



Parks for People
Phase 1 Engagement Outcomes Report
Carrawood Park, Carramar

January 2021

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All care has been taken to prepare this
report for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
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Acknowledgement

This document acknowledges that Fairfield is on Aboriginal land where the traditional custodians have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

“The design should be inclusive and one that incorporates the needs of the community and yet preserves the environmental impact of the area.”

– Online Survey participant

Executive Summary

The New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) commissioned JOC Consulting to assist with the delivery of community engagement for upgrades to Carrawood Park (the Park) as part of the Parks for People Program.

This report presents the results from the first phase of consultation consisting of an online survey and social pinpoint map available for community comment between 30 November and 17 December 2020. The engagement methods sought to identify community values, needs and aspirations for the upgraded park to help inform the draft concept design for the Park (at this stage there were no set design parameters for the Park). A second phase of engagement will ask for community feedback on the draft concept design.

In total, 51 community members shared ideas for the upgraded Carrawood Park in Carramar. These ideas along with community values and priorities in relation to open space have been captured in this Report.

Who participated in the consultation?



3,249
total visits



51 people participated
across the three platforms



78%
were
local
residents



1,169
unique visits

18
online survey participants

32
social pinpoint comments

1
online submission

Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65 years old. The main age bracket was the 26-35 year old (33%)



N.B. Demographic statistics relating to online survey only



67%
of participants
live within 10
minutes' walk of the Park

50%
female



50%
male

What did we hear?

Community priorities

Participants wish to see a park that responds to the basic needs of the community. A place that enables play and activity and maintains the green, natural qualities of the Park, with the potential to incorporate natural and cultural history of the local area.



ACCESS AND AMENITY

A comfortable and enjoyable park for everyone



PLAY AND ACTIVITY

A dynamic, flexible space that supports informal and formal play



NATURE AND CULTURE

A green space that supports and integrates the unique natural setting and cultural history

Common ideas

AMENITY AND FURNITURE

- New and upgraded amenities to encourage people to stay longer
- Barbeque and/or picnic facilities that can cater to a diverse range of groups
- Shaded areas distributed across the Park, including picnic areas and along walking tracks
- Spaces to sit and gather for socialising

PLAY AND ACTIVITY

- Play equipment/exercise stations which accommodate for all ages and abilities

NATURE AND CULTURE

- Retain large trees and plant additional natives
- Reflect local Aboriginal history and cultural diversity within the design

Key concerns and considerations

The following concerns were raised by participants:

TREE REMOVAL

Some participants expressed concern about the potential removal of large trees and communicated the need for greenery to be maintained and expanded.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Participants also flagged the need for a well-maintained park, especially the importance of cleaning the creek of rubbish and debris, as it is a habitat for birds and other native flora and fauna. It was also important to participants that facilities are well-maintained, such as a filtered water station to provide park users with access to clean water.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PARK

While the majority of survey participants live within 10 minutes' walking distance of the Park, a number of responses commented that access to the Park is difficult for those who live within a 5 km radius outside Carramar. One such area highlighted was the neighbouring suburb of Canley Vale, and the lack of pedestrian access to the Park. It was suggested that the existing bridge to the north of Carrawood Park be upgraded to ensure it is an accessible and safe passage for pedestrians accessing the Park from across the Creek.

The following pages provide a summary of engagement responses sorted by project objectives and landscape benefits.

Project objectives

The table below provides an overview of community engagement findings as they align with the project objectives.

Table 1: Project objectives

Objectives	What did participants say?
<p><i>Embed the Park as part of the community through partnerships, a heightened sense of pride, and custodianship</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include stories of local history and culture ▪ Provide opportunities for community members to be custodians of the natural environment ▪ The Park should be easy to locate and accessible to the wider community
<p><i>Facilitate a wide range of uses for the diverse and changing community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park furniture and facilities could cater to different social uses, ranging from providing a place for large gatherings over food, to simple coffee catch-ups, to a quiet seat for respite from the day to day. ▪ Include barbecue and picnic facilities that will encourage people to come together ▪ Facilities should be co-located to encourage cultural and intergenerational interaction
<p><i>Provide a safe and comfortable place which offers respite, cooling, and promotes wellbeing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater connection between people and nature ▪ The Park should provide opportunities for a wide range of physical activities ▪ Provide additional shading and utilise natural shading where possible ▪ The Park should consider and include more water ▪ Maintain existing red gums
<p><i>Improve the environmental literacy of the Park with consideration to its role as part of the wider open space network</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Park should have greater connection to the neighbouring creek ▪ The Park should serve more than those who are within walking distance

Landscape benefits

The following table outlines how the engagement findings and what the community has told us relates to the Landscape Architecture Foundation and University of New South Wales' research into the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural (SEEC) benefits for the Parks for People project.

Table 2: Overview of identified landscape benefits

	Where are we today?	Where do we want to be?
<i>Social</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The participants wanted to see a better lit and well-maintained park ▪ The participants wanted better wayfinding and pedestrian accessibility to and through the Park ▪ The Park currently lacks amenity and furniture that will enable people to stay in the Park ▪ The participants wanted a space for exercise and fitness ▪ Community members identified a need for more engaging play areas (for people of all ages and accessibility levels) and especially for unstructured play and games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Park will be accessible and inclusive for everyone ▪ Play spaces will integrate nature and waterplay for different ages and accessibility levels ▪ Health and fitness areas with outdoor gym equipment ▪ The Park will be well-lit and will feel safe at all times of the day
<i>Economic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some participants highlighted the opportunity to incorporate community lead organisations within the Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Park will provide space and opportunities for select organisations to generate not for profit revenue
<i>Environmental</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community values the natural environment in Carrwood Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Park will have an improved relationship to the creek ▪ The upgrade will provide more trees and greater tree canopy cover

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants emphasised the importance of native planting ▪ The community value the wellbeing benefits of green open space ▪ Participants wished to harness the tranquillity and respite of Carrawood Park ▪ The community expressed a deep appreciation of the Creek and raised that both visual and physical access to the river could be improved ▪ Participants called for more naturally shaded areas throughout the Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Park will provide opportunities for the community to connect with the natural landscape ▪ Improved maintenance across the upgraded park ▪ The Park will showcase native planting ▪ The park will provide spaces for respite, that leverage the tranquillity of the natural environment
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants identified a need for spaces that facilitate social interaction ▪ The area has a rich history, which participants wish to see reflected in the Park ▪ The local Aboriginal culture was identified as a priority theme for stories to be told in the Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The art pieces in the Park will showcase Fairfield's history ▪ The Park will celebrate Fairfield's Indigenous culture

