



Parks for People
Phase 1 Engagement Outcomes Report
Tench Reserve, Penrith

September 2020

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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 Penrith 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.

“I would love to see Aboriginal history and recognition in the park.”

– Online Survey participant

Executive Summary

In 2020, the New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) commissioned JOC Consulting to assist with the delivery of community engagement for the upgrades to Tench Reserve as part of the Parks for People Program.

The first round of consultation consisted of an online survey and social pinpoint map available for community comment between 2 and 22 September 2020.

In total, 567 community members were energetic, eager and passionate in their responses, showing support for the Parks for People Program and sharing ideas to help improve Tench Reserve. These ideas along with community values and priorities in relation to Tench Reserve have been captured in this Engagement Outcomes Report.

Who participated in the consultation?



11,783
total visits



4,520
unique users



567 people
participated across the
three platforms:

- 200 interactions via social media
- 183 online survey participants
- 184 social pinpoint comments



Participants
ranged in
age from 18
to 75 years old.



91%
were
local
residents

The main age brackets
were 36–45 years old
(36%) and 26 – 35 year old
(25%)



71% female
28% male





31%

live within 10 minutes walk of the park



98%

have visited the park in the past



90%

visit the park on a regular basis (weekly or monthly)

N.B. Demographic statistics relating to online survey only

What did we hear?

Top three vision statements were:



A peaceful place to relax and wind down (23% of respondents)



A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment (21% of respondents)



An exciting and adventurous discovery through natural landscapes (18% of respondents)

Top three priorities were:

- A cool space that is a gateway to Penrith's natural landscape and the Nepean River.
- A dynamic and flexible space that balances active and passive recreation opportunities to support community health and wellbeing.
- Improve walking trails and cycling paths
- Preserve and increase the existing tree canopy while improving vegetation and shading options in the park
- Create play spaces leveraging the natural landscape and promoting intergenerational interactions

- Install amenities and street furniture that will ensure Tench Reserve is safe and well-lit but will not negatively impact the environment
- Improve connections in, across and out of Tench Reserve via foot and cycle paths with creative wayfinding to improve movement and spark interest

Project risks and considerations:

- Managing community expectations: The Penrith community were largely supportive of the project and want to see it improved with it being a favourite place for most (90% of respondents use the Park regularly)
- Return on investment and delivering improvements where they are needed with some in the community having divergent views on where the park needs upgrading. Most want the upgrades to respond to cooling (as cited above), respite, play and safety (with 33 (18%) out of the 184 Social Pinpoint comments related to safety)
- A victim of its own success: The community raised concerns around the potential of overdevelopment in Penrith and the site more specifically. The community want to see the natural beauty of the area maintained, with areas to relax and play, while not feeling overwhelmed or crowded by the amount of people using the park

Aligning with project objectives

Objectives table:

The community play an important role in the actualisation of the project objectives. The table below outlines the ways in which the community engagement findings align with the objectives identified during the Tench Reserve Visioning Workshop.

Objectives	What did community say?
To contribute to and enhance the Great River Walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A network of pathways accompanied is needed connect the Reserve to other Penrith landmarks and improve pedestrian safety along the Great River Walk. ▪ The experience could also be improved by the greater provision of lighting, wayfinding and amenity.
To strengthen the riverside setting and contribute to improving the health of the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community value the Nepean River, an iconic feature of the Penrith landscape. ▪ The Reserve is an access point that allows the community to admire and interact with the river.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They want more opportunities to take in the beauty of the river. ▪ The community are wary of development that could impede on or have a negative impact on the natural landscape.
<p>To celebrate the identity of place and community through landscape design and public art.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community want purpose-built and meaningful installations that add value to the park i.e. creative wayfinding, interactive/playable art. ▪ It is important for the community that art is integrated with and adds to the natural landscape. ▪ More than 20% of the people who wanted public art noted the importance of sharing local stories and local talent.
<p>To create a recreation hub for water and land- based activities, while preserving the natural beauty and landscape setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The predominantly family-household community, the Penrith community want greater access to a range of water and land-based activities for all ages. ▪ There is a need to balance more active elements of the park with the quieter, more relaxed elements of the park. ▪ While people want activation, they also want a social space for relaxation. ▪ The community are also wary of the impact of overdevelopment and congestion on the natural landscape.

The Landscape Benefit Table

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.

	Where are we today?	Where do we want to be?
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community responses indicate the Reserve is a popular site for exercise and fitness ▪ The engagement highlights the need for better infrastructure (i.e. lighting for safety and paths for connection) ▪ The community highlighted the need for more modern play areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reserve will be accessible and inclusive for everyone ▪ Play spaces that will integrate nature and waterplay for different age, accessibility levels and intergenerational interaction ▪ Health and fitness areas with outdoor gym equipment ▪ The Reserve will be well-lit and will feel safe at all times of the day
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community value the selection of restaurants and retails located along the edges of the park. ▪ Some respondents are concerned about overdevelopment and its impact on the feel of the park and the natural environment ▪ The community want to see the site host more events and festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reserve will deliver balance of spaces and uses including events. ▪ Improving access to the park could encourage greater visitation and tourism to the area. ▪ Greater activation of Tench Reserve could generate revenue for the local economy
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community value the Nepean River and see the need for more shaded areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The upgrade will provide more trees and greater tree canopy cover

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community want to see the protection of local species in the area ▪ The community raised that the river could be improved through better maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reserve will have paths with suitable wayfinding ▪ Tench Reserve will provide opportunities for the community to connect with the natural landscape ▪ The Reserve will provide opportunities to engage with the Nepean River ▪ Tench Reserve will be better maintained
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The engagement highlighted the community's prioritisation of local art and talent ▪ The community see the need to provide cultural and creative spaces ▪ The area has a rich history spanning from the pre-colonial to the present. The community want this to be celebrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Reserve will continue to provide space for culture and events ▪ The art pieces in the Reserve will showcase Penrith's rich heritage ▪ The art works in the Reserve will prioritise the work of local artists

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

About the project

Background

Penrith's Tench Reserve (the Reserve) will be upgraded as part of the The Parks for People Program, an ambitious NSW Government initiative that focuses on the creation of high-quality open space. This project sees the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) collaborating with Penrith City Council and the local community to transform the existing Tench Reserve into a vibrant space that balances passive and active recreation opportunities.

The Reserve is located within the Greater Penrith Growth Area identified in the Greater Sydney Commission's Western City District Plan. An estimated 60,000 of people are expected to move into the area by 2036 and the city becoming increasingly hot, access to quality open space is becoming increasingly important as the community grows and evolves. With local infrastructure being put under greater pressure in the process, getting the planning right is vital in ensuring the community's needs are met.



Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the first round of engagement was to better understand the community's aspirations for the new Tench Reserve. 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 Reserve. The engagement was motivated by a desire to create a world-class reserve that is aligned with the needs and characteristics of the local community.

In total, 367 people were engaged through the online survey or social pinpoint map with another 200 engaged on social media platforms. The design of the survey questions and engagement approach was guided by a key question: "How can we

create a world-class park that is loved and well-used by the community, and supports their vision for the future?"

