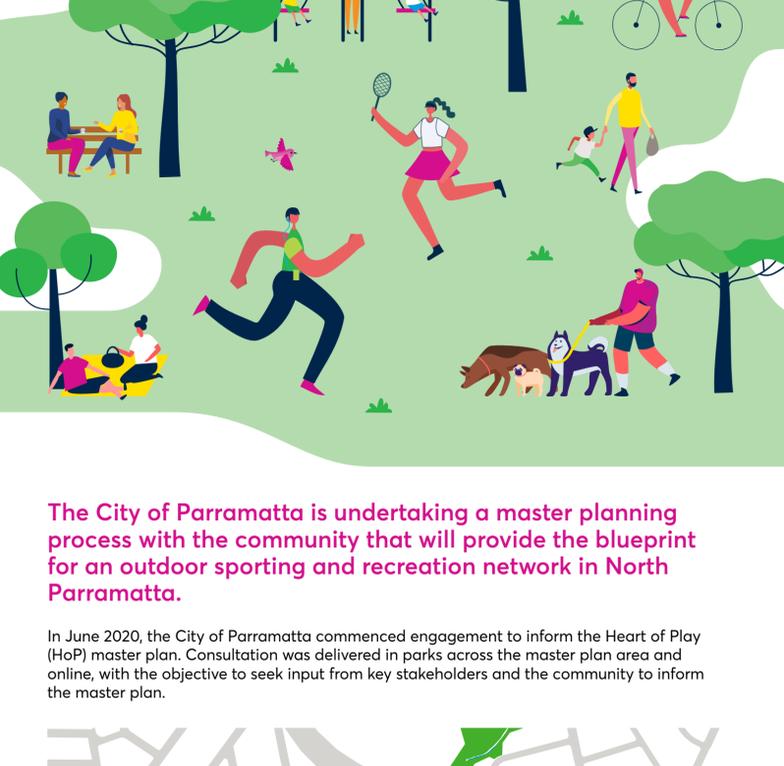
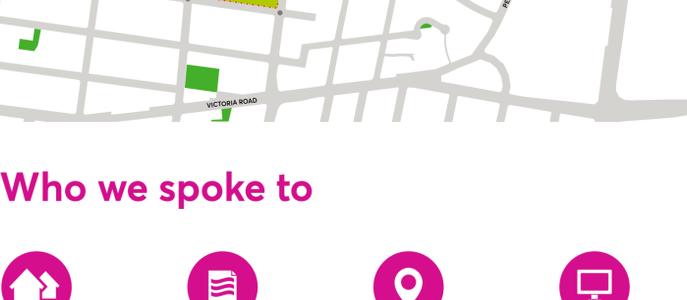


# Heart of Play Master Plan Engagement Outcomes



The City of Parramatta is undertaking a master planning process with the community that will provide the blueprint for an outdoor sporting and recreation network in North Parramatta.

In June 2020, the City of Parramatta commenced engagement to inform the Heart of Play (HoP) master plan. Consultation was delivered in parks across the master plan area and online, with the objective to seek input from key stakeholders and the community to inform the master plan.



## Who we spoke to

- 500** local households received a flyer with information about the master planning process and how to have your say
- 750** survey responses were received (from both the Heart of Play and Dan Mahoney Reserve surveys)
- ~290** responses on the unstaffed pop-up boards located in each of the 7 parks included in the master plan area
- 16** people participated in online workshops for engagement relating specifically to the future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve
- 15** telephone interviews with stakeholders from sporting peak bodies and local groups
- 13** email submissions from community members and stakeholders
- 10** scavenger hunt forms completed

## What did we hear

Community and stakeholder engagement participants told us they value the unique network of open spaces across the Heart of Play master plan area, expressing appreciation for its large and diverse spaces that allow for a range of active and passive recreation activities, including play, walking, dog-walking, cycling, organised sport and social gatherings.