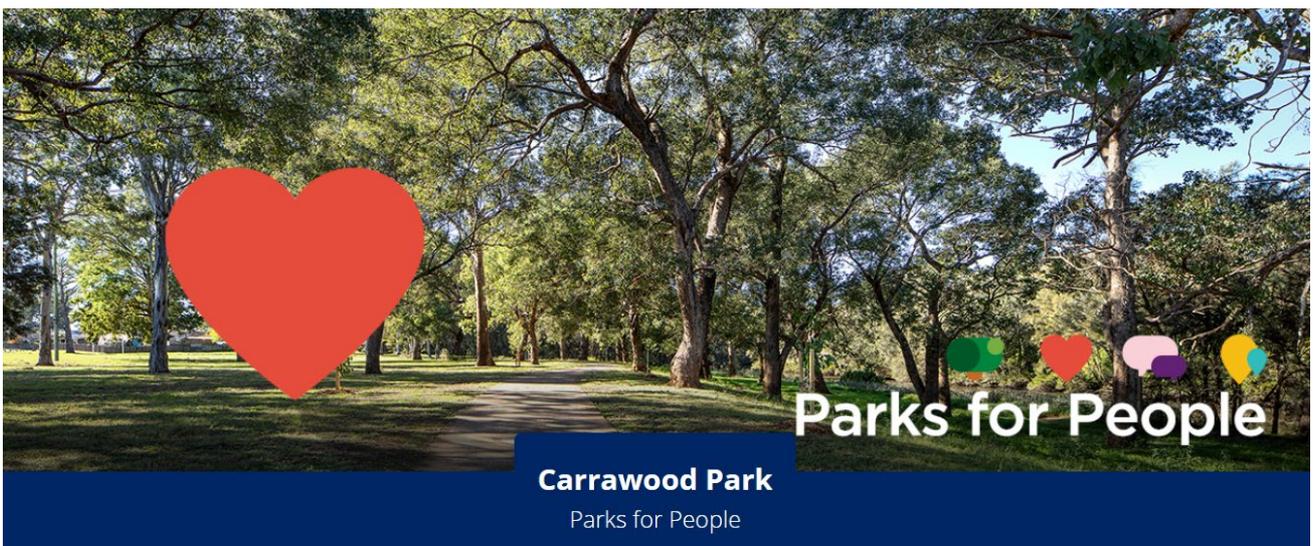
The following pages provide more detail on community feedback collected during the engagement period.

About the project

Background

Carrawood Park will be upgraded as part of the Parks for People Program, an ambitious NSW Government initiative that focuses on the creation of high-quality open space throughout Greater Sydney. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) are working with Fairfield City Council and the local community to create a vibrant space that encourages this growing community to get active and build greater connections.

Carrawood Park is located at Quest Avenue, Carramar (refer to map on next page) in the Fairfield Local Government Area. The Park currently has football fields, a playground, amenities building, revegetation areas, and a shared path. It will become an important part of building a network of parks that help improve the wellbeing and lifestyle of residents across the Fairfield LGA and beyond.



Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the first phase of engagement was to better understand the community's aspirations for Carrarood Park. It focused on gaining insights around how the community wants to use the space, the facilities needed in the Park to support their desired activities as well as the general community sentiment around the Park. The engagement was motivated by a desire to create a high-quality open space that is aligned with the needs and characteristics of the local community.

In total, 51 people were engaged during the phase 1 engagement; contributing 18 Survey responses (78% of whom were local residents), 32 Social Pinpoint comments and 1 submission. The design of the survey questions and engagement approach was guided by a key question: *"How can we create a park that responds to the local community's needs, whilst reflecting the unique identity of Fairfield?"*

Engagement participants provided detailed insights into their vision for the new park, clearly outlining the needs to which the Park should respond, and an extensive list of ideas to help bring their priorities to life.



Community values

In relation to open space, participants value -

- Nature and landscape: Spaces that provide the opportunity to engage with and connect to the landscape.
- Health and wellbeing: Spaces that promote community health and well-being through both passive and active recreation.
- Connection: Spaces and facilities that encourage the community to come together with one another. Importantly, these spaces must cater to people of all ages and be accessible for all.

Community priorities

The community feedback from all the engagement methods can be grouped under three key priority themes:

<p>Access and Amenity</p> 	<p>A comfortable and enjoyable park for everyone</p> <p>The inclusion of adequate, high quality facilities for play and socialising was the most common theme captured in open comments</p>
<p>Play and Activity</p> 	<p>A dynamic, flexible space that supports informal and formal play</p> <p>A place that encourages physical activity was the no. 1 role that participants nominated for the upgraded park.</p>
<p>Nature and Culture</p> 	<p>A green space that supports and integrates the unique natural setting and cultural history</p> <p>Enhancing and connecting the natural environment was the no. 1 and no. 2 priority items nominated by participants.</p>

These priorities have been used to structure the findings from the engagement into outcome areas that can directly inform the development of the Concept Design.

Priority 1 – Access and Amenity



“Designing a space that can be used flexibility (sic) for different groups at the same time. Accessibility is critical for children, families, elderly and people with a disability.”

– Survey participant

Across both engagement platforms, participants expressed a desire for additional park furniture and amenities that can improve the overall park experience. Participants widely praised the natural beauty of the Park, but noted the lack of amenities as a key reason for not currently using the Park more often, or for longer. To participants, it is paramount that these facilities are clean, well-maintained and operational, and where possible, are designed in a flexible or adaptable way to accommodate a range of uses and users.

A place for all

When nominating the need for more furniture and amenity, participants commonly highlighted the need to ensure that these facilities were accessible for all. As 28% of survey respondents disclosed that they care for someone with a disability, it was not surprising that inclusive accessibility was raised by several community members, however these suggestions gained wide support from other engagement participants, including the 9 upvotes that “accessible play equipment and swings” received on Social Pinpoint (one of the highest levels of support for any idea).

While it does fall outside the designated site for Carrawood Park, many participants acknowledge that pedestrian access may be a major barrier for people using the Park.

