers Point Action Group	3 December, 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Online via Zoom	25
Glebe Society and Blue Wrens	8 December, 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Online via Zoom	6
Community gardens and bushcare groups	16 December, 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Online via Zoom	6
Internal staff workshop			
City of Sydney staff	17 December, 9.30am - 11.30am	Online via Zoom	24

1.4. Project staging - community consultation





2. First Nations Community Conversations

2.1. About the workshops

It was important to hear from the First Nations community to understand how the plans can respect First Nations cultural heritage and custodianship of the Crown Land reserves. The City recognises that the development of these plans are an important opportunity for a conversation with the community about Aboriginal people’s continuous connection to country and custodianship of these places in Sydney.

As part of setting the context for the community for this engagement, the City commissioned a video, from Brett Leavy of Virtual Songlines that depicted an imagining of Gadigal land before colonisation. The video (along with a map of Warrane, see Figure 1) was available to view on the City’s Your Say website and the video was played at the start of each of the First Nations, community and internal staff workshops.

Three online workshops were held via Zoom with 13 First Nations community members, including elders, a representative of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), local residents, business owners and academics. These sessions were facilitated conversations that were guided by the following questions:

- How should we approach parks with cultural and community significance e.g. - Victoria Park, Hyde Park. Are there any parks that you want to particularly identify?
- How can we approach the management of parks with colonial artifacts e.g. statues or names such as Cook and Phillip Park?
- What about opportunities for economic outcomes for Aboriginal community?
- Do you have examples or ideas about shared management of crown land?
- Are there over arching principles we should apply to the management of all our Crown Land reserves?

2.2. What we heard

First Nations community members spoke passionately about their connection to Gadigal country and strongly expressed that each of these places have continuous cultural significance. Even the connecting roads are important songlines and walking tracks.

It was hoped that these plans would help further the recognition of Aboriginal people’s continuous connection to country and truth telling.

It was noted that it would be unlikely to have a successful native title claim in Sydney and that there was limited Crown Land that would could be claimed through the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. This raised concerns about the opportunities for economic outcomes for First nations people in Sydney.

A number of **principles** for the management of Crown Lands in Sydney were advised during the conversations, these include:

- Access to land as a human right of Indigenous peoples (UN Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- Recognition and respect for sacred sites and places
- Truth telling
- Talking about country helps bring the community together
- The environment as living culture
- Importance of waterways and wetlands- rivers tell stories
- Creating opportunities for Aboriginal economic benefit
- First Nations design principles that recognise:
 - local cultural knowledge
 - sustainability and resilience

Table 2 - List of participants who attended the workshops

Organisation	Name
Past Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel Member	Patricia Adjei
Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council	Nathan Moran (CEO)
Dreamtime Southern X, Rocks Dreaming Tour	Margret Campbell
Winda (film festival)	Pauline Clague
Gadigal Information Services, Chair	Cathy Craigie
Museums and Galleries NSW	Steve Miller
Aboriginal, Property NSW	Tracey Skinner
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, USYD	Jakelin Troy
Indigi Lab	Luke Brisco
Create NSW	Bibi Barba
Sydney Uni (Glebe community project)	Tarunna Sebastian
Wilder Gardens/Bush to Bowl	Adam Byrne
Royal Botanic Garden	Brenden Moore

The environment as living culture

Imagine having a space like this in Sydney that is real and permanent, not just digital (in response to Brett Leavy's animation)

- Respecting ancestral sites
- Connecting places by songlines (these include many main roads in Sydney)
- Returning country to how it was (pre-invasion)
- A holistic approach: not just land but also water, sky, seasons, cultural calendar, plants and animals
- Implement 'Caring for Country' principles (including maintenance, planting, holistic understanding of Country etc).
- Important to return the knowledge of waterways and wetlands. Rivers tell stories and are an historical link that have been covered up over time.
- Commitment to healing country
- Designing for country – a number of participants referred to the work of the State Government Architect

Language and naming

The use of language needs to go beyond naming.

- Dual naming in local language based on a geographical feature
- Incorporating Gadigal language into descriptions will help the community better understand the meaning of these places
- Recognising that the first language of this place is the authentic language
- Removal of colonial names of parks

Decolonising spaces and truth-telling

We need a different way of looking at 'monuments' – as significant, empowering, culturally correct markers of the truth

- Trees of significance as monuments
- Sites of significance as monuments
- Take leadership on dealing with colonial artefacts
- Gadigal artists creating new markers of truth

Visibility

We are here - this land was never ceded

- The need to make this more visible in Sydney
- Participants referenced how New Zealand is Indigenous culture, practices and perspectives visible to international visitors
- The potential to push digital notifications when walking on different bits of land (ie. a notification to acknowledge/welcome to country, when you are close to a sacred site or a burial ground etc)
- Permanent acknowledgement in each space that enlivens and engages - not just commemorative

Significance of Sydney as the site of invasion and first contact

Make these important places recognisable to Aboriginal people.

- Sydney as the first frontier means it is a critical place for truth-telling and healing trauma
- Recognise the cultural disruption and diaspora in Sydney
- Burial grounds and should be part of truth-telling
- Recognise places of protest

Practicing and sharing culture and supporting community

- Returning cultural fishing (eg. Woolloomooloo & Pyrmont)
- Dedicated spaces to practice culture and interact with the community
- Dedicated ceremonial spaces practical for events
- Maker-spaces (places for creating) that are culturally correct
- Locations to busk, make things, be social and demonstrate culture, and
- Importance of community festivals – Yabun at Victoria Park.
- Increasing access to land to practice culture by minimising administrative burdens/red tape

Response to Brett Leavy's digital piece:

"Imagine having a space like this in Sydney that is real and permanent, not digital"

- First Nations Workshop Participant

Monuments – "significant, empowering, culturally correct markers telling truth"

- First Nations Workshop Participant

"Cultural naming or dual naming must be done"

- First Nations Workshop Participant

"Make these spaces recognisable to Aboriginal people."

- Survey respondent

Economic and cultural ownership and management

- Importance of cultural ownership and intellectual property rights
- Ongoing employment and business opportunities at all levels
- Making, markets, food, trading, learning etc should be able to be practiced somewhere permanently (not a one-off event).
- There are effective working examples of shared arrangements with State Government (DPIE) who work with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on protecting and managing places
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council sought that the City provides Crown Land or City owned sites to MLALC for local Aboriginal community needs of culture, health wellbeing, housing and business.
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council asked that the City support addressing the issue of underpayment of NSW Aboriginal Land Rights fund of \$500 Million in perpetuity for all Freehold, Leasehold, Pastoral, National Parks, State Forests, Reserves and Parks as well as mineral and water.
- This location and the landscape was the original source for the name of Redfern
- Building on the fact that it is the home of Yabun Festival – suggestions of an amphitheatre for performances, potential calendar of events
- A place of protests and community gathering

Circular Quay area (includes Customs House)

- An important place for commerce and trade now and in the past
- The site of invasion
- The connection to the fresh water stream and harbour – Gadigal people lived by the water. Evidence of this remains in the middens of the area.

Dawes Point

Dawes Point should be recognised as Budgewong Dawes.

Hyde Park

- Originally a ceremonial area used for ritualistic battleground and to resolve minor disputes
- Eventually converted into a racecourse before becoming a park
- Important ceremonial location today.

Cook & Phillip Park

An important ceremonial location.

Belmore Park

There is a burial ground Burial near Central Station that is the first burial ground post-invasion

Queens Square

An important ceremonial location.

Advocacy/leadership/influence

- Encourage the City to take on the hard issues and use position to influence other organisations including other councils and government departments
- Work with other authorities who have ownership over Crown Land parcels
- Advocate and work at local, state and federal levels

2.3. Barriers

A number of existing **barriers** were raised that the community want to see resolved. These include:

- Red-tape constraints to the economic use of spaces
- Barriers to the practice of living culture

2.4. Place of particular significance

Victoria Park:

- Acknowledge Lake Northam as Gadigal – existing before the park was built in its current form
- A women's birthing place
- Original landscape was marshland populated by kangaroos – old teaching ground for hunting
- Agricultural and animal husbandry place for maintaining kangaroo population
- A women's birthing place
- Many of the local educational institutions are built on land used by Gadigal for teaching

2.5. Places that are not Crown Land

Redfern Park

- Cultural and community significance
- Important to have an Aboriginal community representative on the Redfern Oval Management Committee

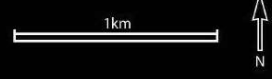
Redfern Street area

Important places where people gather for protest such as the old Black Theatre to catch the bus to Tent Embassy in Canberra.

Figure 1 - Warrane map



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3. Online community workshop findings

3.1. About the workshops

The City offered online workshops to local resident and community groups to discuss the plans of management and in particular the parks, reserves and civic spaces relevant to the interest of the groups. Cred facilitated the workshops via Zoom.

Online workshops were held with representatives of local residents groups from Millers Point and Glebe. A third online workshop was held with representatives from local community gardens and bushcare groups.

