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# COMMUNITY WORKSHOP NO.1

# Haig Park Masterplan Development

**Our Purpose:** To discuss and share our collective community visions for Haig Park in order to inform the current Masterplan development

This report is a summary of the notes produced by the participants during the workshop and compiled by the facilitator.

# Our Perspectives

After spending some time in the park with the project team participants worked together to note a range of possible future perspective on what people would be saying about life in the park in 2022

People are willingly going to the park and spending some time there. There's no hurry to cross it or leave.

What a pity there are no dogs anymore.

It was a good idea that the park was divided into separate zones to protect the validity of needs, uses and heritage values.

Great idea that there are bins and doggie toilet bags.

It's better able to have an organised activity in the park.

It's great that the park was returned to the original purpose.

Turner parklands has children's play equipment, cafes, activity areas - many of the things people want to put in Haig Park.

Local residents apartment dwellers - "it's a wonderful place to spend time". More activities in central part of park, between Northbourne and Torrens St. Coffee cart trial. Rest of park to be better maintained and lit.

Beautiful place to walk through, rest, play (music, sport, picnic). Sustainable. Mix of open space and shade.

It's intriguing - it draws you in deeper. It's surprising (in a good way). It contains different spaces with their own character. It has a sense of safety. People are there, exploring, experiencing. There is an ambience, a friendly energy. It's been reinvented subtly, not dramatically.

Go there with your friends and build a cubby. There's lots of other people in the park. Picnics, BBQs, birthday parties. Using it as their backyard. Sitting under a tree reading a book. People talking. A bustling end / a quiet "nature" end - different zones.

Safe road crossings. Underpass under Northbourne - bike / walking path from end to end. Integrated into road crossing.

Street food at the bustling end (Braddon end). One quiet café at the Turner end for high tea and ice cream.

Wow, this is better than Central Park!

Open multi-purpose space that can be used for pop ups. Nature / adventure playground - maze, climbing rope, tree play activities, monkey bars, rope swing.

Young, old, local, visitors, active, less active. Future - vibrant, park for everybody, lots to do, variety, safe, venue for events, community hub, oasis / green space. Vibrant community hub with a variety of things to do. Filled with a diverse range of people enjoying the safe green spaces. Currently - transit, not welcoming, poorly maintained, empty, forgettable. Used to be an unwelcoming transit point that was poorly maintained.

Wetlands. Christianity to welcome people from other cultures in a religion space. Recycle, reuse, keep the quality of the park and add new parts. Draw people in. A big adventure playground, big tyre swing, rope ladders, slides, tunnels as in a nature type like the Arboretum playground.

A sense of community (you can connect).

It's a haven in the city (relaxing, exercise, being healthy, physical and mental wellbeing).

It's a vibrant place (lots of people, staying and using the park).

It's a safe / welcoming place to go for all. It's well maintained, green and clean. A place to connect with nature.

It's a great place for events (events that invigorate and generate positive associations with the park).

Gather, not just commute. People coming together. On Braddon end, a place to bring takeaway and share food. Willingly going to the park and staying. Maintained, especially BBQs.

Define paths of intention. Parks within a park - different parts with different purposes. Turner Parkland area utilised for activities. Sullivan Creek into wetland with bridge over the top.

Take into account apartment-dwellers who would love green spaces, especially around high density zones, but not equating this with nimbyism - useable green spaces.

Dog owners, kids and families. Someone who wants to use and spend more time in the park. Workers on lunch break. Light rail commuters. People who travel from other areas to use the park. Retirees. The park has life and is a place we want to use.

A park with a few more kids - places where they feel comfortable. It would have a nature playground for children, more seating. There is a place where kids can kick or play informal cricket / Frisbee.

There would be a running track. There would be pedestrian crossing across Torrens St and other dangerous crossings to the park. It would also be a rubbish and dog poo free zone. Dog poo bags available for ease of use.