While localised access was considered fine, pedestrian access from Canley Vale and wider Carramar was considered inadequate and limiting, particularly for those living with a disability. Participants stressed the importance of considering how people get to and from, and through the Park - one of the three major considerations outlined in the Everyone Can Play guidelines.

Further to providing accessible facilities, participants wished to see spaces that would encourage intergenerational socialisation, by co-locating passive and active recreational facilities side by side - ultimately, participants felt this provided consideration for the user experience of those people who were in the Park as a carer for children or those with people living with disabilities.

A place to come together

When asked to nominate roles for the future Carrawood Park, *“A place to come together with family and friends”* was the third most common response from survey participants. In accordance with this, participants nominated an extensive range of facilities that they would like to see in the new park, common suggestions being: basic shaded areas, BBQ/picnic facilities, greater seating, adequate lighting, and access to filtered drinking water. While many more suggestions varied slightly from these most common ones, ultimately participants nominated the need for basic facilities that will encourage people to come together and enable them to stay for longer.

Opportunities and design ideas

Participants made the following suggestions for the upgrade at Carrawood Park:

- Facilities/play equipment which accommodates all ages and abilities
- Co-located facilities, such as tables/seating near kids play
- Fenced off-leash dog area
- BBQ and picnic facilities, desirably shaded
- Natural shade throughout the Park

Priority 2 – Play and Activity



“Stainless Steel Workout Equipment, Low socioeconomic area, Can't afford Gym Membership, Young Mum's would benefit, Healthy Body, Healthy Mind”.

– Social pinpoint comment

Keeping active and utilising open spaces for physical activity and play was a core value evident across all engagement activities. The Fairfield community value the opportunity that Carrawood Park provides for people to improve their physical and mental wellbeing through play, sports, exercise and opportunities to be in open space.

A place to be active

“A *place for cycling, running and walking*” was the number one role that survey participants assigned to the upgraded Carrawood Park. Nominated by 58% of all participants, this theme was consistent with insights captured during the Social Pinpoint exerciser, where “*walking/cycling path*” was one of the most common recommendation. This was further supported in later survey questions, where over 50 of participants nominated walking/running as their favourite activity in existing parks in the LGA, this was even more prevalent amongst those aged 26-35 and 56-65.

Participants also nominated more formal exercise opportunities for the Park, with *Outdoor gym equipment or fitness loop* being the third most common recommendation from survey participants, when asked what features they would like included in the Park. Social Pinpoint responses communicated a similar sentiment valuing exercise, as the most upvoted comments mentioned multiple exercise stations and workout equipment, receiving seven and 11 up votes respectively.

A place to play

A Carrawood Park that provides a “*A place for adventure and discovery through the natural landscapes*” was the second highest priority that survey participants nominated

when asked *What role should the upgraded park have in the community?* While specific recommendations varied, from play equipment, to water play, to adventure play, or simply discovery paths, it was commonly acknowledged that the elements of play must leverage the natural environment and be accessible for all ages and levels of mobility.

In addition to play equipment and including a sense of “play” within the Park, a number of Social Pinpoint participants expressed a desire to see more and/or better maintained sports fields within the Park. It was remarked that the fields currently lack sufficient lighting or auxiliary features such as bathrooms, water and shade, that encourage people to participate in organised sports.

Opportunities and design ideas

Participants made the following suggestions for the upgrade at Carrawood Park:

- Accessible exercise equipment/station
- Upgrade to the existing open sports fields, to better cater to a more diverse range of sports and activities
- Multipurpose court, potentially of a smaller size to accommodate other uses of the Park
- Better lighting across the Park including sport fields
- Looped walking/cycling tracks that are shaded

Priority 3 – Nature and Culture



“The creek needs to be clean, the nature is habitat for the birds. Don’t “humanise” the Park, keep it green, it is beautiful”

– Social pinpoint comment

The importance of maintaining and enhancing the natural environment and celebrating the local culture was something that engagement participants valued as a foundational component of Carrawood Park. Participants greatly valued the benefits of having green open spaces, particularly large trees within the Park and wild growing natives. Furthermore, it was widely acknowledged that the Park currently lacks connection to the creek, which participants believed could be a particular opportunity for the new upgraded Carrawood Park.

A place to be amongst nature

Participants expressed a strong desire to be amongst nature in the upgraded Carrawood Park. When asked to nominate important features for the park, *“Trees and natural areas”* was the highest priority for survey participants, closely followed by *“Connection to the creek”*. Importantly, participants expressed a sentiment that they valued the opportunity to connect with nature and be amongst these spaces, rather than strict preservation and conservation by limiting access. This was further emphasised by survey participants who nominated the opportunity to connect with and appreciate nature as the number one thing they love about existing parks in the area, a sentiment shared by Social Pinpoint participants.

The value that the community places upon green spaces is perhaps best illustrated in the response to the survey question *“Select the top two benefits (of parks) that are most important to you”*, where 99% of survey participants chose the response *“Trees help to clean the air and cool the ground, reducing the heat particularly in the warmer months”* - the community value the respite and tranquillity that open green spaces provide them.

Participants appreciated the large native trees in the Park, and suggested planting flowering natives to add colour to the city and encourage wildlife. There was a desire to preserve and enhance Carrawood's natural elements, especially surrounding the creek.

Participants appreciated parks which provide facilities and amenities that showcase nature. In particular, they valued trees as a source of shade, the natural beauty of plants and animals, and the sense of tranquillity that can be created through landscaping. Suggestions such as *"Adequate seating with a good view"* and *"A platform along the water's edge"* made direct note of the importance of the relationship between facilities and nature, and how they could be integrated to best celebrate the scenery and natural landscape.

It should be noted that a number of engagement participants emphasised the importance of native planting. It was commonly remarked that all native trees should be preserved, and additional planting should be a celebration of natives (particularly flowering natives), in order to encourage the proliferation of the local fauna. This sentiment was particularly noted by the local Bushcare group in a written submission (Appendix C), detailing a number of key opportunities and challenges for the localised flora and fauna in the Park.

Finally, participants often considered themselves custodians of the space, and nominated opportunities to get involved in planting and caring for the space, as a key activity for the upgraded park. In particular, a key benefit *"Plants help make the place more attractive for visitors, with dedicated programs and seeds collected to ensure native species continue to thrive"* was nominated by 61% of survey participants.

