Attachment D

Engagement Report

Engagement report

Synthetic sports field at Perry Park, Alexandria

May 2021

CITY OF SYDNEY

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Background

The City is working to build new and upgraded active sports fields across our local area to meet the growing needs of our communities. We aim to increase the capacity of our sports field by 16,000 playing hours by 2030.

This involves constructing some synthetic fields that provide greater playing hours than traditional turf fields.

The proposal for Perry Park includes:

- a new FIFA sized synthetic sports field
- a new amenities pavilion
- a new driveway and car park
- new park lighting and seating
- welcoming park entries and better access to and around the park
- new native plantings and trees.

Engagement summary

From 11 November to 9 December 2020, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to create a synthetic sports field at Perry Park.

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

Consultation activities included online engagement, a letter to residents and sporting groups and project signage at the park.

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

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

– gather feedback from stakeholders and the community about the proposed upgrade

– determine the level of satisfaction with the revised concept design.

Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 18 submissions (via Survey Monkey) during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 115 times during the consultation period.

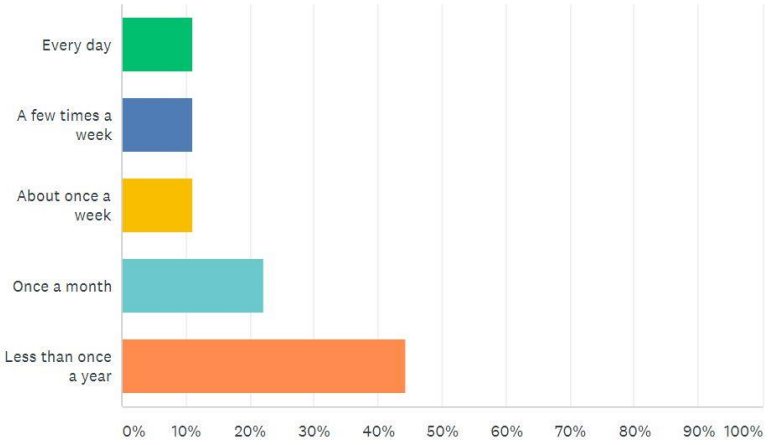
Key findings

Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked to rate how important elements of the proposed design were to them. The results are below

How often do you currently use the park?

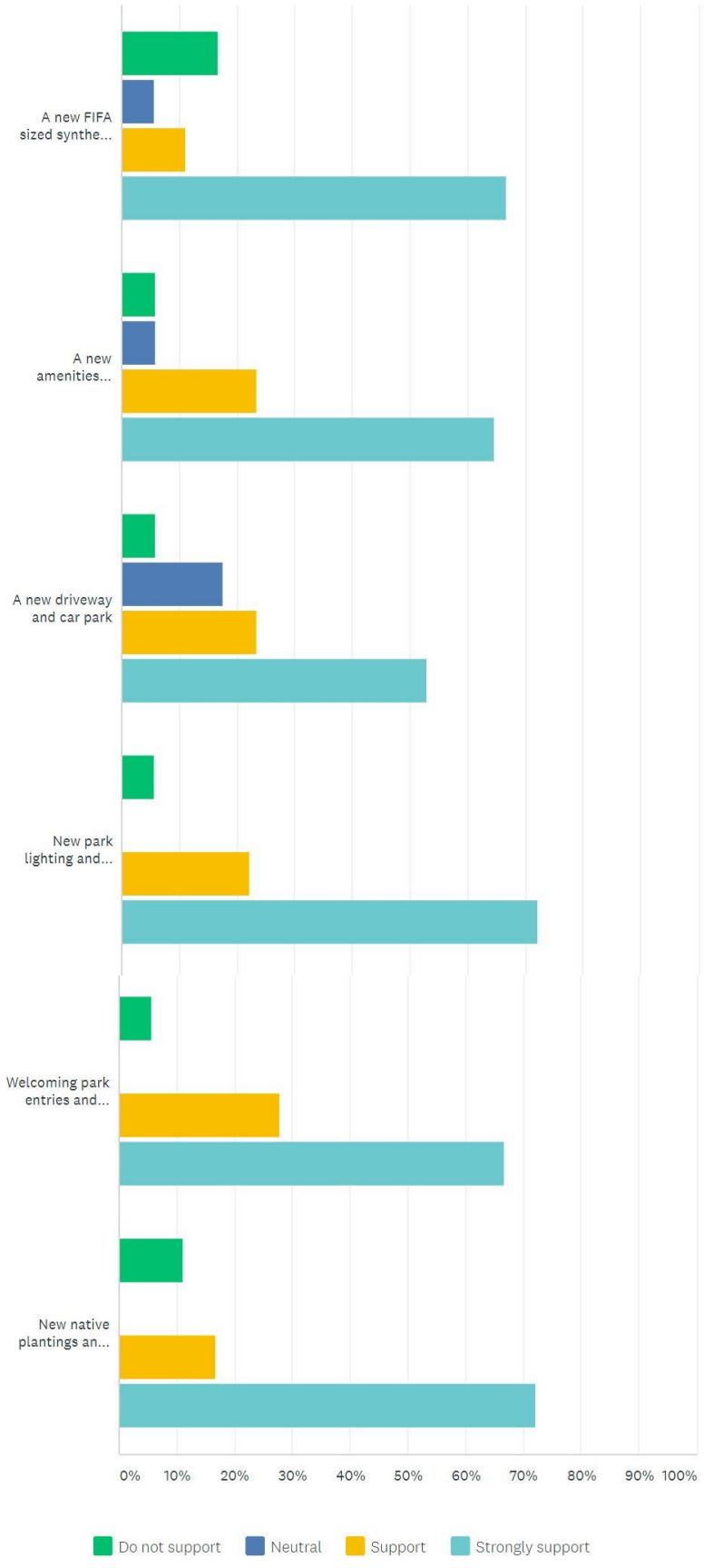
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	11.11%	2
A few times a week	11.11%	2
About once a week	11.11%	2
Once a month	22.22%	4
Less than once a year	44.44%	8
TOTAL		18