These sessions were facilitated conversations that were guided by the following questions:

- What do you value about these spaces?
- What do you do there now and what would you like to do there in the future?
- What would you preserve or enhance?
- How can we celebrate connection to country in our parks? What does that mean to you?
- How can we ensure our parks/reserves meet contemporary needs and values while maintaining historical identity?

3.2. What we heard

1. Millers Point

25 members of the Millers Point Residents Action Group attended an online workshop on 3 December 2020. Residents value these open spaces as a place to walk the dog, picnic, and enjoy views. There is a tension however between local access and visitors/tourists. Particularly if large parts of parks are hired for private use. There was a perception expressed that there is not enough protection of access for locals

Participants spoke about valuing the Crown Land parks, reserves and civic spaces in the Millers point area as places for social connection. In particular it was noted that the tennis courts (Observatory Hill) are a great place to meet people in the community and could be further utilised by children in the future.

There was a desire for improvements to park amenities and playgrounds particularly to encourage a diversity of uses for the growing population of children in the area. The Paddock (Pottinger Park – managed by the City but owned by NSW Maritime) playground is being used more and more.

There was a desire to see Indigenous-led cultural connection to country with some of the parks managed and planted to

improve biodiversity, with less reliance on turfed expanses in the future.

It was hoped the plans of management would pave the way for opportunities to improve access to water.

There was a desire for the plans of management to take a holistic approach that considers other plans that will impact these sites (late night trading, traffic management, plans for school development, Place Management NSW plans).

Concern was expressed that changes in local traffic management may affect the use of these parks and community spaces for locals.

There was a desire to see increased accessibility, activation and use of spaces in the Millers Point Community Centre buildings in the future.

Harry Jensen Community Centre

Residents were passionate about the future of the Harry Jensen Centre. Residents expressed that demographics of Millers Point has changed and the management and uses of the centre have not serviced the changing community.

Residents asked for a dedicated consultation session with the City to discuss opportunities for its use in the future.



2. Glebe

6 members of the Glebe Society and the Blue Wrens attended an online workshop on 8 December 2020. Participants expressed that Glebe is rich in park experiences.

Overall participants stressed the importance of the Crown Land green spaces in Glebe to the wellbeing of the community and to wildlife.

There was a strong desire to improve and enhance existing connections between all the parks and the connecting streets as green corridors.

There was recognition of the waterfront sites as important places for First Nations people. There was desire to see the landscape returned to one that replicates that of Gadigal Country.

Johnstons Creek, Federal Park, Jubilee Park

Participants value the diversity of the landscape around the waterfront parks and want to see the waterways 'heroed', bush regeneration to replicate Gadigal Country continued and enhanced and birdlife encouraged in the future. People passionately expressed their appreciation for the immersive 'bush' experience at Orphans Creek and want that to be used as an example for the Johnstons Creek parks in the future.

Participants want improved connections and access to the water along the foreshore

Participants expressed that there is competition for the use of the spaces (pedestrians, cyclists, park users, dogs) and access and ease of circulation throughout these spaces needs to be improved. Further, the parks are visited from many people from out of area who drive to them, so parking will be an ongoing issue.

There was a suggestion to redevelop The Hill (part of Jubilee Park) as a wildlife reserve.

Wentworth Park

Participants strongly expressed their desire to see the cessation of greyhound racing at Wentworth Park and its return to community open space. There was some concern about the potential for lack of community involvement in decisions about the future of Wentworth Park.

Participants want to see the preparation of a detailed conservation management plan for Wentworth Park that details the epochs of the park. There was some desire to see the restoration of the original Victorian era park space at Wentworth Park.

3. Community gardens and bushcare groups

6 members of local community gardens and bushcare groups from across the Sydney area attended an online workshop on 16 December 2020.

Participants expressed that they encourage the use of Indigenous plantings and they want to recreate Gadigal Country pre-colonisation and recognised the level of care administered by the Gadigal people for these places.

There was a desire for knowledge sharing with First Nations people, stating that Bushcare and community gardens are an opportunity to learn about country and cultural teachings and they can use that knowledge to heal and improve these places.

The group acknowledged that there is limited availability for deep soil plantings in the City outside of Crown Land reserves and parks. Further, Crown Land reserves and parks offer opportunities for wild meadows where people and dogs are not allowed (Johnstons Creek Park was an example location named).

There was a strong desire to create wildlife corridors between parks and the connecting streets, and to work with other authorities to encourage and influence the use of their spaces for this purpose (e.g. Railcorp sites).

There was interest in Crown Land parks being places for the community to learn about gardening, compost, and Indigenous foods, and a desire to see more food forests in these spaces in the future.

Participants expressed that they value Crown Land parks and reserves for passive recreation and stated that it is important to protect places for quiet contemplation and reflection.

Location specific suggestions:

- Glebe Community Garden is interested in extending into Dr HJ Foley Rest Park to create a food forest in the future.
- Create bushcare/natural precincts within Wentworth Park
- Support of the use of the archways in Federal Park (licensed out to community groups)



4. Internal staff online workshop findings

4.1. About the workshop

Cred facilitated a workshop with City of Sydney staff to discuss how Crown Lands parks, reserves and civic spaces can help staff to achieve the commitments in Sustainable Sydney 2030 for which their area of Council is responsible.

24 staff members attended the workshop, from the following Council areas:

- Indigenous Leadership & Engagement
- Events
- Sustainability
- Venues Management
- Social Policy, Programs and Services (incl. Inclusion (Disability), Homelessness, Multicultural)
- Urban Ecology
- History
- City Greening & Leisure (incl. Trees, Community Gardens, Leisure Services)
- Safe City
- Public Domain Strategy
- Public Art
- Planning – Urban Design & Heritage
- Strategy and Urban Analytics (incl. Live Music & Performance), and
- Cultural Venues and Programs.

4.2. What we heard

Recognition of Aboriginal custodianship and continued cultural practice

Staff suggested that high-level principles are developed to guide the custodianship of this land.

There was agreement that these spaces should play a role in furthering First Nations recognition, sharing of history and truth-telling and that this should be layered into the design and use of the places not just through signage. This may include dual naming.

Participants spoke of the need to activate Crown Land sites as places for cultural expression. A dedicated performance space for First Nations people to practice culture was suggested.

Places of refuge and sanctuary for all

Participants spoke about the importance of Crown Land spaces as publicly accessible refuges or places of sanctuary for all the community to use when needed. In particular the importance of these places for vulnerable members of the community was stressed, in particular rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness.

It was noted how Covid-19 had heightened the awareness of and need for these places for people to have quiet places for reflection outside of the home.

Opportunity to increase cultural infrastructure

Staff spoke of the opportunity to use these spaces to increase cultural infrastructure to facilitate events and cultural practices.



5. Schools activity findings

5.1. About the schools activity

An activity kit that was based on the conversation guide was compiled and sent to the City of Sydney’s existing contacts in schools throughout the area, including:

- Glebe Public School
- Forest Lodge
- St James Primary
- St Scholastica’s
- Blackwattle Bay
- Erskineville Public
- Darlington Public
- Alexandria Park
- Millers Point
- Fort Street Primary
- Bourke Street Primary
- Sydney Girls, and
- Plunket Street Primary.

A total of 23 activity sheets were completed by students in years K-6 from Bourke Street Primary.

5.2. What we heard from K-2 students

The children’s activity kit included a drawing activity. It asked children to draw their answers to the question:

“Why are parks important to me?”

10 responses were received from K-2 aged kids from Bourke Street Public School (Appendix 1). Responses from the children showed that children value the following elements in open spaces:

- Trees and plants (4 responses)
- Play equipment (3), and
- Things to climb (3).

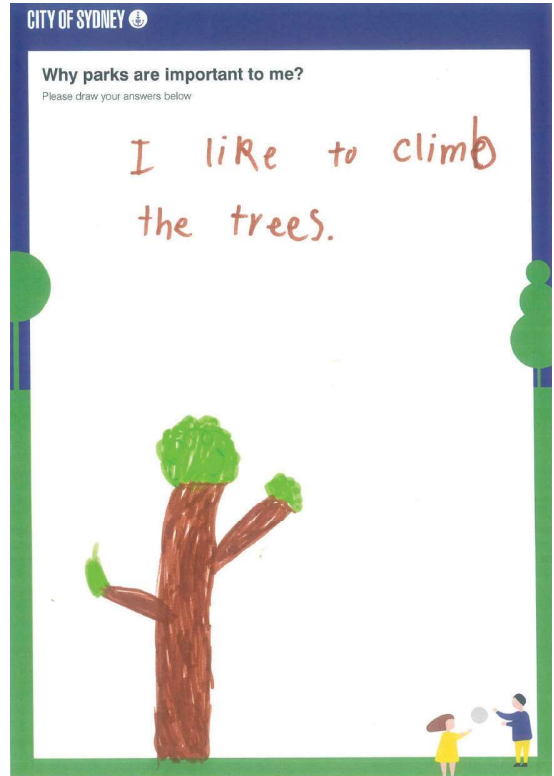


Image: School activity submission K-2



Image: School activity submission K-2

5.3. What we heard from years 3 - 6 children

The children's activity kit for children in years 3-6 included questions about how often they visit the park, what activities they do there, what they would like to do there in the future, what are the things they value most about the park and what they want to see persevered or enhanced in the future.