A celebration of local culture

While nature was an unchanging shared value, culture and history was viewed as a priority for the future. When asked what themes, topics or local stories they would like to see expressed in the Park, nearly all survey participants nominated a theme relating to nature or culture. This included the history of First Nations, cultural diversity of the local community, and showcasing native wildlife and natural beauty of the Park to encourage people to care more deeply for the environment. One participant also suggested showcasing the local community and school involvement through design, such as a community board.

Opportunities and design ideas

Participants made the following suggestions for the upgrade at Carrawood Park:

- Retain large trees, plant flowering natives
- Locate some facilities near aesthetically pleasing natural elements, such as the creek
- Establish stronger connection to the creek
- Reflect local Aboriginal history and cultural diversity through design

Where to from here

The intention to upgrade Carrawood Park has been well received by participants throughout the engagement. Through the course of community engagement, a shared vision for the Park was identified along with ideas and elements for consideration by the design team.

These engagement findings, along with the site analysis, environmental reports, and findings of the other project consultants will provide a firm foundation for the development of a draft Concept Design for the Park.

Next steps

- The findings from this report will be used to inform the 50% Concept Design to be prepared by lead design consultant; Phillips Marler Landscape Architecture
- The 50% Concept Design will form the basis of the next phase of engagement which involves the testing of the Park design with the local community via an interactive Design Board (Social Pinpoint ideas wall feature) and online survey

Appendix A – Survey Analysis

Overview

A total of 18 people participated in the survey.

To create a logical sense of narrative for the reader, and for the sake of locating the data as it responds to the early references in this report, the following survey data has been organised under themes and priorities previously identified in the Engagement Outcomes Report.

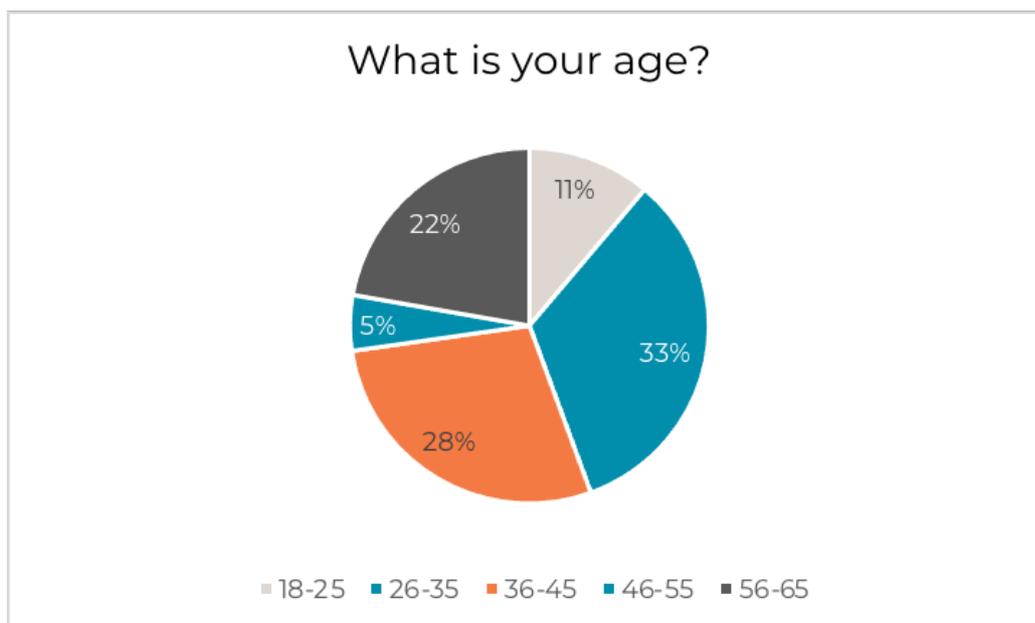
Demographics

What gender do you identify with? (Q25)

There was an exactly even split between male and female participants (50% male, 50% female). No participants identified as non-binary.

What is your age? (Q20)

The age bracket with the highest representation was 26-35 year olds (33%), followed by 36-45 year olds (28%). The smallest represented age group was 46-55 year olds (5%), and none of the participants were over the age of 65 years, nor aged under 18. The largest male group was 56-65 year olds (22%), whereas the largest female group was 36-45 year olds (22%).



Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? (Q28)

One participant identified as Aboriginal. One respondent also preferred to not answer this question.

Do you speak a language other than English at home? (Q26)

28% of participants spoke a language other than English at home. These languages included Croatian, Thai, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Chinese, Polish, Greek, and Hungarian.

Do you live with, or care for someone with a disability? (Q29)

28% of participants care for someone with a disability. Four respondents also preferred to not answer this question.

Where do you live? (Q21)

