

BELMORE PARK MASTERPLAN REPORT



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 22 MARCH 2021

GROUP SA

Architecture
Interior Design
Landscape Architecture
Urban Design
Graphic Design

March 2021



BELMORE PARK MASTERPLAN REPORT

FOR CITY OF PARRAMATTA COUNCIL

MARCH 2021

Issue	Title	Date
A	DRAFT ISSUE FOR COUNCIL REVIEW	12/10/2020
B	DRAFT ISSUE FOR COUNCIL REVIEW	21/10/2020
C	FINAL ISSUE FOR COUNCIL	05/03/2021
	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL	22/03/2021

THE CITY OF PARRAMATTA RESPECTFULLY REGOGNISES THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND AND WATERS OF THE PARRAMATTA REGION, THE DARUG PEOPLE.

**NUNANGLANUNGDYU BARAMADA GULBANGA MAWA NAA BARAMADAGAL
DARUG NGURRAWA BADURA BARAMADA, DARUG YURA.**

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01. INTRODUCTION

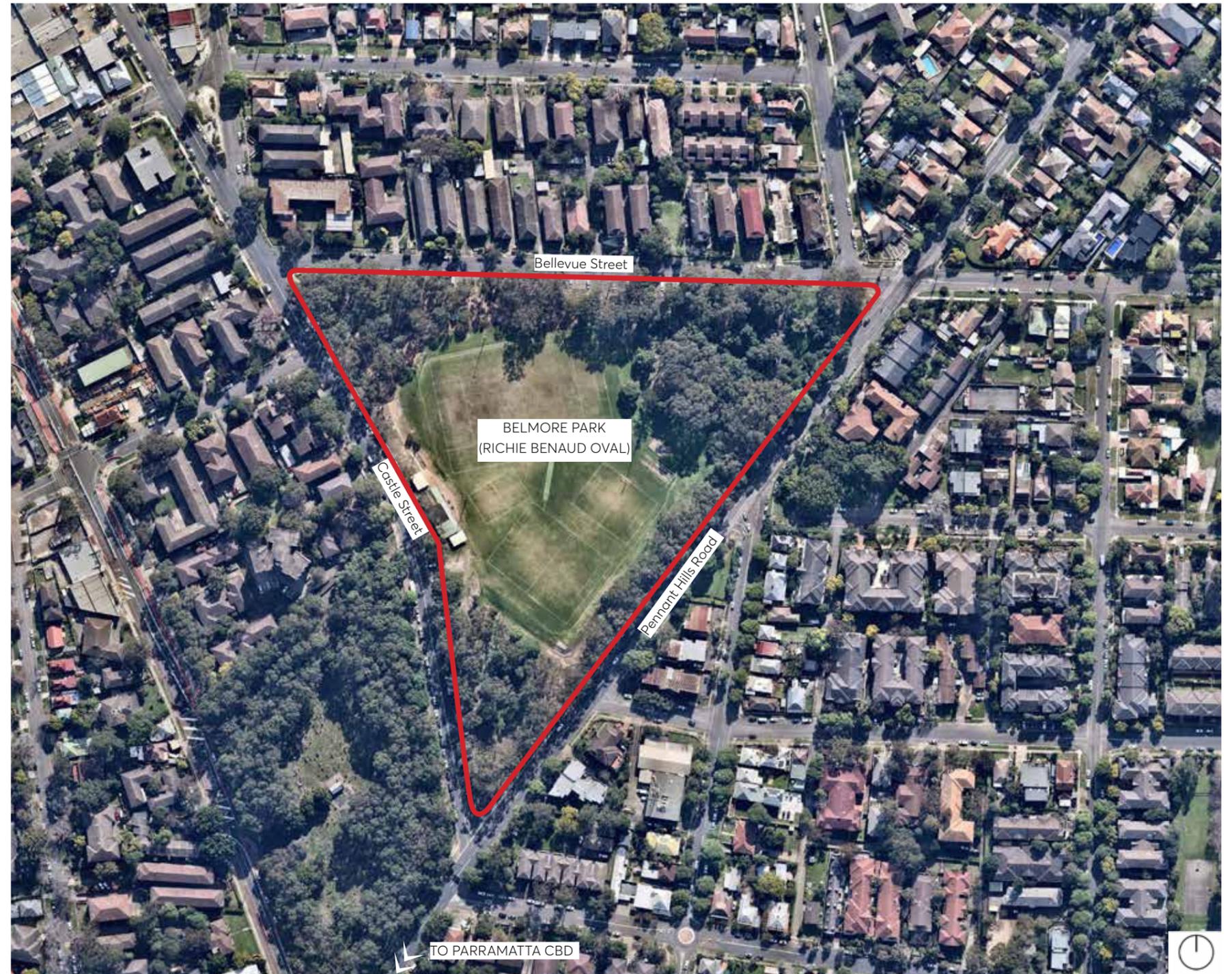
Belmore Park occupies 4.9 hectares and is located at 1A Pennant Hills Road in North Parramatta. It comprises Crown land that was dedicated for 'Public Recreation' in 1870, making it one of the oldest parks in Parramatta.

This park has been an important place for active and passive recreation for residents of North Parramatta and surrounding suburbs. Belmore Park contains Richie Benaud Oval, a central playing field named in honour of the champion Australian cricketer.

City of Parramatta Council's Community Infrastructure Strategy 2020, lists Belmore Park as a key upgrade project as it will support the surrounding community living in high density dwellings. The growing residential densities, together with an increasingly diverse community, is facilitating greater demand for high quality and accessible parks to meet increasing community needs and expectations.

Belmore Park will continue support the health and wellbeing of the surrounding community as it becomes the new 'backyard' in an increasing high density living environment.

This masterplan outlines a vision to transform Belmore Park into a unique high quality recreation destination for Parramatta City. The park will become a premier cricket facility that celebrates local history and its unique setting. It will establish a diverse range of community and informal recreational opportunities to service the growing local population.



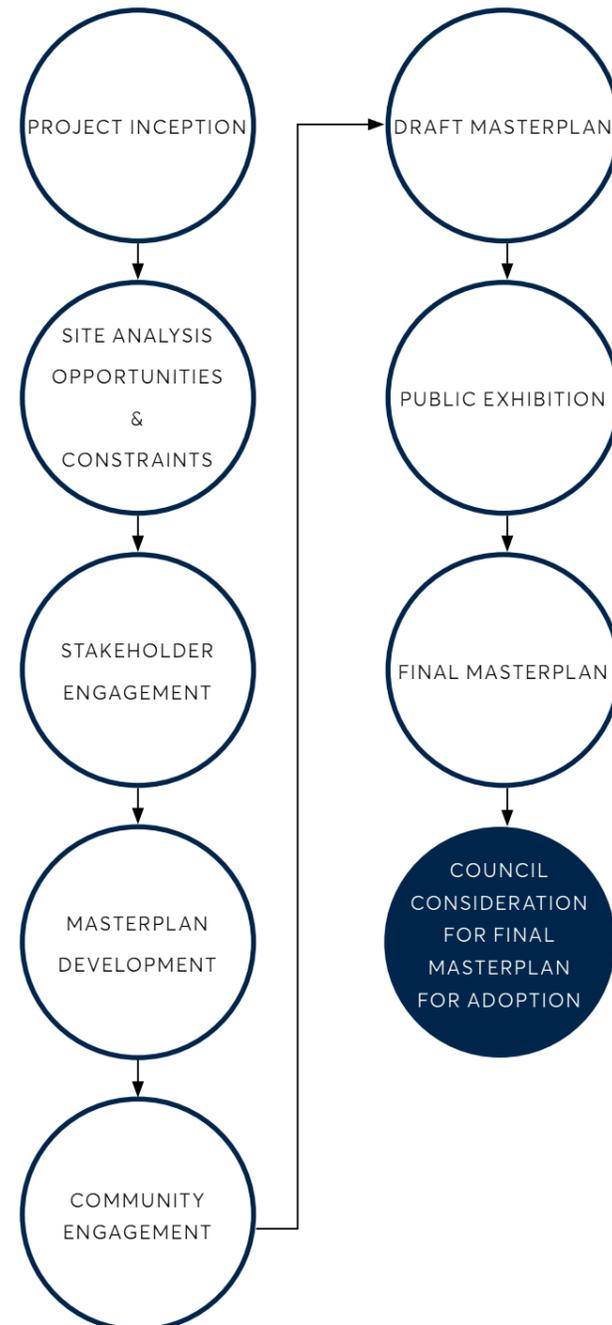
1.1 MASTERPLAN OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the masterplan is to provide a clear vision and strategic direction to guide future enhancement and development of Belmore Park.

A number of objectives have been identified for the project including:

- Develop a premier cricket facility that incorporates new turf wickets.
- Improve and enhance formal and informal recreation opportunities, increasing the potential diversity of recreation offerings within the park for both organised groups and the wider local community.
- Ensure the park is accessible and appealing to all members of the community to enjoy.
- Ensure planning and development of the park is consistent with Council’s strategic planning framework.
- Ensure the masterplan is achievable and clearly illustrates prioritised future works, staging and costing for capital improvements.
- Protect and celebrate the park’s heritage and environmental values.
- Ensure the masterplan mitigates the issues and addresses opportunities identified thorough site analysis.
- Balance both active and passive recreational needs in identifying new and improved facilities.

1.2 DESIGN PROCESS



1.3 ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGY

The Belmore Park Masterplan is to be implemented in partnership with other Council strategies and plans. At the time of development these include:

- Sports Ground Capacity Review (2010)
- Community Land Plan of Management (2014)
- Parramatta Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study Review (2014)
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2017-2021)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2017)
- Parramatta Ways Walking Strategy (2017)
- Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework (2017)
- Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (2017-2020)
- Community Strategic Plan (2018 - 2038)
- Community Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

Council strategies and plans should be reviewed for consistency prior to the detailed design and delivery of works.

In addition to existing strategies and plans, the following specialist reports have been undertaken to inform the development of this masterplan:

- Belmore Park Landscape Masterplan - Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis.
- Belmore Park Landscape Masterplan - Non-Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis.
- Soil Contamination Assessment, Richie Benaud Oval / Belmore Park, North Parramatta NSW.

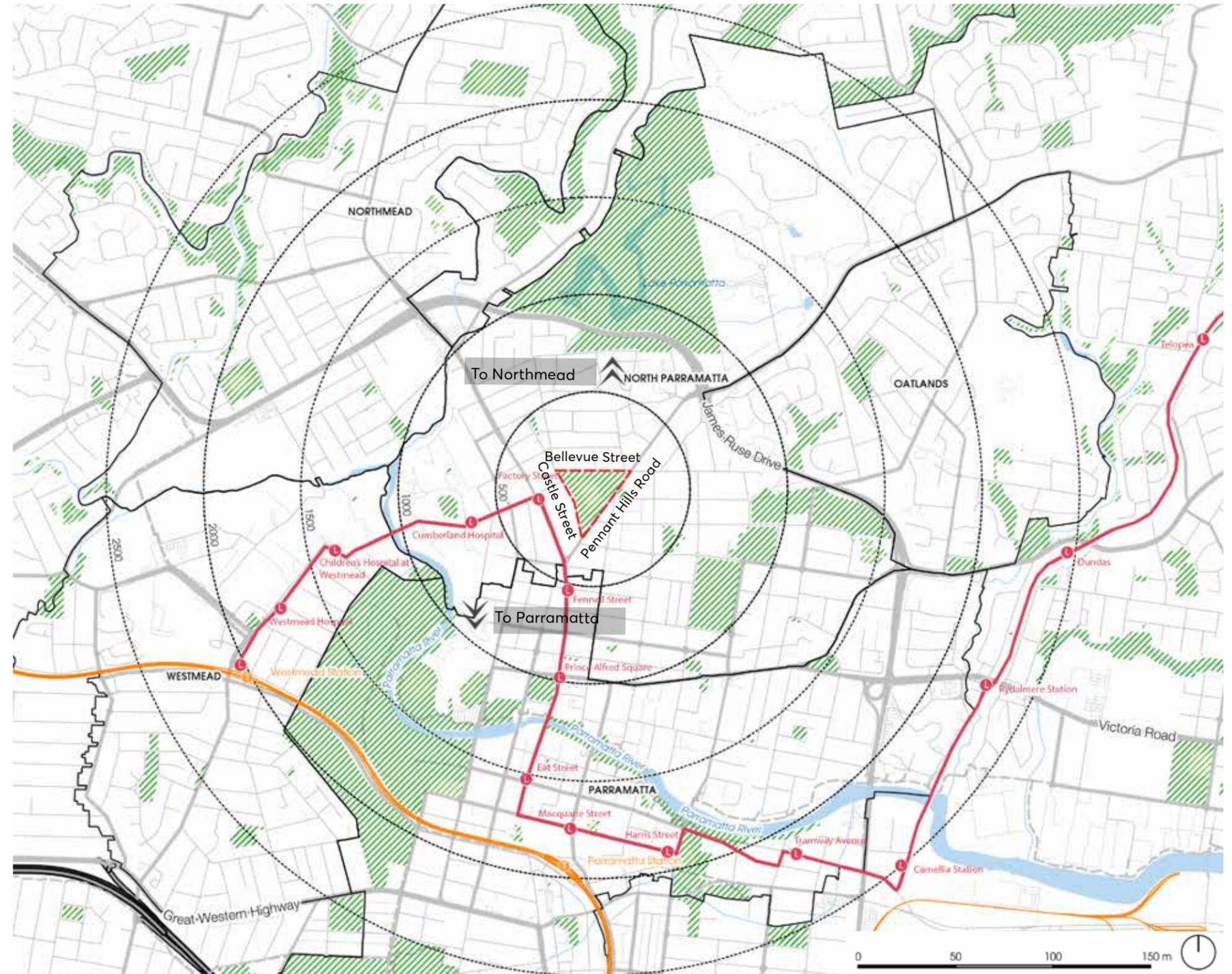
02. SITE CONTEXT

Belmore Park forms a triangular shape and is bounded by Pennant Hills Road to the east, Castle Street to the west, and Bellevue Street to the north. Belmore Park is situated approximately 1.8km north of Parramatta Train Station and lies on the northern edge of the Parramatta CBD, making it part of well used commuter routes.

Belmore Park is Crown Land and was reserved for 'Public Recreation' in 1870. The land is zoned as RE1 Public Recreation with a small channelised creek (Brickfield Creek West) zoned as W1 Natural Waterways under the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011. Surrounding land uses are primarily R4 High Density Residential, but there are also R3 Medium Density Residential and R2 Low Density Residential along with SP2 Infrastructure - Cemetery (St Patricks Cemetery).

The large flat playing field located centrally within the park is known as Richie Benaud Oval and features two rectangular sporting pitches and a synthetic cricket pitch. Richie Benaud Oval is currently used by a variety of sporting clubs, schools and community groups.

Belmore Park is historically significant in the local context and contains two recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites, and one locally listed heritage item 'Horse Trough'. It is adjacent to the state heritage listed St Patricks Cemetery (c. 1820s), which is the oldest Catholic cemetery in Australia.



LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Suburb Boundaries
- Distance intervals (in meters)
- Public Green Space
- Hydrology
- L Light rail stops
- Railway Stations

2.1 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

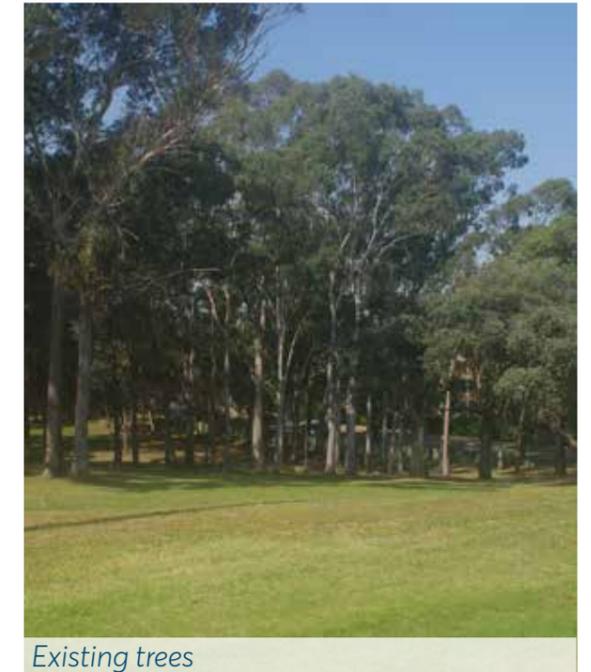
Belmore Park is a highly valued facility for formal and informal recreation. It has significant natural value and character, primarily created by the dominant tree canopy comprising mature landscape plantings along the site periphery which helps to define its character.

Richie Benaud Oval contains two rectangular (winter) sporting fields with a synthetic cricket wicket in between. Associated sporting facilities include a sportsground pavilion (building), floodlighting, maintenance storage buildings, and two lane cricket practice nets.

Other facilities within the park include a small children's playground, picnic tables and shelters, park seating, circulation paths and garden beds of native planting. Street parking lies along the Castle Street and the Bellevue Street, and is popular with commuters due to its close proximity to the Parramatta CBD and transport links.

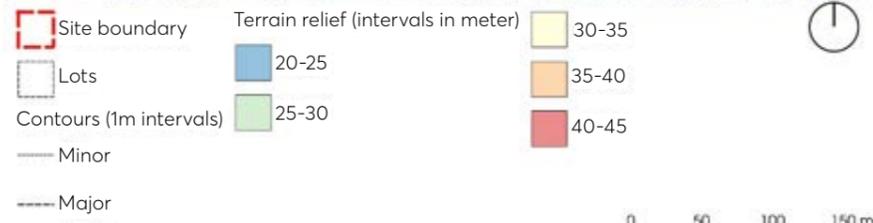
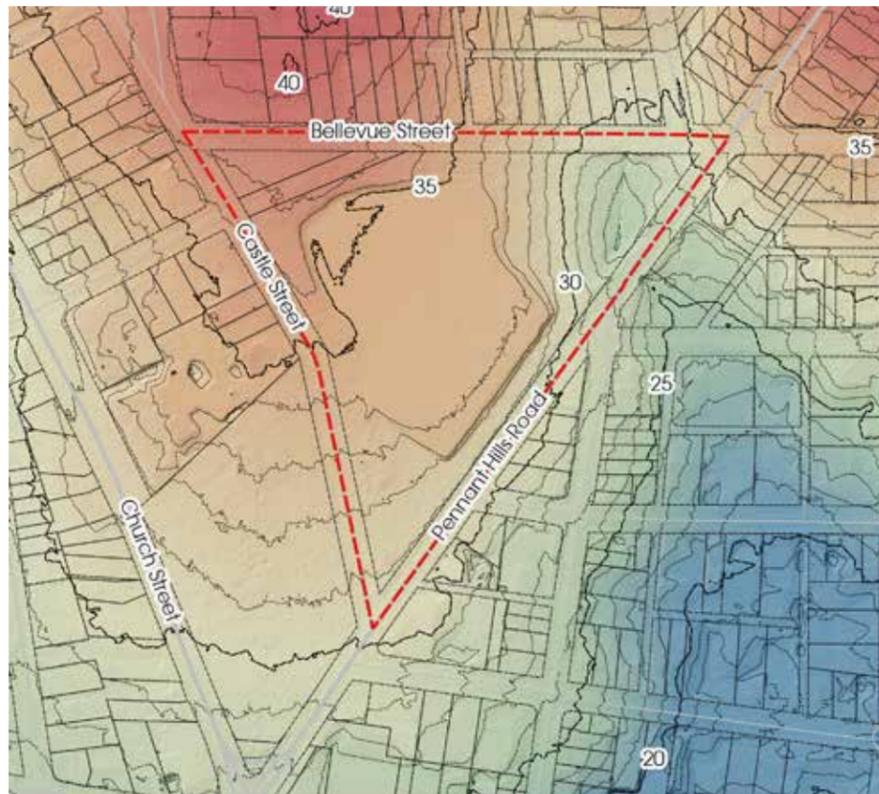
The north-east corner of the park is heavily wooded and contains a channelised creek and concrete retaining wall. This section of the park forms a flooding detention basin, and is devoid of other general park infrastructure.

Generally, existing park infrastructure is nearing the end of its asset life span. It is inadequate to cater for the increasingly diverse community and user group needs, and should be considered for replacement.

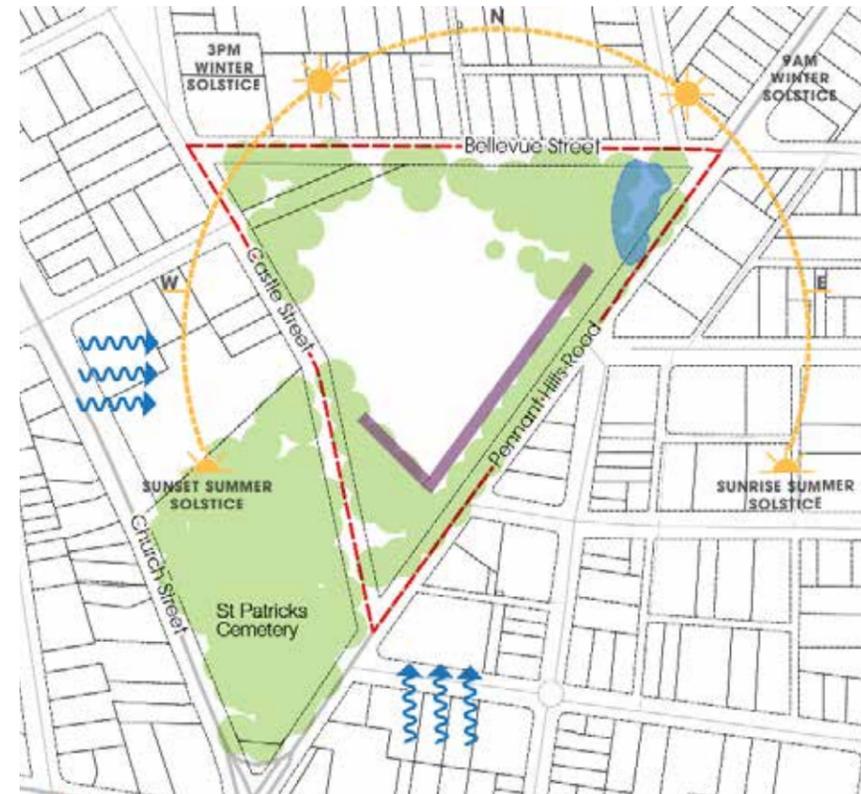


2.2 SITE ANALYSIS

TOPOGRAPHY



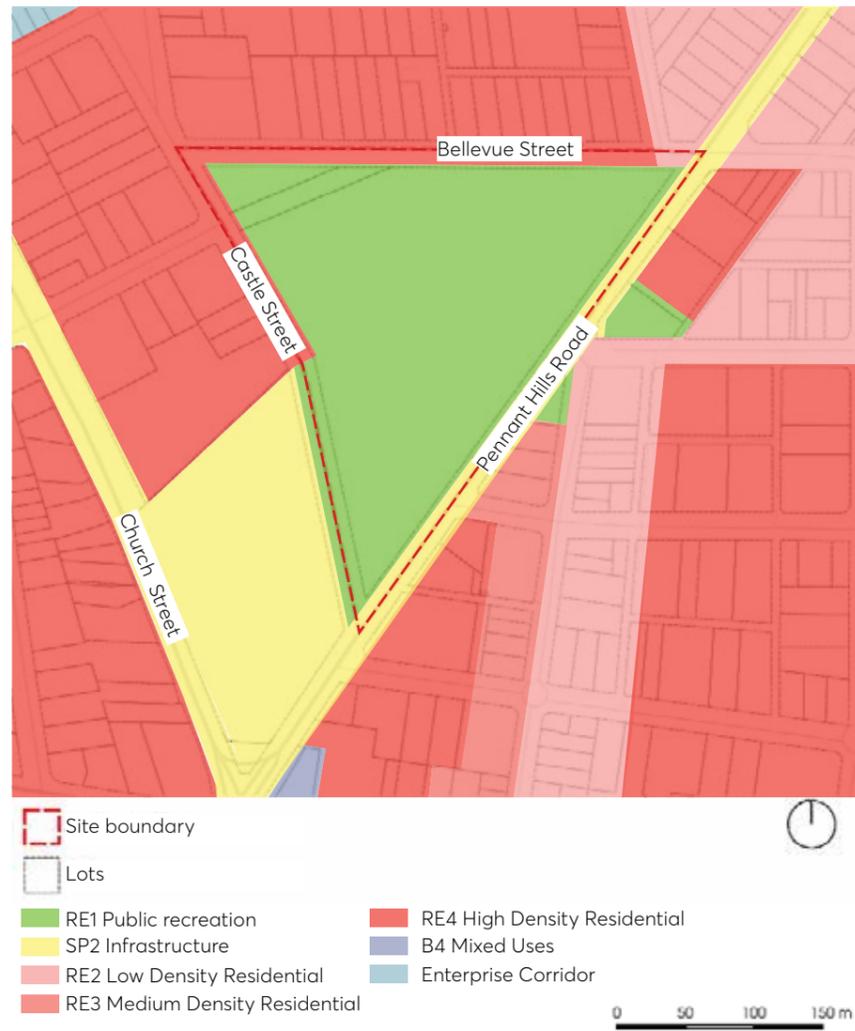
NATURAL SYSTEMS



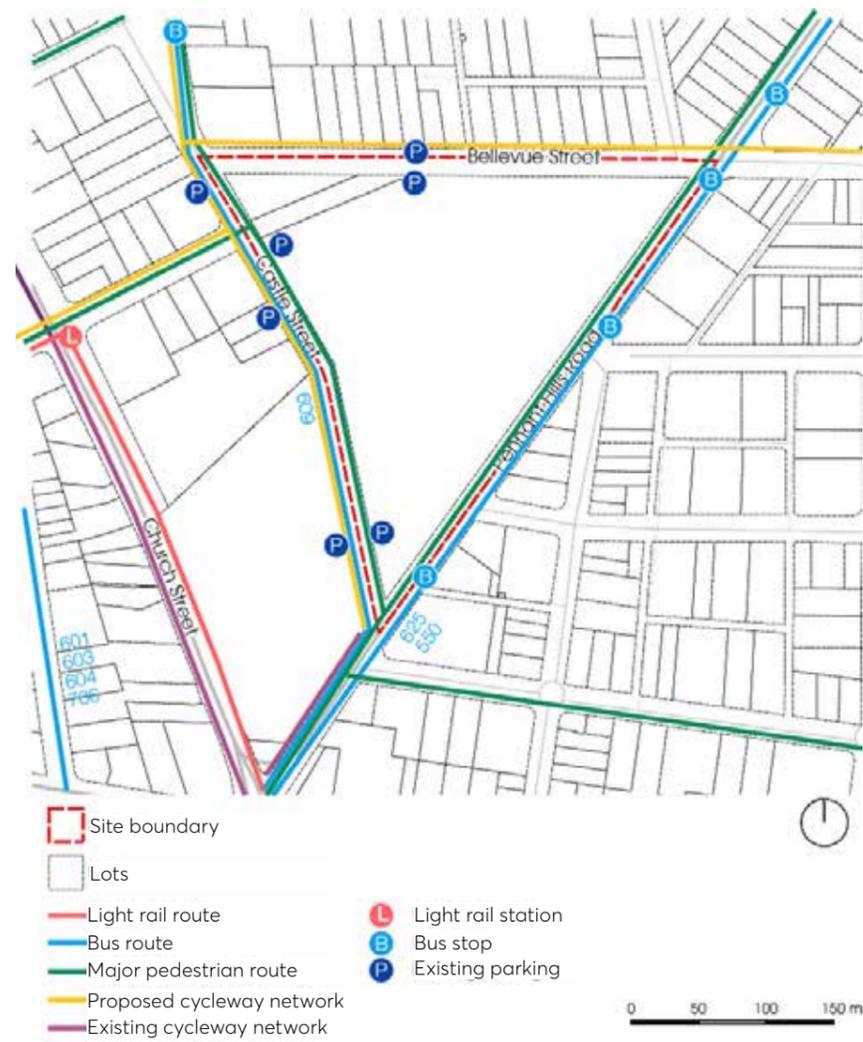
SITE PROGRAM



SURROUNDING LAND USES



CONNECTIVITY



2.3 HERITAGE

Belmore Park contains a rich history of habitation and use, and is an important part of Parramatta's story. To assist in the preparation of the masterplan, an Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis and a Non-Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis have been undertaken. The reports provide a brief chronology of the site and identifies opportunities and constraints.

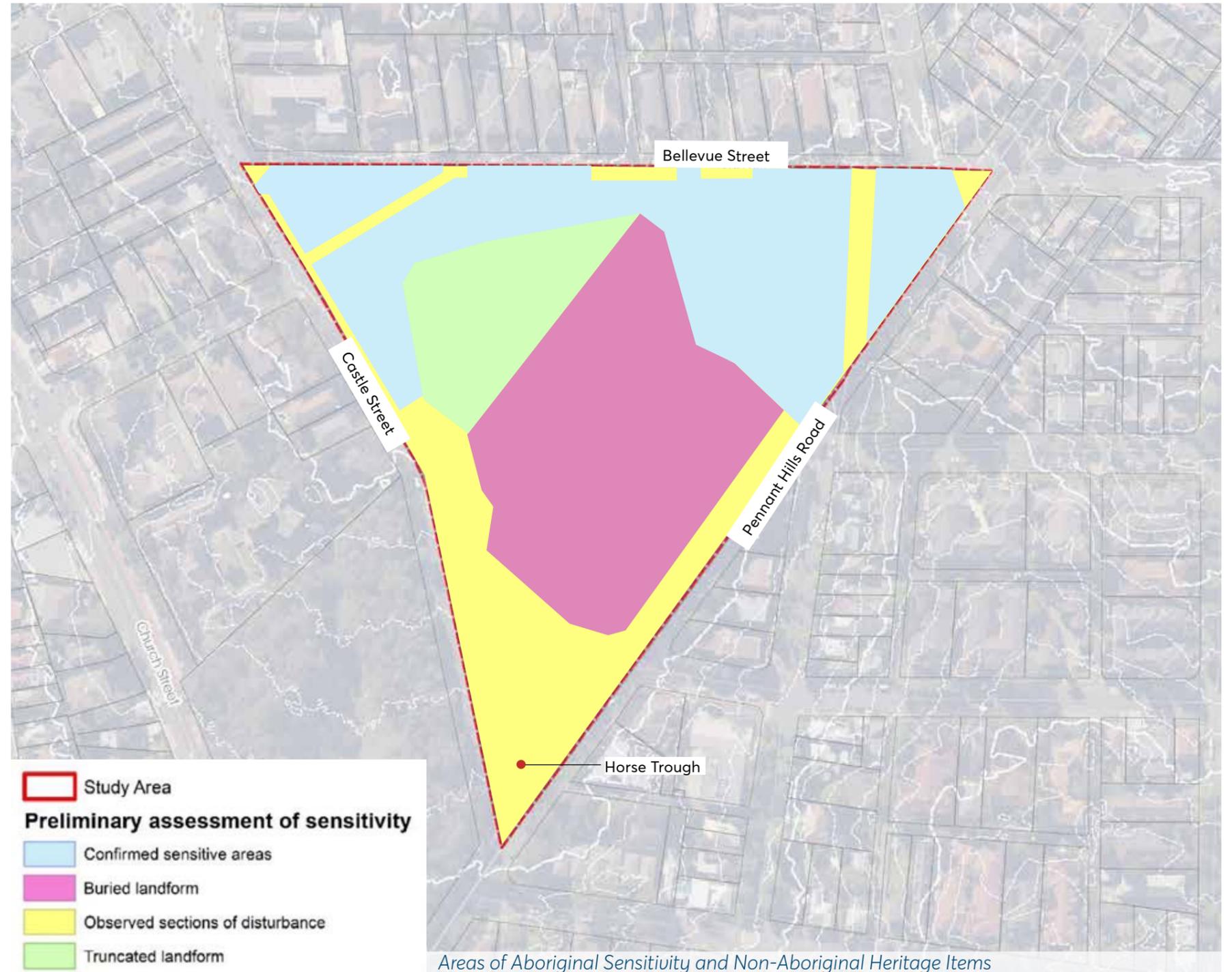
Further heritage assessments and approvals from relevant authorities will be required prior to implementation of any proposed works.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE:

Prior to European occupation, Belmore Park was home to the Burramattagal people of the Dharug nation. Confirmed areas of Aboriginal sensitivity have been identified encompassing the northern areas of the park and the former creek line in the north east. The remainder of Belmore Park demonstrates varying levels of archaeological sensitivity, largely resultant of historic modifications to the natural landform and soil disturbance associated with past development within the park.