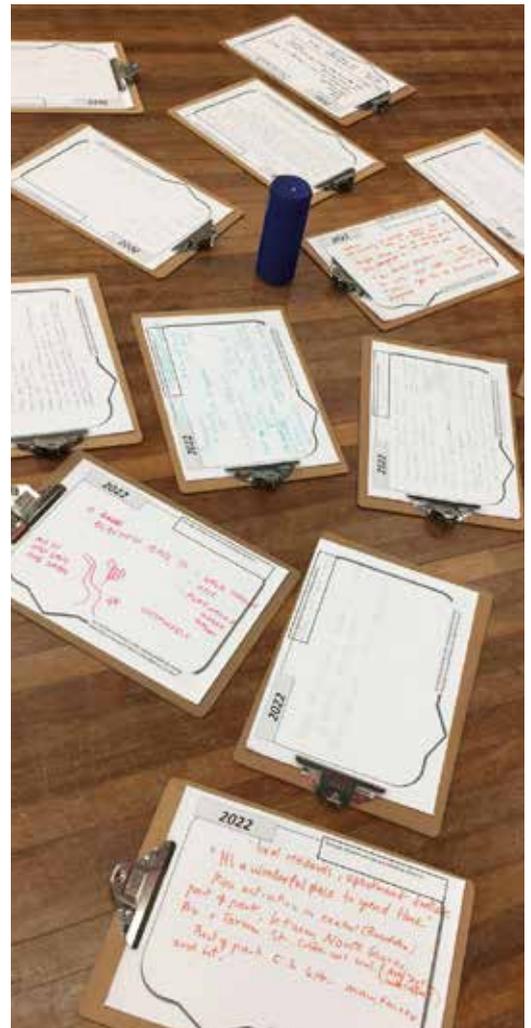
We don't want the park to be haven for homeless at night. Recognise that homeless are here and need to be treated compassionately. Lighting along Girrawheen would make people feel safer. The middle section of the park should be brightly lit.

Concerns - no appartments, no loss of character through over development. Parking! Already a challenge in Braddon and surrounding area.

In the future: Safe, active, user friendly, vibrant (on occasion - tranquil on others). Well maintained. High quality open space for apartment dwellers, oasis. Now: Unsafe, barren, uncomfortable, dark, not looked after.

An activated space. Nature play - kids unstructured play.

More users (people living in apartments nearby using the park as their backyard). Active living for urban dwellers. Green oasis in urban jungle. A desirable destination. Living link between Mt Ainslie and Black Mountain.



# Our Visions

Working across mixed groups participants drew on their future perspectives to identify a breath of future visions for the park in 2022



## 2022

A safe space with several distinct but connected spaces, including some clearings

Varying levels of activity and opportunity in these spaces for interaction and a strong sense of community

A well maintained, sustainable space full of healthy trees

## 2022

Open spaces

Oasis

Natural and 'green'

Community hub

Carnival atmosphere

Safe and inviting

Flowing water (fountains and drinking water)

Lively!

## 2022

Vibrant, inclusive, creative, multi-purpose, appreciated, accessible, green

Events to invigorate

All age playground (aesthetically beautiful, arboretum inspired and nature themed)

Improved park benches: these could be art based, appealing and safe

Bins: more are needed, they could be art based and should be attractive

Running track around the outside of the park

A sheltered area

Pedestrian crossings

Improved walking infrastructure

Maze: it should fit in with the natural surroundings, it is the appropriate place

2022

Turner end could be suitable to more activities

No pop ups!

Difference of opinions, some are in favour of zones

Trees preserved as it is rare to have this kind of park

Consistency across the park, character maintained

Safe road crossings

An oasis

2022

Inviting vibrant space with different places for different zones and uses.; zones to reflect the neighbourhood

Park to connect neighbourhood

Good access / paths

Kid friendly

Adventure playground; nature play

Naturalise concrete drains with native species (sullivans creek); as a focal point

Kept beautiful and peaceful and safe

Don't be afraid of change!