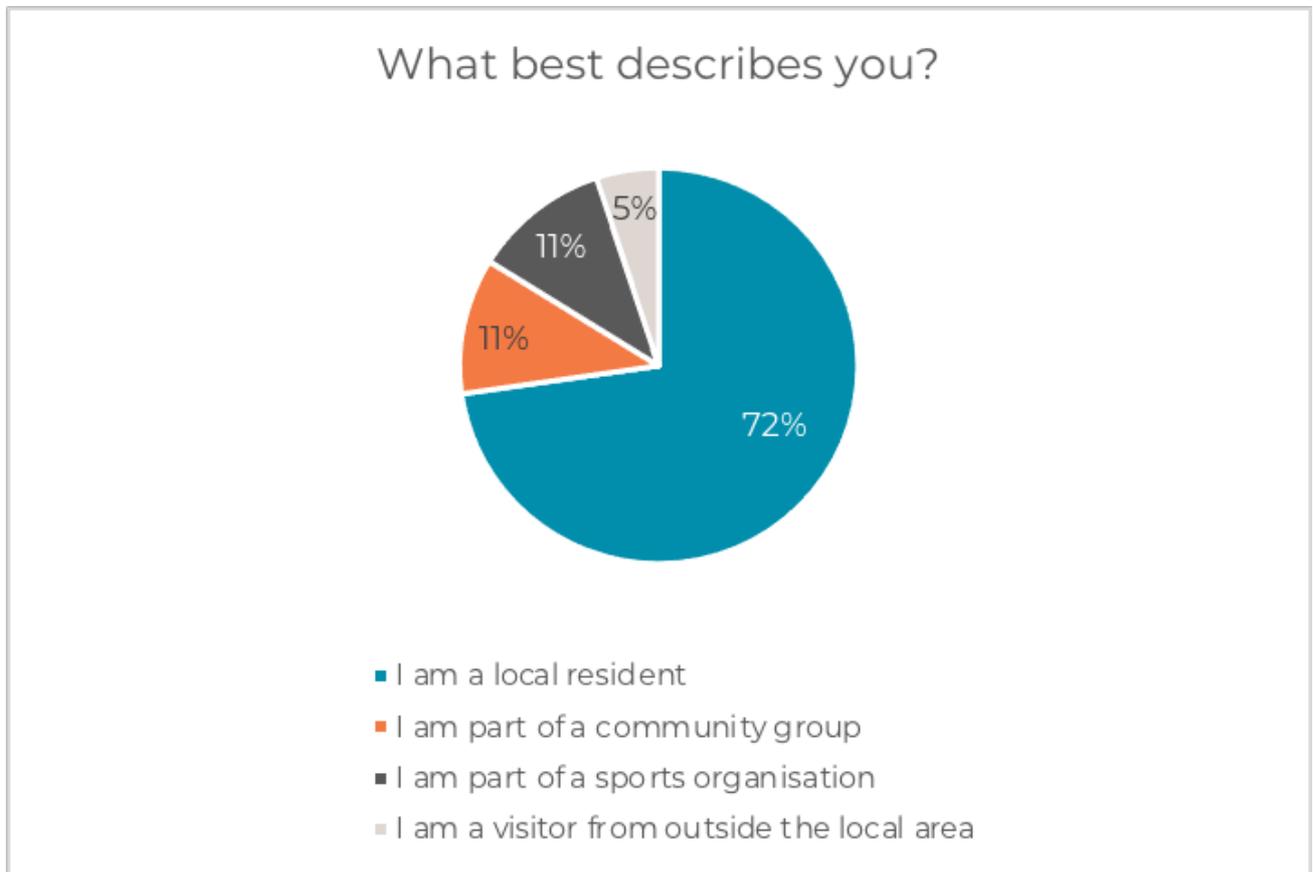
As shown in the table below, the vast majority of respondents live within the Fairfield LGA. Only one participant does not live in the LGA.

Table 1: Participants' place of residence

Postcode	Suburbs	Number	Percentage
2163	Carramar, Villawood	11	61%
2166	Canley Vale, Lansvale	4	22%
2176	Bossley Park, Prairiewood, Wakeley, St Johns Park, Greenfield Park, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury	1	5%
2165	Fairfield, Fairfield Heights, Fairfield West, Fairfield East	1	5%
2146	Toongabbie, Old Toongabbie	1	5%

What best describes you? (Q2)

The majority of participants (78%) are local residents, the remaining participants are part of a community group (11%) such as the NFP Community organisation or part of a sports organisation (11%), and only 5% are a visitor from outside the local area.



Visitation patterns

Have you ever visited Carrawood Park? (Q5)

94% (17 out of 18) survey participants have visited Carrawood Park.

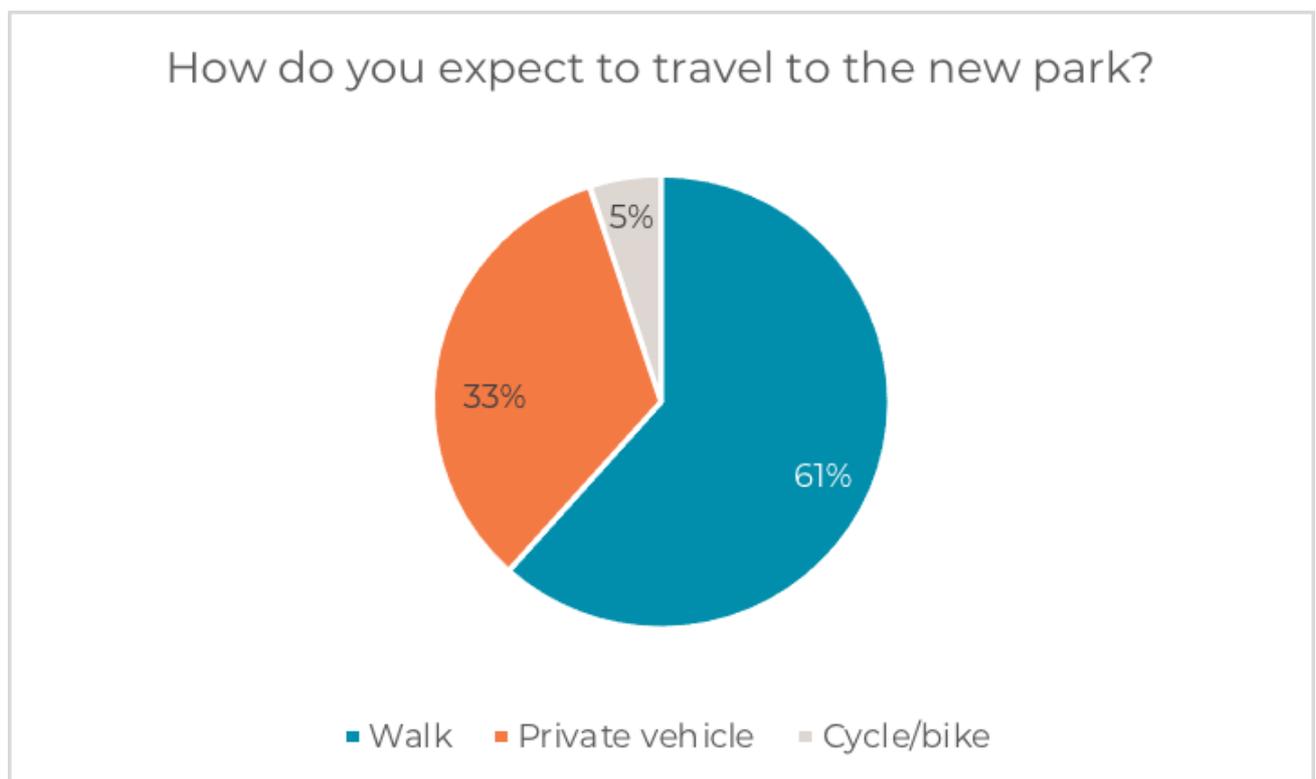
The only participant who had not visited Carrawood Park reasoned the park to be “Too cultural one sides to one group in the area”.

