

Attachment C

Engagement Report



McKee Street Reserve

WELCOME TO
McKee Street Reserve

Please respect the safety and enjoyment of others sharing this place.

Pets and their responsible owners are welcome. Dogs must be on a leash and must be kept out of playground and barbecue areas. Please observe all safety warnings.

To help protect this park and its users, you must not:

- drive or park unauthorised vehicles
- camp or light fires
- bring dogs into the playground
- smoke in or around the playground

Events and commercial activities in this park require approval. Please contact the City of Sydney to apply.

Facilities apply for non-compliance.

9265 9333 MK02

The City values your feedback. Contact us - all hours, 7 days
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
community@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Engagement report

McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo

February 2023

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Background

Over the next 10 years, we're upgrading more than 60 parks across the City of Sydney area, from small pocket parks to larger local parks.

Quality green open spaces are a high priority for our residents, workers and visitors. This network of park upgrades will create better quality open spaces for everyone to enjoy, help keep our city cooler, and support biodiversity in our local areas.

Prior to finalising the designs, we are consulting the community and stakeholders on these proposed park improvements. In 2022, we consulted on our stage 17 parks, which include:

- Arthur Street Reserve, Surry Hills
- Douglas Street Park, Redfern
- Minogue Reserve, Glebe
- **McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo**

Engagement summary

From 9 November to 7 December, we asked the community for feedback on a concept plan to improve McKee Street Reserve, Ultimo.

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 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.
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Outcomes from the engagement

Submissions received during consultation

We received a total of 7 submissions via Survey Monkey and email during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 107 times during the consultation period.