The Penrith community were energetic, eager and passionate in their engagement, showing an overwhelmingly positive response to the Parks for People program.

What we heard

Community feedback on the upgrades to Tench Reserve offered a broad range of insights, spanning topics across infrastructure to river access, connections to the greater Penrith area, shade as well as fitness and cultural opportunities.

Analysing and piecing together the range of responses, the community's vision for Tench Reserve became clear. **They community want an accessible, connected and welcoming gathering place for the whole community.** They want Tench Reserve to be a green refuge that balances active and passive recreation to meet the needs of an evolving and dynamic community.

More evident in the social pinpoint mapping activity than survey, the respondents supported the idea of leveraging both the natural assets - such as the Nepean River and the tree cover along the banks - and the rich history of the area to create a unique and memorable park that responds to the needs of the community. The comments made throughout the engagement focused on the improvement of the user experience, noting that while some improvements are necessary participants were satisfied with the majority of the park's current offering.

The word cloud, created using the most common phrases on social pinpoint, convey the community's desired features and visions for the upgrade to Tench Reserve.



Community Values

In relation to Tench Reserve, the community of Penrith values -

- **Access:** The community value equitable access to public spaces for all members of the community through the provision of spaces that accommodates accessibility needs and enables intergenerational interactions.
- **Health and wellbeing:** The Penrith community are active and value spaces that promote community health and well-being through both passive and active recreation.
- **Environmental sustainability:** The Penrith community recognise and value the uniqueness of their natural landscape and its assets and are wary of development that could impinge on the natural environment.
- **Nature and landscape:** Penrith's diverse community value the opportunity to engage with and connect to the landscape, particularly the iconic Nepean River.
- **Safety:** A community dominated by family households, a sense of security and safety is highly regarded by the Penrith community.

Community Priorities

The community feedback can be grouped under three key priority themes -

1	Cool & Natural 	A cool space that is a gateway to Penrith's natural landscape and the Nepean River.
2	Safe & Welcoming 	A safe and welcoming space for all members of the community.
3	Dynamic & Flexible 	A dynamic and flexible space that balances active and passive recreation opportunities to support community health and wellbeing.

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 – Cool and Natural

“Penrith gets extremely hot in summer. Access to the water somehow would be great, if it can be done safely - there are a lot of families and young kids in the area.”

– Survey Participant

The Penrith community value environmental sustainability and cool spaces where they can spend time together and shelter from the summer heat. With Penrith becoming increasingly hotter, there is a greater need for cooler public spaces. Across age brackets, genders, and postcodes, participants want greater access and availability to cool public spaces.



What people said

The upgraded Tench Reserve will be a cool space that is the gateway to Penrith's natural landscape and the Nepean River. With the Penrith community growing and evolving, participants noted the need for quality open space to support the current and future development of the area. In total, 23% of participants envisioned the park to be "A peaceful place to relax and wind down", the most common vision amongst all the age groups.

1. Cooling the city

The community wants a cooler city, identified through previous strategies and consultation by Penrith City Council and further supported in this survey with -

- Trees and shading being the top element with 78 participants (42.6%) listing it in their top three
- The protection of the natural environment as the second highest rated park element receiving 66 (36%) votes

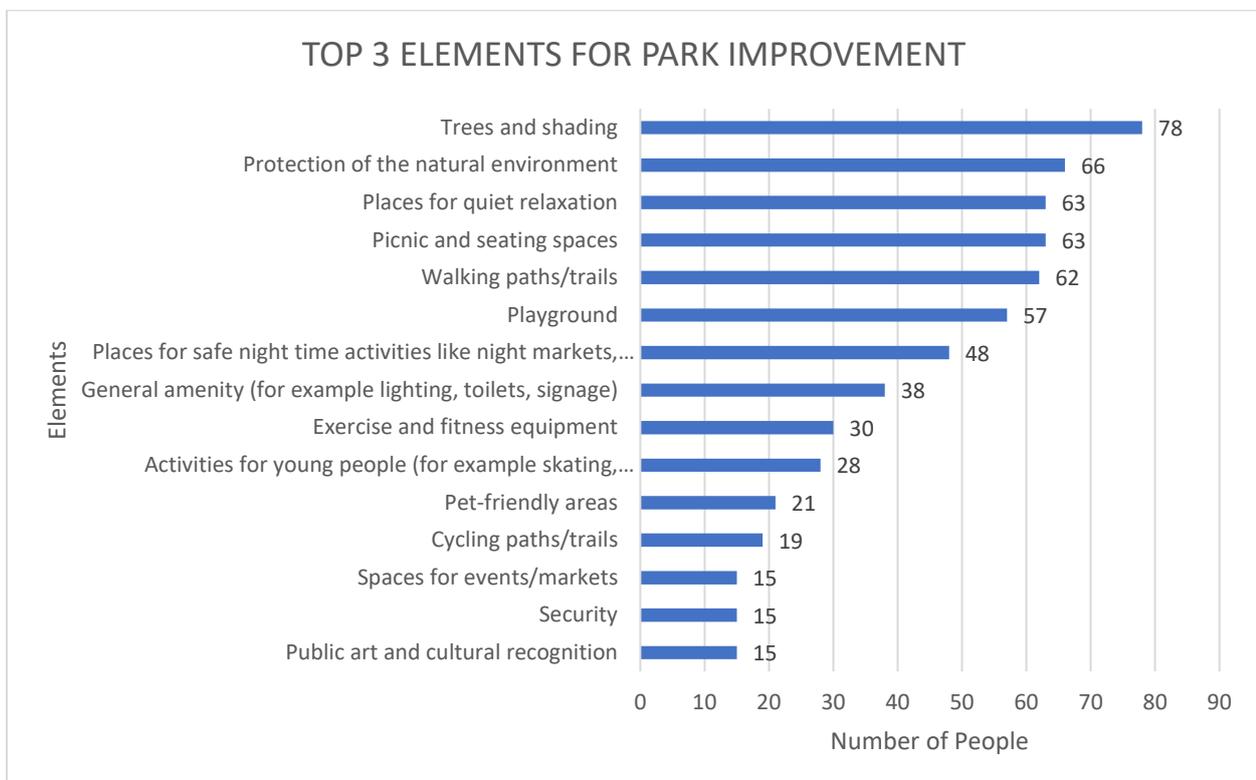


Figure 1: Bar graph of the top 3 elements for park improvement

When asked to name an alternative element or their big idea for the park, a number of survey participants mentioned the need for heat mitigation, with one survey participant noting: "It gets hot in Penrith during the summer and it would be great for families to still be able to use the area on hot days. Include plenty of natural shade and water refill stations."

This was echoed by a number of social media, survey and Social Pinpoint comments also centred around the need for heat mitigation measures throughout the park.

2. Connecting the landscape

Tench Reserve is an access point to both the river and Penrith's natural landscape. Participants identified opportunities to leverage its location along the banks of the Nepean River to help them cool down in summer and give the community a way to connect with nature within close proximity to Penrith's CBD.