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

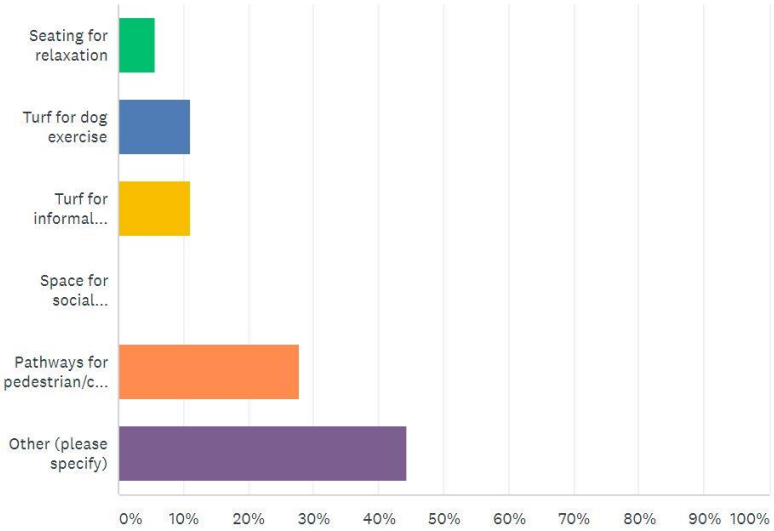


Engagement report

	DO NOT SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	TOTAL
A new FIFA sized synthetic sports field	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	11.11% 2	66.67% 12	18
A new amenities pavilion	5.88% 1	5.88% 1	23.53% 4	64.71% 11	17
A new driveway and car park	5.88% 1	17.65% 3	23.53% 4	52.94% 9	17
New park lighting and seating	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	22.22% 4	72.22% 13	18
Welcoming park entries and better access to and around the park	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	27.78% 5	66.67% 12	18
New native plantings and trees	11.11% 2	0.00% 0	16.67% 3	72.22% 13	18

What do you currently use the park for?