The site contains two Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) recorded sites located within confirmed areas of sensitivity. Due to the cultural sensitivity of these sites, their locations have not been published.

The Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis report recommends that the northern portion of Belmore Park associated with archaeological sensitivity should consider conservation outcomes and design that enhance the remnant natural setting of the area. The report also suggests Aboriginal history of the site could be highlighted and discussed in the form of heritage interpretation throughout the park. The nature of this interpretation is recommended to be determined in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders.



NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Belmore Park has remained relatively undeveloped since European settlement in 1788, and there is little evidence to indicate how the site was used prior 1870. Belmore Park's long association with recreation officially began on 18 November 1870, when the site was gazetted as Crown Land dedicated to 'Public Recreation'. On the 15 May 1874 the Municipal Council of Parramatta was appointed as reserve trustee.

Since 1870 regular additions have been added to improve park facilities and amenities including tree planting and park seating. The site has even been used periodically for the grazing of livestock. Major regrading works were undertaken in two stages in the early 1960s and early 1980s.

Belmore Park contains the locally listed (Parramatta LEP 2011) heritage item referred to as the Horse Trough (I389). The sandstone memorial fountain with art deco detailing was dedicated to Mr Joseph Simpson Oliver in 1935. Originally established at the north-western corner of the park, it has since been relocated to the southern corner at the junction of Pennant Hills Road and Castle Street.

The Non-Aboriginal Heritage Constraints and Opportunities Analysis Report has recommended opportunities to interpret the history of Belmore Park and adjoining historical sites. The report suggests this could be done in a variety of ways such as interpretive signage, artworks and built form. The report also suggests the use of native planting to create a cultural landscape.

In addition to the Horse Trough, Belmore Park is assessed as containing high potential for archaeological remains of local significance under the Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS).

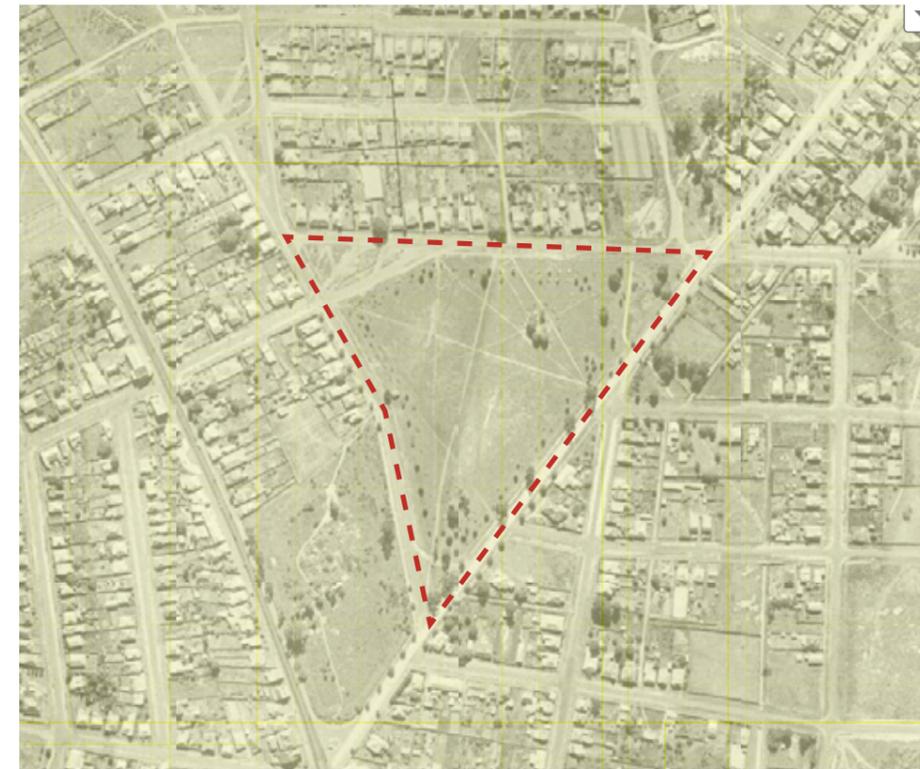
[1063] Department of Lands, Sydney, 15th May, 1874.
It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Municipal Council of Parramatta as Trustees of the land at the junction of the southern side of Bellevue-street with the north-eastern side of Castle-street, in the town of Parramatta, dedicated for Public Recreation.
[Ms. 74-1,887] JAMES S. FARNELL.
Trustee appointment, 15 May 1874

[2277] Department of Lands, Sydney, 18th November, 1870.
His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to dedicate the Crown Lands hereunder described to the several public purposes mentioned in connection therewith, an Abstract of such intended dedication having been laid before Parliament, in accordance with the 5th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.
[70-4916 Ms.] JOHN ROBERTSON.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious and Public Purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what Purpose dedicated.
Araluen	St. Vincent	Portion	411	Parish of Araluen, at the northern corner of John M'Donald's portion 291 of 2 acres	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 70-564.
Barraba	Do.	Do.	Do.	Parish of Barraba	7 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 70-510.
Batemans Bay	Do.	Portion	56	Parish of Bateman, at Bateman's Bay	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-1437.
Batlow	Wynyard	Do.	Do.	Parish of Batlow, on the road from Upper Adelaide to Honey Flat	7 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 69-5688.
Bega	Auckland	Do.	Do.	Parish of Bega, at Bega	17 0 0	Market Reserve. Ms. 69-6349.
Bradwood	St. Vincent	Portion	29	Town of Bradwood	0 2 0	Public School. Ms. 69-6905.
Badawang	Do.	Portion	89	Parish of Badawang	2 0 0	Do. Ms. 70-608.
Cobborah	Lincoln	Do.	Do.	Parish of Cobborah, near Cobborah	7 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 70-1114.
Consoakina	Cunningham	Portion	1, 2, & 3	Town of Consoakina	1 1 2 1/2	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 69-6465.
Coolah	Do.	Do.	Do.	On the western side of a road from Mitchell's Creek to Palmer's Oak Creek, parish of Coolah	1 0 6	Church of England Burial-ground. Ms. 69-6644.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	0 3 2 1/2	Roman Catholic Burial-ground. Ms. 69-6644.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	1 0 2 1/2	Presbyterian Burial-ground. Ms. 69-6644.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	0 3 2 1/2	Wesleyan Burial-ground. Ms. 69-6644.
Corowa	Hume	Do.	Do.	Parish of Corowa, near Corowa	7 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 69-6082.
Cudal	Aburnham	Do.	Do.	Parish of Cudal, near Cudal	7 2 0	Do. Ms. 69-6462.
Darkwater Creek	Macquarie	Do.	Do.	Parish of Kempsey, near Darkwater Creek	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-5274.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Parish of Kinross, on Darkwater Creek	1 2 0	Wesleyan Church and Minister's Residence. Ms. 70-718.
Dunilgallin	Tasmani	Do.	Do.	Parish of South Dunilgallin	120 0 0	Public Recreation. Ms. 70-1388.
Dubbo	Lincoln	Do.	Do.	At Dubbo, adjoining the appropriation of 5 acres for hospital.	2 2 10	Addition to site for Hospital. Ms. 70-50.
Five Docks, Parramatta River	Cumberland	Do.	Do.	Parish of Concord, at Five Docks, on the Parramatta River	0 0 7	Site for Wharf. Ms. 69-3462.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	0 0 2 1/2	Do. Ms. 69-3462.
Forbes	Aburnham	Do.	Do.	Parish of Forbes, at Forbes	1 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-6616.
Four-mile Creek	Goulburn	Portion	8	Parish of Forbes Creek, on Main Southern Road.	2 0 0	Do. Ms. 69-6512.
Germanston	Goulburn	Do.	Do.	Parish of Germanston, Town of Germanston.	1 2 0	Presbyterian Church and Manse. Ms. 70-1118.
Glebe	Cumberland	Portions	15 & 17	At Grove Farm, on the Old Parramatta Road.	0 1 2 1/2	Site for Borough Council Hall. 69-1412.
Gyong	Bathurst	Do.	Do.	Parish of Gyong, at Gyong	2 2 0	Public School. Ms. 70-578.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Parish of Colville, at Gyong	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 70-1170.
Gooloogong	Forbes	Portion	48	Parish of Gooloogong	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-5962.
Gunning	King	Do.	Do.	Parish of Gunning, at Gunning	2 0 0	Do. Ms. 69-5972.
Goulburn	AS 14, 15, 18 to 22	Do.	Do.	City of Goulburn	2 2 19	Water supply and Market Reserve. Ms. 70-1459.
Grafton	Clarence	Do.	Do.	At the intersection of north-west side of Queen-street with the western side of Olive-street, City of Grafton.	1 0 0	Site for a Synagogue. Ms. 69-2533.
Graham	Bathurst	Do.	Do.	Parish of Graham, on the road from Blayney to Lockwood	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 70-1716.
Greehill	Montague	Portion	68	Town of Greehill	0 0 12	School of Arts. Ms. 69-5466.
Do.	Do.	Portions	1, 2, & 10	Do.	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 69-1570.
Hexham	Northumberland	Portion	57	Parish of Hexham, on the Great Northern Railway.	1 0 0	Primitive Methodist Chapel. Ms. 70-41.
Hovell's Creek	King	Do.	Do.	Parish of Mundoombo, near Hovell's branch of Zerrava Creek.	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 70-321.
Huntly	Bathurst	Portions	238 & 239	Parish of Huntly, on the road from Bearve Lagoon to Spring Hill.	1 2 0	Wesleyan Church and Minister's Residence. Ms. 69-5482.
Kangaroo	Camden	Do.	Do.	Parish of Kangaroo	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 70-5474.
Kempsey (West)	Dudley	Portion	145	Parish of Yarravel	180 0 0	Recreation Reserve. Ms. 70-237.
Kinross	Macquarie	Do.	Do.	Parish of Kinross, on Kinrossa Creek	1 2 0	Public School. Ms. 69-5274.
Kiamma	Georgiana	Do.	Do.	Parish of Kiamma, on the southern side of a road at the north-western corner of section 107	1 1 13	Do. Ms. 69-6232.
Lowes	Phillip	Portion	44	Parish of Hawkins, near Lowes	1 0 0	Church of England Church. Ms. 70-185.
Lowther	Westmoreland	Portion	84	Parish of Lowther, on the southern boundary of J. Woods' 1,350 acres.	20 0 0	Public School. Ms. 70-327.
Lismore	Ross	Do.	Do.	Parish of Lismore	305 0 0	Addition to Permanent Common. 1/200 of land selected by F. M'Donald. Ms. 69-6424.
Long Cove (Parramatta River)	Cumberland	Do.	Do.	Parish of Concord, at the Sisters' Rocks, Long Cove.	0 0 20	Public Landing Place. Ms. 69-3462.
Lansdowne River	Macquarie	Portions	2 & 7	Within the Village Reserve, Lansdowne River	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 69-5135.
Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Near the Village Reserve, Lansdowne River	3 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 69-5134.
Maclean	Do.	Portions	5, 6, & 7	Village of Maclean	1 2 0	Wesleyan Church and Minister's Residence. Ms. 69-5141.
Molong	Wellington	Do.	Do.	Parish of West Molong, near Molong	640 0 0	Permanent Common. Ms. 69-5145.
Moorwah	Chira	Do.	Do.	Parish of Moorwah	7 2 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 69-6033.
Mount Cooper	Wentworth	Do.	Do.	Parish of Tivy, at Mt. Cooper	7 0 0	Do.
Nassau	Murray	Portion	55	Parish of Nassau, at the south-east corner of D. Webster's conditional purchase of 110 acres.	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-6350.
Newcastle	Northumberland	Do.	Do.	City of Newcastle	0 3 0	Presbyterian Church and Manse. Ms. 69-4928.
Newtown	Cumberland	Do.	Do.	On the Newtown Road, between Colingwood-street and the Newtown Toll-bar.	5 0 0	Site for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution. Ms. 70-4022.
Nussell	Perry	Portion	1	Town of Nussell	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 70-327.
Perth	Bathurst	Portions	5, 8, & 9	Parish of Apsley, at Perth	1 2 0	Church of England Church and Parsonage. Ms. 69-6917.
Palmer's Island	Clarence	Do.	Do.	Parish of Taloombi, on Palmer's Island	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 69-5422.
Parramatta North	Cumberland	Do.	Do.	At the junction of the southern side of Bellevue-street with the north-east side of Castle-street	11 3 2 1/2	Public Recreation. Ms. 70-277.
Quiligo	Arryls	Portion	62	Parish of Quiligo	2 0 0	Public School. Ms. 70-326.
Robertson	Camden	Portions	1 & 2	Village of Robertson	2 0 0	Do. Ms. 69-5811.
Shadforth	Bathurst	Portions	210 & 210	Parish of Shadforth	1 2 0	Wesleyan Church and Minister's Residence. Ms. 69-5431.
					2 0 0	General Cemetery. Ms. 69-3254.

Crown Land dedication, 18 November 1870



Belmore Park 1943



Horse Trough

03. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Commencing in November 2019, key stakeholders (sporting user groups) were invited to provide feedback on the masterplan. These stakeholder groups include:

- Parramatta District Cricket Club
- Cricket NSW
- Parramatta District Cricket Association
- Football NSW
- Granville and District Soccer Football Association
- Parramatta Junior Eels Rugby League Club and Association

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A period of wider community engagement was undertaken from Monday 16 March to Sunday 12 April 2020. The community were asked to provide feedback to help inform the development of the masterplan. Questions asked included;

- How and why they currently use the park.
- Their satisfaction with the landscape concept plan presented.
- Their preferences for future park improvements.

Community engagement was undertaken via a survey accessed through Council's engagement portal, 'Parramatta OurSay'. Community members were also provided with the opportunity to provide feedback via email, by phone and by post. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on-site community consultation sessions were cancelled.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council received 247 responses submitted via 'Parramatta OurSay'. A summary of key results included:

- The majority of respondents provided a positive response to the landscape concept plan presented at community engagement with 61% responding as either 'very happy' or 'happy', while only 14% responded as either 'dislike' or 'strongly dislike'.
- 73% of respondents drive to Belmore Park.
- 54% of respondents visit Belmore Park as they belong to a sports club, while 39% visit to just walk around/ through the park.