The community expressed wariness towards additions that could have a negative impact on the natural landscape, stating that art and other installations should have a local focus and be integrated into the environment.

When asked for their vision, 18% of survey participants envision the Reserve as an exciting space with adventurous discovery through the natural landscape. Some participants wanted greater river access and to be able to swim in the summer. One participant stating that they "would love to see a small beach area, to provide active swimming but also add to the connection with the river."

Other participants were happy to walk along the banks of the river and observe its beauty from there, noting that they only wanted trees lining the trails in order to provide shade.

Challenges

- Maintaining and enhancing tree canopy in the short to medium term in and around upgraded areas of the park
- Public access to the river has implications for both the river and the people using it. As some participants have already noted, the river is not the safest place to swim and there is potential for environmental degradation if it is not carefully managed.

Opportunities and design ideas

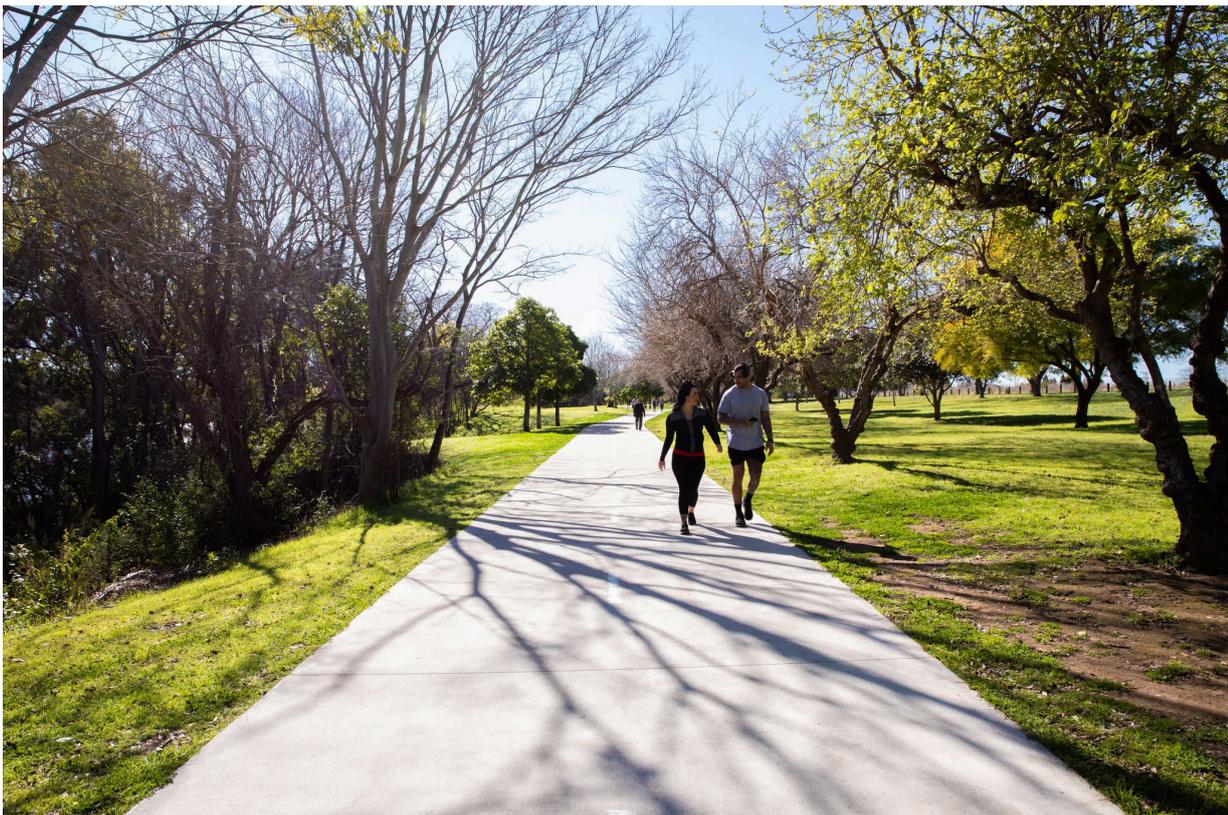
- Creating a cool refuge for people to gather that will help cool the wider area
- Expanding Penrith's network of high-quality open spaces
- Leverage the natural assets in and around the Reserve to create a green respite easily accessible from the Penrith CBD, and establish measurable environmental preservation outcomes
- Preserve as many trees as possible and identify suitable locations for trees and other vegetation to increase tree canopy and shading in the park
- Investigating the level of interaction between the river and the user, and the appropriate level of access to the river

Priority 2 – Safe and Welcoming

“Families can come together and feel safe to enjoy a day out with their children”

– Survey Participant

The family-oriented communities of the Penrith LGA recognise the need for safe and welcoming spaces for all members of the community. The community engagement highlighted that need for spaces that are well-lit, well-serviced as well as accessible and connected. The community sees the Reserve as part of a network of community spaces across Penrith and beyond.



What people said

The community wants a safer and more welcoming park. Regardless of how the participants envision the park, safety and welcoming was a persistent theme across the community's open-ended comments, often in justification.

While only 15 people of the 183 who completed the survey nominated security as one of their top three elements for park improvement, broader comments around safety and security were made by:

- 23 of the 62 people who voted for the walking paths/trails
- 19 of the 57 people who voted for the playground
- 4 of the 48 people who voted for places for safe night time activities like markets and food fairs

Of the 184 Social Pinpoint Survey:

- 33 (18%) were related to safety
 - 14 mentioning the need for greater lighting
 - 19 relating to cycling and pedestrian safety

This echoes the general sentiment expressed on social media where the community highlighted the need for better lighting as well as pedestrian and cycle paths to enable better usage of the Reserve.

1. Flow in, through, and out of the Reserve

Walking trails and cycling paths were widely considered to be in need of improving with a third of survey participants listing it among their top three priorities.

The paths should be suitable for the space and enable the community to walk along the river more safely, as a survey participant noted: *“A connection between Tench Reserve and the new pedestrian bridge that offers a safer walk than walking on the road would be great too. A bonus would be to have a path in front of the houses so the community can experience a full river walk in safety.”*

A number of participants also acknowledged additional services that could be placed alongside walking trails including creative wayfinding, art installations that would add a sense of vibrancy to the Reserve.

Moreover, participants noted that these new pathways should extend out of the Reserve to enable greater pedestrian safety and connection to the surrounding area, with a Social Pinpoint participant commenting a path is needed *“under M4 walkway as per the our river plan to avoid pedestrians having to walk adjacent to the busy M4 - a critical last step in the Great River Walk.”*

2. Lighting and amenities

The need to create a safer and more welcoming space becomes more evident in the participants' comments around spending time in Tench Reserve in the dark, with a survey participant stating they *"definitely need way more lighting and amenities as it is quite scary walking at night."*

This was a resounding comment by both survey and Social Pinpoint participants.

Safety wasn't the only concern in relation to creating a welcoming space. In comments relating to big ideas and alternative suggestions, participants noted the lack of general amenities in the area as well as the need for better maintenance and upkeep of the space.