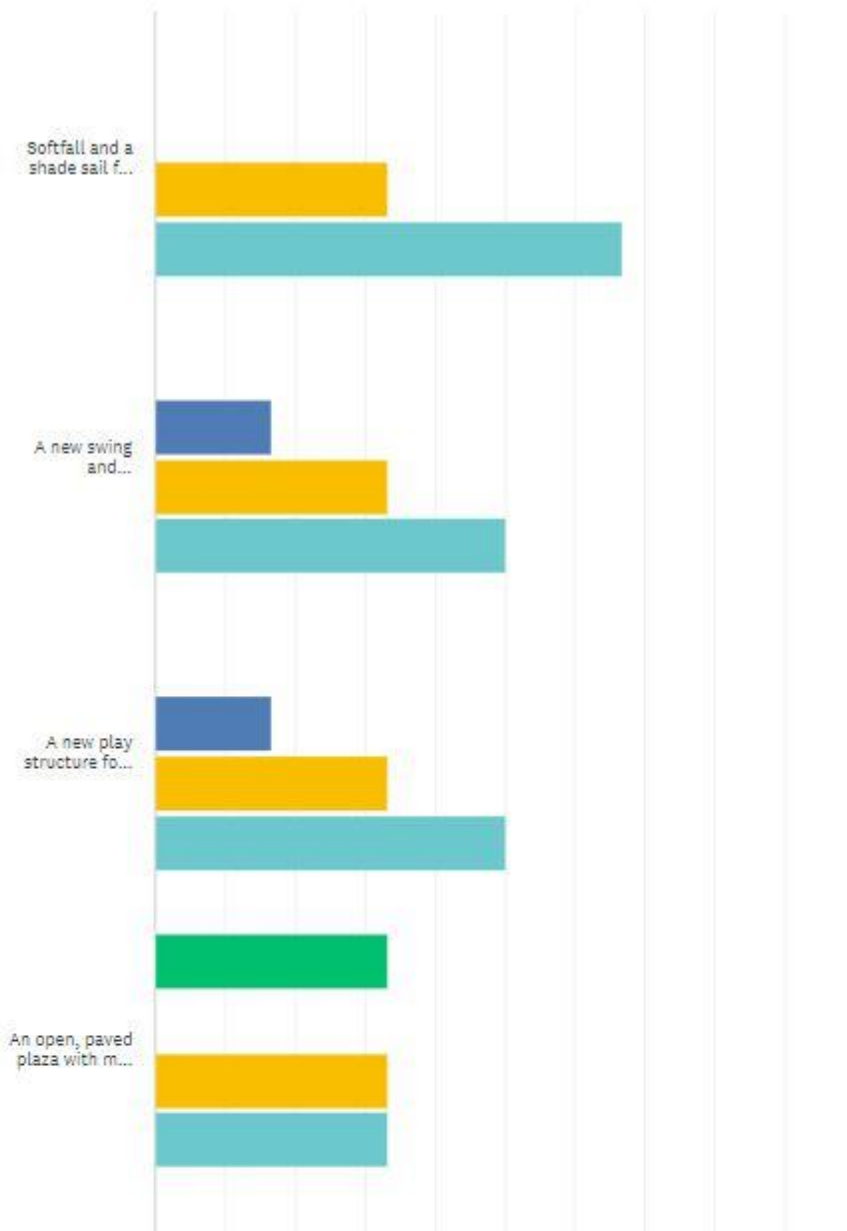
Key findings

Online feedback form - rating elements of the proposed upgrade

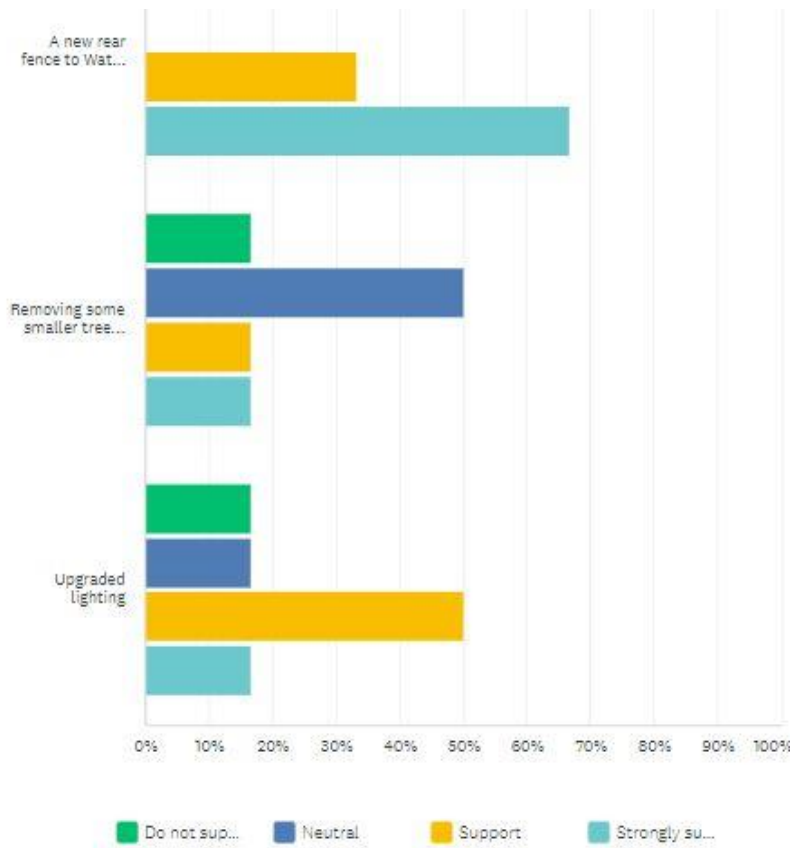
Respondents who completed the online feedback form were asked to rate how important elements of the proposed design were to them. The results are below

Do you support the following elements of the upgrade?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

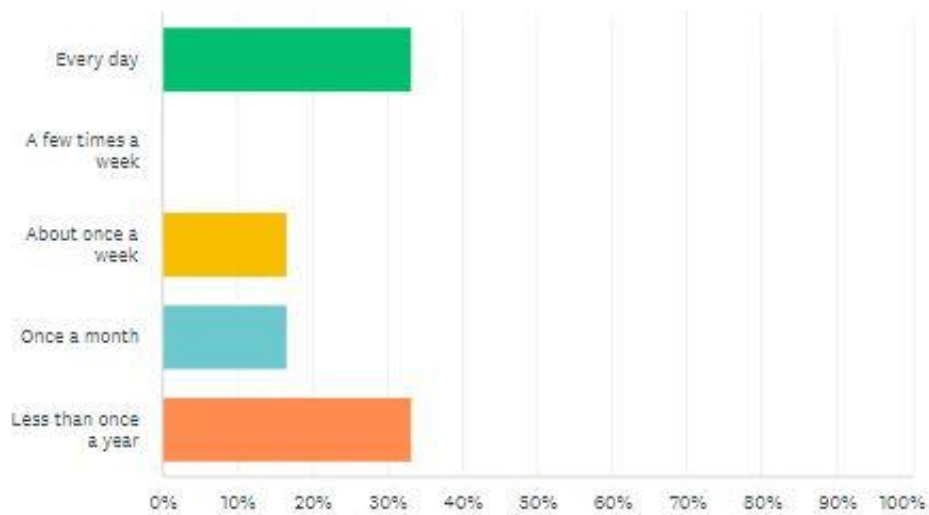


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How often do you currently use the park?

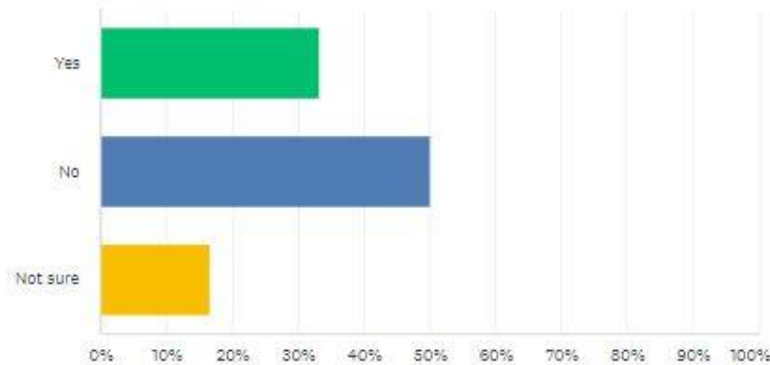
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