2022

An environment for all

Enjoy different activities safely

Enhancing the nature - including for the people

Feeling good through the activation of this natural space

Active living principles

2022

Heritage aspects of park need to be respected

More activities and active use

Consider the plan for Haig Park in conjunction with Sullivans Creek and Turner Parkland; for use as open space for sports etc and facilities

Bike path and walking path along southern edge of park

Retain existing character in east and west end zones

Running tracks

2022

Zoning that enables a range of sustainable activities including:

As is, but well maintained

Dog walking, including off leash

Exercise stations

Flexible multi use spaces (medieval war games, pop up markets, boot camp, tai chi etc)

Picnic and BBQ

Toilet facilities that are clean and safe

2022

Higher density population = more need for a usable space

Inclusive and accessible for people from all walks of life; they can connect to the ecology and heritage of the park, which will bring health benefits

Create vibrancy through events

Create a destination! Or, several! This can be achieved by green space, kids' playgrounds and maybe a coffee cart

2022

Ongoing tree maintenance

A range of spaces with different identities and use

A destination with activities

Passive enjoyment; Benches, picnic tables near Northbourne

Active enjoyment: exercise stations as per C5, water stations and play ground

Wetland at turner edge

More even ground

2022

Strong emphasis on activating open spaces

Sullivan creek wetlands

Family friendly

Habitat protection and retain the urban forrest and open space

General illumination and uplighting of trees

Summer shade and winter sun

Running track, areas for personal trainers or boot camp, bicycle pump track for all ages

Turner Parklands for intensive use (café, sports etc)

2022

Respect and protect the heritage value while finding ways of making it safer, more usable (multi use)