Six main themes emerged from the feedback:

- Shade and amenity**
- Walking and cycling connections**
- Informal recreation and sharing**
- Increase the capacity of sporting spaces**
- Recreation with dogs**
- Diverse and inclusive spaces**

## Increased shade and amenity to support community use

There was a clear desire for the master plan area to support community use for all ages and abilities by increasing shade and trees and improving the amenity of open spaces.



- 73% of survey respondents support more lighting at night to increase sense of safety and use at night.
- 72% of survey respondents support more public toilets that are accessible for all abilities and are open more frequently throughout the day and during the evening.
- Survey respondents would like to see cafes/kiosks (64%) and BBQ and picnic areas (60%) to support social gatherings and make open spaces more welcoming and user-friendly.



## Walking and cycling pathways and connections

Walking, cycling and active transport connections to and from the master plan area was a strong theme throughout the consultation.



- 57% of survey respondents support more pedestrian road crossings to enable safe and easy walking connections to and from open spaces in the master plan area.
- People said they would like to see more amenity along pathways such as shade, toilets, bubblers and signage to support comfort of use.
- People said there can be conflicts on shared pathways between cyclists, walkers, dogs, skaters and children, with expressed need for wider and separated paths that support shared use.



## Spaces for informal recreation and sharing

People supported the master plan area providing flexible shared spaces for recreation that support informal recreation activities for a range of community users of all ages and abilities.

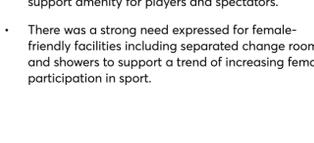


- 50% of survey respondents support more multi-use outdoor courts, as well as more outdoor fitness equipment for use.
- Some people expressed concerns about shared use of spaces, for example between dogs and children playing, or walkers and cyclists, and people who use parks for active versus passive recreation.
- Some people wanted to see quiet spaces for passive recreation, relaxation and connection to nature.



## Increasing capacity, flexibility and amenity of sporting spaces

People want the master plan to support increased capacity, flexibility and amenity of sporting spaces to improve formal sporting use.



- Recreation user groups and sporting peak bodies said there is a need for upgrades to and increased maintenance of facilities and sporting grounds to support utilisation and retain membership.
- Recreation user groups would like to see more shade, seating, toilets and bubblers in proximity to fields to support amenity for players and spectators.
- There was a strong need expressed for female-friendly facilities including separated change rooms and showers to support a trend of increasing female participation in sport.



## Managing and providing for dogs across the open space network

People want the master plan to support recreation for dog owners and their pets.

People told us they like having access to open spaces in the Heart of Play master plan area that they can visit with their dog.

- 25% of survey respondents to the Heart of Play master plan survey said they would like to see more spaces for dogs to run and play, while 21% wanted to see less and 43% wanted to see the same amount. Some respondents expressed concerns about conflicts arising from shared use of spaces with dogs, including play spaces, sports spaces and picnic areas.
- 72% of respondents to the Dan Mahoney Reserve survey do not support Council's proposal to build a sporting space at Dan Mahoney Reserve, and the majority want to retain the large size of the existing dog off-leash area that supports recreation with dogs and fosters social connections\*.

To read detailed findings of engagement conducted focusing specifically on future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve, please click [here](#).

\*Consultation included two surveys, one focusing on the Heart of Play master plan area overall, and one specifically on future uses of Dan Mahoney Reserve.



## Upgrading and providing more diverse and inclusive play spaces

People want the master plan to support play for people of all ages and abilities by upgrading existing play spaces and providing more diverse and inclusive play for everyone to enjoy.



- 56% of survey respondents support more water play, particularly for children and families to provide relief from increasingly hot summer weather.
- Participants would like diverse play spaces where families can play together, including nature play that invokes a sense of adventure and managed risk as well as inclusive play for all abilities.
- Survey respondents expressed a need for increased amenity of existing play spaces to support children and adults including more shade, water bubblers and accessible public toilets.



## Next Steps

The community consultation will inform the development of two 'Heart of Play' master plan options.

The master plan options will go on public exhibition in 2021. The community will have the opportunity to have their say on the options before a design is finalised.

