

HAIG PARK PLACE PLAN

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



THE PROJECT

Haig Park is a heritage-listed park in the heart of Canberra's city centre.

Haig Park is a prominent and well recognised urban park that links the city centre with the residential areas of Canberra's fast-growing inner-North. Various studies and community feedback confirmed it is currently underused, is perceived as unsafe and doesn't meet the needs of the community.

In order to make Haig Park a safer, more vibrant, accessible and healthy place while respecting its heritage value, the ACT Government has developed the Haig Park Place Plan. The place plan outlines a vision for the park and suggests both short-term and long-term actions to create a more inviting and usable space.



This place plan utilises a community-led approach to goal setting, improvements and programming. It offers a collection of activations and interventions in the park to encourage an iterative and adaptive program of change. The intent of the plan is to inspire and layout a way forward that addresses all aspects and interests of the park, encourages innovation while maintaining and protecting its heritage and history.

The place plan builds on the comprehensive engagement of Phase 1 and Phase 2 that occurred in 2017, the Place Utilisation Study and the Conservation Management Plan draft documentation.

THE CONVERSATION

The conversation took place online and face-to-face with stakeholders from 18 July to 8 August 2018. The community's thoughts were captured through YourSay, social media, drop-in consultation events, meetings and presentations.

WHO ENGAGED

With a strong focus on local communities and stakeholders, two successful drop-in consultations were held at the Turner and Braddon ends of Haig Park, where well over 200 people stopped by to discuss the place plan and contribute ideas for activation.

Members of the project team met with stakeholder and community groups to get input into the plan. The groups included the North Canberra Community Council, the local Scout Group and the Treehouse Childcare Centre where we heard from staff and children about their ideas for the park.

The project team also visited more than 100 businesses of Braddon to get their thoughts and input.



Key insights from the community

Safety

1. There is strong support for significant upgrades to lighting throughout the park.
2. A majority of stakeholders chose this as their primary focus for improvements for Haig Park.
3. There was a consensus that increase activity in Haig Park would also improve safety.

Health & Fitness

4. The installation of fitness equipment was a popular option at the drop-in events.
5. Running tracks and dog-walking amenities was well supported.

Cultural Program

6. A calendar of wide-ranging events was another popular activation idea.
7. Film, fitness and performance events and activities were preferred.

Trees & Heritage

8. Retention of trees was important to many. Heritage values remain a crucial issue.

Infrastructure & Parking

9. Better maintenance of existing facilities was a well endorsed suggestion.
10. Opinion on parking was mixed, with some stakeholders supporting the removal of parking areas, while local businesses stated their desire to see no reduction in parking spaces.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The ideas captured during the consultation will inform the short-term experiments and activations scheduled to commence soon.

The initial activations are expected to be in the park for a temporary period. They will trial different ideas and suitable locations, with the community's feedback used to inform more permanent improvements. The activations will reflect and complement the character of the park and respect and be consistent with its heritage value. The success of the activations will inform the next stage of long term improvements.

To find out more about the Haig Park Place Plan and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Key Timings



[Step 1] – Short-term experimentation and activations (community feedback obtained and elements revised if needed)

[Step 2] – Long term improvements

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

216

We received 216 contributions via YourSay

300

We spoke to more than 300 individuals

100

We visited more than 100 local businesses, stakeholders and community groups

5,500

We distributed more than 5,500 postcards to local residents and in local cafes

10

We sent emails to stakeholders, organisations and businesses

15,000

We reached a social media audience of more than 15,000

150

We received over 150 items of written feedback

95%

of people who engaged were supportive of the process