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN PRESENTED AT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



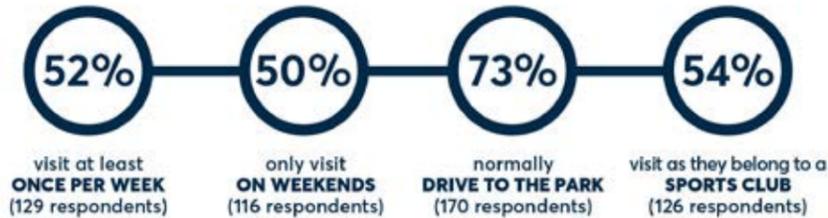
3.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - KEY RESULTS

How were the community engaged?



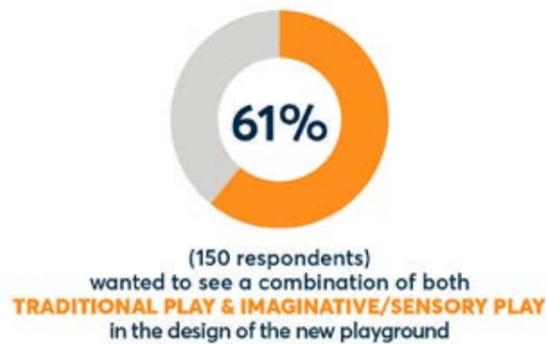
SURVEY FINDINGS

Visiting Belmore Park



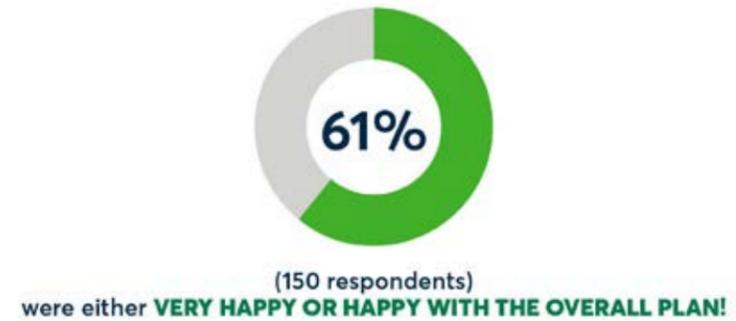
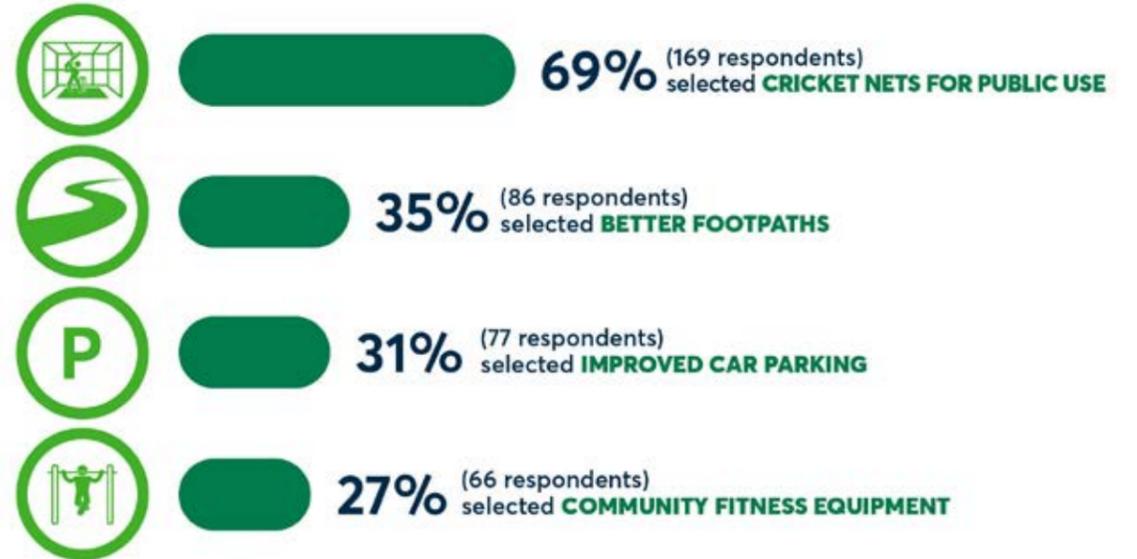
Of the respondents that belong to a sports club, 59 came from Parramatta District Cricket Club and 32 from Parramatta Women's Grade Cricket Club

Playground



Landscape Concept Plan

When asked which improvements would increase visitation to Belmore Park:



What else we heard?



3.3 PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The Draft Belmore Park Masterplan Report was placed on public exhibition from Monday 16 November 2020 until Tuesday 15 December 2020.

METHODS

Methods of notification included:

- Email sent to 9,964 Participate Parramatta panel members and 103 community members who provided an email address during Stage 1 Consultation (Community engagement),
- 3,100 flyers distributed,
- On-site signage,
- Hard copies placed at the City of Parramatta Library and Customer Service Centre,
- Promoted across Council's Social Media Channels (Facebook and Twitter),
- Notification to key stakeholders including sports clubs and governing bodies, schools, ATSI groups and various other Council stakeholder committees.
- A dedicated webpage with online survey.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

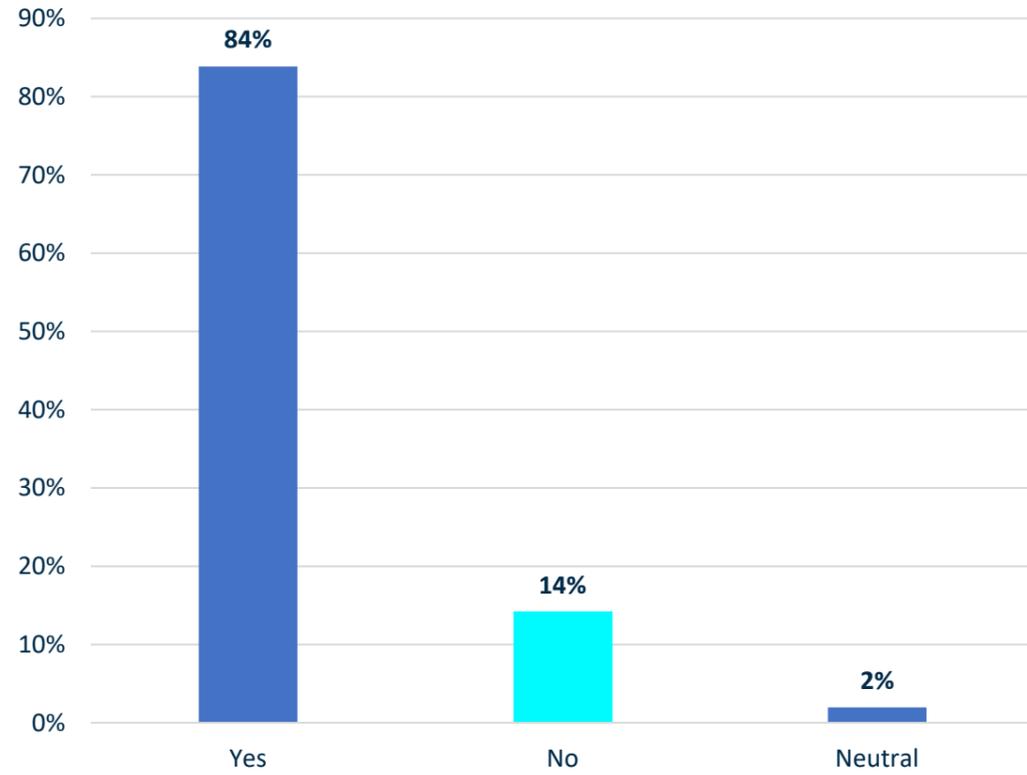
Written submissions from sporting user groups and governing bodies indicated general support for the Draft Masterplan

- Of the 254 online surveys analysed, there was very strong support for the Draft Masterplan, with 84% of survey respondents supportive of the plan prepared by Council.
- 110 respondents choose to provide additional comments. While the sentiment was generally quite positive, a number of suggestions and concerns were also put forward.
- Feedback received by mail and email from the general community indicated mixed (almost 50:50) support for the Draft Masterplan.

SITE MASTERPLAN PRESENTED AT PUBLIC EXHIBITION



3.4 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - KEY RESULTS



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	83.86%	213
No	14.17%	36
Neutral	1.97%	5
Total	100%	254

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

QUESTION: DO YOU SUPPORT THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY COUNCIL FOR BELMORE PARK?
(MULTIPLE CHOICE - SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED)

Comment	Percent	Count
Support	41.18%	7
General/ Conditional Support	11.76%	2
Not Stated	11.76%	2
Not Supported	35.30%	6
Total	100%	17

LEVEL OF SUPPORT (WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS - EMAIL AND MAIL)

04. MASTERPLAN

The masterplan builds upon the outcomes of the community engagement to deliver a design that reflects the desires of key stakeholders and the local community. The masterplan focuses on improving and enhancing recreation opportunities for a range of park users and stakeholders and ensures the park is accessible and appealing to all members of the community. The masterplan also acknowledges site constraints, and mitigates these through design solutions. It employs a long term vision for the site to prioritise current and future capital works.

Central to the development of Belmore Park is the transformation of Richie Benaud Oval into a premier cricket facility with central turf wicket. Cricket will be celebrated at Richie Benaud Oval with the installation of traditional picket fencing, which will complement the existing parkland aesthetic of the site. Richie Benaud Oval will also provide a high quality facility for winter football codes and other sports.

Additional sporting facilities at Belmore Park will include:

- Sports field lighting, drainage and irrigation.
- Turf practice wickets (cricket nets).
- Covered all weather use synthetic practice wickets (cricket nets).

A new sports pavilion building will include amenities for sporting groups (change rooms etc) and community rooms for hire. The inclusion of a 'Hall of Fame' will celebrate Parramatta's sporting history and its great champions, as well as providing Heritage Interpretation opportunities at the site.

The masterplan also proposes significant upgrades to community facilities within Belmore Park. A new district level playground will provide both traditional and nature/ sensory play acting as a destination playground for the community. Public toilets will be provided in the nearby park maintenance facility to service the playground. Park upgrades will also include outdoor fitness equipment, park seating and picnic facilities.

Access around Belmore Park will be improved with a network of circulation paths. Car parking and connections to the proposed light rail network will also be reviewed following detailed investigations. The natural aesthetics of Belmore Park will be maintained and enhanced through protection of existing trees around the periphery of the site and planting of contemporary native vegetation.

Finally, the masterplan recommends that the rich history of Belmore Park is to be protected and celebrated through inclusions such as interpretive signage and artworks.

The masterplan will also provide a guide for Council staff and stakeholders, outlining changes to the park into the future, and an indicative program for improvements.

4.1 SITE MASTERPLAN



- 01 CRICKET OVAL WITH 6 TURF PITCHES
- 02 NEW SPORTS PAVILION BUILDING AND HALL OF FAME
- 03 TURF PRACTICE NETS - 6 PITCHES
- 04 SYNTHETIC PRACTICE NETS INCLUDING ROOF STRUCTURE FOR ALL WEATHER USE - 4 PITCHES
- 05 FULL SIZE SOCCER FIELD
- 06 FULL SIZE RUGBY/UNION LEAGUE FIELD
- 07 MINI SIZE FIELD FOR JUNIOR SPORT
- 08 FITNESS STATIONS
- 09 NEW DISTRICT LEVEL PLAYGROUND
- 10 EXISTING BUFFER PLANTING TO ROAD
- 11 REVIEW EXISTING PARKING TO CREATE GREATER CAPACITY AND BETTER ACCESS TO FACILITIES. NO NET LOSS OF PARKING
- 12 PERIMETER FENCING AND WALKING LOOP AROUND RICHIE BENAUD OVAL
- 13 NEW PUBLIC AMENITIES + CURATOR'S BUILDING
- 14 POTENTIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION
- 15 CRICKET SIGHT SCREEN
- 16 EXISTING FLOOD DETENTION BASIN
- 17 NATIVE VEGETATION PLANTING
- 18 CROSSING POINT AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT TO LIGHT RAIL CONNECTION (SUBJECT TO APPROVALS)
- 19 SPECTATOR SEATING

NOTE: ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD, SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING, DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION TO BE INCLUDED SUBJECT TO DETAIL DESIGN.

4.2 SPORTS FACILITIES

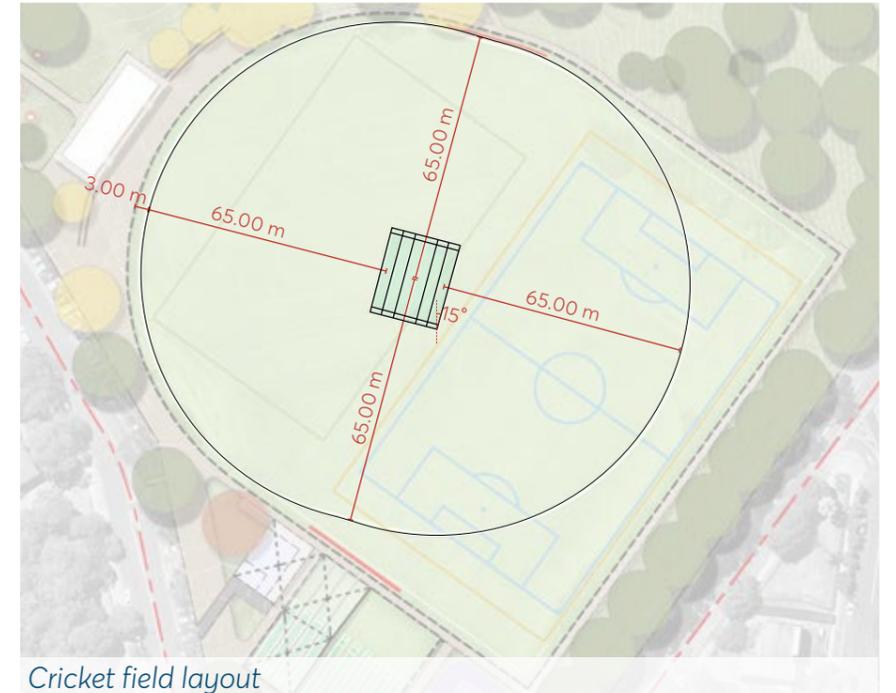
It is proposed Richie Benaud Oval will become a premier cricket facility with central turf wicket. In addition to cricket, upgrades will also provide a high quality facility for football codes and other sports.

Proposed sporting facility upgrades include:

- Cricket oval designed to meet the requirements of a 'Premier/Regional' 'Tier 3' facility as per Cricket Australia's Community Facility Guidelines and Cricket NSW's Infrastructure Provision Framework.
- Cricket sight screens and scoreboard (final locations subject to detail design).
- 6 pitch turf wicket table located centrally.
- Electronic scoreboard
- Full size rectangular sports field located entirely off the turf wicket table. Rectangular sports field to be designed for multiple use including:
 - + Full size football (soccer) pitch designed to meet Football NSW Facility Guidelines.
 - + Full size rugby union pitch designed to meet Rugby Australia National Facility Guidelines.
 - + Full size rugby league pitch designed to meet NRL Preferred Facility Guidelines for Grassroots Rugby League.
- Mini size rectangular sports field designed for multiple use including field hockey, touch football, and junior ball and sport formats.

- Cricket practice facilities designed to Cricket Australia's Community Facility Guidelines including:
 - + 4 pitch, fully enclosed synthetic turf practice nets with roof structure for all weather use.
 - + 6 pitch, fully enclosed turf practice nets.
 - + LED lighting and external power supply for bowling machines.
- Curators facilities (includes public amenities/ toilets).
- Sports pavilion building and spectator seating.
- Traditional sports field boundary fencing (picket fence).
- LED sports field lighting (pole locations subject to detail design).
- Ball screens as required (locations subject to detail design)
- Perimeter path.

Note: Dimensions shown for planning purposes only. Final layouts to be confirmed during detail design.