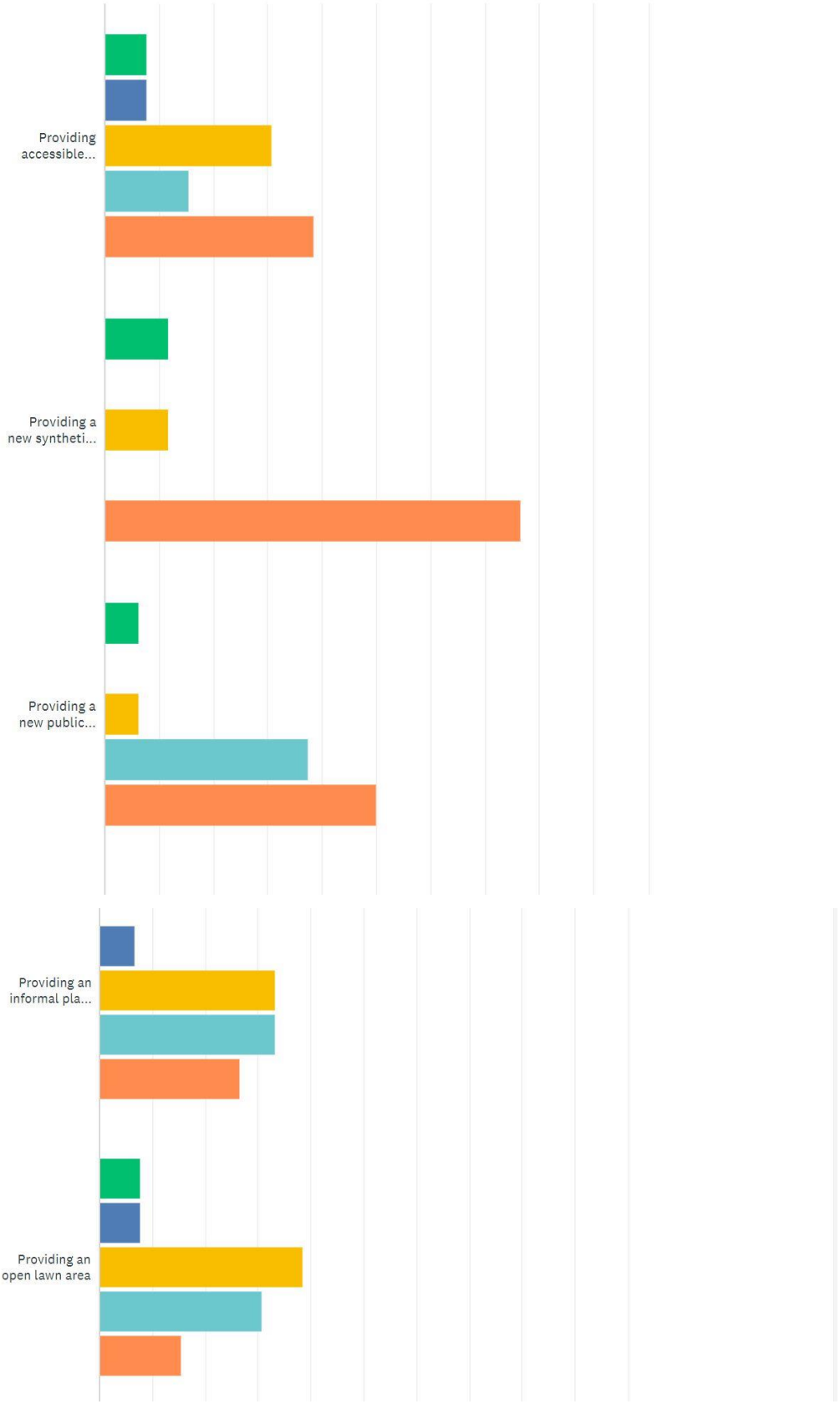
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

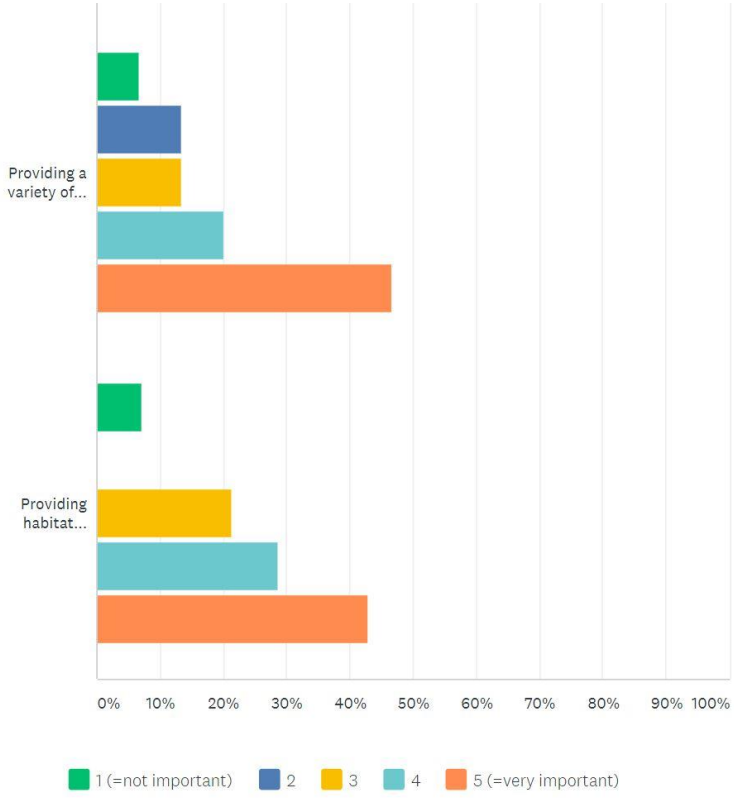


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Seating for relaxation		5.56%	1
Turf for dog exercise		11.11%	2
Turf for informal kick-about		11.11%	2
Space for social gathering/BBQs		0.00%	0
Pathways for pedestrian/circulation and exercise		27.78%	5
Other (please specify)	Responses	44.44%	8
TOTAL			18