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

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



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		
Comments	Total	City of Sydney Response
Would like the BBQ not to be operational or lit during the evening to discourage antisocial behaviour in the park	3	All public BBQs in City of Sydney parks are on an operational timer so that they cannot be used at night. As part of the upgrade, we will look at relocating the BBQ towards the centre of the park (away from adjacent apartments) so that it is co-located with the new turf area and playground.
Incorporate nature play/open-ended play elements rather than plastic playgrounds	1	Due to space constraints, the play equipment will incorporate a varied play offering and replace the existing playground on a 'like-for-like' basis. There are new turf and planting areas located next to the playground to allow for more passive and creative play opportunities.
Ensuring there is a clear plan of maintenance (including trimming and health assessment) for the mature trees so they can stay healthy	1	City of Sydney parks team monitor the health of mature trees and maintain them accordingly.

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A water pump and stone flow path ways	1	Due to space constraints, the new playground will look to replace the current offering like for like. Given issues with standing water and mosquitoes, water-based play is not appropriate at this location.
Incorporating the Wattle Tree as part of the new plantings	1	All trees on the site have been assessed by an arborist. The Wattle Tree, along with 4 others, have been found to be at the end of their safe and useful life. These trees will be removed as part of the upgrade works.
Mosquitos are a large problem in the park and should be addressed	1	Improved drainage will be included in the upgrade works to address issues of standing water.
Incorporate the repair and restoration of the cracking brick wall facing Wattle Lane	1	Repair and restoration of the existing brick wall will be included in the upgrade works.
Maximise endemic understorey planting	1	The planting plan has not been finalised at this stage. City of Sydney generally aim to include native plants with low-water needs as much as possible.
Exercise equipment installed in the park	2	McKee Reserve is a small neighbourhood park that focuses on providing open space and amenity, play equipment and community garden beds. Ultimo/Pyrmont is currently serviced by outdoor fitness equipment at Wentworth Park, and Pirrama Park.
Reduce the size of the community garden to allow for more open space	2	The community garden beds are well-managed and utilised by the local community garden group. The existing beds will be replaced with raised beds, of roughly the same size, and shifted to the northern end of the park. This will open up the middle of the park, allowing for a new central area comprising turf, paved plaza, furniture and play equipment.
Install bike parking in the area	1	Noted. The design has been amended to include bike racks.
The mature trees in the park need to be trimmed to allow for more sunlight	1	City of Sydney parks team monitor the health of mature trees and maintain them accordingly. As such, some of the trees are marked for removal due to health and safety risk.

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Do not encourage new seating close to the fence on Wattle Lane side as this sound, light and smell from the BBQ will travel directly into level 1 and 2 residences on Wattle Lane	1	The BBQ will be moved to a more central location within the park. The park upgrade includes new seating on the Wattle Lane side, but there will be a planting buffer between the seats and the fence.
The second entrance from Wattle Lane is not necessary	1	Noted. The design has been amended to remove the new second entrance from Wattle Lane.
All trees being removed should be replaced	1	5 trees are being removed as part of the upgrade works. Based on arborist advice around root stability, growing capacity, and to allow more sunlight onto the turf and garden beds, these will not be replaced with more trees.
The current location for the BBQ is well situated and should stay in that location	1	As part of the upgrade works, the garden beds will shift further north and the lawn area will be co-located with the playground. The new BBQ location will complement the new lawn, picnic furniture and playground, to be located in the centre of the park away from adjacent residents.

Pop up information session

A pop-up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 22 November from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Council staff were available to answer questions and obtain feedback about the proposed concept plan. Several resident attended this session.

Feedback from this session is captured in the table above.

Pre consultation feedback

Prior to undertaking general community consultation on the proposal, the City undertook some early consultation work in late 2021 to ask local residents how often they use the park and what they would like to see in the new design.

Thirteen responses were received during the pre-consultation period. Ideas and suggestions helped to shape the Concept Plan. Key themes from the pre-consultation were:

- The park is primarily a community garden and children's playground. This works very well and caters to the residents of the surrounding streets and therefore should be maintained. The upgrade should be a refresh of the current use as it is appropriate for the size and location of the park (Childcare, Apartments and Small Terraces nearby).
- The playground is mostly used by children 10 years and younger
- The community garden is a valuable resource for people in the area
- The playground could be more diverse given the amount of space available

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

A Sydney Your Say webpage was created, along with an online survey. 165 letters were sent to residents in the area and key stakeholders were contacted.

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 22 November from 4pm to 5:30pm

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/proposed-design-mckee-street-reserve-ultimo> 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. Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 165 letters were distributed.

4. Community pop up session

A pop up consultation feedback session was held on Tuesday 8 November from 4pm to 5:30pm

5. Signage

Two signs were placed in the park directing people online to leave their feedback.