

Attachment D

Engagement Report

Engagement report – Proposed synthetic sports field at The Crescent, Annandale



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Background

The City of Sydney is increasing recreation and sporting opportunities across our city to meet the need of our growing communities. This includes increasing the play at our sports fields by 16,000 hours by 2030.

Our current population is more than 250,000 people, which has increased by 39.1% since 2009. By 2031 we'll need the equivalent of 20 more sports fields to meet the sport and recreation needs of our residents.

Our Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study showed us how people playing sport and using sports fields are changing. It also showed we need to increase the capacity of existing sports fields and build new ones to meet growing demand in our local area.

We're planning to construct new synthetic sports fields and upgrade some existing fields to synthetic to help us reach this goal. Fields include:

- Gunyama Park, Zetland (new field, completed)
- Perry Park, Alexandria (new field, in detailed design)
- Alexandria Park Community School Shared Use Field (new field, partnership with Department of Education, in construction)
- The Crescent, Annandale (new field, this report captures feedback from community consultation)

These synthetic fields will complement the existing natural turf fields we manage in our local area.

Engagement summary

From 20 April 2021 to 14 May 2021, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan for a new compact synthetic sports field at The Crescent, Annandale.

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 pop-up stall in the park, a letter to residents 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 proposal
 - determine the level of satisfaction with the concept design
 - inform the development of the concept design to detailed design.
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Outcomes from the engagement

Over 500 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation. Below is a break-down of the feedback received:

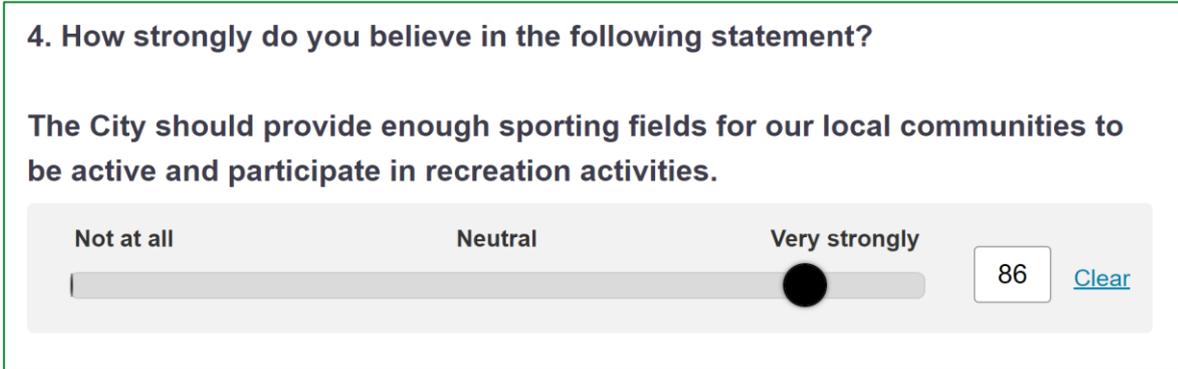
- 475 surveys
- 22 email submissions were received
- 40 people (approx.) attended a pop-up in the park

Submissions received from organisations

- Glebe Hockey Club
- Sydney University Touch Club

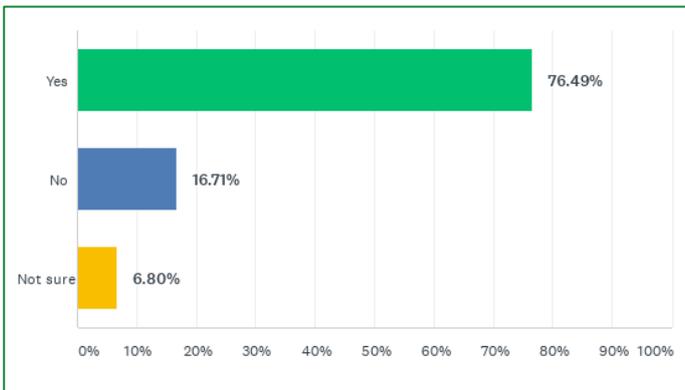
Snapshot

The following graphs give a snapshot of level of support for the City’s overall approach to increasing playable hours and level of support for a synthetic field at The Crescent.