Do you live within 10 minutes walk of the new park? (Q22)

67% of survey respondents live within a 10 minute walk of the park.

How do you expect to travel to the new park? (Q23)

More than half (61%) of respondents indicated that they would walk to the new park, while the remaining 33% would travel by private vehicle, and 5% by cycle/bike.

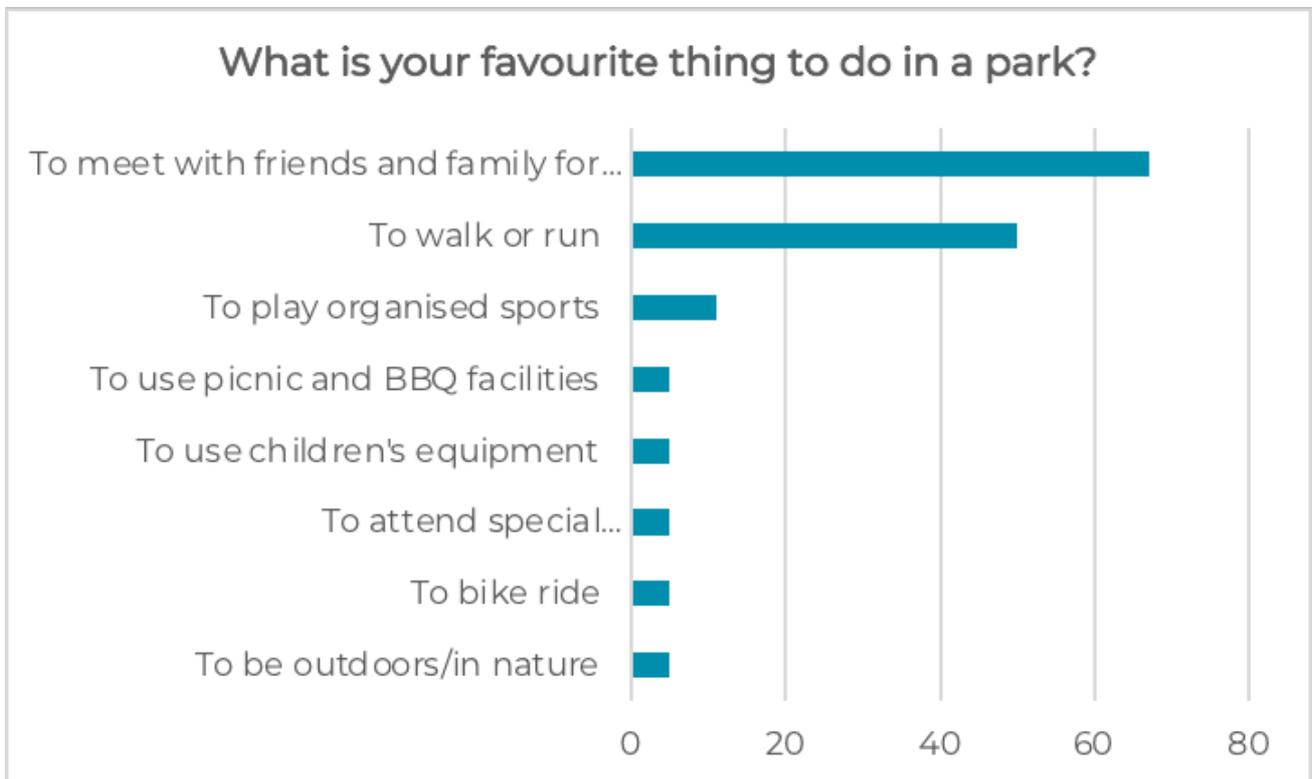


Community aspirations

What is your favourite thing to do in a park? (Q9)

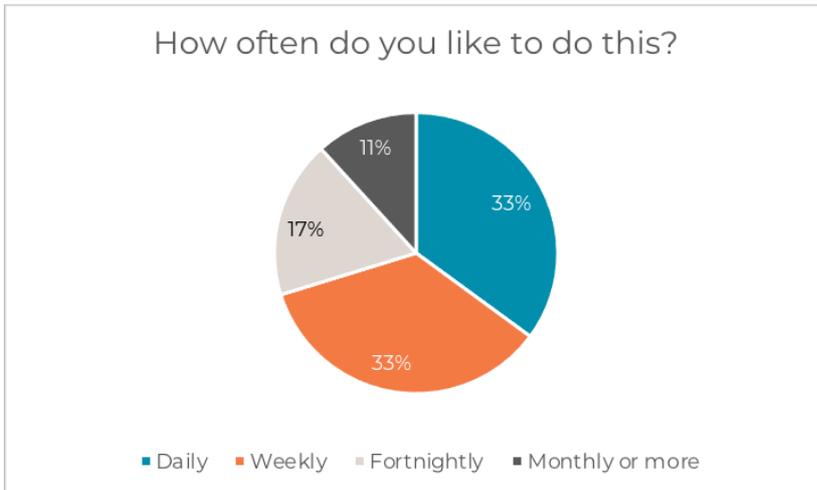
Half (50%) of participants nominated 'to walk or run' as their favourite activity to engage with in a park. This was most popular between younger and older age groups (67% of 26-35 year olds and 100% of 55-65 year olds). This was followed by "to meet with friends and family for a gathering" (11% of respondents) and 'to play organised sports' (11% of respondents).

The remaining activities were split evenly (5% of respondents per activity) - this included "to be outdoors/in nature", 'to bike ride', 'to attend special events/community events', 'to use children's play equipment', 'to use picnic and BBQ facilities'.