Cricket field layout



Soccer field layout



Rugby league / union field layout

SPORTS FACILITIES



Mini size field layout



Cricket field



White picket fence



Synthetic practice nets



Cricket practice facilities



Soccer field



Turf practice nets



LED sports field lighting

4.3 SPORTS PAVILION BUILDING & HALL OF FAME

FACILITIES FOR THE SPORTS BUILDING

The proposed sports pavilion building is located in the north - west corner of Richie Renaud Oval where historical regrading has removed the original landform, and assessment of Aboriginal sensitivity is low. The building will have an uninterrupted view across the sports field to the tree lined edges of the park.

The building will not only provide amenities for sporting teams, but also facilities available for community hire. Given the site's long standing history with cricket and sport in general, it is proposed to tell the sporting history of Parramatta through a 'Hall of Fame' and other interpretive works.

The sports pavilion building should include some level of spectator seating and viewing. Additional spectator seating will be included within the vicinity of the building, with the existing landform lending itself to terrace seating.

It is proposed the building will include:

Sports facilities:

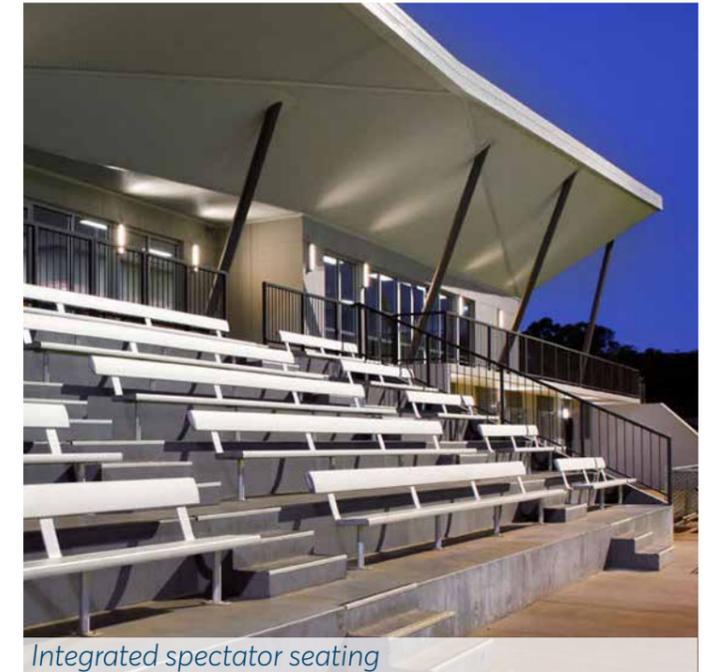
- Change rooms
- Umpire and referee change rooms
- Kiosk and storage areas
- Sporting club storage areas
- First aid room
- Sporting club administration area

Community facilities:

- Community meeting room and facilities
- Hall of fame
- Public toilets

Consideration should also be provided for enhanced sporting and community facilities (such as a cafe with alfresco seating, scorers box etc) in-line with Council strategies.

This masterplan provides a recommended location and nominal footprint size of the building only (depicted as two storey). Detail design will review both single storey and two storey options and will be subject to further consultation with stakeholders and the community.



4.4 PLAYGROUND FACILITIES

It is proposed the existing playground at Belmore Park will be replaced and expanded into a 'District' level facility. The playground will have an increased area and improved equipment provision. The play area will be expanded to cater for a wider diversity of ages and include a wide range of active challenges.

The proposed playground will include a combination of both traditional and imaginative / sensory play as highlighted during community engagement (images indicative only).



Key plan

IMAGINATIVE/SENSORY PLAY



Logs for balancing and stepping



Boulder steps



Sensory planting

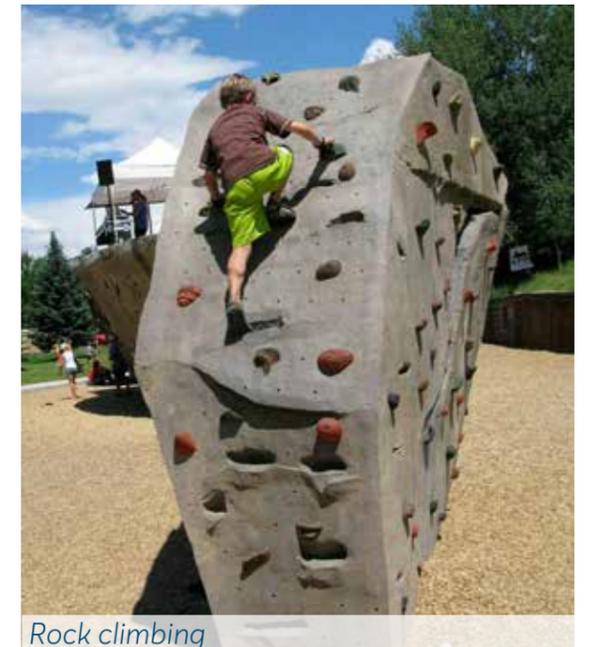
TRADITIONAL PLAY



Multi-play towers with slides



Swings



Rock climbing

4.5 PARK AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Park and community facilities will be provided with consideration given to the functional needs of the community, and broader aesthetic of the park. The facilities will provide a holistic benefit to all park users, and are based on the feedback received at community engagement. They include:

- Improved pathway network
- Park furniture including seating and picnic facilities
- Community fitness equipment
- Signage
- Electric BBQ's and drinking fountains (bubblers)
- Native planting

Public art and interpretive signage will highlight the rich Aboriginal and sporting heritage of Belmore Park. These elements will reflect the unique nature of the site and provide a powerful sense of place.

The overall look and feel of the park will be defined by a robust material palette and contemporary park aesthetic. The material selection will reflect the local context through appropriate selections such as timber, stone, exposed concrete pathways and weathered steel signage.



Park furniture



Community fitness equipment



Integration of Aboriginal and cultural heritage



Improved pathways and signage

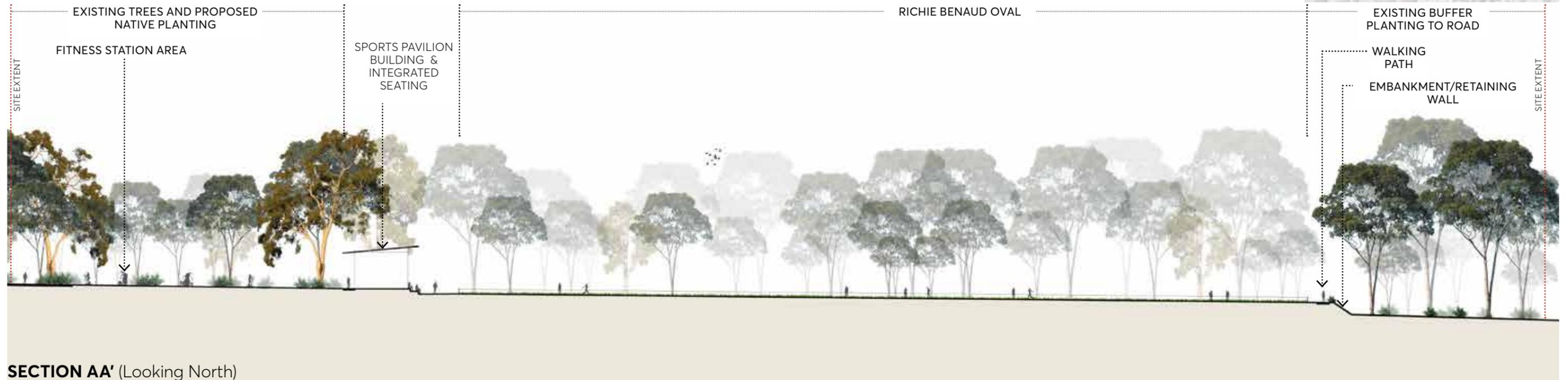
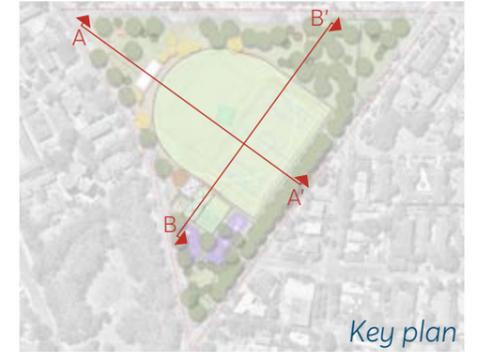


Native planting



Integration of cricket and public art

4.6 CROSS SECTIONS



05. STAGING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The masterplan is intended to be implemented in stages to suit local population growth, allow distribution of funds and accommodate diverse funding sources. The following list provides the stage plan details:

STAGE 1

- Sports field (Richie Benaud Oval) and loop path
- Temporary amenities building if required
- Public amenities and curator's building

STAGE 2

- Sports pavilion building
- Walking loop/paths
- Seating to sports field

STAGE 3

- Cricket practice facility (nets)
- District playground
- Community facilities (seating, park furniture etc.)
- Fitness stations
- Walking loop/paths

LEGEND

- STAGE 1
- ⋯ STAGE 1 loop path
- STAGE 2
- ⋯ STAGE 2 paths
- STAGE 3
- ⋯ STAGE 3 paths



06. COSTING

6.1 OVERALL COSTS

<p style="text-align: center;">OPINION OF PROBABLE COST Belmore Park Master Plan Prepared for City of Parramatta Date: 03/03/2021 REV: D</p>							
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	GENERAL NOTES	Qty	Unit	Rate	Amount	Total
1.00	Preliminaries						
1.01	Site establishment	Site shed(s) establishment and demolition and utilities connections	1	allowance	\$100,000	\$100,000	
1.02	Site Fencing		950	lm	\$15	\$14,250	
1.03	Temporary Amenities		1	allowance	\$100,000	\$100,000	
1.04	Sub-total						\$214,250
2.00	Demolition	Demolish & remove from site					
2.01	Demolish existing structures	Demolish & remove from site	1,000	m2	\$300	\$300,000	
2.02	Other Demolition and waste costs	Removal of existing fencing, furniture, cricket nets, and waste removal	500	m2	\$250	\$125,000	
3.02	Sub-total						\$425,000
3.00	Bulk Earthworks						
3.01	Regrading / trim earthworks	Adjustments of finished levels of < 1m with balanced cut and fill	2,000	m2	\$25	\$50,000	
3.02	Regrading / trim earthworks	Adjustments of finished levels of > 1m with balanced cut and fill	2,000	m2	\$35	\$70,000	
3.03	Sub-total						\$120,000
4.00	Surfaces						
4.01	Concrete Paving	110mm Thick reinforced concrete, exposed aggregate finish	6,650	m2	\$165	\$1,097,250	
4.02	Synthetic surface	To cricket practice nets	520	m2	\$110	\$57,200	
4.03	Rubber Softfall	To playground and outdoor fitness area	2,250	m2	\$250	\$562,500	
4.04	Sub-total						\$1,716,950
5.00	Landscape						
5.01	Turf	Includes grass & imported top soil to park	1,950	m2	\$30	\$58,500	
5.02	Sports Field Turf	Includes irrigation system, turf and top soil to sporting fields	20,500	m2	\$50	\$1,025,000	
5.03	Turf Wicket including practice wickets	Turf and top soil	12	PER/UNIT	\$7,500	\$90,000	
5.04	Planting	Includes plantings & imported top soil	2,000	m2	\$70	\$140,000	
5.05	Trees	Supply and install of new trees. Generally 400/500Lt.	40	PER/UNIT	\$1,000	\$40,000	
5.06	Reinstate Grass	Hydroseeding to bare areas	29,500	m2	\$3	\$88,500	
5.07	Retaining Walls	Includes blockwork, footings and drainage	250	lm	\$600	\$150,000	
5.08	Drainage	Includes sports field drainage infrastructure	1	ITEM	\$200,000	\$200,000	
5.09	Sub-total						\$1,792,000
6.00	Carpark						
6.01	Rejuvenation of kerb and levels to existing car park		500	m2	\$200	\$100,000	
6.02	Linemarking		1	allowance	\$5,000	\$5,000	
6.03	Sub-total						\$105,000
7.00	Buildings						
7.01	Construction of new clubhouse/grandstand building	690m2 - two levels	1	ITEM	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	
7.02	Construction of new Public Amenities and Curator's Building	100m2 - single level	1	ITEM	\$500,000	\$500,000	
7.03	Sub-total						\$4,500,000

8.00	Furniture							
8.01	Picnic Shelter	Approx 4m x 8m	6	ITEM	\$22,000		\$132,000	
8.02	Picnic Table Setting	table and two bench seats	6	ITEM	\$4,500		\$27,000	
8.03	Bench Seating	bench seat	12	ITEM	\$3,000		\$36,000	
8.04	Spectator Seating	Insitu concrete	150	m2	\$800		\$120,000	
8.05	Bin Enclosure	General Waste and Recycling Bins	6	ITEM	\$5,900		\$35,400	
8.06	Water bubbler	With drainage connections	2	ITEM	\$15,000		\$30,000	
8.07	New Picket Fence	Recycled plastic 900mm high, white colour	450	lm	\$150		\$67,500	
8.08	Cricket Nets Fencing	Chainmesh and removable	150	lm	\$300		\$45,000	
8.09	Fencing to retaining walls	1m high, chainmesh	250	lm	\$150		\$37,500	
8.10	Ball Screens	As required	-	allowance	\$50,000		\$50,000	
8.11	Shade structure for practice nets	Synthetic practice nets	1	ITEM	\$40,000		\$40,000	
8.12	Electric BBQ's	With electrical connections	2	ITEM	\$15,000		\$30,000	
8.13	Sub-total							\$650,400
9.00	Playground & Fitness Equipment							
9.01	Outdoor Fitness Trail/Gym	7 pieces, dynamic, includes surface and edging	-	allowance	\$60,000		\$60,000	
9.02	New Playground	New play equipment	-	allowance	\$400,000		\$400,000	
9.03	Sub-total							\$460,000
10.00	Signage/Environmental Graphics							
10.01	Welcome Signage	Sandstone block wall with steel signage	2	ITEM	\$8,000		\$16,000	
10.02	Environmental Graphics	Pavement/wall inlays telling the story of Richie Benaud	-	allowance	\$10,000		\$10,000	
10.03	Interpretive Signage/Art	Signage elements/public art/sculpture telling story of Richie Benaud	-	allowance	\$25,000		\$25,000	
10.04	Sub-total							\$51,000
11.00	Utilities							
11.01	Lighting - Floodlighting Sportsfield	Total for all floodlighting, including power upgrade	1	ITEM	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	
11.02	Sportsfield Irrigation - Pop up sprinkler irrigation for turf area	Pop up sprinkler irrigation system for turf area and associated wiring, conduits, valves, controller and connection to water supply	15,000	m2	\$22		\$330,000	
11.03	QVC points for water supply		6	ITEM	\$2,500		\$15,000	
11.04	Sight screen		2	ITEM	\$25,000		\$50,000	
11.05	Water, power gas connections, etc.		1	ITEM	\$75,000		\$75,000	
11.06	Liaisoning fees	Liaisoning with authorities	1	ITEM	\$25,000		\$25,000	
11.07	Sub-total							\$1,995,000
12.00	Sub-total							
12.01	Sub-total	Sub-total of items 1.00 - 11.00 incl						\$12,029,600
13.00	Additional fees							
13.01	Construction contingency	Allow 10%					\$1,202,960	
13.02	Sub-total							\$1,202,960
					This opinion of probable cost (OPC) has been prepared by GROUP GSA. All rates applied have been sourced by general market assumptions. For more detailed costing we recommend a quantity surveyor is engaged to prepared a cost plan			
					Total Excluding GST		\$13,232,560	
					GST		\$1,323,256	
					TOTAL INCL GST		\$14,555,816	

6.2 COST PER STAGE

The following is a breakdown of costs for the 3 nominated stages:

STAGE 1

- Sports field (Richie Benaud Oval) and loop path
- Temporary amenities building if required
- Public amenities and curator’s building

STAGE 2

- Sports pavilion building
- Walking loop/paths
- Seating to sports field

STAGE 3

- Cricket practice facility (nets)
- District playground
- Community facilities (seating, park furniture etc.)
- Fitness stations
- Walking loop/paths

ESTIMATED COST SUMMARY (EXCLUDING GST)

The estimated construction cost for the delivery of the masterplan is **\$13,300,000** (excl GST). An additional 20% increase will be required for staging of the work due to additional mobilisation and establishment costs associated with separate construction phases.