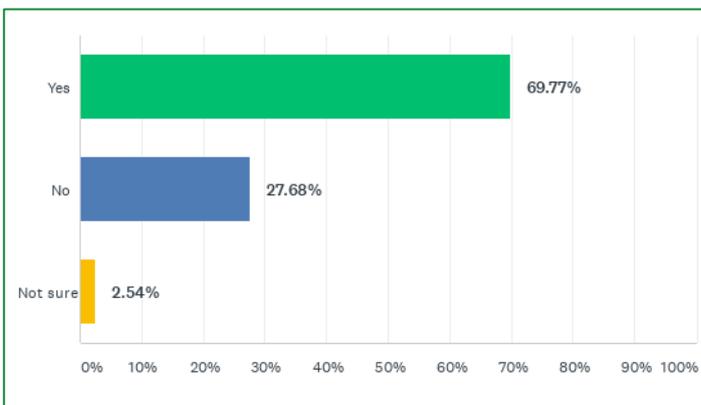
Using a sliding scale where 0= ‘Not at all’ and 100 = ‘Very strongly’, when asking how strongly people believed in the statement above, **the average score was 86**, indicating a strong belief in the City’s responsibility to provide enough sporting facilities for our community.

Q: Do you support the City’s approach to provide a mix of synthetic and natural turf surfaces to increase playable hours for our local community?



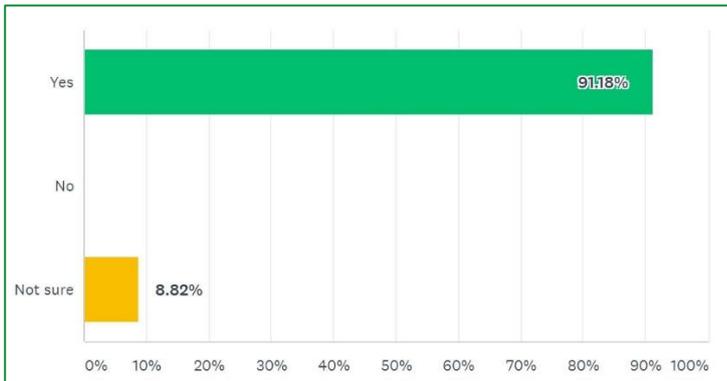
76% of respondents support the City’s approach to provide a mix of synthetic and natural turf surfaces to increase playable hours for our local community.

Q: Do you support a synthetic sports field at The Crescent?



70% of respondents support a synthetic sports field at The Crescent.

Q: Would providing a synthetic field at The Crescent change the way your club or organisation is able to use this space?



91% of respondents
representing a sporting organisation
think a synthetic field at this location
would change the way their club or
organisation is able to use the space.

Key findings

Overall

The results from the consultation show strong support for the new synthetic field, with 70% of respondents supporting the project. There was particularly strong support from members of the Glebe District Hockey Club.

Parking and traffic

There is strong concern from both local residents and visitors to the area that the removal of existing parking will have negative impacts on the surrounding area. Respondents commented that there is currently not enough parking to service the facilities in the area (childcare, Tramsheds, Federal park) and this may be made worse with the opening of other new amenities such as the the skatepark and the Crescent sports field.

Residents are concerned the removal of parking will push more park users into surrounding residential streets and make it harder for them to park near their houses.

Design

Whilst not reflected greatly in survey responses, strong feedback was received at the pop-up event onsite that a full-sized field should be considered rather than the smaller sized proposed. Members of the Glebe District Hockey Club viewed the smaller field as tokenistic and it would not be as useful for hockey as a full-size field.

Environmental

Concern was raised about the environmental impacts of installing a synthetic field in the area. The issues of concern for respondents was that synthetic fields create more heat than natural turf and this could lead to a 'heat island' effect in the local area.

There was also concern that microplastics from the field would find their way into nearby Johnstons Creek and then into Blackwattle Bay.

Subjects/issues raised in submissions

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.

Design	Total	City of Sydney Response
Light pollution concerns from new sportsfield lighting for adjacent residents.	5	<p>A lighting design will be prepared for the park lighting and sportsfield lighting as part of detailed design and will reflect the City of Sydney Lights Code requirements and Australian Standards for obtrusive lighting levels.</p> <p>The sportsfield lights will be integrated into the City's WALTRS monitoring and control system, ensuring that the lights are turned off when the field is not in use.</p>
Comments that the site should remain open public space.	26	<p>Our parks and open spaces provide for the diverse recreational needs of our communities. When not booked, the sportsfield will be open for all to enjoy.</p>
Comments that the field should be full sized to allow for more usage.	7	<p>The field size has been revised from 52m x 38m (including run-off) in the Consultation Plan to 61m x 38m (including run-off) in the Revised Concept Plan to accommodate senior training of the striking circle and goal area.</p> <p>Alternate field sizes were investigated but were not feasible due to the lack of available space on-site.</p> <p>A full sized sportsfield would require a minimum (but not recommended) field size of 96m x 51m for Soccer and 95.4m x 61m for Hockey.</p>