On a scale of 1 to 5, how important are the following provisions when upgrading this park (1 = not important) and 5 (=very important)?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

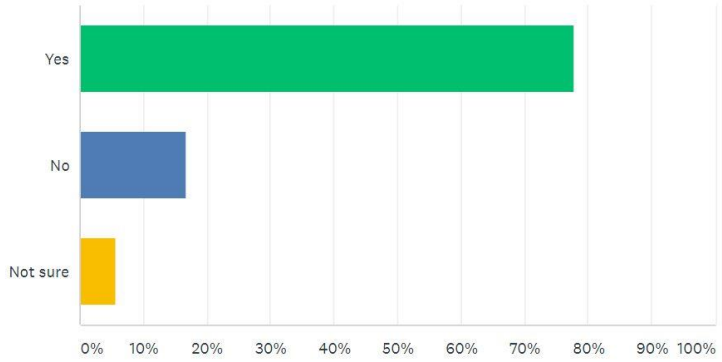




	1 (=NOT IMPORTANT)	2	3	4	5 (=VERY IMPORTANT)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Providing accessible pathways and improved circulation	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	30.77% 4	15.38% 2	38.46% 5	13	3.69
Providing a new synthetic multipurpose sports field	11.76% 2	0.00% 0	11.76% 2	0.00% 0	76.47% 13	17	4.29
Providing a new public amenities building including toilets and changerooms	6.25% 1	0.00% 0	6.25% 1	37.50% 6	50.00% 8	16	4.25
Providing an informal play area	0.00% 0	6.67% 1	33.33% 5	33.33% 5	26.67% 4	15	3.80
Providing an open lawn area	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	38.46% 5	30.77% 4	15.38% 2	13	3.38
Providing a variety of seating opportunities (sun/shade)	6.67% 1	13.33% 2	13.33% 2	20.00% 3	46.67% 7	15	3.87
Providing habitat planting and new tree plantings	7.14% 1	0.00% 0	21.43% 3	28.57% 4	42.86% 6	14	4.00

Do you think that the upgrade would change your use of the park?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	14
No	16.67%	3
Not sure	5.56%	1
TOTAL		18

Subjects/topics raised in submissions

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

General		
Project scope/design	**Total**	**City of Sydney Response**
Support of the concept: • "We are a sports club, who are struggling to get parks to train on to facilitate our growing numbers. We would love to see this development going ahead." • "There are not enough synthetic fields in the south east / east"	2	Perry Park has been identified as a site suitable for active sports and a FIFA sized multipurpose synthetic surface, which will accommodate a range of different sports such as football (soccer), hockey, futsal, flag football, touch football, rugby union, rugby league etc.
Natural turf is a much more environmentally friendly option for the field. Would like to retain grass area.	2	The City approved a Sportsfield Development Program in 2017, which aims to address the increasing deficiency in the capacity of City's sporting facilities to meet the identified demand. The objective of the program is to increase playable hours and offer a variety of

		playing surfaces for different sports across the local government area. Heavy use of natural turf fields in both winter and summer has led to muddy bare patches, on-going maintenance and an in-ability to use the field during turf replacement (6-12 weeks of the year) and wet weather conditions. While they still require some maintenance, synthetic fields can provide greater levels of utilization (available hours per week) than natural turf and will assist in addressing the deficiency of sporting facilities within the area.
Keep the goal nets up all year round.	1	Noted. To be further investigated during detail design.
Ensure the field meets FNSW NPL standards so competitive soccer matches can be played at all levels - this includes 2 change rooms.	1	The sportsfield has been designed to accommodate a FIFA Quality, Football NSW, World Rugby Regulation 22, NRL Community field and FIH Multi-sport code compliance. Where there is a conflict between a sports code and FIFA compliance, the FIFA compliance will take precedence due to the field requiring certification.
Planting	**Total**	**City of Sydney Response**
Concerned about planting of evergreen native trees shading the northern goal area. In daytime, play will be into sun with goal area shaded (particularly troublesome in winter). Deciduous trees, shorter trees, or trees set back further would be better.	1	Reducing the extent of softscape and turf will naturally result in this park becoming hotter. As a result, planting and large canopy trees will be key to providing adequate shade for spectators and players. The proposed planting and design layout aims to provide protection from the carpark and driveway area, and a sense of enclosure within the park. This however also needs to be balanced against the need to provide adequate light within the field goal areas, clear sightlines and access into and through the park. The type and location of tree species will be further investigated during detail design.
Other/outside scope	**Total**	**City of Sydney Response**
Would like to be able to book the field for matches/tournaments	1	The field will be managed and available for booking through an electronic booking