The proposed staging of the work increases the overall budget to **\$16,000,000** (excl GST).

CONSTRUCTION COST (EXCLUDING GST)

Entire Project Constructed Concurrently:

Total - \$13,300,000

Project Constructed in Stages:

– Stage 1: \$6,800,000

– Stage 2: \$6,800,000

– Stage 3: \$2,400,000

Total - \$16,000,000

7. APPENDIX

1. BELMORE PARK (INCLUDING RICHIE BENAUD OVAL) LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN - STAGE ONE
KEY FINDINGS AND ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION REPORT
2. DRAFT BELMORE PARK MASTERPLAN PUBLIC EXHIBITION
KEY FINDINGS AND EVALUATION REPORT
3. DRAFT BELMORE PARK MASTERPLAN KEY ISSUES SUMMARY

Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval) Landscape Concept Plan - Stage One

Key Findings and Engagement Evaluation Report

April 2020

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2
2. Executive Summary	3
3. Engagement Evaluation	5
4. Key Findings	6
5. Respondent Demographics	19

1. Introduction

The City of Parramatta is in the early stages of developing a landscape Masterplan for Belmore Park in North Parramatta, which will build upon the unique local landscape and improve facilities for a range of community uses.

The vision is to upgrade Richie Benaud Oval (the name of the sporting field in Belmore Park) so that it becomes a Premier cricket venue suitable for hosting Sydney Grade Cricket matches, as well as a venue for football codes in the winter. The proposed sporting facility improvements include:

- A central turf wicket
- Turf and synthetic practice wickets (nets)
- Fully irrigated playing field
- Sports (flood) lighting
- A sports pavilion building

Upgrades are also proposed to the entire park to improve the quality of the recreational and open spaces for everyone to enjoy. This includes providing new spectator seating along the playing fields and oval as well as upgrading the playground and community facilities.

Stage one of community consultation commenced in November 2019 with targeted engagement of key stakeholders, including local sporting groups that use the park and its facilities. Online consultation was held from **Monday 16 March to Sunday 12 April 2020**. Council was seeking the following feedback from the community:

- How often and when respondents use the park
- How respondents get to the park and why they use it
- What improvements would increase visitation of respondents to the park
- The theme for the playground and what play elements should be included
- Overall level of satisfaction with the Landscape Concept Plan

The community was able to provide feedback on the Landscape Concept Plan developed for Belmore Park via a survey accessed through Council's engagement portal, 'Parramatta OurSay' (www.oursay.org/cityofparramatta). Community members were also provided with the opportunity to provide feedback via email, by phone and by post.

It is important to note that the online consultation took place throughout the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak. While the response rate was still quite strong, the government restrictions that were introduced had an impact on the engagement. As is detailed below, the consultation period was extended and new strategies adopted to help adapt the engagement approach to the changed environment.

Key Findings Report

This Key Findings Report collates and summarises the **247 responses submitted via Parramatta OurSay** during the period the Belmore Park Landscape Concept Plan was open for comment.

Qualitative responses have also been included in the **Appendix** for the project team's consideration.

2. Executive Summary

From **Monday 16 March to Sunday 12 April 2020**, City of Parramatta sought the community's feedback on the Landscape Concept Plan developed for Belmore Park. Initially, consultation was due to close on Sunday 29 March 2020, however due to the COVID-19 crisis, consultation was extended by a further two weeks to provide additional time for the community to participate.

During the period the plan was open for comment, the City received 247 completed responses via Parramatta OurSay. The median completion time for the survey was just under 7 minutes.

Summary of key findings

Demographic data:

- 247 completed responses were received in total via Council's engagement portal (517 respondents started the survey with 270 not completing).
- 166 respondents (67.6%) were male and 67 (27.1%) were female.
- The greatest number of responses were from those aged 40-49 (71 people or 28.7%), closely followed by those aged 25-39 (69 people of 27.9%).
- 41 respondents (16.6%) spoke a language other than English at home. Major non-English languages spoken at home, were Hindi (9) and Tamil (7).
- 8 respondents (3.2%) identified as living with a disability.

For more detailed information, please see **pages 19 to 22**.

Visiting Belmore Park

- The majority of respondents visit Belmore Park weekly, with 58 (23.5%) visiting two to three times per week and 71 (28.7%) visiting once per week.
- 116 (49.6%) respondents only visit Belmore Park on weekends.
- 177 (76.1%) respondents normally visit Belmore Park in the afternoon, with 133 (57.3%) also visiting in the morning.
- The vast majority of respondents, 170 (73.1%), normally drive to Belmore Park while 80 (34.2%) also walk.
- 126 (54.3%) respondents primarily visit Belmore Park as they belong to a sports club, while 92 (39.3%) also visit to just walk around/through the park.
 - Of 126 respondents that belong to a sports club, the majority are made up of members from Parramatta District Cricket Club (59) and Parramatta Women's Cricket Club (32).

For more detailed information, please see **pages 6 to 11**.

Playground

- 150 (60.7%) respondents wanted to see a combination of both traditional play and imaginative/sensory play in the design of the new playground.
 - Specifically commenting on the imaginative/sensory play elements, 174 (70.9%) respondents wanted to see 'natural logs for balancing and stepping' included.
 - Specifically commenting on the traditional play elements, 134 (54.7%) respondents wanted to see 'swings' included, while 128 (52.2%) wanted to also include 'multi-play towers'.

For more detailed information, please see **pages 14 to 16**.

Landscape Concept Plan

- When asked which improvements would increase visitation to Belmore Park, 169 (68.8%) respondents selected 'cricket nets for public use', 86 (34.8%) selected 'better footpaths to provide access around the park (e.g. circulation path)' and 77 (31.2%) selected 'improved car parking'.
- When asked about their overall level of satisfaction with the landscape Concept Plan prepared for Belmore Park, the vast majority were pleased with what Council had presented, with 78 (31.6%) respondents 'very happy' and 72 (29.2%) 'happy'.
 - Of the respondents that were 'very happy', the majority selected this option as they felt the Landscape Concept Plan would ensure more families utilised the park and because it would become an incredible asset for the local cricket community
 - Of the respondents that were 'happy', the majority selected this option as they felt the Landscape Concept Plan looked good and should benefit the local community and because it would be beneficial for the local cricket community.

For more detailed information, please see **pages 12 to 13 and 17 to 18**.

Qualitative comments and other information:

Please refer to Appendix A on **pages 23 to 36** for qualitative comments.

3. Engagement Evaluation

The below provides a snapshot of the communications and engagement channels used to promote the feedback opportunity to the community from Monday 16 March to Sunday 12 April 2020.

Numerous channels were activated to reach as many community members as possible and direct them to the City Of Parramatta community engagement portal (www.oursay.org/cityofparramatta) to provide feedback on the Landscape Concept Plan developed for Belmore Park.

Overall, **20,388** people saw the opportunity to share feedback based on the data captured from the following engagement channels.

Social media

Paid advertisements	
Reach	3,285
Impressions	9,473
Link clicks	223
Cost per click	\$0.22
Click through rate (link)	2.35%
Post engagement	249
Total spend	\$49.44
Facebook organic	
Reach	4,321
Engagements	111
Link clicks	56



Email databases

Sent to 9,632 Our City, Your Say panel members on Friday 3 April 2020.

Letterbox drop

3,100 properties were included in the mail out of a postcard which was distributed to homes in neighbouring streets, as well as two local childcare centres and a school.

Community signage

Boards advising about the community consultation were also put up around Belmore Park, while a local day-care provider displayed information on its noticeboard.

Online Video

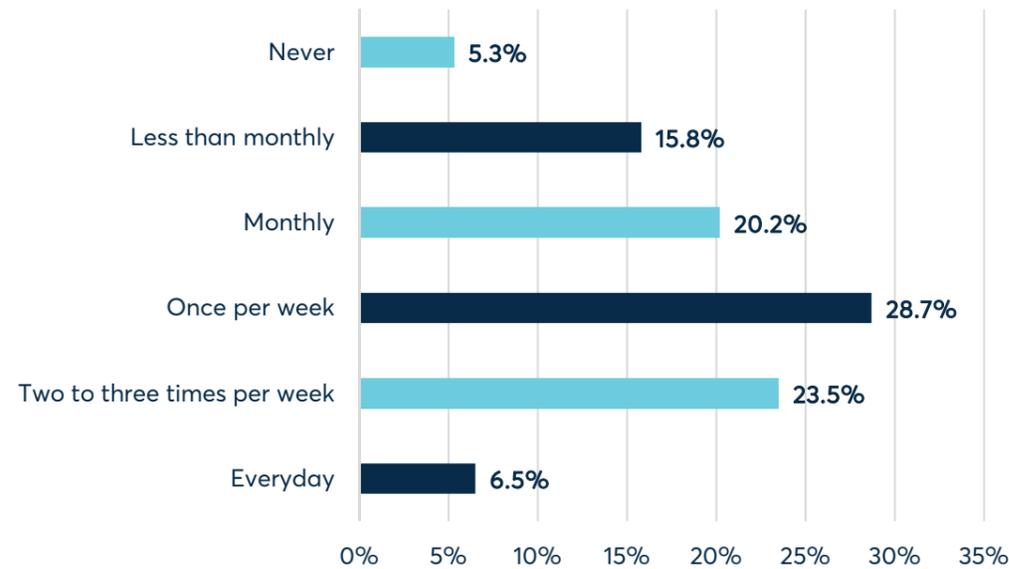
Following the outbreak of COVID-19, a video was developed to help further promote the engagement opportunity. The video was viewed 50 times.

Community drop-in session

Due to the emergence of COVID-19, a community drop-in session originally planned for Thursday 19 March 2020 was cancelled in line with public health advice.

4. Key Findings

Q1). How often do you visit Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval)?

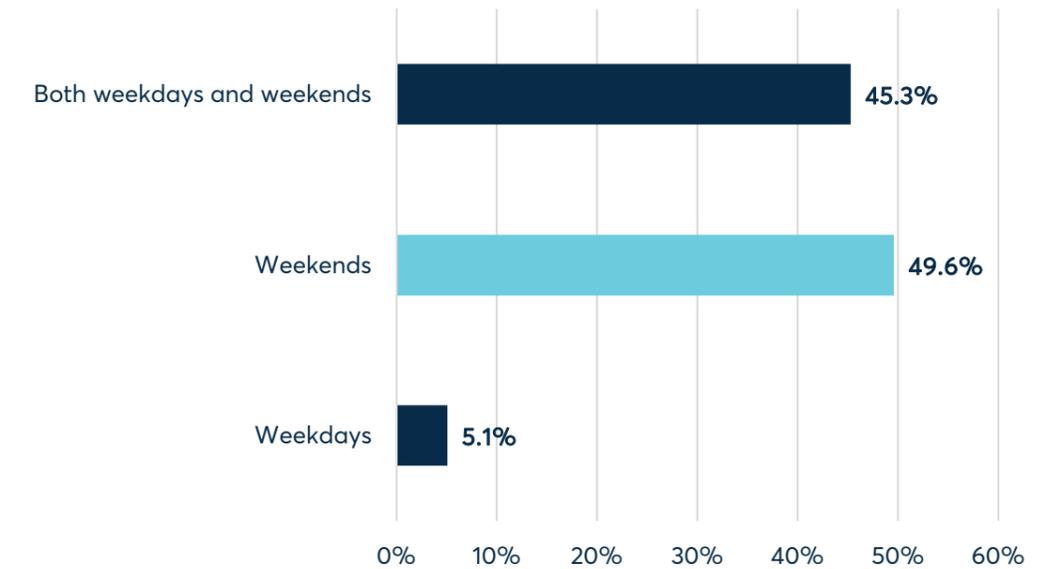


Answer	%	Count
Everyday	6.5%	16
Two to three times per week	23.5%	58
Once per week	28.7%	71
Monthly	20.2%	50
Less than monthly	15.8%	39
Never*	5.3%	13
Total	100%	247

* Those that selected 'Never', skipped past questions 2 – 5 as these questions could only be answered by those that visit Belmore Park.

All respondents that selected 'Never' were given the opportunity to comment on why they had not previously visited Belmore Park. 12 of 13 respondents choose to provide comment. Reasons why respondents selected 'Never' included, they either had no reason to visit the park previously, the facilities were not suitable, or no grade cricket matches were played there. All responses are provided in the Appendix.

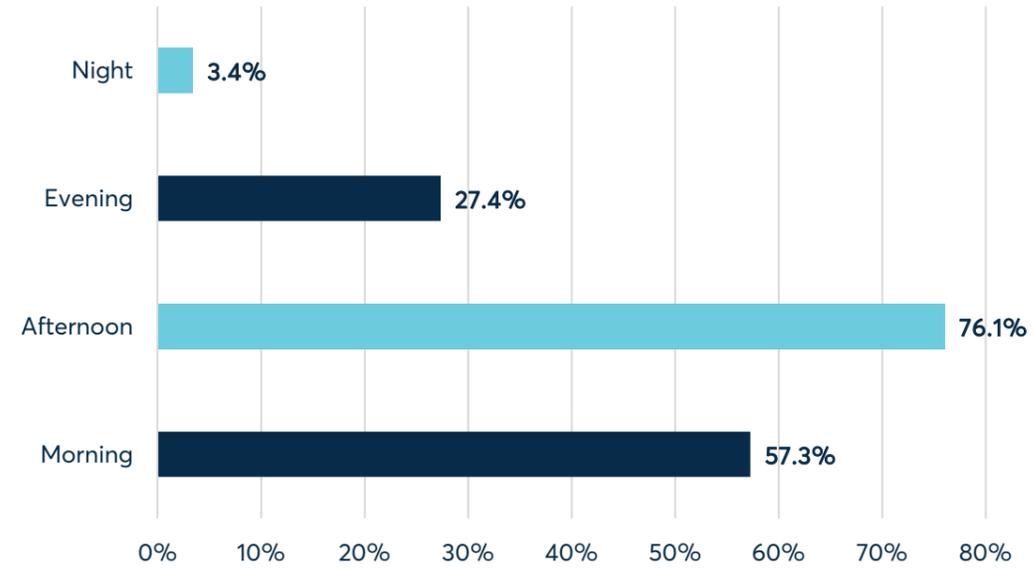
Q2). When do you visit Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval)?