Adventure and exploration

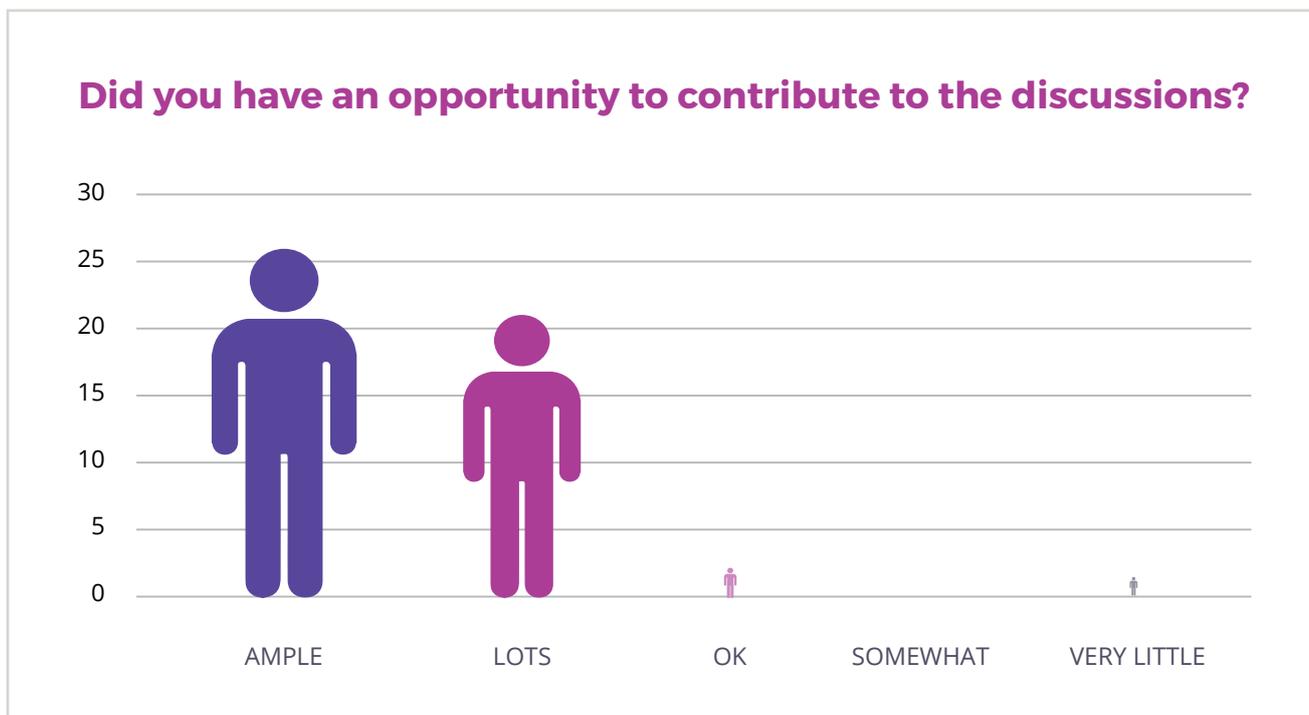
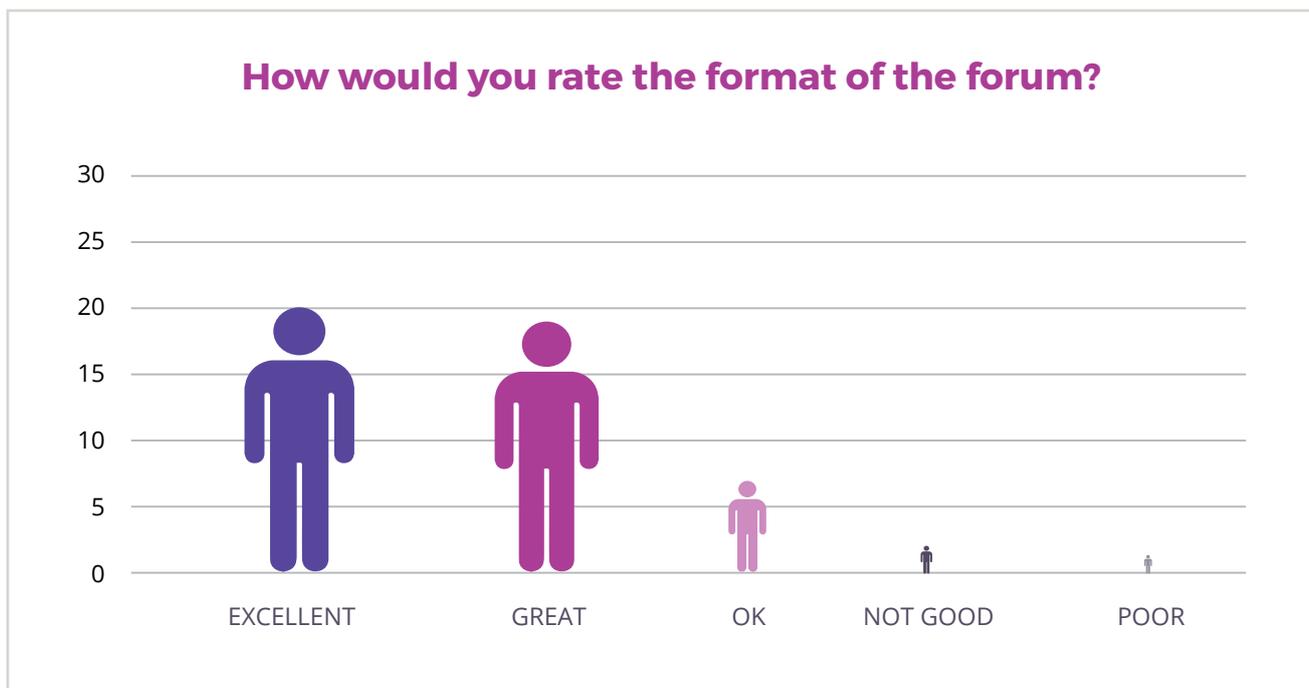
A place to bring community together

Attractive and appealing without being too manicured

A careful, slight adjustment - No radical change

# Our Feedback

Participants attending the forum offered the following feedback on how useful they found the event to be.