13 responses were received from years 3-6 aged kids from Bourke Street Public School (see Appendix 1). Some of the responses were about local parks not necessarily Crown Lands parks and reserves. Despite this, all feedback has been recorded here as it indicates what children value most about open space.

The things children value most about parks is that they are:

- Places for community (7 votes)
- Fun places (7 votes)
- Friendly and welcoming (6 votes)
- Family friendly (6 votes)
- Easy to access and use (6 votes)
- Well maintained (5 votes)
- Relaxing (5 votes)
- Interesting (4 votes)
- They feel safe (4 votes)
- Places for sport (4 votes)
- They have diverse landscapes (3 votes)
- Peaceful places (2 votes)
- Iconic places (2 votes)
- Beautiful (2 votes)
- Natural (2 votes)
- They have a buzzing atmosphere (2 votes)
- They have views (1 vote), and
- They are spiritual places connecting to a sense of country (1 vote).

The main activities the children do in these spaces are:

- Learning
- Play games
- Run around
- Play on equipment/climb
- Ride bikes, and
- Make cubby houses out of tree branches.

Things children would like to be able to do at these spaces in the future include:

- Climb things
- Play football
- Have a climbing wall
- Skate, and
- Play equipment for older kids.

Children would like to see the following preserved or enhanced at these spaces in the future:

- Nature and plants
- Things to climb
- Wildlife
- Keep them free of rubbish, and
- Grassy areas.

Children told us they value parks because...

"It has at least one thing everybody likes"

"Its just beautiful"

"There is space"

"They make me happy"

"When going outdoors it's nice to be in a place that is well maintained and easy to access"

"I like having time with nature"

"Everyone's welcome there"



6. Vision for open space in Sydney

6.1. About the vision statements

Through the survey, pop-up consultation sessions, and conversations guide participants were shown a list of seven vision statements for open spaces in Sydney and asked to indicate how strongly they agree with the vision statements, on a scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Participants were asked:

"An overall vision for open spaces in Sydney. When thinking about the future of Crown land parks and reserves throughout the City of Sydney area, how strongly do you agree with the following vision statements? Sydney's open spaces will..."

- Recognise Aboriginal people's custodianship
- Be accessible to everyone
- Be places to recharge mental health, relax, connect to nature and the outdoors
- Be lush and green and provide cooling shade from increasing heat
- Be places to be active and will provide room for recreation, exercise and sporting activities
- Celebrate local history, which includes First Peoples of Australia, public art, heritage interpretation, and have space for community/cultural activities
- Be multipurpose and multifunctional to respond to the changing needs of our diverse community."

6.2. Overall findings

Overall, participants told us:

- Open spaces should be public, accessible and equitable for all
- Access to open spaces across the City is important for everyone, particularly as density increases
- Support for recognising Aboriginal people's custodianship, however there is uncertainty of what this means or look like in practice
- People value open, green spaces and connecting to nature for their mental health and wellbeing
- People value diverse, unique and multi-purpose spaces that cater to a range of user groups and purposes
- Open spaces should be well and regularly maintained, with improvements for existing parks and reserves to ensure their safety



Image: Pop-up consultation at Victoria Park. (Source: Matthew Duchesne/ Fancy Boy Photography)

6.3. Support for the overall vision for open spaces

As shown in Figure 2, the majority of respondents indicated they ‘strongly agree or agree’ for each vision statement, across all engagement.

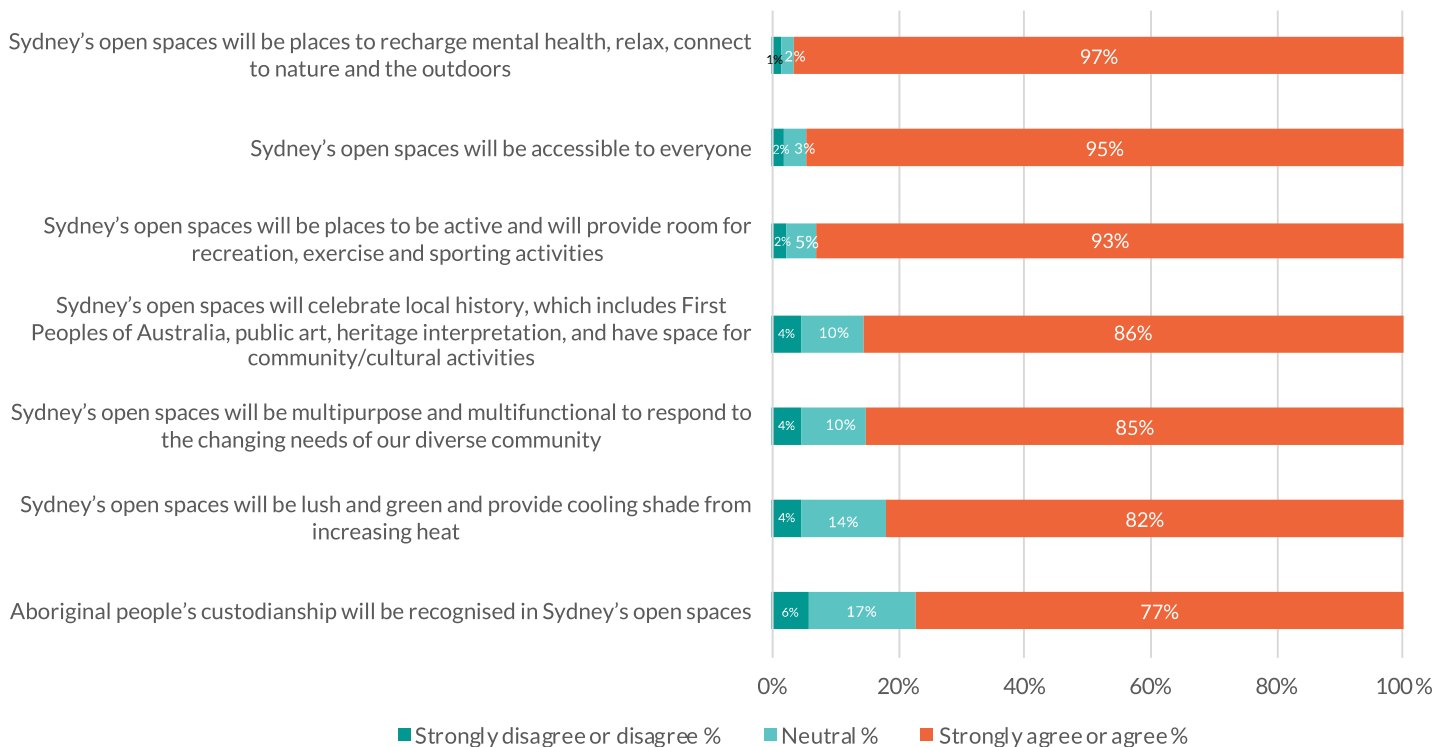
Participants were more likely to ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ with the following statements:

- Sydney’s open spaces will be places to recharge mental health, relax, connect to nature and the outdoors (97%; 416 participants)
- Sydney’s open spaces will be accessible to everyone (95%; 410 participants), and
- Sydney’s open spaces will be places to be active and will provide room for recreation, exercise and sporting activities (93%; 397 participants).

Participants were more likely to indicate ‘neutral’ with the following statements:

- Aboriginal people’s custodianship will be recognised in Sydney’s open spaces (17%; 74 participants)
- Sydney’s open spaces will be lush and green and provide cooling shade from increasing heat (14%; 58 participants)
- Sydney’s open spaces will be multipurpose and multifunctional to respond to the changing needs of our diverse community (10%; 45 participants), and
- Sydney’s open spaces will celebrate local history, which includes First Peoples of Australia, public art, heritage interpretation, and have space for community/cultural activities (10%; 43 participants).

Figure 2 - Results across online survey and pop-ups - An overall vision for open space in Sydney. When thinking about the future of Crown land parks and reserves throughout the City of Sydney area, how strongly do you agree with the following vision statements? Sydney’s open spaces will...



6.4. What participants value about open space

Across the engagement, participants were asked to comment why these values are important to the overall vision for open spaces in Sydney. Of the 110 people (76 survey respondents and 34 pop-up participants) that responded to this question, key themes that emerged from comments include:

27 

Open space should be public, accessible and equitable for all

Participants indicated they value open spaces that are public, accessible and equitable for all, no matter age, ability, culture or socio-economic background.

Of these comments, the majority (12 comments) emphasised that open spaces should be localised, rather than used heavily by private recreation groups or for exclusive events that require tickets or fencing to access parks. Participants expressed public space in the inner city is particularly important for the local community, and their access to parks should be taken into consideration.

Furthermore, participants value open spaces that are inclusive, safe and welcoming to everyone, and would like to see open spaces that are accessible, inclusive and welcoming for a range of user groups, particularly people with a disability, elderly and young people.