Challenges

- The M4 as a major barrier. While the community want to see greater connectivity and flow in and out of the park, the presence of the highway has implications for pedestrian and cyclist safety already acknowledged by the community.
- Some respondents mention lighting in the Reserve could lead to higher levels of light pollution and endanger local species. The Penrith community value the local wildlife and are also wary of the impact of development on their health.

Opportunities and design ideas

- Creating a well-lit and environmentally conscious Reserve with the use of dark sky approved lighting
 - Investigate most appropriate locations for light placement
- Creating a welcoming space that is well-loved and well-used by all members of the community
- Creating connections in, throughout and out of the Reserve via foot and cycle paths with creative wayfinding to promote good flow
 - Investigate locations of potential pathways, including linkages to paths outside of the Reserve

Priority 3 – Dynamic and Flexible

“The Northern End of Tench Reserve should be natural, uncluttered, and pleasant to walk through and enjoy. Keep cars, large scale picnics, and toilets at the Southern and Middle existing areas of Tench Reserve.”

– Social Pinpoint Comment

Tench Reserve is popular and increasingly busy with new and returning visitors. The community engagement highlighted the need for a dynamic and flexible space that balances active and passive recreation opportunities to support community health and wellbeing. The participants recognise that Tench Reserve is uniquely situated to respond to the need for a space that can accommodate a diversity of uses ranging from exercise and fitness to picnics and socialising with friends.



What people said

Tench Reserve is widely used with 90% of respondents regularly visiting the park. When asked to select a vision for the Reserve, the top responses were:

- A peaceful place to relax and wind down – 23%
- A fun place with lots of different activities and play equipment – 21%
- A community gathering place for picnics and events – 18%
- An exciting and adventurous discovery through natural landscapes – 18%

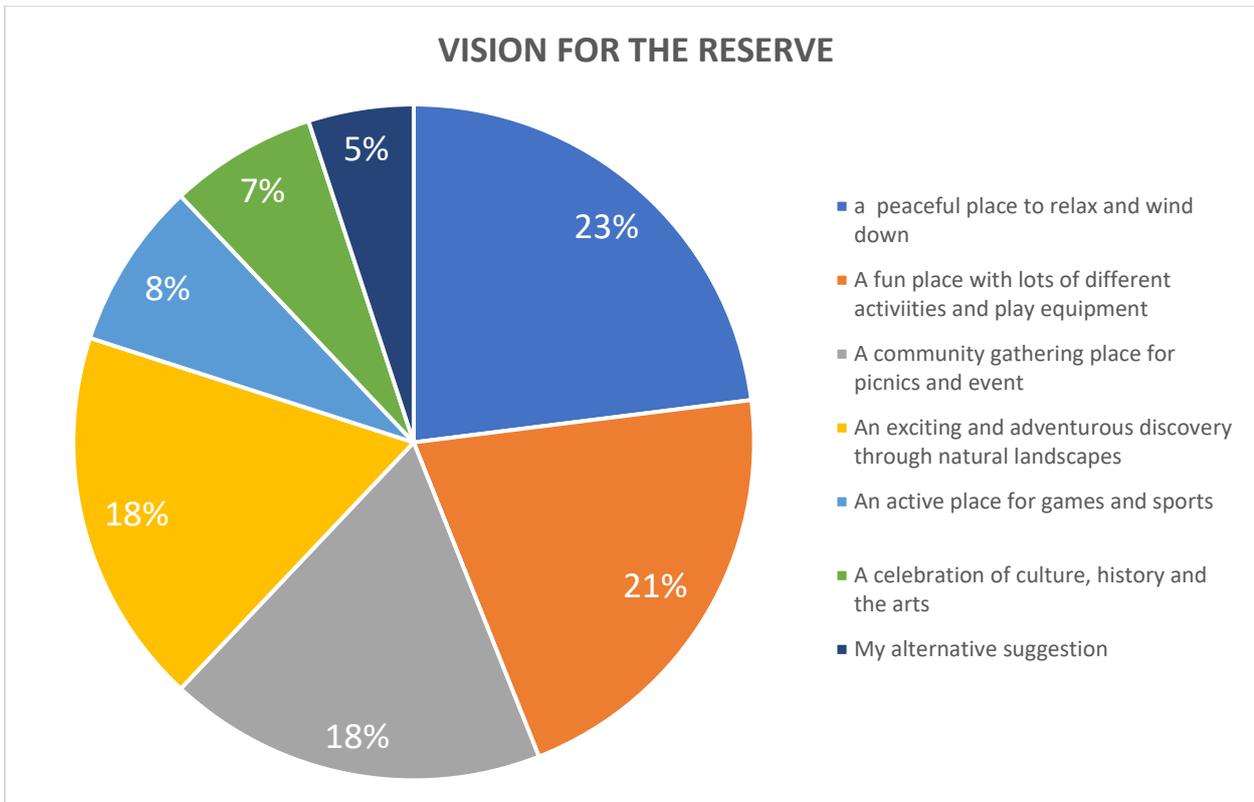


Figure 2: Pie chart of Vision for the Reserve

1. Support a variety of uses

Interestingly, there was an overlap in the people who saw the Reserve as a refuge and those who wanted greater activation and play opportunities. The survey and the Social Pinpoint provided greater detail on the additional activities the community wanted the Reserve to support.

This desire for a variety in park usage was less evident when people were asked to identify the top three elements for park improvement.

- 78 people wanted greater shading and more trees in the park
- 66 people were invested in the protection of the natural environment
- 63 people wanted picnic and seating spaces
- 63 people also wanted places for quiet relaxation.

However, looking at the number of votes received by the other activities, it is clear that the community want Tench Reserve to be able to support a number of activities, some of which are incongruent with each other (see Figure 1).

2. Play for all ages

The need for an element of water play separate from the Nepean River within the park was a common recommendation across the survey, particularly in the big ideas and alternate suggestions in elements for park improvement, and Social Pinpoint.

A Social Pinpoint participant stated *“Please, please, please upgrade the current park at Tench Reserve. It is outdated and old and is not suitable for young children. Would love to see a nice big open park with lots of different activities and a splash pad”*. This was echoed by a survey participant who stated *“(A) splash pad/water playground is something that is really missing from the park that would bring it to the next level”*. In addition to waterplay, the community suggested the installation of outdoor gym equipment and a natural playground.

Challenges

- Creating a well-balanced space that meets all these needs is managing the community’s expectation and creating a high-quality space that is fit for purpose. With many people expecting the park to deliver a mirage of activities and facilities, there is a delicate balance between providing the facilities to actualise the community’s diverse vision and overcrowding the Reserve
- As the it currently stands, people acknowledge that Tench Reserve can get too crowded and congested. Some members of the community expressed that the park in the space is already too limited.