		system available to all community members and sporting groups.
Additional parking is needed	1	Additional car parking options were investigated, but were not feasible and technically restrictive, due to a lack of available space on-site, steep grades and contamination. The proposed design will accommodate the existing carparking spaces, including two wheelchair accessible bays, in addition to a mini-bus and car drop-off area, supported by on-street parking in the area, and an extensive provision for public transport, cycling and walking options. Additionally, a Green Travel Plan will be developed to promote other modes of access to the facility.

Pre consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City did some early consultation work with several local sporting groups in the LGA who use Perry Park and surrounding ovals. This piece of work was to determine:

- size of clubs
- membership numbers
- how often they would use the fields
- time of year they would use the fields
- issues they experience with turf fields
- if they would see a benefit in having a synthetic field available, and,
- if they currently use a synthetic field somewhere else

Of the four clubs that responded, all stated it would be either beneficial or highly beneficial to have a synthetic field.

Some of the comments received from the club were:

- “Having a synthetic, multi-purpose field in the city of Sydney region would be hugely beneficial to many local clubs as the demand for fields is always something that we really struggle with. Especially as we are a sport that runs in between the standard 'winter' and 'summer' seasons, which is normally when ground closures happen for maintenance. We are constantly looking for fields that have capacity for us as a club and as we are mainly located in City of Sydney this is a very exciting proposal.” – Sydney University Touch Footy.
- “Make the facility open to as many sports as possible. Multi-purpose is the way forward.” – Urban Rec Australia.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 1000 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-feedback-on-proposed-new-synthetic-sports-field-at-perry-park-alexandria was created. The page included an electronic copy of the revised concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

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

3. Sydney Your Say e-News

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

4. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 1000 letters were distributed.

5. Notification email

An email was sent to key stakeholders, including Hockey NSW, Touch Football NSW, Oztag NSW, Eastern Suburbs Football Association, AFL NSW, Cricket NSW, City & Suburban Cricket Association, Glebe Hockey Club, Glebe Junior AFL, Rogue Ultimate Flying Disk, Urban Rec Sports, Sydney Oztag, Glebe Wanderers FC, Anderson Events, Lunchtime Legends, Sydney University Quidditch, Redfern Raiders Soccer Club, South Sydney Juniors RLFC, Dunbar Rovers Soccer Club, Lokomotiv Cove Football Club and Sydney university Touch Association.

6. On site signage

Two notice boards were installed at Perry Park, inviting people to give feedback on the proposal.

Appendix

Appendix A: concept design

Appendix B: Consultation letter

THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

11 November 2020

Your feedback on a proposed new synthetic sports field at Perry Park

The City of Sydney is planning to build a new synthetic sports field at Perry Park, Alexandria, and invites your feedback on the proposed design.

We are working to build new and upgraded active sports fields across our local area to meet the needs of our communities. Our current population is over 250,000 people and has increased by 39.1% since 2009. This means that by 2031 we will need 20 more sports fields to meet our residents' sport and recreation needs.

We already have 13 natural turf sports fields. We are proposing to construct synthetic fields in Perry, Turruwul, Waterloo and Gunyama parks because they provide greater playing hours than traditional turf fields.

Natural turf fields only provide 20-25 hours of use per week before they deteriorate. Synthetic fields provide 50-60 hours of playing time per week, and don't require closures for renovation or wet weather.

The proposal for Perry Park includes:

- a new FIFA-sized synthetic sports field
- a new amenities pavilion
- a new share way, minibus drop-off area and car park
- new park lighting and seating
- welcoming park entries and better access to and around the park
- new native plantings and trees.

What is very hard is that, in order to build this new field, we have to remove approximately 60 trees. We will plant approximately 40 large replacement trees ***that will provide as much canopy cover as the existing trees***. The proposed design is on the back of this letter.

How to give feedback on the design
You can give feedback on this proposal **by 5pm on 9 December 2020 at sydneyyoursay.com.au.**

Next steps
We will report all feedback and any resulting design changes to Council. If Council resolves to proceed with the upgrade, we will continue to the detailed design stage. We will keep you updated on the project.

If you would like more information, you can contact Sophie McNamara, Specialist Design Manager, on 9265 9333 or at sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Appendix 3: On-site signage