“Private use of public spaces needs to be restricted. Fencing that goes up weeks before events restricting the movement of citizens within crown lands that disrupts exercise and access to green spaces vital to health, and makes locals feel excluded from their own neighbourhood”

- Survey respondent

“I am now elderly and I can cope if I can walk in parks enjoying trees and space.”

- Survey respondent

“It’s easy for private companies to ‘take over’ parks for their organised exercise. It would be good to have space to go and sit and think without the noise and activity all around.”

- Survey respondent

“Open spaces should be a safe space for any group and accept the diversity of our people. It provides an opportunity to connect, relax, and develop a sense of community. Creating spaces like these nearby for all groups may create a harmonious vibe that is unmatched in other environments.”

- Survey respondent

“We are so lucky in Australia that one doesn’t need to be wealthy to access and enjoy nature and our beautiful views.”

- Survey respondent

21 

Support for recognising Aboriginal people’s custodianship, however there is uncertainty of what this means or looks like in practice

Overall, people were supportive of recognising Aboriginal custodianship of land in Sydney and agreed that respect for the land is important. Some participants expressed a greater desire to understand the meaning of connection to country, Aboriginal custodianship, to learn and recognise the history of First Nations people, and emphasised the importance of paying respects to the traditional owners of the land. One pop-up participant would like to see events that celebrate and recognise Aboriginal history and it being important for the wider community.

Some respondents were unsure about what custodianship would look like in practice and expressed concern about potentially losing access to public space as a result.

“I believe it is essential to include Aboriginal histories in our parks for too many reasons to write here.”

- Survey respondent

“Lots of random words in these value statements. However any recognition and celebration of Aboriginal peoples’ stewardship and ongoing connection that gives those people ongoing rights and opportunities to use the land is an important step in righting significant wrongs.”

- Survey respondent

“Concerned about ‘Aboriginal Custodianship’ meaning parks won’t be accessible to the public.”

- Pop-up participant

“If our community understands the importance and meaning of Connection to Country, they are more likely to respect, appreciate and protect it.”

- Survey respondent

19 

People value open, green spaces and connecting to nature for their mental health and wellbeing

Many comments indicated people value open, green spaces and the opportunity to connect to nature for their mental health and wellbeing. Many comments indicated an appetite for open, green spaces for quiet leisure, passive recreation and relaxation, particularly for people living or visiting the city.

People highly value places to connect with nature and the community, expressing the positive impact on their mental, physical and social wellbeing. Some comments indicated that open spaces provide a sense of community and local connection that is important for their wellbeing.

Participants also commented on the importance of green spaces in supporting wildlife and biodiversity, and creating healthy environments for people and nature.

“Getting close to nature in a quiet relaxed setting is very nourishing for the mind and soul. Sports, noise and too much distraction take away from that. But I do like places where people can be active, but I think a very definitive segregation needs to happen between quiet nature-focused areas and busy active areas where people may shout ... so depending on the size of each place I'd say focus on one or the other, but I'd always go for the quiet recharging nature strip in the big city.”

- Survey respondent

“These areas provide places for people to get together as neighbours and friends and share history, connections and daily life. As new people move into the area they provide a place for them to meet and share experiences, stories and a sense of the incredible history. The places help us connect past, present and future learning more about each”

- Survey respondent

“The green spaces are place for rejuvenation of your mind, as well as places to stay fit, to learn about and enjoy nature. They are a place that everyone should feel welcome and able to access and enjoy.”

- Survey respondent

“In a world of concrete, steel and glass, green spaces with views beyond the next wall are essential for mind, body and spirit. I don't believe that these spaces always need to contain structured ways for people to amuse themselves but just an opportunity to experience sky, open space, nature and relaxation whether they are alone or with others.”

- Survey respondent

18 

People value open spaces in high density areas and would like to see these spaces preserved to cater to future demand

With an increase in high density dwellings in the city, many participants indicated it is important to ensure local residents and visitors are able to access open spaces. Participants would like to see existing open spaces retained for community use.

Many participants indicated they particularly value open spaces in the city as places to relax, connect to nature, and enjoy passive and active recreation.

Participants would like to see green, open spaces to support a range of recreation in an increasingly dense environment and accommodate the growing population.

Comments also indicated a strong desire to see open spaces in the city preserved for the future. As the community grows and changes, people would like to see the size and history of parks retained for future generations.

“The increase in multi-unit housing brings an increased need for multi-functional, green, passive open space.”

- Survey respondent

“In a busy, congested city, these elements are important for city dwellers to reconnect with the basics.”

- Survey respondent

“These are unique and beautiful places in the heart of our city. They must be preserved so generations can enjoy all the parks etc for their recreation.”

- Survey respondent

“Living in the city in an apartment our parks are really important to my family group. We love them, we use them and we respect them; they are our backyards. It's important that local residents of all ages are able to use our parks and to do so freely, safely and comfortably.”

- Survey respondent

14

People value diverse, unique and multi-purpose spaces that cater to a range of user groups and purposes

People value open spaces that are diverse, unique and multi-purpose that cater to a range of user groups and purposes, including passive recreation and activities such as sitting and reading, and dedicated formal sporting spaces.

Many comments recognised that each park is unique in its size, location and capacity and would like to see a balance between parks dedicated to certain recreational activities such as formal sport, and parks that remain unprogrammed, natural and provide space for passive recreation and relaxation such as reading and connecting to nature.

Participants also indicated they would like to see sharing and cohesion amongst different user groups and visitors to ensure safe, equal access and maximise utilisation of open spaces.

“I do not think that each and every space - large or small - should attempt to do all things. It is necessary to have areas - especially smaller ones - to be able to simply recharge and connect with nature.”

- Survey respondent

“What people and especially children need is nature and spaces with lush planting of trees that will be big, gorgeous, untidy things. Please no more manicured little spaces that look as if they belong in some corporation’s brochure.”

- Survey respondent

“Creating more community space is great, but it needs to be purposeful, not just trying to make every bit of space all things to all people. Create more sports fields for example, with the specific purpose of organised sport without making them dog parks and bike tracks and wetlands as well.”

- Survey respondent

“The size, aspect and location of parks obviously vary so a ‘one size fits all’ approach should be avoided.”

- Survey respondent

“I don’t believe that these spaces always need to contain structured ways for people to amuse themselves but just an opportunity to experience sky, open space, nature and relaxation whether they are alone or with others.”

- Survey respondent

7. Crown Land Site Summaries - Specific Plans of Management

The following section summarises findings from the online survey and pop-ups for each of the Crown Land sites that will have Specific Plans of Management prepared.



What we heard - Specific POMs snapshot:

Belmore Park, Haymarket



Image: Belmore Park, City of Sydney

Number of people who commented on this park:



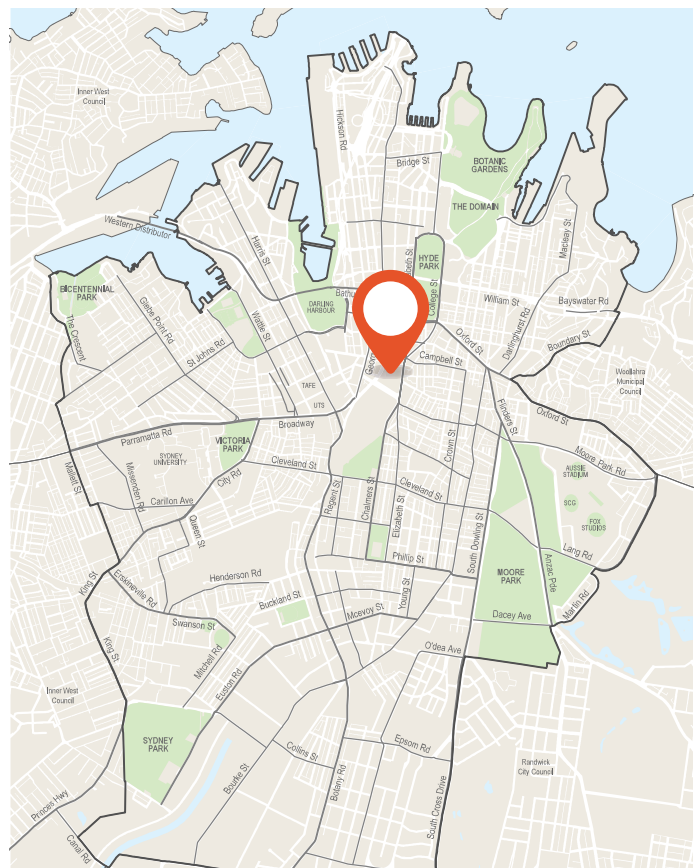
18 people completed the online survey for Belmore Park.



25 people completed intercept surveys for Belmore Park.