Opportunities and design ideas

- Creating a well-balanced space that can meet the community’s needs, and promotes relaxation, wellbeing and social opportunities
- Create play spaces leveraging the natural landscape and promotes intergenerational interactions
- Investigate opportunities for water play and the inclusion of outdoor gym equipment/adult playground
- Investigate suitable areas that are more appropriate for high-traffic activities and low-traffic activities i.e. BBQ areas, picnic areas, amphitheatres

Where to from here

The project has been well received by engagement participants. 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 on-going site analysis, environmental reports and finds of the other project consultants will provide a firm foundation for the development of a 50% Concept Design

Next steps

- This findings from this report will be used to inform the 50% concept design to be prepared by lead design consultant; Context Landscape Architecture
- The 50% concept design will form the basis of the next round of engagement which involves the testing of the park design with the local community via a survey and a virtual workshop.

Appendix A

Survey data analysis

To assist with overall readability, cross tabulation, and input to the main engagement report, the data analysis does not follow the chronology of the survey design (numbering of questions as they appeared in the survey).

A total of 183 people participated in the survey.

Demographics

What is your connection to the area? (Q2)

An overwhelming majority (91% of 183 participants) were local residents, with nearly one third (30%) of total respondents living within a short 10 min walk of the park.

Three respondents were also local business owners. Only two of the participants were also members of a local sports club; and one resident was attending a local school.

All 183 participants answered this question.

What is your age? (Q18)

As shown in Figure 1 below, there was fairly good representation of survey responses across the adult age categories, with the 36 – 45 year age bracket having the highest representation (of 36%), followed by 26 – 35 year olds (25%).

Only one person under the age of 18 answered the survey.

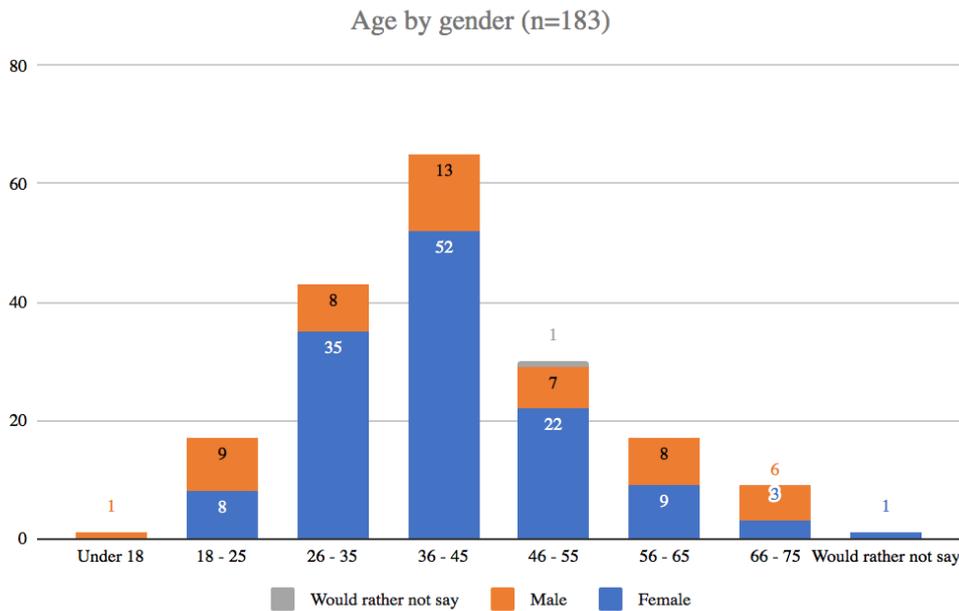
No one over the age of 75 participated in the survey.

All 183 participants answered this question.

What gender do you identify with? (Q21)

The vast majority (71%) of the survey respondents were women and 28% were male, with a similar ratio of male/female across the age groups (with women outnumbering men in most age groups except 18 to 25 and 56 and older age groups). See Figure 1 below. All 183 participants answered this question.

Figure 3: Gender by age



Do you live within 10 minutes’ walk of the park? (Q20)

31% of the survey respondents lived within a 10 minute walk of the park. This indicates a high localised usage pattern and potential for active transport modes of getting to and from the park. All 183 participants answered this question.

Do you identify with a cultural background? (Q22)

83% of these respondents indicated that they identified as Australian. A total number of 99 responses to this question were received.

Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? (Q23)

Five respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Eight respondents preferred not to answer this question. A total number of 52 responses to this question were received.

Current visitation patterns

Have you visited Tench Reserve? (Q5)

Virtually all survey respondents had visited Tench Reserve in the past - only 2% had never been to the park. A total number of 180 responses to this question were received.

How often do you visit? (Q8)

Of those people who visit Tench Reserve, the vast majority (90%) were regular visitors (e.g. visit on a weekly or monthly basis). Only 10% said they visit the park once or twice per year. A total number of 162 responses to this question were received.

When do you visit Tench Reserve? (Q9)

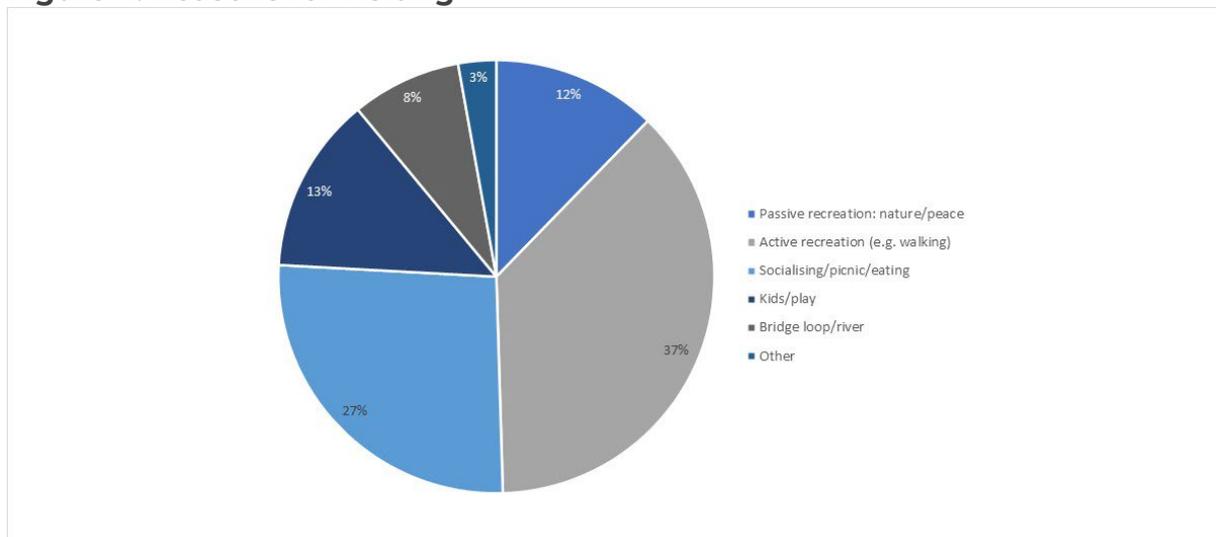
- Time of week: 58% visit both during the week and on weekends. Only 8% visit on weekdays only (and not weekends).
- Time of day: people visit the park both during the day and in the evening, though daytime use was more frequently reported
- Season: Participants visit the park year-round, though less so in winter and more so in warmer seasons.
- A total number of 162 responses to this question were received.