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Comments that the new synthetic field should be relocated to Federal Park to allow for a full-size hockey field.	2	Federal park is a half sized sportsfield that can not accommodate a synthetic surface due to site conditions (within the flood plane).
Concern that the field location next to a busy road is not safe.	5	<p>The Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan included a new public park on The Crescent Open Space, dedicated to practise and junior sports.</p> <p>The sportsfield will be fully fenced and have ball netting around the goal areas.</p> <p>Colour selection of the fence and netting has been selected to visually recede and compliment the landscape setting. The existing retained trees along The Crescent will also aid the visual appearance.</p>
Parking and traffic	Total	City of Sydney Response
Concern that the removal of parking on Chapman Road will have an adverse impact on residents in nearby streets.	21	<p>In accordance with the Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan, the City has approved the partial closure of Chapman Road to create an extra 1,500 square metres of open space adjacent to The Crescent.</p> <p>The consultation plan provided space adjacent to the field to allow for future parking provision as per the Master Plan. The revised plan removes this future provision. Parking options were investigated but were not feasible and technically restrictive due to the lack of available space on-site, contamination, flooding and integrating the raised sportsfield into the landscape. Further parking opportunities can be explored along The Crescent following the completion of the Rozelle Interchange project.</p>
Concern that there is not enough parking provided to service the facilities already in the area. Traffic is already bad in the area.	60	<p>The site is well connected with public transport (bus and light rail), cycling and walking options. Street parking is available along The Crescent and Chapman Road as well as off-street parking at the Tramsheds.</p> <p>The City is investigating measures to improve parking and has</p>

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		submitted recommendations to Transport for NSW to amend parking provisions along The Crescent.
Environmental	Total	City of Sydney Response
Concern that synthetic turf is bad for the environment (micro plastics, creates a heat island, toxic etc.)	43	<p>The City will adopt a series of design and management strategies to reduce the probability of micro-plastics finding their way into the surrounding natural environment and moderate the impact of urban heat island effect.</p> <p>The City is also reviewing “end-of-life” options to recycle the synthetic surface, to ensure recreational development is environmentally sustainable and contributes to the City’s environmental targets.</p> <p>The City is in discussions with other NSW Councils who are currently renewing their fields. There are a number of options that we are investigating, and we will continue to research information for best practise and future recycling opportunities both within Australia and internationally.</p>
Request that the field should be natural turf.	15	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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Other comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Concern that synthetic turf isn't suitable for dogs.	4	<p>Dogs are welcome at many different parks in the City of Sydney. We clearly signpost off-leash, on-leash and prohibited areas, such as playgrounds and sportsfields and provide dog litter bag dispensers.</p> <p>For more information, please visit https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/dog-parks-in-sydney</p>
Concern that noise from the field (whistles etc) will impact adjacent residents.	1	<p>The Johnstons Creek Parklands Master Plan included a new public park on The Crescent Open Space, dedicated to practise and junior sports.</p> <p>The selection of materials is currently being reviewed and will consider noise attenuation.</p>
Request for a basketball court to be included.	3	<p>Not currently being investigated as part of sportsfield upgrade scope of works.</p> <p>We have forwarded your feedback to the City's Parks Team.</p>
No need for more sport fields.	7	<p>The City is committed to providing quality open space, sport and recreation facilities for our growing community.</p> <p>The City's Sports Facilities Demand Study identified an emergent and increasing deficiency in the capacity of the City's sporting facilities to meet demand.</p> <p>Following this, The City commenced a Sportsfield Development Program to address the demand and The Crescent Open Space along with other parks such as Perry Park were selected for a synthetic field upgrade to increase playable hours and to offer a variety of playing surfaces.</p>
Request for cricket nets to be included.	1	<p>Not currently being investigated as part of sportsfield upgrade scope of works.</p> <p>We have forwarded you feedback to the City's Parks Team.</p>
Request for additional public amenities such as change rooms and toilets to be included in the upgrade.	1	<p>Dedicated change rooms and toilets are not being investigated</p>

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		<p>for this site as part of park upgrade works.</p> <p>The City is however reviewing changing room and toilet facilities within Bicentennial Parklands (Jubilee Oval, Federal Park and The Crescent Open Space).</p>
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Engagement activities

Sydney Your Say webpage and survey

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created. The page included an artist impression of the proposed field, concept design and online survey.

Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 3,500 letters were distributed. A copy of the letter is available in Appendix B.

Notification email

An email was sent to 45 stakeholders, including local sporting clubs, sporting associations, residents groups and local businesses.

Stakeholder meetings

Stakeholder meetings were held during the consultation period with the Glebe District Hockey Club and Goodstart Early Learning.

On site signage

Four notice boards were installed, inviting people to give feedback on the proposal. An example is available in Appendix C.

Pop-up information stall on-site

On Saturday 1 May between 12.30 and 3.30pm, the project team were available to discuss the project on-site. Approximately 40 people attended the session. Feedback from this session is captured in the submissions table above. Information boards from the pop-up are available in Appendix A. Photos from the day are available in Appendix D.

Appendix

Appendix A: concept design, artist impression and ideas board



Artist's impression - proposed synthetic sports field at The Crescent, Annandale
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations

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 **Feedback and ideas** 

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Appendix B: letter to community



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Town Hall House
466 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

+61 2 9265 9333
council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

20 April 2021

Your feedback on a new sports field at The Crescent, Annandale

The City of Sydney is planning to build a new compact synthetic sports field at The Crescent in Annandale and invites your feedback on the proposed design.

The proposal for The Crescent includes:

- a new compact raised synthetic sports field
- new park lighting
- new welcoming park entries and improved accessibility into and around the park
- a range of new seating opportunities
- new native plants and trees.

We need to remove 4 trees to build the field and will replace these with 10 trees once works are complete. The proposed design is on the back of this letter.

This redevelopment is part of the Johnston's Creek Parkland Master Plan. We recently approved the partial closure of Chapman Road to create an extra 1,500 square metres of open space for community sports and recreation in the area.

In the coming weeks we will be undertaking some site investigation works. You will see people with machinery drilling a series of small holes to better understand the conditions underground.

New and upgraded active sports fields in the local area

We are building new and upgraded active sports fields across our local area to meet the needs of our communities.

Our current population is more than 250,000 people and has increased by 39.1% since 2009. This means that by 2031 we will need the equivalent of 20 more sports fields to meet our residents sport and recreation needs.

We plan to construct new synthetic sports fields at The Crescent and Perry Park and upgrade the sports field surface at Turruwul Park to a synthetic surface. We have recently opened a synthetic sports field at Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre. We are also partnering with the Department of Education to provide the community use of the new synthetic sports-field at Alexandria Park Community School. These synthetic fields will complement the existing natural turf fields the City manages in our local area.

Synthetic fields provide greater levels of utilization (available hours per week) than natural turf fields. Natural turf fields only provide 20 to 25 hours of use per week before they deteriorate with bare patches, uneven and hard playing surfaces. Annual re-turfing leads to an increase in water use and closure of the fields which impacts sports and recreation needs.

We are also using design and management strategies to reduce the probability of micro-plastics finding their way into the surrounding natural environment and waterways from a synthetic field.

How to give feedback on the design

You can view the plans and give feedback on this proposal at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations by **5pm on Friday 14 May 2021**.

Talk to us

We invite you to a pop-up stall in the park on **Saturday 1 May from 1pm to 3pm**. This is an opportunity to speak to our staff about the design and ask questions.

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 detailed design. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project.

For more information about the project, please contact Adam Lander, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator or Roxana Vlack, Project Manager at sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or on 02 9265 9333.

Yours sincerely,



Damon La'Rance
Delivery Manager

Appendix C: on-site signage



Have your say on a new sports field at The Crescent

We plan to build a new raised compact synthetic sports field at The Crescent in Annandale and invite your feedback on the proposed design.

One of the City's priorities is creating high quality parks and recreation spaces wherever we can. Since 2008, open space has increased in our area by 24 hectares.

As our local population continues to grow there is increased demand from our communities for more sporting fields and open spaces.

You can find out more, view the proposed design and give feedback:

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations

Come to the park on Saturday 1 May from 1pm to 3pm to talk to staff about the plans.

Consultation closes at:

5pm Sunday 16 May 2021.

For more information, please contact Roxana Vlack, Project Manager or Adam Lander, Community Engagement on: **02 9265 9333**

sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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 Appendix D: photos from pop-up in park