Current visitation to Belmore Park

- Respondents were more likely to be visitors to the area (56%; 24 respondents). This was followed by respondents who live nearby (33%; 14) and work nearby (30%; 13).
- Approximately one quarter of survey respondents visit the park weekly (26%; 11), or monthly (26%; 11); followed by respondents who visit a few time per year (17%; 7)
- The majority of respondents usually visit Belmore Park in the afternoon (12pm - 4pm) (60%; 26). This was followed by afternoon/evening (6pm - 9pm) (35%; 15) and morning (9am - 12pm) (26%; 11).



Belmore Park, Haymarket

What people value about Belmore Park

Survey

Survey respondents were asked to choose what they value most about Belmore Park.

Top values as indicated by survey respondents are:

- Its nature and natural elements (47%; 20)
- It's history & heritage (35%; 15)
- It's a relaxing place (28%; 12), and
- It's a peaceful place (29%;12).

Participants also told us they value this place because it is quiet, there is wildlife (bats at night), there are abundant trees and because it is unceded Aboriginal land.

Why people value Belmore Park

Survey respondents were asked why they chose these values. A number of comments spoke about this place being an important refuge for people, in particular vulnerable members of the community.

Respondents told us...

"This park is scary, run down, filthy, and full of people who have no where to live. It would be great to have this park for a market or community area but needs a massive change to it. It's just a thoroughfare at the moment.."

- Survey respondent

"It's only peaceful because its so poorly used. The main challenge with Belmore Park is retaining its park-like atmosphere while embedding it with the myriad activities and supporting infrastructure that a contemporary city requires."

- Survey respondent

"Yes as rare for disadvantaged people to find anywhere comfortable on the city as lack of shelters"

- Survey respondent

Respondents told us...

"I think it's beauty and the sense of clean space are continuing as important factors"

- Survey respondent

"It's interesting because it feels nothing more than a place to pass through but it's a microcosm of a world."

- Survey respondent

"It is a beautiful place with the magnificent trees and should remain green. Maybe sensor lighting as you walk through at night would be a good idea.."

- Survey respondent



Current activities at Belmore Park

Survey respondents were asked what are the main activities they do at Belmore Park. The majority of respondents walk through Belmore Park to get somewhere else (70%; 30 respondents).

This was followed by sitting and relaxing (37%; 16), enjoying nature (21%; 9) and watching the world go by (19%; 8).

Other activities survey respondents currently do at this park include provide food service for people experiencing homelessness.

Future activities at Belmore Park

Survey respondents were asked to comment on anything else they would like to do or see in this park in the future, with key comments including:

- Picnic, BBQ, relax
- Listen to live music
- Buy community art
- Eat and drink with friends
- Watch outdoor cinema, and
- Meet with international visitors.

Respondents told us...

“I think something needs to be done to improve the safety of the area. Just making it cleaner and more attractive would assist.”
- Survey respondent

“I would like to see it well lit up. Perhaps not just normal lighting but more beautiful to look at.”
- Survey respondent

“Enjoy some beautiful plants as currently the only flowers are there amazingly ugly succulents outside the coronation Centre.”
- Survey respondent



Additional comments about Belmore Park:

Survey respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to share about Belmore Park, with comments including:

- The addition of more comfortable seating would benefit everyone but especially people experiencing homelessness who find respite in the park
- Gardens with flowers
- Improve the safety of the area
- Improve cleanliness
- Better lighting that is functional and beautiful, and
- Recognise Aboriginal peoples continuing connection to country.

Respondents told us...

“Belmore Park is tired and poorly structured. It needs to become an oasis in the centre of the city, lush and green, sure, but with all manner of interesting and enticing activities and offerings suitable to the contemporary metropolis.”
- Survey respondent

“I don't visit there because its dangerous and filthy. There isn't accessible shade.”
- Survey respondent

“It needs to be more welcoming, needs to recognise the many different people that use this space to get to wherever they're going and be recognised as a park for people.”
- Survey respondent

“It lacks of vegetation, trees, just grass, it doesn't function as oxygen creator in the polluted and congested street Cleveland Street.”
- Survey respondent



What we heard - Specific POM snapshot:

Cook and Phillip Park, Sydney CBD

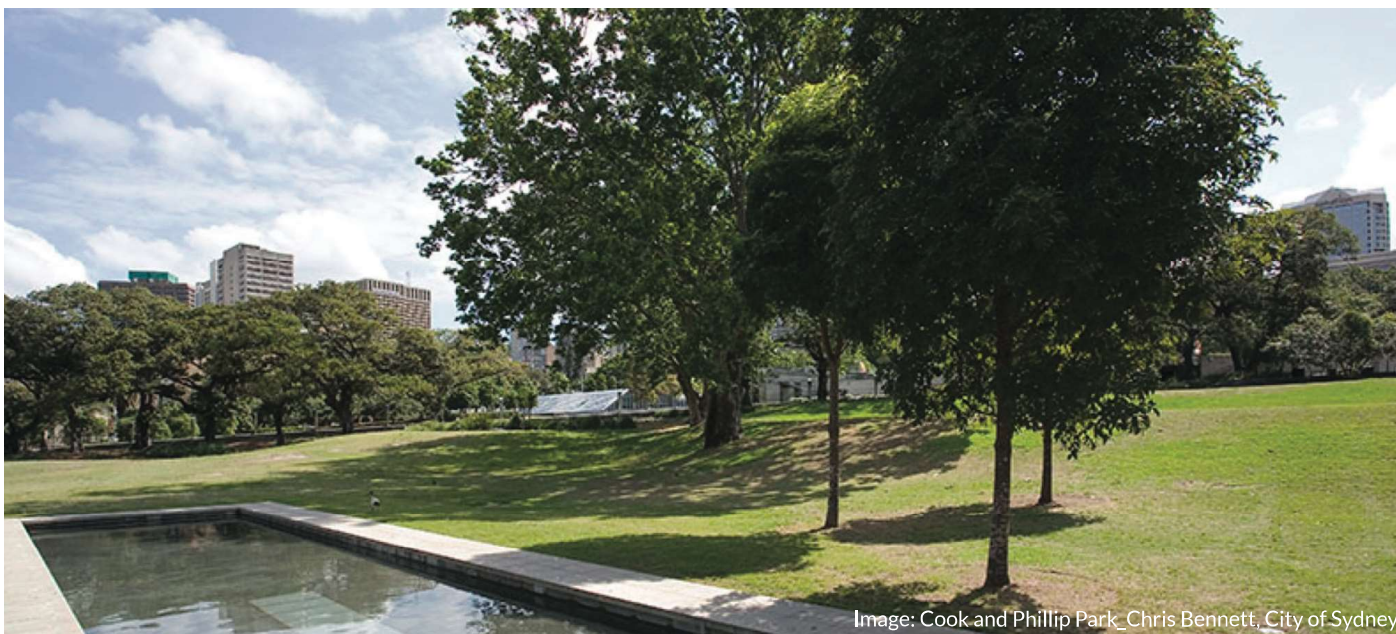


Image: Cook and Phillip Park_Chris Bennett, City of Sydney

Number of people who commented on this park:



12

people completed the online survey for Cook and Phillip Park.

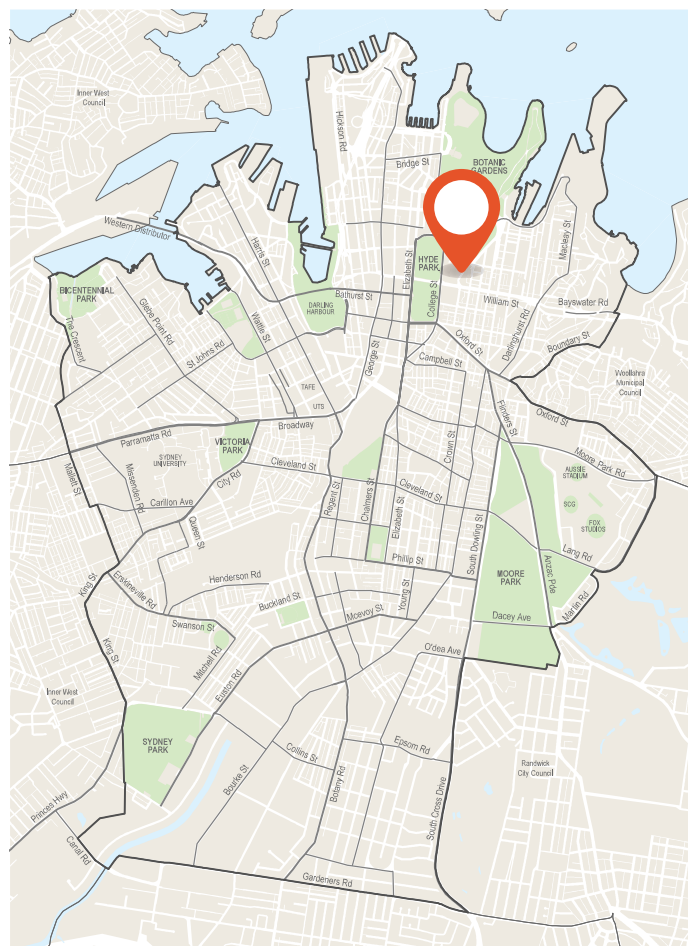


7

people completed the online survey for Cook and Phillip Park.

