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 Gurrawahen 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.


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

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
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

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

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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 CS, water stations and play ground
Wetland at Turner edge
More even ground

Strong emphasis on activating open spaces
Sullivan creek wetlands
Family friendly
Habitat protection and retain the urban forest 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)

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

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!

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
Our Feedback

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

**How would you rate the format of the forum?**

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**Did you have an opportunity to contribute to the discussions?**

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

- **Better identification of who does what.**
  - Really needed. There were people who wanted to take on roles and didn’t know they had to do them.
  - Better roles and expectations would have been good.

- **Great process. Well done. Looking forward to the output.**
  - Some of the activities were a bit similar and gave the same result.
  - Some 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.

- **Really well facilitated! Tough job done well!**
  - Lots of movement/change but not conclusive to getting together with like-minded people.
  - Some of the activities seemed to assume we have been good e.g. some of us encouraged.

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

- **Volunteers needed: I really like the style of the workshop, especially with the number of people and matters to get them. Thank you.**
  - Some better split for groups e.g. specific area, concerns.

- **Good venue and appreciated the drink/snack!**
  - 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.

- **Staff to introduce their position in order to make it clearer as to what questions they could answer. Great initiative. Thanks!**
  - It will be good to go through some thought-out ideas for the park in detail.

- **Food and drink: Great. Structured but free.**
  - 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.

- **The photo of my place in the specific area, because I’m not a local resident and the opening for groups e.g. individual ideas, selection was done in the hall, leaving time for discussions.**
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- **Vast improvement on workshop structure. Multiple opportunities to form changing subgroups to comment on the same themes and generate broader representation.**
  - It is wasn’t pre-decided. seemed to be legitimate consultation.

- **The format of small groups so that a discussion could occur.**
  - Some people couldn’t get clear answers on that.
  - Would’ve liked to have heard from the policeman about crime - would like to know if the perception relates accurately to the reality.

- **Lots of movement/change but not conclusive to getting together with like-minded people.**
  - Nobody would listen. From what you said I don’t think it matters.

- **No need to go into the park for presentation, could have been done in the hall, leaving time for discussions.**
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- **Would have liked to have heard from the policeman about crime - would like to know if the perception relates accurately to the reality.**
  - It was all very rushed, but well enough controlled.

- **Very little - the evening seemed to flow very well, the information handed out at the session could have been provided beforehand.**
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- **A little more time on the walk would have been good. Pretty tight discussion considering the numbers - well done! More time!**
  - 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!

- **Bring the younger generation to the event by encouragement.**
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  - Good, well done! Plenty of opportunities for discussion.

- **Bring the younger generation to the event by encouragement.**
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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.

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

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**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 for any suggested additions.