Why do you visit the park? (Q6)

Most comments emphasised the beauty of the river and an appreciation for the natural environment. The overall sentiment was one of appreciation for the social aspects and community vibe of the park. Two comments expressed concern about overcrowding.

- 85% of survey responses indicated predominantly active uses of the park (active recreation, socialising, kids play, river walk)
 - Main active recreation activities included walking, dog walking, kids' activities and play, and kayaking. Only 7 people nominated cycling as a reason for visiting. The main social activity stated was picnics.
- 12% indicated that they visited the park primarily for relaxation and peace and quiet (only).

Figure 4: Reasons for visiting



Quotes

- *"To be near natural water source and enjoy the scenery. Sometime ago go for a boat ride. Or just to have a quick play."*
- *"Usually to have a picnic with my family/ friends. Sometimes to have a relaxing stroll along the river."*

A total number of 319 responses to this question were received from 168 respondents (as participants would offer multiple reasons).

Aspirations for Tench Reserve

What would be your overall vision for the new park (keeping in mind there will be something for everyone there)? (Q10)

As indicated in Figure 3 below, a total of 65% (indicated in blue hues in the pie chart) wanted to see the park activated and social compared to 30% (grey hues) highlighting more peaceful and contemplative aspirations.

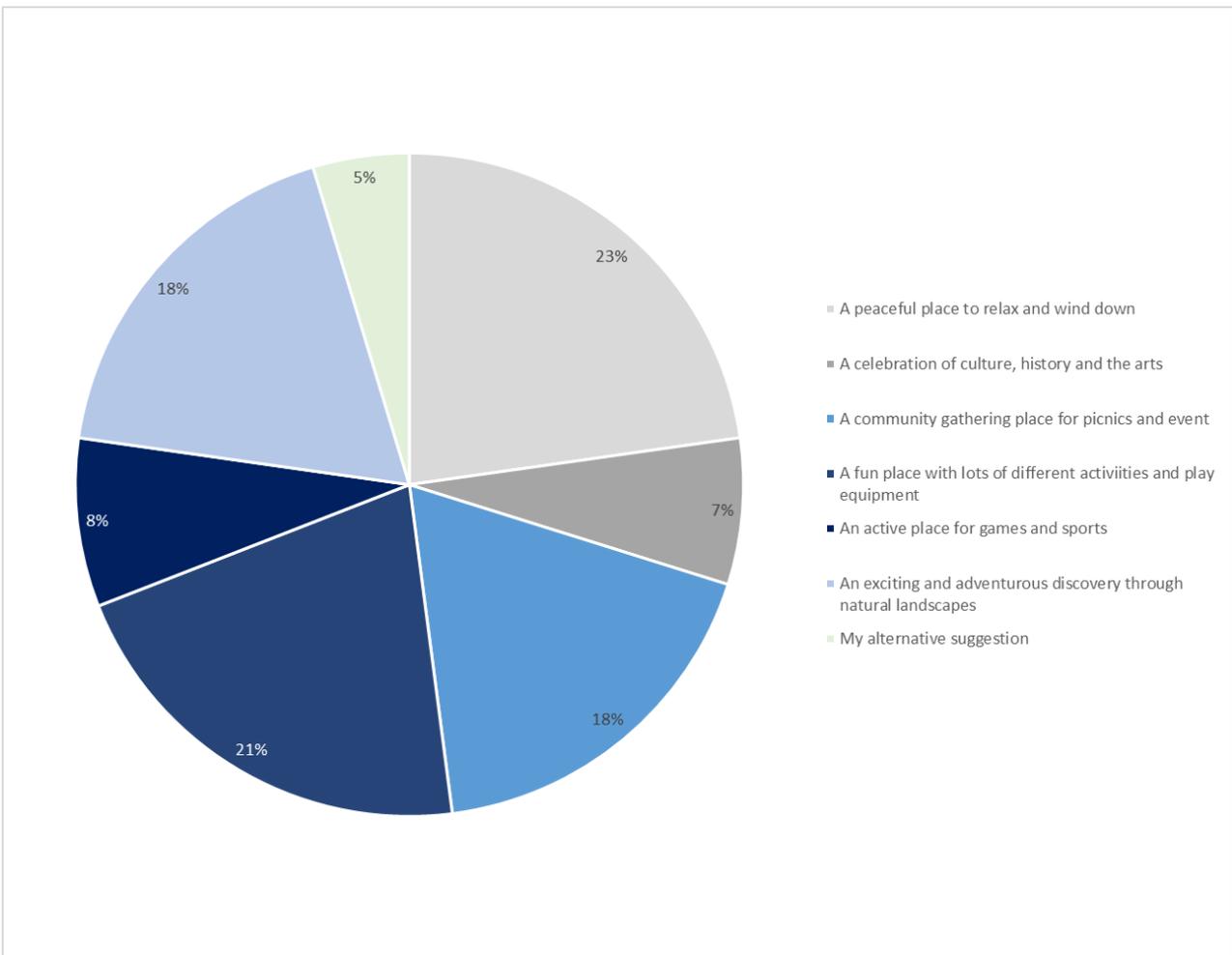
Figure 5: Aspirations for the park

While the data suggests a vision that incorporates activation and social opportunities, emphasis here was not on organised activities (e.g. sports and games) - this was only nominated by 8% of the responses.

Share your alternative [vision] here (Q11)

The strongest theme in the alternate suggestions for a vision for the park was inclusion and access for people with disabilities. Of the 30 free text comments, 7 (23%) called for better access and facilities to the park for people with disabilities.

Quotes



- *"Want it to be Disability inclusive- want change rooms to have a change table with a hoist, so people of all ages do not need to be changed on the floor and also a Liberty Swing for people with disabilities (there is literally nowhere in Penrith LGA that has a Liberty Swing). The provision for at least ONE of the play areas to be fenced so parents with children with disabilities can have their children play safely without the fear of the child running off."*
- *"A walk through different cultures, like trees from different countries – Japanese maples or cherry blossoms then to other parts of the world. The current pine trees are magnificent at the other end of the river. Even a water play area"*

A total number of 30 responses to this question were received.

What are your top three most important elements for improving Tench Reserve for the community and visitors? (Q12)

A total number of 618 responses to this question were received.

The majority of responses indicated 'Trees and shading' (78 comments) and 'Protection of the natural environment' (66 comments) as the top two elements for park improvement. Spaces for events/markets, 'Security' and 'Public art and cultural recognition' were identified as the three least important elements, producing 15 responses each.