## What improvements, if any, could be made to how we worked together today?

Some better split for groups e.g. specific area, concerns.

Better identification of who does what.

Good, well done! Plenty of opportunities for discussion.

I felt a bit unsure of my place in the group because I'm not a local resident and the opening activities seemed to assume we all were. Also, a bit more clarity on what is, or may be possible would have been good e.g. some of us really don't know much about the heritage limitations and couldn't get clear answers on that.

Great process. Well done. Looking forward to the output.

Staff were great! Some people had strong views but you guys managed it really well!

Some of the activities were a bit similar and gave the same result.

I imagine really quiet shy people might not have spoken up, not sure how to fix that. Was a nice mix in group sizes.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate. I learnt a lot about Haig Park (despite having moved through it hundreds of times).

Lots of movement / change but not conclusive to getting together with like minded people.

Really well facilitated! Tough job done well! Maybe some visual examples of possibilities.

It was a great opportunity to hear local views. I was the only business local represented and one of only 2-3 people who do not live in the area - this was a disappointment because it should be a park for a cross-representation of Canberrans!

I really liked the style of the workshop, especially with the number of people and matters to get them. Thank you.

No, pretty good.

Would've liked to have heard from the policeman about crime - would like to know if the perception relates accurately to the reality.

Very little - the evening seemed to flow very well, the information handed out at the session could have been provided beforehand.

It was all very rushed, but well enough controlled.

Thank you.

Collect individual ideas, as well as group ideas. The photo selection was odd.

No need to go into the park for presentation, could have been done in the hall, leaving time for discussions.

Would've liked to have heard from the policeman about crime - would like to know if the perception relates accurately to the reality.

Good venue and appreciated the drink / snack!

A little more time on the walk would have been good. Pretty tight discussion considering the numbers - well done! More time!

Vast improvement on workshop structure. Multiple opportunities to form changing sub-groups to comment on the same themes, generate broader representation.

The early walk with some information was useful. But fell apart at the end by forcing people to produce a group vision that couldn't accommodate people's viewpoints.

Maybe more time at the start to acknowledge that people have strong opinions and won't agree. No one will get everything they want.

A little bit more explanation at the beginning and more on next steps.

It will be good to go through some thought-out ideas for the park in detail.

Thank you. Very grateful that it wasn't pre-decided, seemed to be legitimate consultation.

This has been a really great session. I had no idea some of these ideas were so controversial! Thanks again!

Bring the younger generation to the event by encouragement.

Staff to introduce their position in order to make it clearer as to what questions they could answer. Great initiative. Thanks!

Food and drink great thanks. Structured but free.

I liked the format of small groups so that a discussion could occur.

The format of the night including time spent on walk was enjoyable overall. However it gave very little time for walking group to present solid ideas i.e. moving from one small card to middle size to final card duplicated ideas over the 2 hours. Little new information was obtained due to time setup.

More info about the ecological function of trees and urban forests - too many people still don't know the functions that trees perform e.g. reducing urban heat island effect etc.

Great, thank you. I hope demographic representations of community vs people who turn up to consultations are considered!



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## What Happens After Today?

### **Workshop 1 Summary Report**

A summary of what we have heard today at Workshop 1 will be posted on YourSay by the end of March.

### **Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report**

A report of all the community engagement feedback to date will be compiled and provided to Tait Waddington who will use this to create draft designs for the masterplan.

### **Workshop 2 Draft Designs Wednesday 10 May, 6-8.30pm**

This workshop will be an opportunity to view and provide feedback on the draft designs for the Haig Park masterplan.

[yoursay.act.gov.au/haigpark](https://yoursay.act.gov.au/haigpark)

Keep up to date on the project and have your say online.



Report prepared by:

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**PLEASE NOTE:** While every effort has been made to transcribe participants comments accurately a small number have not been included in this summary due to the legibility of the content. Please contact Keith Greaves at [Keith@mosaiclab.com.au](mailto:Keith@mosaiclab.com.au) for any suggested additions.