Answer	%	Count
Weekdays	5.1%	12
Weekends	49.6%	116
Both weekdays and weekends	45.3%	106
Total	100%	234

Q3). What time of day do you visit Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval)? *

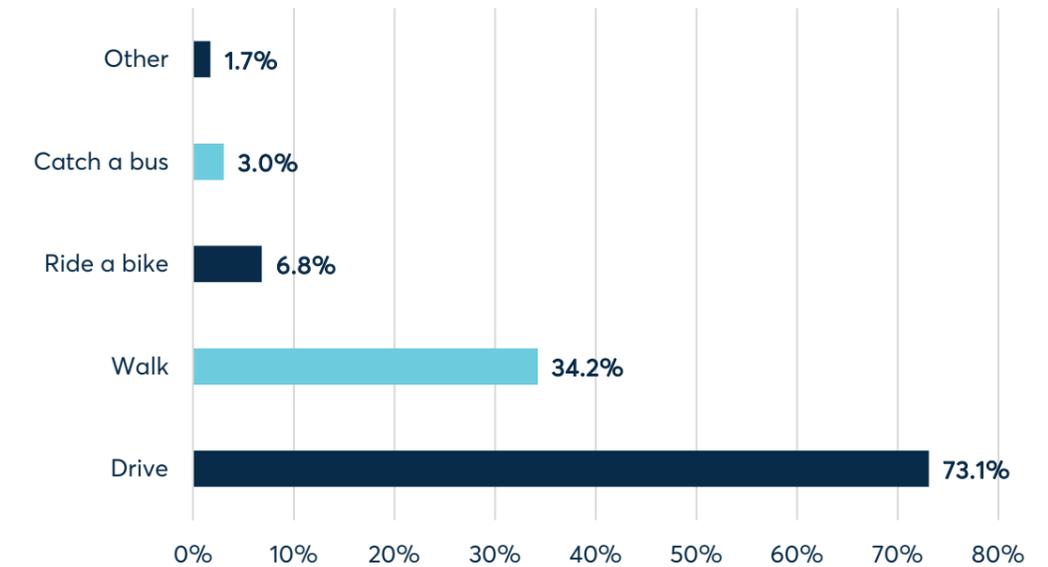
* Respondents could select more than one answer for this question.



Answer	%	Count
Morning	57.3%	133
Afternoon	76.1%	177
Evening	27.4%	64
Night	3.4%	8
Total	100%	233

Q4). How do you get to the park? *

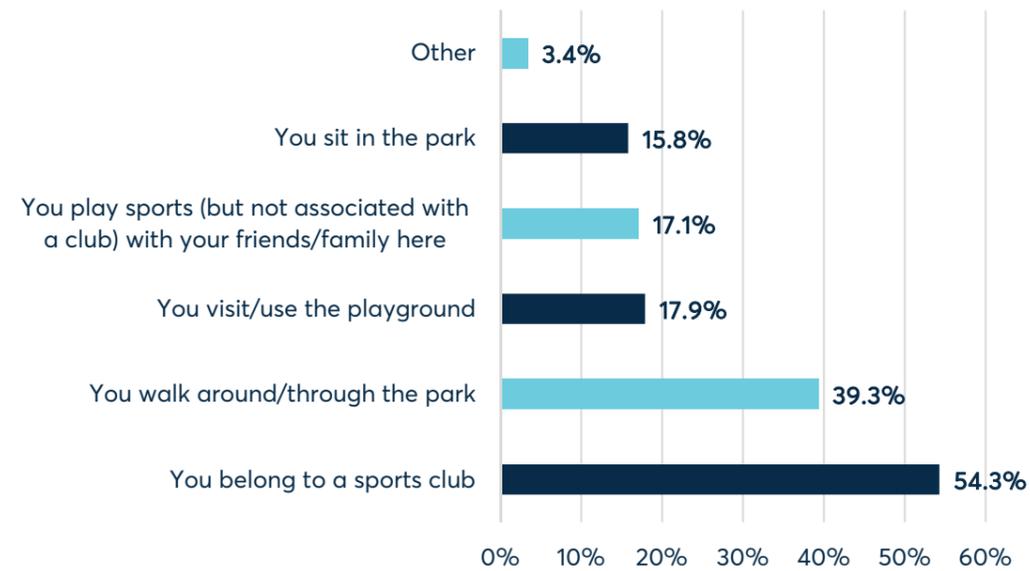
* Respondents could select more than one answer for this question.



Answer	%	Count
Drive	73.1%	170
Walk	34.2%	80
Ride a bike	6.8%	16
Catch a bus	3.0%	7
Other	1.7%	4
Total	100%	233

Q5). Why do you visit Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval)? *

* Respondents could select more than one answer for this question.



Answer	%	Count
You belong to a sports club	54.3%	126
You walk around/through the park	39.3%	92
You visit/use the playground	17.9%	42
You play sports (but not associated with a club) with your friends/family here	17.1%	40
You sit in the park	15.8%	37
Other	3.4%	8
Total	100%	233

All respondents that selected 'You belong to a sports club' were asked to detail what sports club(s) they belong to. Some respondents listed more than one sporting club. The top five responses, as well as 'Other' responses are categorised below:

Answer - 'You belong to a sports club'	Count
Parramatta District Cricket Club	59
Parramatta Women's Cricket Club	32
Baulkham Hills Cricket Club	8
Sydney Supersonics	6
Kings Langley Cricket Club	4
Other	21

Total	126
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All respondents that selected 'You play sports (but not associated with a club) with your friends/family here' were asked to detail what sport(s) they play. Some respondents listed more than one sport. All responses are categorised below:

Answer - 'You play sports (but not associated with a club) with your friends/family here'	Count
Cricket	38
Running	2
Soccer	2
Basketball	1
Total	40

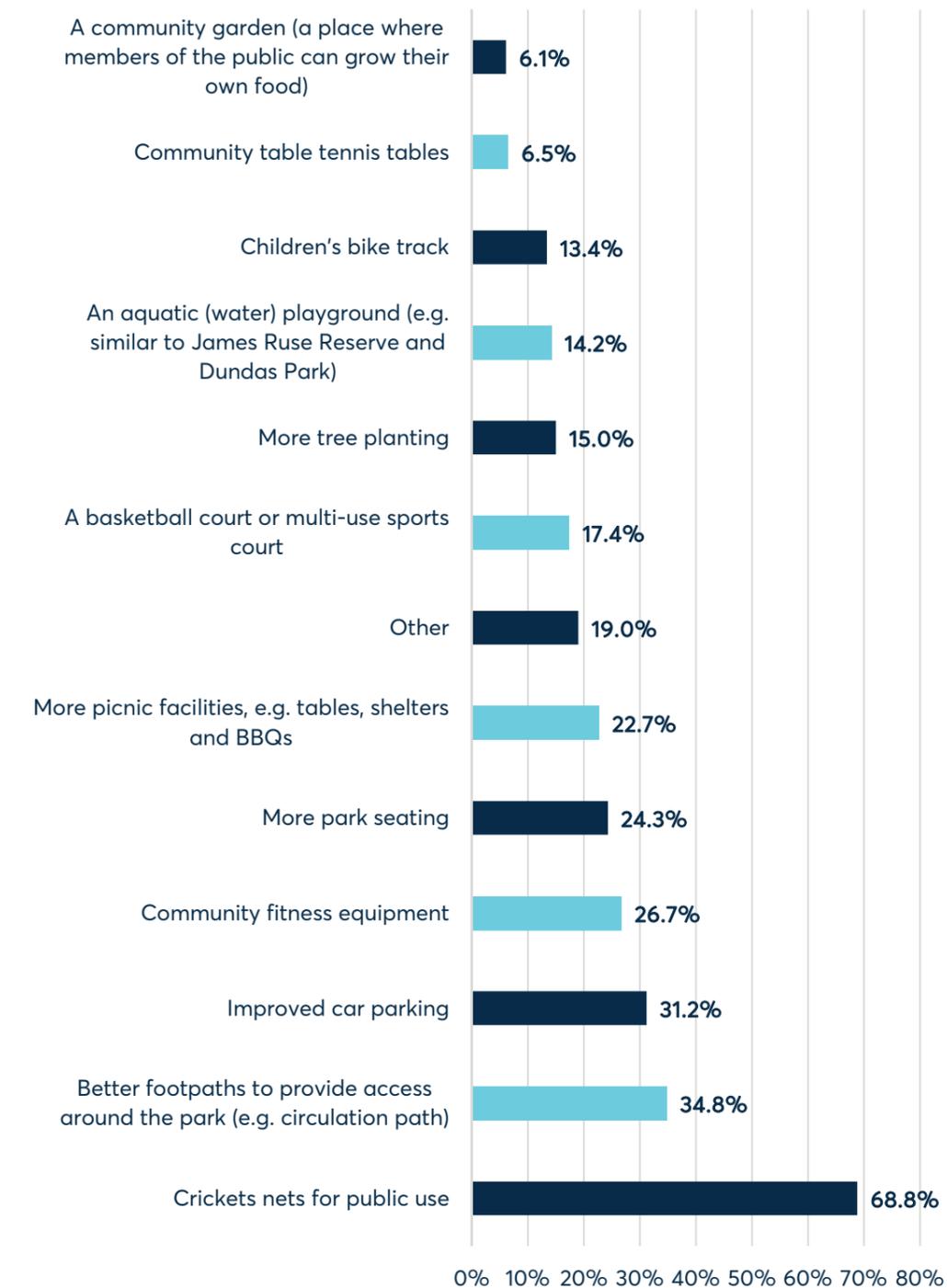
All respondents that selected 'Other' were asked to detail why they visit Belmore Park. All responses are provided below:

Answer - 'Other'	Count
As a shortcut on the way to the bus stop, friends' houses and shops	
Events	
I live in Bellevue Street	
Jogging and playing soccer with my son	
Observe nature and wildlife	
Resident close by	
Watch sport	
Watching cricket games	
Total	8

Q6). In addition to upgrading Richie Benaud Oval to a Premier cricket venue, the Landscape Concept Plan proposes upgrades to Belmore Park to improve the quality of facilities and open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Which improvements would increase the number of times you visit Belmore Park? *

* Respondents could select more than one answer for this question.

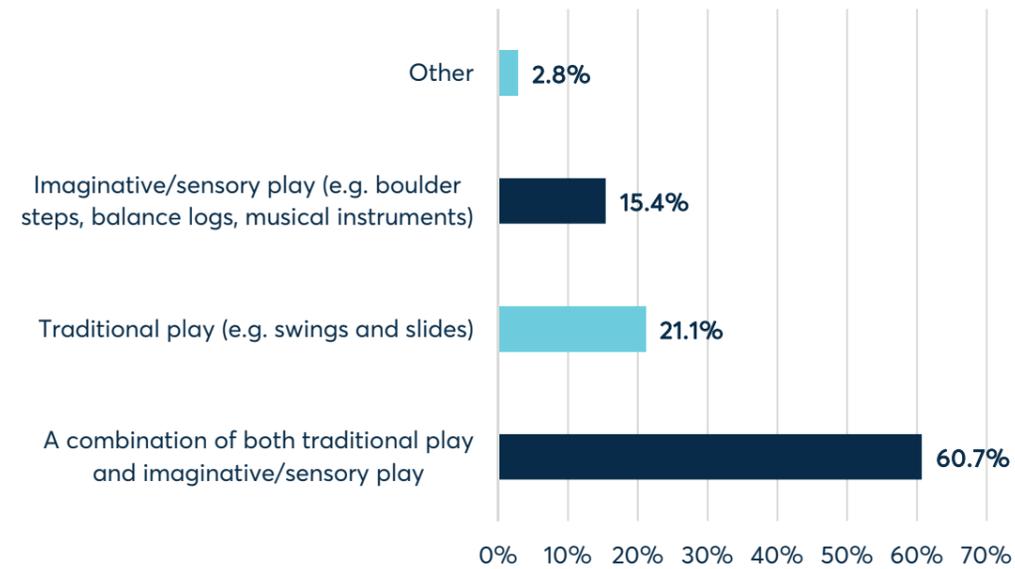


Answer	%	Count
Cricket nets for public use	68.8%	169
Better footpaths to provide access around the park (e.g. circulation path)	34.8%	86
Improved car parking	31.2%	77
Community fitness equipment	26.7%	66
More park seating	24.3%	60
More picnic facilities, e.g. tables, shelters and BBQs	22.7%	56
Other	19.0%	47
A basketball court or multi-use sports court	17.4%	43
More tree planting	15.0%	37
An aquatic (water) playground (e.g. similar to James Ruse Reserve and Dundas Park)	14.2%	35
Children's bike track	13.4%	33
Community table tennis tables	6.5%	16
A community garden (a place where members of the public can grow their own food)	6.1%	15
Total	100%	246

All respondents that selected 'Other' were asked to explain what other improvements that would like to see at Belmore Park. Many respondents provided more than one suggestion. All responses are categorised below:

Answer - 'Other'	Count
A Grade standard Cricket Oval with turf cricket pitch	22
Indoor cricket nets	12
Improved facilities, e.g. practice area, gym, club, change rooms	8
Richie Benaud Hall of Fame	6
Other	6
A single football field	5
White picket fence around oval	4
Improved fencing	3
Café	2
Improved play equipment	2
Turf practice nets	2
Grandstand seating	2
Total	47

Q7). What type of theme would you like to see through the upgraded playground?

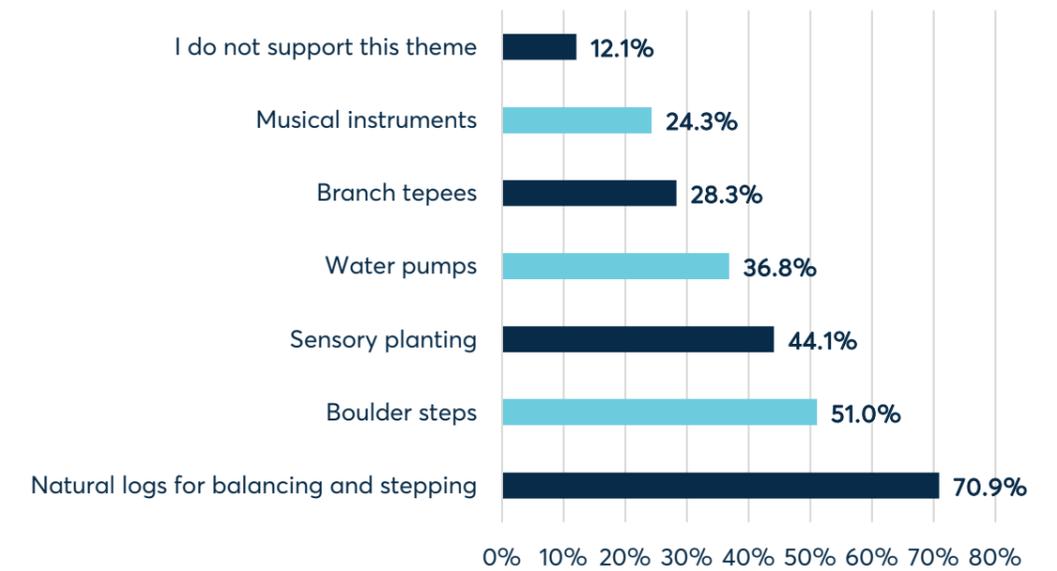


Answer	%	Count
A combination of both traditional play and imaginative/sensory play	60.7%	150
Traditional play (e.g. swings and slides)	21.1%	52
Imaginative/sensory play (e.g. boulder steps, balance logs, musical instruments)	15.4%	38
Other	2.8%	7
Total	100%	247

All respondents that selected 'Other' were asked to explain what theme they would like to see for the upgraded playground at Belmore Park. Relevant responses are provided below:

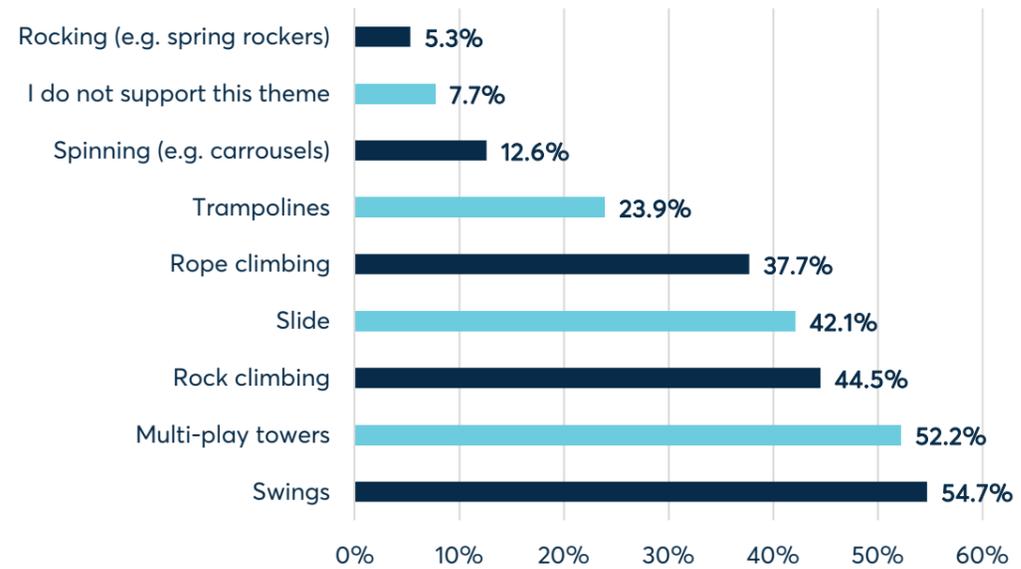
- "Please no towers, trampolines, musical instruments or water playgrounds! It will be a living hell for nearby residents! Swings and other traditional equipment, along with some interesting landscape features are more than adequate!"
- "The area should be kept as natural as possible, musical instruments are inappropriate for the density of the neighbourhood close by."