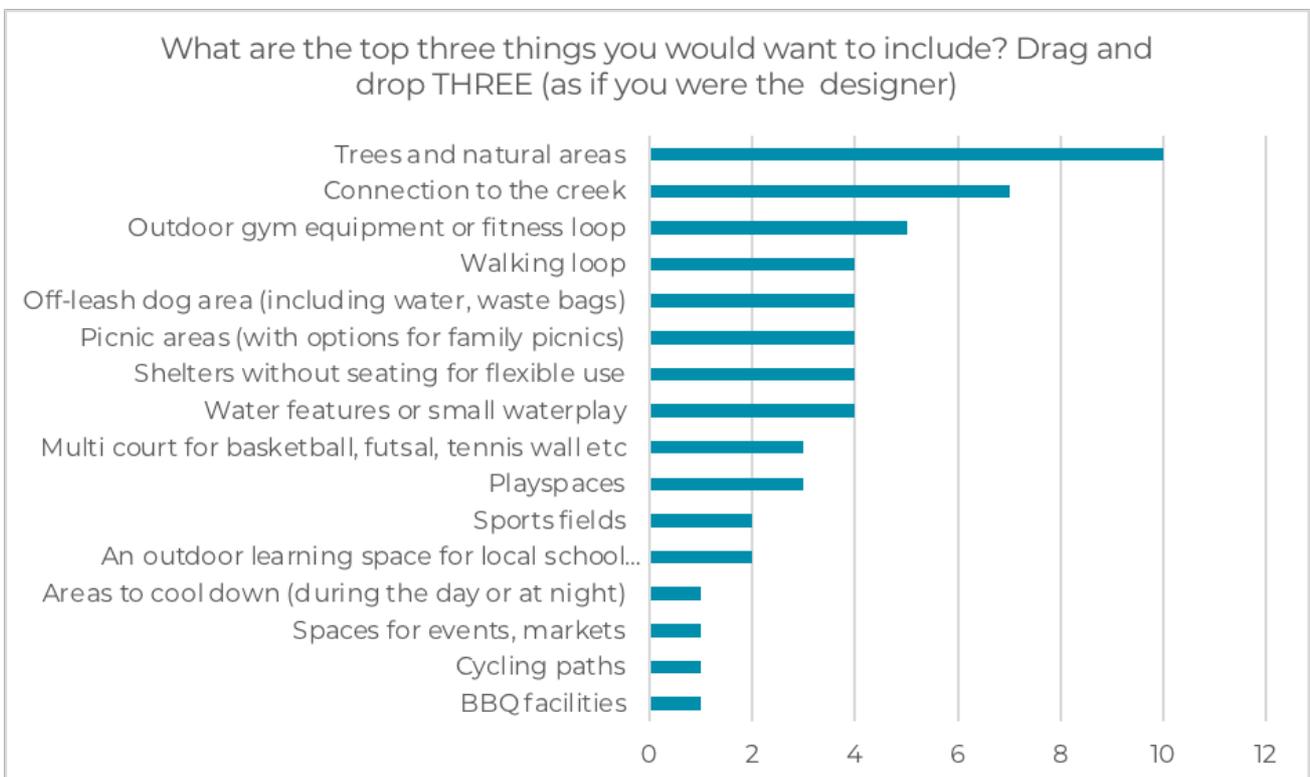
How often do you like to do this? (Q11)

Locals who visit the park do so quite regularly. More than half (66% of participants) visit the park either daily or weekly. Only 11% of participants visit monthly or more.



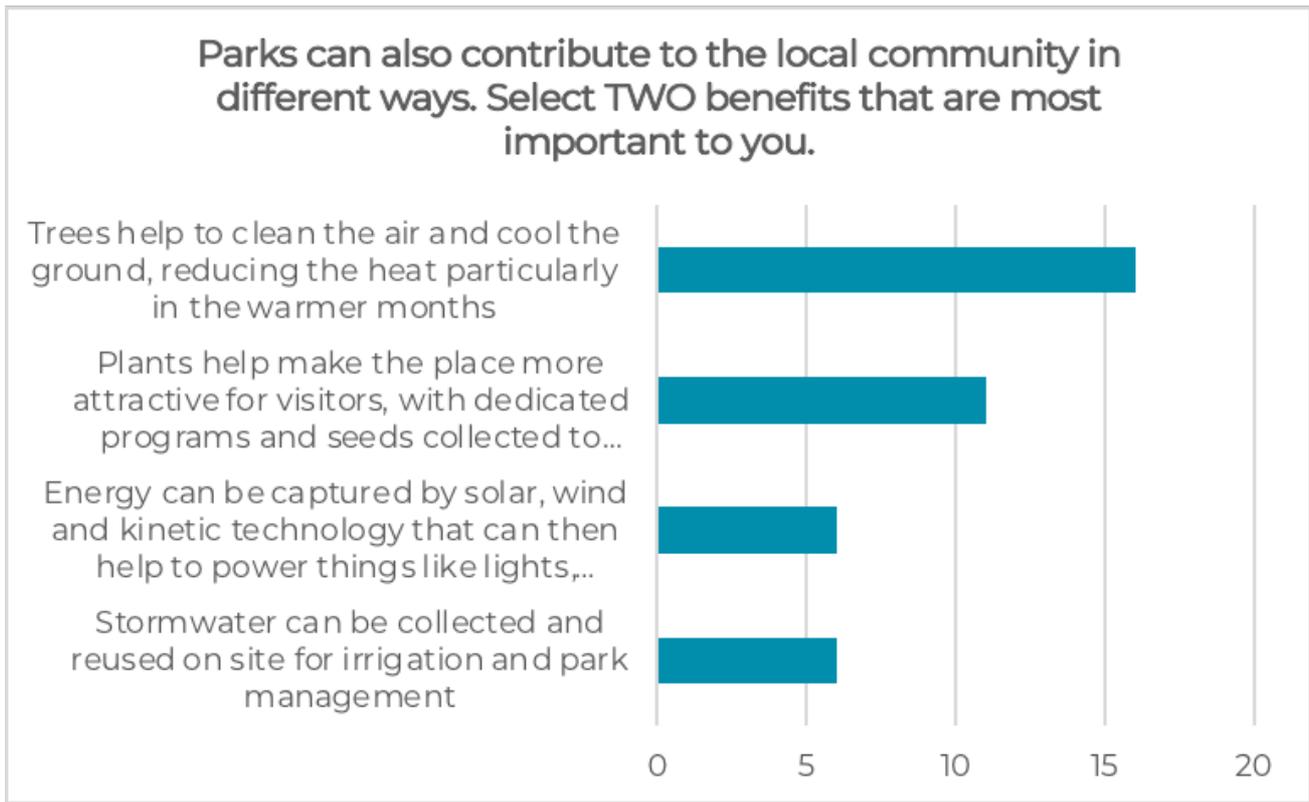
What are the top three things you would want to include? Drag and drop THREE (as if you were the designer) (Q15)

Participants' priorities for design inclusions in the park were clear. *Trees and natural areas* received 10 votes as was the top priority, followed by *Connection to the creek* with 7 votes, and *Outdoor gym equipment or fitness loop* with 5 votes.