Current visitation to Cook and Phillip Park

- Respondents were more likely to live nearby to Cook and Phillip Park (74%; 14). This was followed by respondents who work nearby (32%; 6) and visit the area (21%; 4).
- Half of the respondents visit the park daily (53%; 10) or weekly (26%; 5).
- Respondents usually visit Cook and Phillip Park in the afternoon (12pm - 4pm) (53%; 10) or in the morning (9am - 12pm) (42%; 8).



Cook and Phillip Park, Sydney CBD

What people value about Cook and Phillip Park

Respondents were asked to choose what they value most about Cook and Phillip Park, with the top values including:

- Its beauty (42%; 8 respondents)
- It feels safe (21%; 4)
- It's a cultural place (21%; 4), and
- It's a peaceful place (21%; 4).

Why people value Cook and Phillip Park

Reasons why respondents chose these values include:

- Sense of safety is important for people to feel they can continue to come to the park
- Access to Council facilities should be affordable
- Open spaces are important for mental health
- Nice views, and
- One of the few places in the city to play sport.

One third of survey respondents indicated there are 'other' values they associate with Cook and Phillip Park, with comments including:

- Location (2 comments)
- Dog friendly area (2) that is safe from traffic
- Unceded Aboriginal land
- Place for runners, and
- Wildlife habitat.

One respondent indicated they value Cook and Phillip Park as a safe place that offers shelter and space for those without a stable home, and would like to see this preserved in the future.

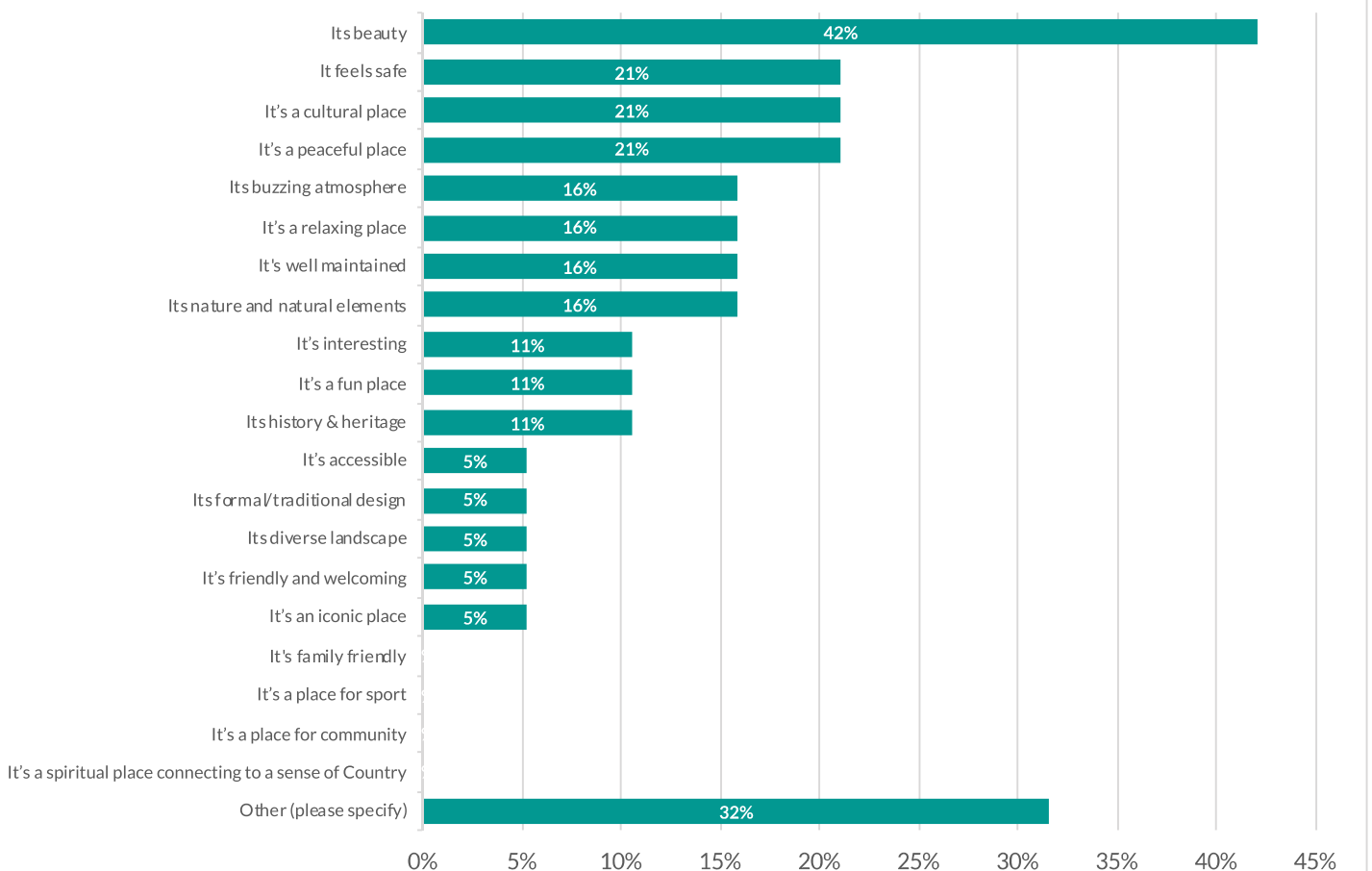
Respondents told us...

"These elements heal your mind they allow us all to take a break from the business of our brains to take in nature."
- Survey respondent

"It's one of very few places in the city to play sport."
- Survey respondent

"I believe the feeling of safety that can be felt when in Cook and Phillip Park is important to protect, many people with stable homes come to the space to sleep and find shelter. This is not something that should be lost in redevelopment."
- Survey respondent

Figure 3 - Online survey results - What do you value most about this place? Choose up to 5



Current activities at Cook and Phillip Park

As shown in Figure 4, walking through to get somewhere else (63%; 12 respondents) was the most popular activity respondents do at Cook and Phillip Park.

This was followed by walking or running for exercise (32%; 6), walking the dog (26%; 5) and meet with friends (26%; 5).

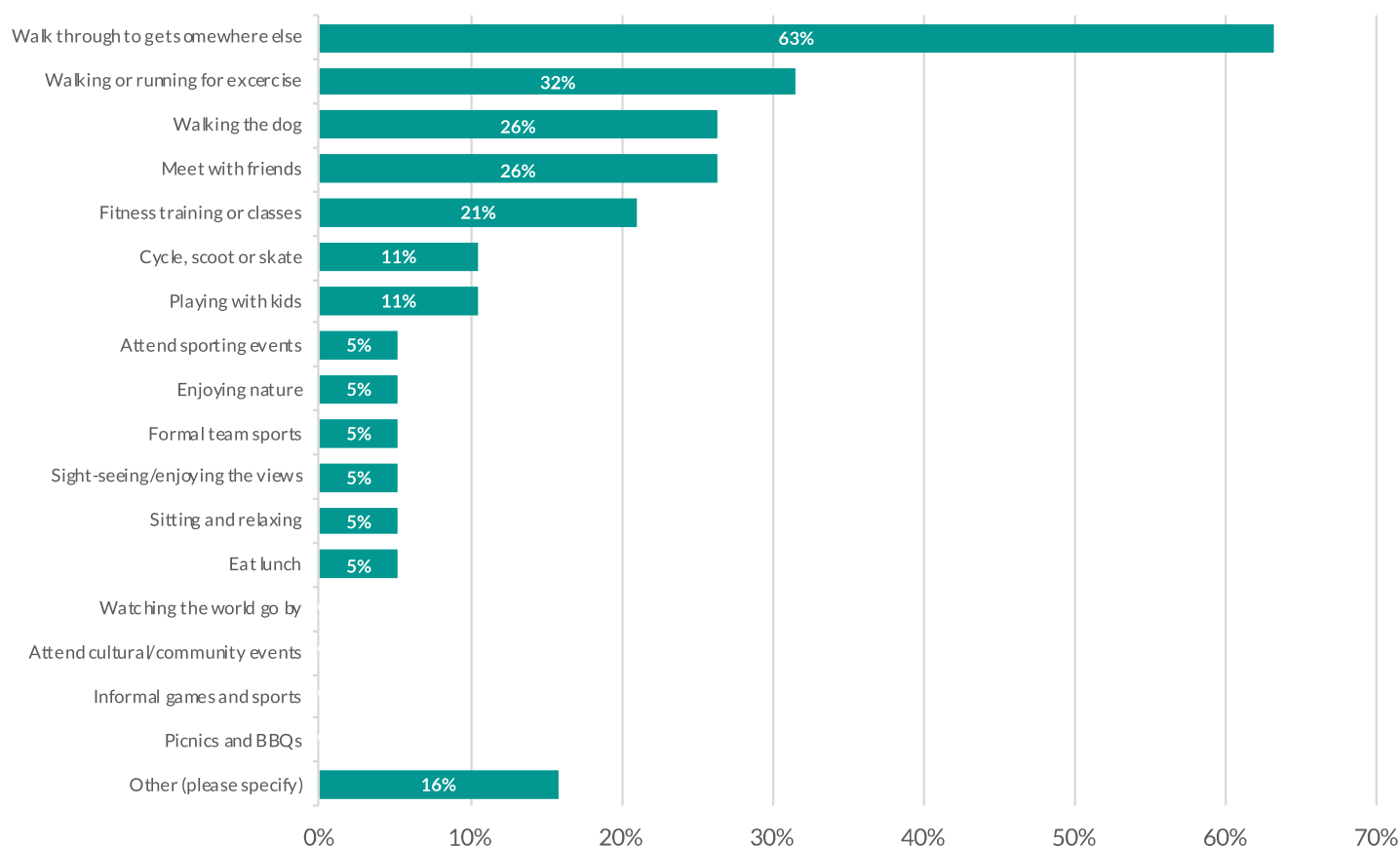
Other activities survey respondents currently do at this park include swimming, using the playground and visiting for school excursions.