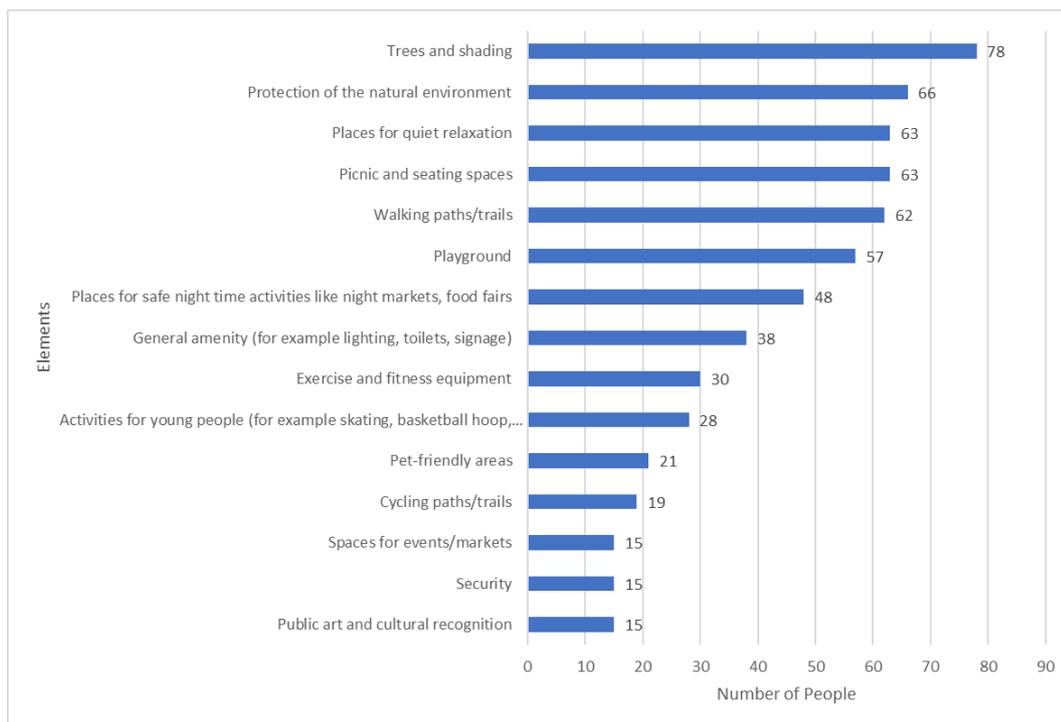


Figure 6:
Top elements for

improving the park

Other (specify) (Q13)

Key alternate suggestions for improving the park included improved signage and lighting, and providing amenities for people with disabilities.

Quotes

- "Would be great to have all walking paths lit so you can walk at night. Especially on the Penrith side as it is not."
- "Would like to see parkrun signage and km markings by the footpath. Maybe even a concrete footpath for the 'cross country' portion of the course."
- "Amenities for disabled kids ie purpose change area ie Hoist to assist lifting of disabled kids and adults with carers, and a fenced play area"

Would you like to see public art in the park? Please tell us what themes or what other topics you would like to see. (Q14)

A total number of 134 responses to this question were received, 112 of which expressed support for public art in the park.

Key themes suggested included: celebration of Aboriginal culture, Penrith history, local artists, and art to recognise/celebrate the unique natural environment (namely the river). Many people wanted to see interactive sculptures.

Quotes

- *"It would be great to showcase artworks from the local schools."*
- *"Yes that would be great. Any local art would be fantastic. So much talent in the Penrith area"*
- *"If it is installed, either something interactive or something that blends into the environment - eg like the big sandstone frogs at glenmore park"*

Think big! What's your great idea for this new park? (Q15)

This question invited free comments and ideas for the park, with responses all sharing an underlying theme of wanting to improve what is already there, with many emphasising a desire for taking advantage of the river setting. Water play and better access to the river were strong themes throughout.

Quotes

- *"Water play - surprisingly, Penrith is lacking. Given how hot and popular the area is, it makes sense to embrace that. Especially as the river isn't the best to swim in."*
- *"Creative lighting for night time with lots of places for respite during the day. Passive activation."*
- *"A multiuse space with facilities/activities for a whole range of people and uses - including outdoor gyms and multipurpose courts, picnic and bbq areas, playgrounds, quiet relaxation spaces (especially in the north end of the park), etc."*
- *I like it the way it is but I would suggest NOT adding skateparks etc leave that for elsewhere.*
- *Lights all over the area*
- *Nesting boxes high up in the trees for possums and birds.*
- *Community garden - we already have the mulberries!*
- *Celebrate the arrival point at the end of Jamison Road. Opportunity to open up views of the river / build on existing playspace and path networks*
- *Built in hopscotch a playground game that doesn't take long and easily shared. Bigger and more swings. The short chain swings aren't a winner for anyone.*
- *Sculptures by the River walk*
- *Open area of river down the track*
- *Seating or ledges that go out over the water, increasing visibility and access to the river bank*

- *Maybe an amphitheatre for local buskers but used more often than Triangle Park area.*
- *A garden maze*
- *An awesome nature inspired bike and scooter track, with round-a-bouts, street signs, speed bumps etc*
- *Ferris wheel*
- *A bmx track and roller skating area. Throw in a water park, keeping it as natural as possible with trees and natural landscapes- Perfect!*
- *River beach*

A total of 183 responses to this question were received.

Have you got any other comments or suggestions for the park upgrade? (Q16)

Final comments and suggestions were varied, though many respondents commented on accessibility, concerning river access and disabled access, as well as improving pedestrian safety.

Quotes

- *"As a mother with children who have additional needs, a fence around the playground would be amazing. So that families that have multiple children can enjoy quality time spent with all and not worry that others will abscond and go into the water. It would make getting out into nature and kids having physical activities much more inclusive."*
- *"A footpath along Nepean Avenue would be great; there are many pedestrians at all times of day and having cars through there makes it somewhat unsafe. Keep the northern end of the park as natural as possible."*
- *"Would love to see the river from the walkway. Perhaps some clearing of shrubs and weeds."*

