

Attachment A

**Engagement Report – Proposed Synthetic
Sports Surface at Turruwul Park, Rosebery**

Engagement report – Proposed synthetic sports surface at Turruwul Park, Rosebery



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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 study of open spaces, recreation and sport needs 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 (partnership with Department of Education)
- The Crescent, Annandale (new field, reviewing feedback from community consultation)
- **Turruwul Park, Rosebery (upgraded 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 synthetic surface at Turruwul Park, Rosebery.

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.
-

Outcomes from the engagement

Over 388 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation. Below is a break-down of the feedback received:

- 359 surveys
- 29 email submissions were received
- 40 people (approx.) attended a pop-up in the park
- A petition was also received, signed by 87 people, requesting the park not have a synthetic field installed

Submissions received from organisations

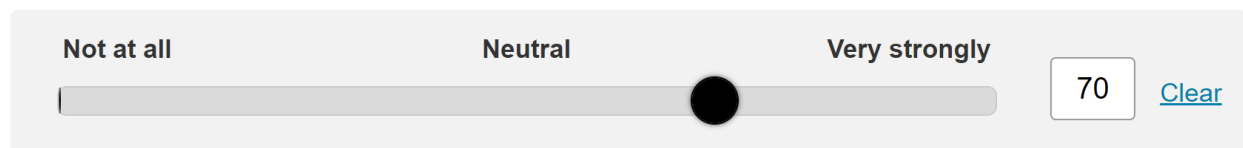
- Redfern Raiders United Soccer Club
- Dunbar Rovers FC
- Lokomotiv Cove Football Club

Snapshot

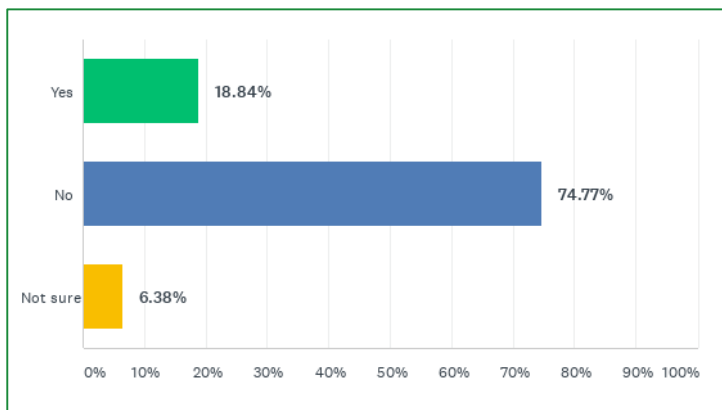
The following graphs give a snapshot of support for the City's overall approach to increasing playable hours and level of support for a synthetic surface at Turruwul Park.

4. How strongly do you believe in the following statement?

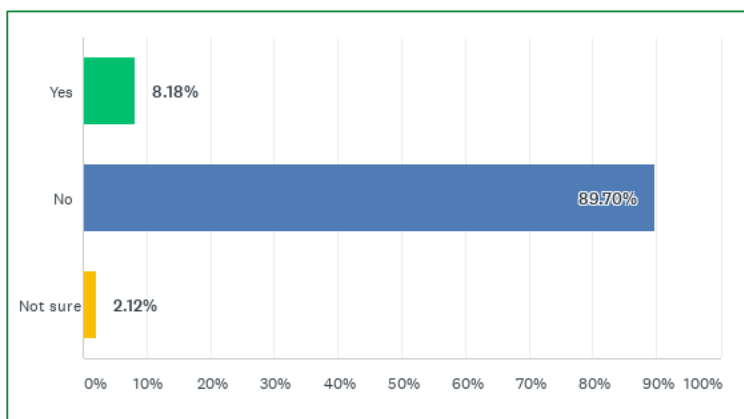
The City should provide enough sporting fields for our local communities to be active and participate in recreation activities.



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 70**, 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?



Q: Do you support a synthetic sports field at Turruwul Park?

Key findings

Overall

The results of the consultation show strong opposition to the installation of a synthetic field at Turruwul Park, with 89% of respondents of the survey not supporting the proposal.

Design

Strong feedback (88 respondents) was received from the community that the installation of a synthetic field would dramatically change the character of the park.

The community is concerned the synthetic field will change the use of the park, from a local park to a dedicated sporting field. This would in turn severely impact the way the community use the site (dog walking, playing with children, picnics etc.). There is worry that a large portion of the park would become unavailable for these activities if the new field is installed.