Future activities at Cook and Phillip Park

Respondents were asked to comment on anything else they would like to do in this park in the future, with key comments including:

- Additional tables and seating (2 comments)
- Fenced dog park (2)
- Increased lighting at night
- Additional water features
- Desire for an oval for athletics
- Additional greenery and access to natural lighting at Cook and Phillip Park pools
- Improved affordability to the gym, fitness classes and swimming pool facilities
- Increased shade, and
- Picnic facilities.

Figure 4 - Online survey results - What are the main activities you do here? Select all that apply



Is there anything else you would like to share about this place

Respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to share about Cook and Phillip Park, with comments including:

- Addition of seating (2 comments), particularly under trees for shade
- Improve crowding with rough sleepers and antisocial behaviour (2)
- Improve maintenance of park, including:
 - Vegetation in the ponds and along the plaza
 - Litter
 - Drainage
- Recognise Aboriginal peoples continuing connection to country
- Engage, involve and collaborate with First Nations People in decision-making and future management of Crown Lands
- More trees
- Encourage passive activity
- Increase signage for off-leash dog areas
- Separate child swimming pool to accommodate parents and children learning to swim, as well as other adult users
- Concerns wide footpaths are dangerous in wet weather conditions. Expressed need for additional handrails for people travelling down hill.
- Upgrade the Cook and Phillip outdoor Basketball Court next to the Childcare Centre to a multi-purpose court and provide proper management, and
- Opportunity to connect the Australian Museum with Cook and Phillip Park, particularly for school excursions for students to utilise natural spaces while learning.

Respondents told us...

“Important to keep this area multi functional for the future.”

- Survey respondent

“It is important to understand the past to appreciate the future plans.”

- Survey respondent

“The Cook & Phillip outdoor Basketball Court next to the Childcare Centre needs to be upgraded to a true multi-purpose court and restored as a managed sporting resource.”

- Survey respondent

“A connection to the Australian Museum would ensure that the 100,000 school students who visit the AM can utilise this important natural space and continue their educational journey during their day in the CBD.”

- Survey respondent

“The site is an eyesore and an ugly concrete cancer riddled monstrosity it needs to be redone. It blocks of any access to sun whilst swimming with only a tiny outdoor sport to sun bathe (which I am not encouraging) and has no green space incorporated within the space. I understand that it is over seen by apartments so there is some need to limit the view in. However, the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre has managed to allow light in whilst also allowing privacy. The park around it should be redeveloped in line with the park out the front of Elizabeth Bay House with some water features for all to enjoy and truly be a place of relaxation with some tables and chairs provided so that people can take a meal and eat it in the park.”

- Survey respondent



What we heard - Specific POMs snapshot:

Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville



Number of people who commented on this park:



17 people completed the online survey for Erskineville Oval & Harry Noble Reserve Park.

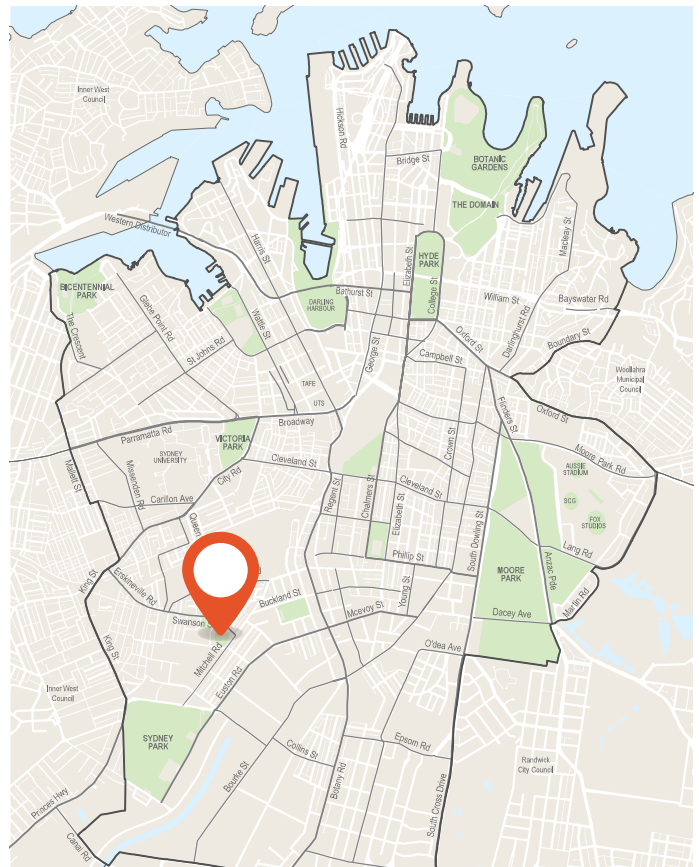


17 people participated in the community pop-ups at Harry Noble Reserve.

Current visitation to Erskineville Oval & Harry Noble Reserve

Survey respondents were more likely to live nearby to the area (82%; 14 respondents). This was followed by respondents who visit the area (29%; 5) and work nearby (18%; 3).

- Approximately one third of survey respondents visit the park weekly (29%; 5), or monthly (29%; 5); followed by respondents who visit daily (24%; 4)
- The majority of respondents usually visit Erskineville Oval & Harry Noble Reserve in the afternoon/evening (6pm - 9pm) (65%; 11). This was followed by afternoon (12pm - 4pm) (41%; 7) and early morning and morning (before 9am and 9am - 12pm) (35%; 6, respectively).



Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve, Erskineville

What people value about Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve

Overall

Across engagement, participants were asked to choose what they value most about Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve.

As shown in Table 6 2, the top values as indicated by all engagement participants was that it is a relaxing place (47%; 16). This was followed by 35% or 12 participants (respectively) that indicated it's a peaceful place, it's family friendly, it's friendly and welcoming and it's a place for community.

Survey

Top values as indicated by survey respondents are:

- It's a cultural place (59%; 10 respondents)
- Its a peaceful place (41%; 7), and
- Its a relaxing place and its family friendly (35%; 6, respectively).

Other reasons why respondents value Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve include that there are public toilets there, it has an open view to the sky and it is unceded Aboriginal land.

Pop-up

Top values as indicated by pop-up participants are:

- It is a place for community (65%; 11 participants)
- Its a relaxing place (59%; 10), and
- It's easy to access for everyone (59%; 10 respectively).

Participants also told us they value Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve because it is a dog friendly place.

Respondents told us...

"Erskineville has evolved into a diverse and family centric community. It has been a place for new mums to gather and support each other, people to exercise their dogs and local schoolchildren to enjoy given limited school facilities."

- Survey respondent

"The oval and park is the beating heart of the Erskineville community, with many homes with small or no backyards it's a meeting place for kids and adults, a chance to catch up, relax and unwind or walk the dog."

- Survey respondent

"Oval is good for community use, exercise and running. Park is lovely to picnic, play, wander and sit. Sometimes there are too many dogs."

- Survey respondent



Table 3 - What do you value most about this place? Choose up to 5

Values	Survey		Pop-ups		Total	
	%	#	%	#	%	#
It's a relaxing place	35	6	59	10	47	16
It's a peaceful place	41	7	29	5	35	12
It's family friendly	35	6	35	6	35	12
It's friendly and welcoming	29	5	41	7	35	12
It's a place for community	6	1	65	11	35	12
It's well maintained	18	3	41	7	29	10
It's accessible	0	0	59	10	29	10
It's a cultural place	59	10	**	**	-	-
It feels safe	24	4	29	5	26	9
Its nature and natural elements	24	4	29	5	26	9
Its beauty	18	3	12	2	15	5
It's a fun place	6	1	18	3	12	4
Its formal/traditional design	12	2	6	1	9	3
Its buzzing atmosphere	6	1	12	2	9	3
It's a place for sport	0	0	18	3	9	3
Its history & heritage	0	0	12	2	6	2
It's interesting	6	1	0	0	3	1
It's an iconic place	6	1	0	0	3	1
Its diverse landscape	6	1	0	0	3	1
It's a spiritual place connecting to a sense of Country	0	0	6	1	3	1
Its views	*	*	6	1	-	-
Other (please specify)	18	3	82	14	50	17
Total participants (#)	17		17		34	

*This value was not an option in the online survey

**This value was not an option on the pop-up boards, however was significant for survey respondents

Current activities at Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve

Overall

As shown in Table 73 the top activity consultation respondents are doing at this park is walking to get somewhere else (59%; 20). This was followed by:

- Walking or running for exercise (56%; 19)
- Sitting and relaxing (41%; 14), and
- Walking the dog (41%; 14).