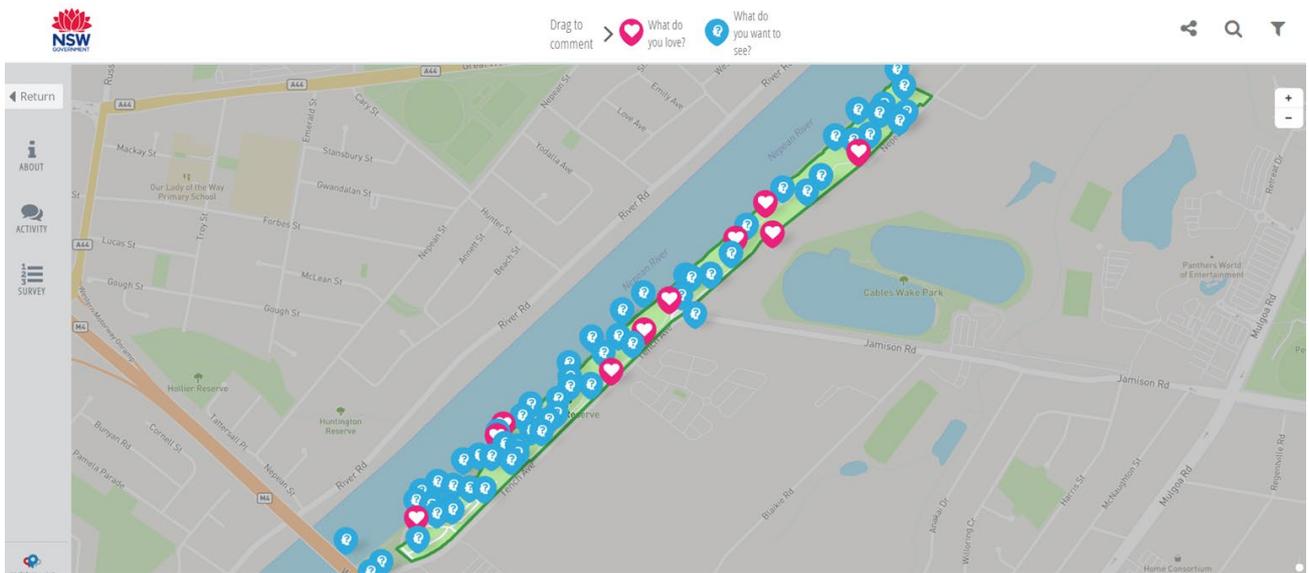
Appendix B

Social Pinpoint analysis

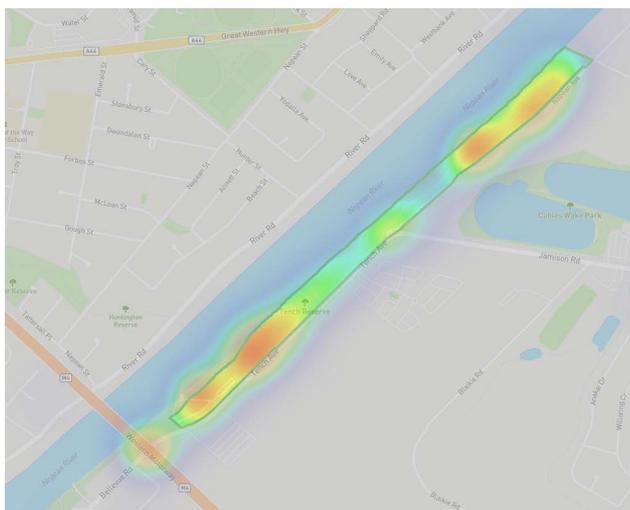
Overview

A total of 184 responses were recorded:

- 14.7% 'What do you love?' pins
- 85.3% 'What do you want to see?' pins

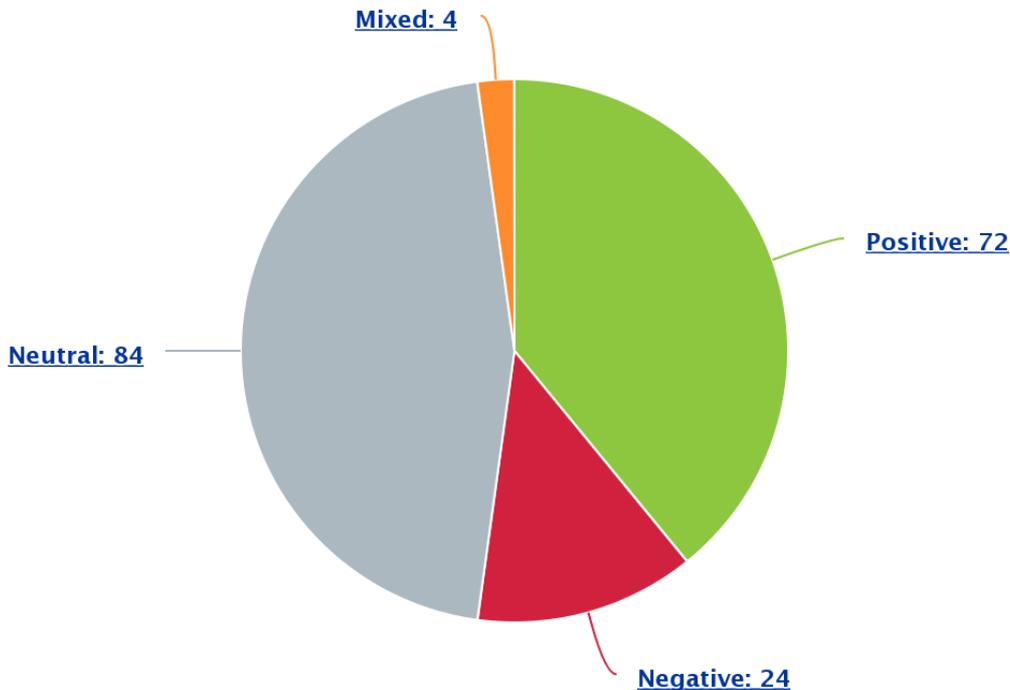


Heat map



Overall sentiment

A range of comments were recorded with a sentiment search producing the below chart. The negative comments were reviewed and noted concerns relating to park maintenance, loss of natural character and 'feel'. No 'negative' comments related to the project.



Community values

Natural character & abundant, large-scale native vegetation

Community appreciates the natural 'feel' of Tench Reserve, especially areas which are well landscaped and have native ground cover. Existing trees particularly of a larger scale are valued, as well as trees which line the bridge. These larger trees are culturally important, as a previously existing tree provided a "turnaround" tree for the Nepean River Parkrun.

River accessibility

Community values infrastructure which facilitates access to the water. This includes the boat ramp ("something to be proud of"), new footpaths and viewing decks.

Quotes

- *"It would be great to have picnic areas marked somehow - so you can identify where to meet people along Tench Avenue. Perhaps could be integrated with signage or public art / relevant to a feature in that part of the park"*
- *"Please please please upgrade the current park at tench reserve. It is outdated and old and is not suitable for young children. Would love to see a nice big open park with lots of different activities and a splash pad ?????"*

The ideas shared have been grouped into the following themes:

- Accessibility - water access & M4 bridge
- Public facilities, Streetscape & Signage
- Lighting
- Cultural facilities
- Play areas

These themes have been further summarised on the following page.

Accessibility - water access & M4 bridge

Facilitated access to the river from the park and banks, both for water activities and improving viewing points of the river.

Accessible ramps onto the M4 bridge.

Quote

"The new wide footpath extended to the end of the park where it meets Nepean Avenue. Maybe a small toilet block. Tables & bench seats with overhead shade for picnics." - 8 likes

Public facilities, Streetscape & Signage

Picnic/BBQ facilities, restrooms, and increased seating opportunities with overhead shade provided by vegetation.

Segregated pedestrian path along Nepean Ave.

Integration of signage or public art as landmarks for wayfinding.

Quote

"It would be great to have picnic areas marked somehow - so you can identify where to meet people along Tench Avenue. Perhaps could be integrated with signage or public art / relevant to a feature in that part of the park"

Lighting

Improved lighting, particularly along pedestrian paths, to increase visibility and safety.

Creative lighting elements along the water's edge.

Cultural facilities

Scope for an event and festival space.

Outdoor amphitheatre which doubles as a seated area with river views and a community labyrinth for spiritual reflection and meditation.

Play areas

Upgraded park with safe playground facilities for different age levels.

Use of natural features, creating spaces for water play and a natural playground.

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