Parks can also contribute to the local community in different ways. Select TWO benefits that are most important to you. (Q18)

Participants' value for nature was reflected in this response. The top two benefits *Trees help to clean the air and cool the ground, reducing the heat particularly in the warmer months and warmer months* and *Plants help make the place more attractive for visitors, with dedicated programs and seeds collected to ensure native species continue to thrive* concerned canopy cover for environmental and aesthetic benefits.

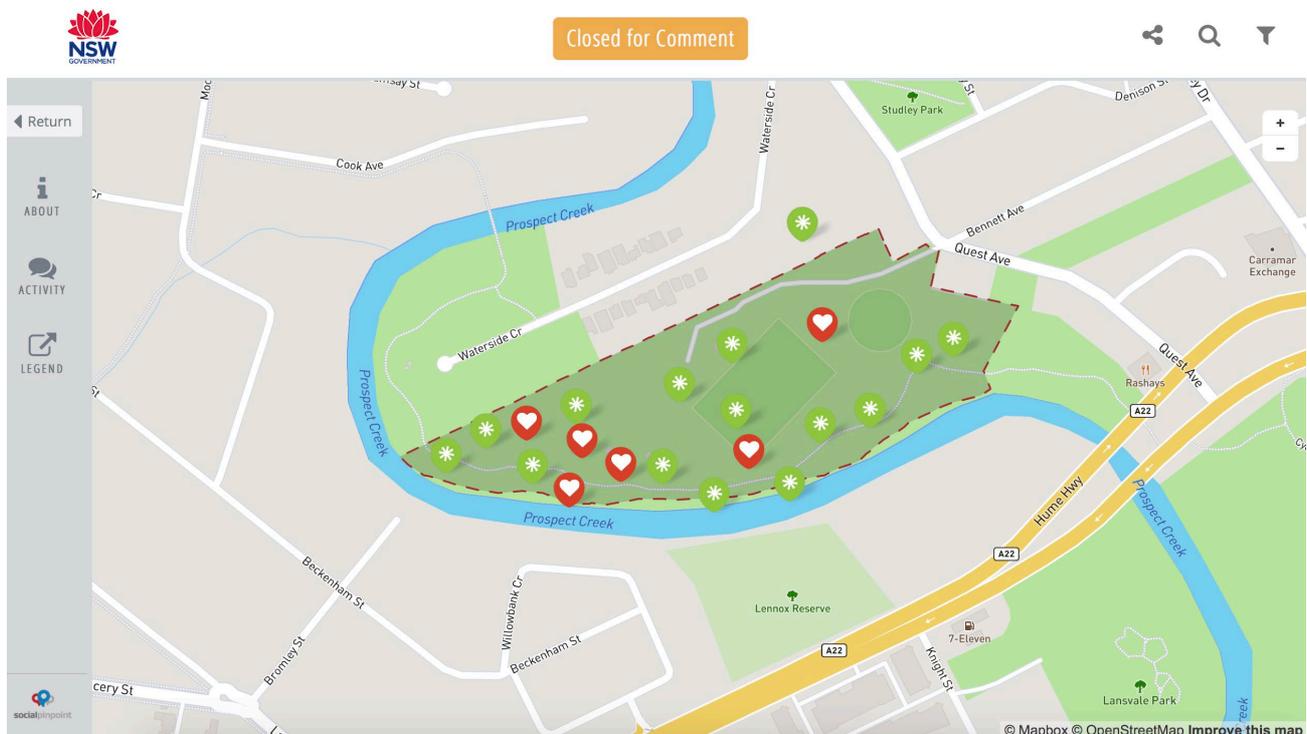


Appendix B – Social Pinpoint Analysis

Overview

A total of 32 responses were recorded:

- 22 (69%) ‘What do you want to see?’ pins (the green pins in the map below)
- 10 (31%) ‘What do you love?’ pins (the red pins in the map below)



Overall sentiment

The comments have been grouped based on the sentiment they express. This was done by the Social Pinpoint program and is only indicative.

Community values

The following provides a summary of community values as they relate to key opportunities for the park:

Facilities and access

The community desired improved park facilities and improved accessibility, such as adequate lighting, shaded picnic areas, and better bridge connectivity.

Quotes:

- *“Platforms along the waters edge. Extra lighting at night, solar powered. Inspirational sculptures from local artists. Dedicated green lawn area with a simple structured garden. Wide footpaths.”*
- *“You could possibly fix the old bridge or make a new bridge as a way for people that live in Canley Vale to come through much more easily”*

Opportunities to play

The community expressed that they value active recreation, including outdoor gym equipment and multipurpose courts.

Quotes:

- *“A basketball court”*
- *“Stainless Steel Workout Equipment, Low socioeconomic area, Can't afford Gym Membership, Young Mum's would benefit, Healthy Body, Healthy Mind”*

Celebrating nature

The community expressed an underlying value of the local area's natural environment and landscapes. They expressed a desire for a park which features native plantings and flowers, with an intention to “keep it green”.

Quotes:

- *“I love the peaceful vibe of this park. I do not want to see it turned into an adventure area full of noise and entertainment, we have plenty of other options around for that kind of park.”*
- *“The creek needs to be clean, the nature is habitat for the birds. Don't “humanise “the park, keep it green, it is beautiful”*

Appendix C – Written Submissions

Submission 1

Received: Monday, 21 December, 2020
Medium: Email

Sent: Monday, 21 December 2020 10:49 AM
Subject: Carrawood Park

To _____,

With regard to the proposed Carrawood Park Adventure Playground, Bankstown Bushland Society wishes to point out the following:

The stand of Forest Red Gums in the park is an old growth remnant of heritage value with some of the biggest trees to be found in the suburban area.

The stand possesses habitat hollows and nesting opportunities for native wildlife.

Aboriginal scar trees may be present.

Given the size of the trees and potential for fall of large branches, playground facilities should not be placed directly under them.

Open or sparsely treed areas not directly under the stand of Forest Red Gums should be preferred for the site of the playground.

The ground around the bases of the trees should not be deep mulched as this changes the native soil profile, favours weed development and risks introducing soil pathogens.

Ornamental and restoration plantings should be chiefly composed of species indigenous to the Prospect Creek catchment and propagated from local sources.

Good luck with the project.

JOC Consulting

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