Respondents highlighted in their submissions that the area has changed dramatically over the past several years. With more apartments going up in the area it is important to have large, green open spaces areas for people to access and enjoy and the installation of a synthetic field would take away from this.

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, as well as making it hazardous for children and players to play on.

There were also concerns about the negative impact on biodiversity in the surrounding area as well as the potential for micro plastics to get into the waterways through storm water drains.

The environmental concerns were by far the reason for the strongest opposition, with it being referenced in 126 submissions.

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
Line markings should be included in the design	2	
The size of the soccer field is disproportionate to the scale of the park	3	
A fence should be placed around the field	1	
Spectator seating should be at least four tiers	1	
Install a safety net behind the goals	1	
Change rooms should be included in the design	2	
More trees should be planted in the park	7	
More bike parking should be installed at the park	1	
Add an extra cricket net	1	
Parking and traffic	Total	City of Sydney Response
The field will bring more congestion to the area	2	
Environmental and character	Total	City of Sydney Response
Synthetic turf is bad for the environment (micro plastics, creates a heat island, toxic etc.)	135	
Field should remain as turf	77	
Synthetic field will change the character of the park and reduce the usability for the community	88	
Other comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Should be a local park and not used for organised sport	8	
Synthetic fields cause more injuries when played on	13	
There is no need for a new synthetic field when Gunyama Park is so close	25	

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. 5,700 letters were distributed. A copy of the letter is available in Appendix B.

Notification email

An email was sent to the following stakeholders with information about the consultation and inviting feedback:

- Gardeners Road Public School
- Rosebery Residents Action Group
- Zetland 2017
- Friends of Victoria Park
- Glebe District Hockey Clubs
- Glebe Hockey Club
- Glebe Junior AFL
- Rogue Ultimate Flying Disk
- Urban Rec Sports
- Sydney Oztag
- Glebe Wanderers FC
- Anderson Events
- Lunchtime Legends
- Sydney Uni Quidditch
- Redfern Raiders Soccer Club
- Hockey NSW
- Rugby Australia
- Touch Football NSW
- Oztag NSW
- Football NSW
- Eastern Suburbs Football Association
- AFL NSW
- UTS, UNSW & USYD Sports Unions
- Grid Iron Teams in Sydney/NSW.
- Cricket NSW
- City & Suburban Cricket Association
- Alexandria Rovers RLFC
- South Sydney RLFC
- South Sydney Juniors RLFC
- Redfern All Blacks
- Dunbar Rovers Soccer Club
- Lokomotiv Cove Football Club
- Balmain Sydney Tigers CC
- Sydney University Touch Association
- IGSSA Competition
- Michael Cusacks Gaelic Football
- Kings Old Boys Rugby Union
- Sydney University Football
- University of Notre Dame
- Glebe Gorillas Football Club
- Balmain & District Football Club
- Team CBD Football Club
- Dobroyd FC
- Waverly Old Boys FC
- Sponsorworx

Stakeholder meetings

A stakeholder meeting was held with the Redfern Raiders Soccer Club during the consultation period.

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 9.30 and 11.30am, 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.

Appendix

Appendix A: concept design, artist impression and ideas board



 Feedback and ideas

Proposed synthetic sports surface at Turruwul Park, Rosebery
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations

CITY OF SYDNEY 

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Appendix B: letter to community

CITY OF SYDNEY 

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Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

20 April 2021

Your feedback on a new sports surface at Turruwul Park, Rosebery

The City of Sydney is planning to upgrade the sports field surface to a synthetic surface at Turruwul Park in Rosebery and invites your feedback on the proposed design.

The proposal for Turruwul Park includes:

- a new synthetic sports field surface
- a range of new seating opportunities
- new turf and trees.

We aim to retain all the existing park trees and will plant 5 additional trees as part of the sports field surface upgrade. The proposed design is on the back of this letter.

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 upgrade the sports field surface at Turruwul Park to synthetic and construct new synthetic sports fields at The Crescent and Perry Park. 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 Sunday 16 May 2021.

Talk to us

We invite you to a pop-up stall in the park on **Saturday 1 May** from **9.30am to 11.30am**. 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,



Anton Leddin
Delivery Manager

Appendix C: on-site signage



Have your say on a new sports surface at Turruwul Park

We plan to upgrade the sports field surface to a synthetic surface at Turruwul Park in Rosebery 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 9.30am to 11.30am 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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