Survey

59% or 10 survey respondents indicated the most popular activities they currently do at Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve is walking through to get somewhere else.

This was followed by walking or running for exercise (47%; 8) and meeting with friends (41%; 7).

Other activities survey respondents currently do at this park include astronomy.

Pop-up

59% or 10 pop-up participants respectively indicated the most popular activities they do at Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve are walking their dog and walking through to get to somewhere else.

Other activities pop-up participants do at Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve is sitting and relaxing and walking for exercise.

Future activities at Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve

One pop-up participant would like to do group fitness classes at the park in the future. Survey respondents suggested:

- Placing a turf cricket square at the ground
- Providing information about the history and heritage of the place, and
- More exercise equipment, BBQs, and a children’s playground including water play.

Table 4 - What are the main activities you do here?

Activities	Survey		Pop-ups		Total	
	%	#	%	#	%	#
Walk through to get somewhere else	59	10	59	10	59	20
Walking or running for exercise	47	8	65	11	56	19
Sitting and relaxing	41	7	41	7	41	14
Walking the dog	24	4	59	10	41	14
Meet with friends	41	7	35	6	38	13
Picnics and BBQs	24	4	41	7	32	11
Watching the world go by	41	7	24	4	32	11
Playing with kids	24	4	29	5	26	9
Enjoying nature	35	6	18	3	26	9
Informal games and sports	12	2	18	3	15	5
Sight-seeing/enjoying the views	12	2	12	2	12	4
Cycle, scoot or skate	12	2	12	2	12	4
Eat lunch	18	3	0	0	9	3
Fitness training or classes	12	2	6	1	9	3
Attend cultural/ community events	6	1	6	1	6	2
Attend sporting events	6	1	0	0	3	1
Formal team sports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	18	3	100	3	18	6
Total participants (#)	17		17		34	

“I like it as it is, the refurbishment done when the Rabbitohs were training there was fantastic, laser levelling of the playing surface, the removal of the outside fencing, and the painting of the grandstand. Well done.”

- Survey respondent



Additional comments about Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve

Survey respondents and pop-up participants were asked if there was anything else they would like to share about Erskineville Oval and Harry Noble Reserve, with comments including:

- It is loved by the community
- The public toilets are an asset, and
- It is important open space for the growing community.

Respondents told us...

“Erskineville oval and Harry noble deserve more investment in amenity as more high density living has been created and is planned. More people but less access will drive more stress and conflict over desired use e.g. children vs dogs vs young adults. Park Sydney and like developments are delivering more people but haven’t seen similar investment in community amenity.”

- Survey respondent

“Having parks with public toilets is really important for extended park gatherings with family and friends so I think they should be opened as much as possible.”

- Survey respondent

“Needs more undercover picnic areas”

- Survey respondent

“It is well used and loved by the community.”

- Survey respondent



Image: Pop-up consultation at Erskineville Oval. (Source: Matthew Duchesne/ Fancy Boy Photography)

What we heard - Specific POMs snapshot:

Hyde Park, Sydney



Image: Hyde Park South
(Source: Katherine Griffiths, City of Sydney)

Number of people who commented on this reserve:



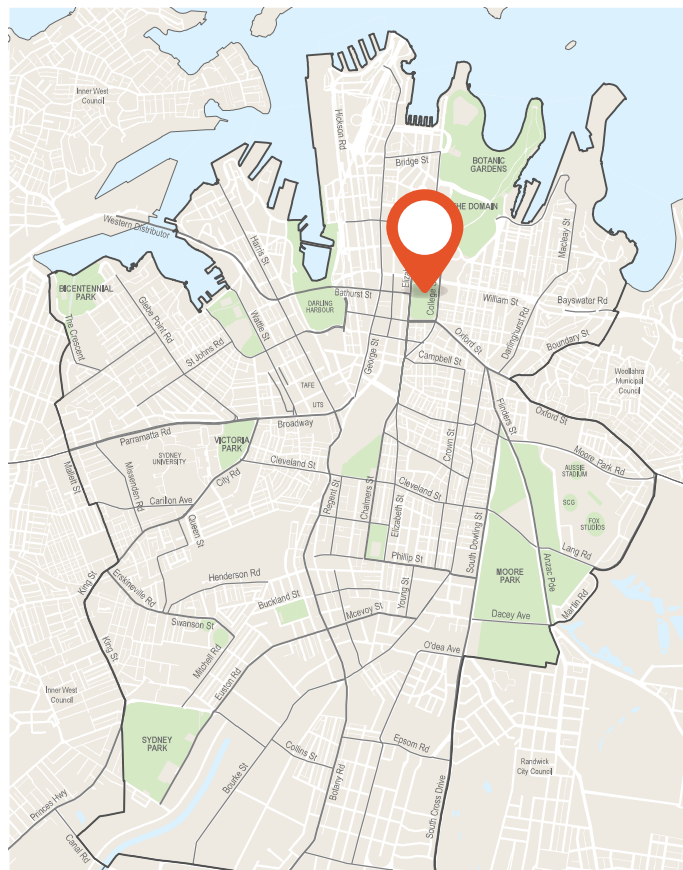
37 people completed the online survey for Hyde Park.



12 people completed intercept surveys for Hyde Park.

Current visitation to Hyde Park

- Hyde Park received the highest response rate in the online survey.
- The majority of survey respondents work nearby Hyde Park (57%; 28 respondents). This was followed by respondents who visit the area (47%; 23) and live nearby (43%; 21).
- More than a third of survey respondents visit the park daily (39%; 19), followed by respondents who visit weekly (24%; 12).
- Survey respondents were more likely to visit Hyde Park in the afternoon between 12pm-4pm (67%; 32), followed by in the morning (9am-12pm) (52%; 25) and in the afternoon/evening (6pm-9pm) (48%; 23).



Hyde Park, Sydney

What people value about Hyde Park

Survey respondents were asked to choose what they value most about Hyde Park.

As shown in Figure 5 (overpage), top values as indicated by survey respondents are:

- Its beauty (53%; 26 respondents)
- Its nature and natural elements (45%; 22)
- It feels safe (41%; 20)
- It's a cultural place (37%; 18).

Participants also told us they value the diverse activities that occur in the park, the people who are there, wildlife, the location in the middle of the city, its tribute to history, coffee shops, and it is valued as unceded Aboriginal land.

Why people value Hyde Park

Survey respondents were asked why they chose these values. Overall, many comments indicated having access to large, green open spaces, particularly in the inner city (4 comments), retaining and maintaining green space is important for the future, and preserving Hyde Park's long history and cultural significance tied with the war memorial.

"I value it as unceded Aboriginal land. The City acknowledges the Gadigal as the Traditional Custodians of this place we now call Sydney, and acknowledges their continued connection to Country. At the same time, the City presumes to decide how 'this place we now call Sydney' will be occupied, used and managed. The 'acknowledgment' is merely words, signs and symbols, none of which actually show respect for and deference to Aboriginal peoples' continuing connection to Country. Imagine you are the historically dispossessed, If I were to actually acknowledge that this is your country I would not simply say so, then carry on as I pleased. I would defer to your right to decide how the land is to be occupied, used and managed. I would recognise my contested position of power and authority, and I would, at the least, act to empower you and to negotiate an agreement with you. I would not nod in your direction and continue to exercise my power over your land. So, get serious about acknowledging country. A period of over 200 years of progressive and often violent acts of dispossession is hidden behind an acknowledgement of country. It is not easy to remedy the loss and restore the capacity that colonisation destroyed. The difficulty is not a reason to not try. Please show us that you actually respect the elders to whom you 'pay respect'. Show us that you actually recognise their 'continued connection to Country. Decide to include the recognised 'Traditional Custodians' in decision-making and continuing management. Defer to their judgment and desires. Engage in an act of practical reconciliation and restore stolen ownership, as far as you can. Make that resolve your reason for acting.

- Survey respondent

Respondents told us...

"They [open green spaces] make me feel happy and respected, and it's important to maintain for the future."

- Survey respondent

"Because they [parks] make me happy and help other people, especially during Covid."

- Survey respondent

"I value having a large green public space in the middle of the CBD, like an oasis (to use a cliché)."

- Survey respondent

"Yes they all matter. Every park matters. It is important to manage them well and to use all the little spaces and corners creatively as well."

- Survey respondent

"Beauty and having the dense greenery in the heart of the city by the harbour is important to maintain and retain for our diverse populace."

- Survey respondent

"Important to maintain open space for the future and to cool temperatures"

- Survey respondent