Q8). Thinking about the imaginative and sensory play theme, please select your TOP THREE choices from the options below:



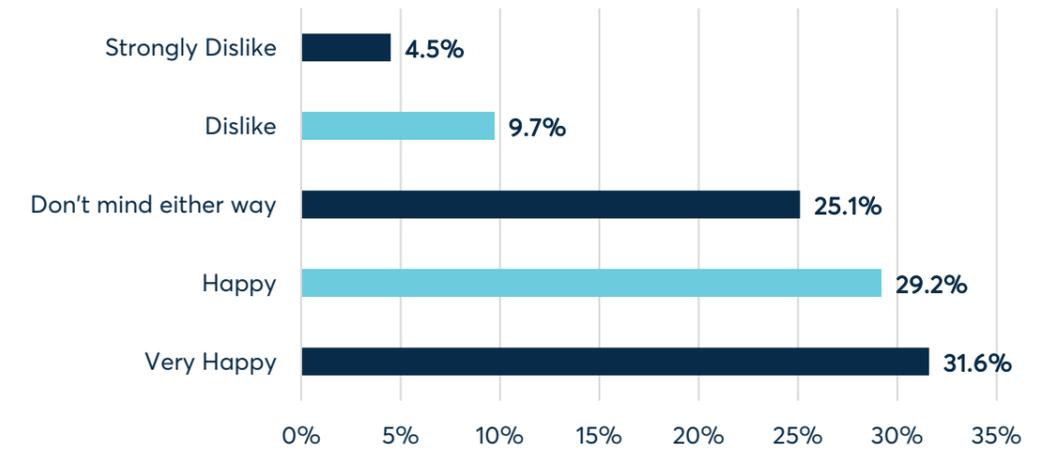
Answer	%	Count
Natural logs for balancing and stepping	70.9%	174
Boulder steps	51.0%	125
Sensory planting	44.1%	109
Water pumps	36.8%	91
Branch tepees	28.3%	70
Musical instruments	24.3%	60
I do not support this theme	12.1%	30
Total	100%	246

Q9). Thinking about the traditional play theme, please select your TOP THREE choices from the options below:



Answer	%	Count
Swings	54.7%	134
Multi-play towers	52.2%	128
Rock climbing	44.5%	110
Slide	42.1%	104
Rope climbing	37.7%	93
Trampolines	23.9%	59
Spinning (e.g. carrousel)	12.6%	31
I do not support this theme	7.7%	19
Rocking (e.g. spring rockers)	5.3%	13
Total	100%	246

Q10). Looking at the Landscape Concept Plan for Belmore Park (including Richie Benaud Oval), are you:



Answer	%	Count
Very Happy	31.6%	78
Happy	29.2%	72
Don't mind either way	25.1%	62
Dislike	9.7%	24
Strongly Dislike	4.5%	11
Total	100%	247

All respondents that selected either 'Very Happy', 'Happy', 'Dislike' or 'Strongly Dislike' were provided with the opportunity to support their selection through open text. The following provides a high level summary of the main points raised for each selection. All responses are provided in the Appendix.

'Very Happy' respondents – Key themes

- Will ensure more families utilise the park.
- The park was in need of a makeover and the proposed design looks very well thought out.
- An incredible asset for the cricket community, particularly with the addition of a turf wicket.

'Happy' respondents – Key themes

- Overall the design looks good and should benefit the local community.
- Beneficial for the local cricket community.

'Dislike' respondents – Key themes

- The design should prioritise cricket further, with ideally only one football field.
- The design is either lacking in some sporting facilities or they require extra thought.

'Strongly Dislike' respondents – Key themes

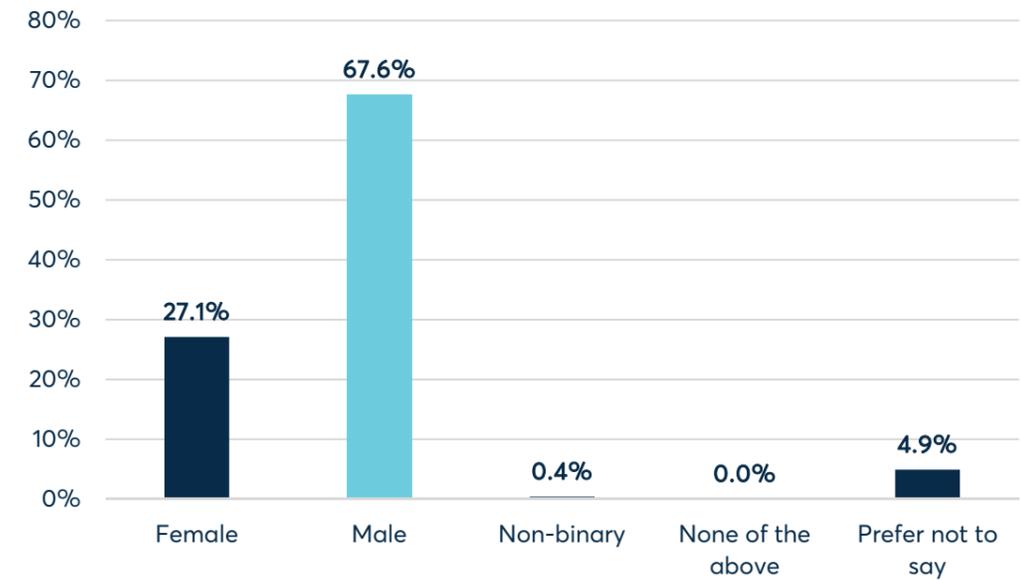
- Belmore Park should be exclusively for cricket.
- More needs to be done to consider the impact of increased park usage on local residents.

Q11). Do you have any further comments about future improvements to Belmore Park and Richie Benaud Oval?

161 respondents choose to provide additional comments. The vast majority of those comments reflected an overall level of satisfaction with the proposed future improvements to Belmore Park and Richie Benaud Oval. There were however also a number of comments that suggested some changes could be made to the plans in order to better the improvements. Some respondents also expressed their complete dissatisfaction with the plan, however these respondents made up a small minority of the total. All responses are provided in the Appendix.

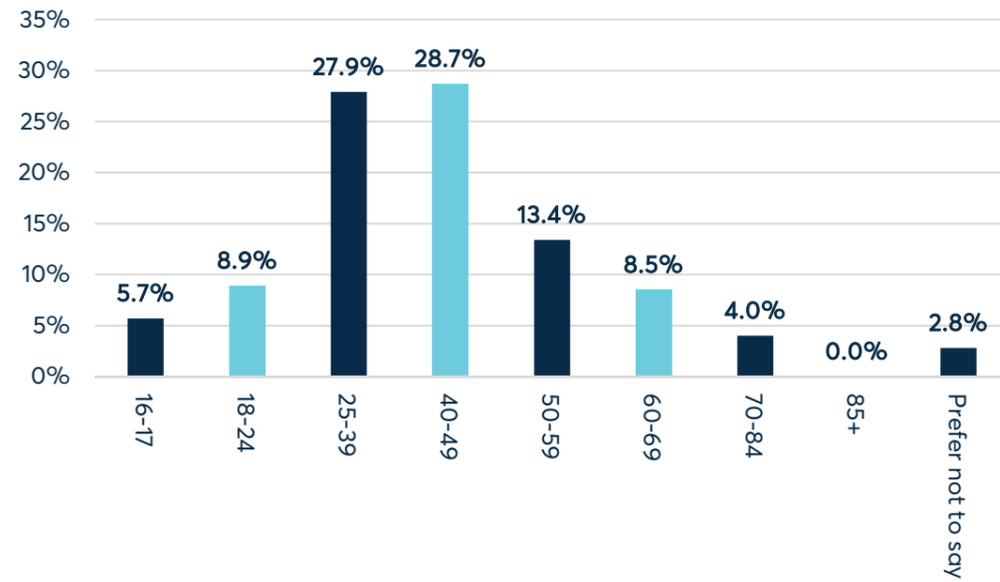
5. Respondent Demographics

Q12). Gender identity:



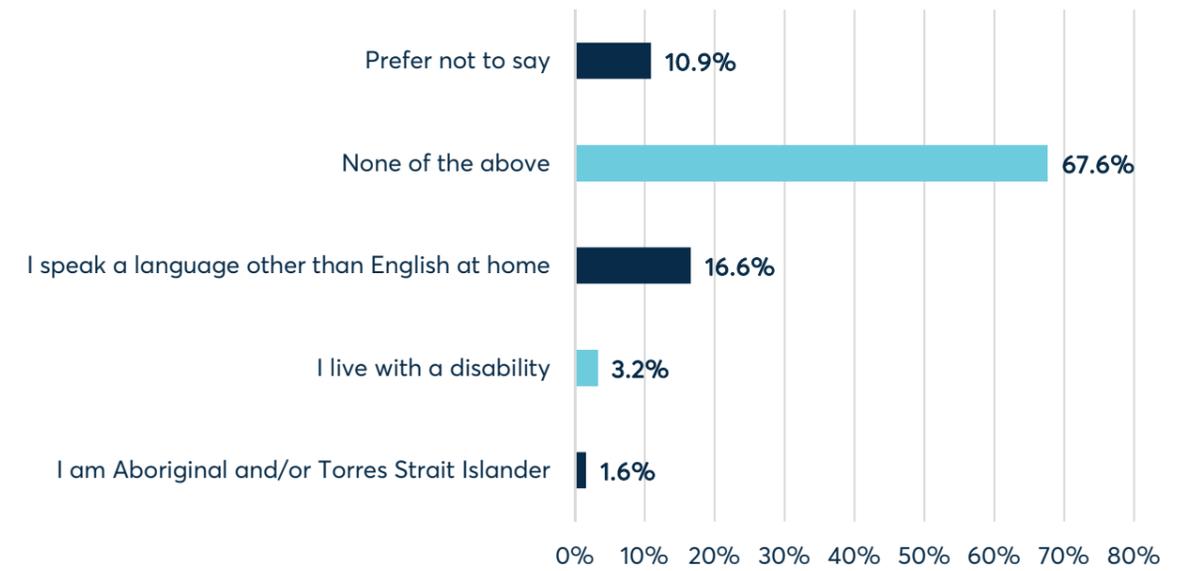
Answer	%	Count
Female	27.1%	67
Male	67.6%	166
Non-binary	0.4%	1
None of the above	0.0%	0
Prefer not to say	4.9%	12
Total	100%	246

Q13). Age:



Answer	%	Count
16-17	5.7%	14
18-24	8.9%	22
25-39	27.9%	69
40-49	28.7%	71
50-59	13.4%	33
60-69	8.5%	21
70-84	4.0%	10
85+	0.0%	0
Prefer not to say	2.8%	7
Total	100%	247

Q14). Diversity identity (ticking all that apply):



Answer	%	Count
I am Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1.6%	4
I live with a disability	3.2%	8
I speak a language other than English at home	16.6%	41
None of the above	67.6%	167
Prefer not to say	10.9%	27
Total	100%	247

Q14a). Language(s) spoken at home (coded responses from open text):

Answer	Count
Hindi	9
Tamil	7
Marathi	3
Telugu	3
Urdu	3
German	2
Indonesian	2
Punjabi	2
Sinhalese	2
Arabic	1
Auslan	1
Chinese	1
Indonesian	1
Gujarati	1
Italian	1
Konkani	1
Mandarin	1
Thai	1
Total	41

Q14b). Language preference for communications from Council (coded responses from open text):

Answer	Count
English	36
Urdu	1
Total	36

Draft Belmore Park Masterplan - Public Exhibition

Key Findings and Engagement Evaluation Report

February 2021

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1. Introduction

From **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Tuesday 15 December 2020** (29 days), the Draft Belmore Park Masterplan Report was placed on public exhibition.

The City of Parramatta prepared a Draft Masterplan for Belmore Park in North Parramatta in order to provide a clear direction to guide future improvements and development at the park.

The Draft Masterplan was developed following detailed site investigations and consultation with key stakeholders including local sporting groups and the wider community in late 2019. The purpose of the public exhibition was to confirm that Council had properly captured and represented (as much as is possible) the needs and wants of the community and relevant stakeholders in the Draft Masterplan.

Submissions could be provided via email, post, or through a short survey accessible on Council's online engagement portal, 'Participate Parramatta'.

It is important to note that this consultation took place throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. While the response rate was strong, the government restrictions that were introduced may have had an impact on overall engagement numbers.

Participate Parramatta Engagement Portal Statistics

- The project page on Participate Parramatta was **viewed 1,430 times** during the consultation period by 1,030 visitors, with 143 document downloads.
- Over this time, **321 contributions** were made on the project page by 265 contributors using the online survey option, however only **254 submissions were analysed***.

***PLEASE NOTE:** The discrepancy between 'contributions' (321) and 'contributors' (254) on this project was particularly high and gave rise to some level of concern that one or more individuals may have been attempting to skew the results of the consultation by responding to the online survey multiple times.

To counteract this discrepancy, this report will only provide analysis on one submission per IP address.

By way of background, this involved all submissions being sorted by IP address with duplicates deleted where there was more than one 'Yes', 'No' or 'Neutral' response from an individual IP address to the first question, "Do you support the draft Masterplan that has been prepared by Council for Belmore Park?". Where a respondent has chosen to provide comments across multiple submissions to the second question, "Please provide any comments you have about the draft Masterplan prepared for Belmore Park", these comments were all analysed but only one 'Yes', 'No' or 'Neutral' response was counted against the first question.

2. Executive Summary

From **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Tuesday 15 December 2020**, Council exhibited the Draft Belmore Park Masterplan Report.

During the exhibition period, 321 online surveys were completed, however only **254 submissions were analysed** due to likely 'spamming' of the consultation (please see further explanation on Page 2).

Summary of key findings

- Written submissions from sporting user groups / organisations indicated general support for the Draft Masterplan.
- There was very strong support for the Draft Masterplan, with 84% of survey respondents supportive of the plan prepared by Council.
- 110 respondents choose to provide additional comments. While the sentiment was generally quite positive, a number of suggestions and concerns were also put forward.
- Feedback received by mail and email from the general community indicated mixed (almost 50:50) support for the Draft Masterplan.

3. Engagement Evaluation

The below provides a snapshot of the communications and engagement channels used to promote the exhibition period to the community from **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Tuesday 15 December 2020**.

Numerous channels were activated to reach as many community members as possible, and direct them to the engagement portal 'Participate Parramatta' (participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/) to provide feedback.

Overall, **approximately 67,116** people saw the opportunity to share feedback based on the data captured from the following engagement channels.

Social Media

Promoted across Council's social media channels, including the City of Parramatta Facebook (38,228 followers) and Twitter (8,772 followers) accounts, and Participate Parramatta Facebook (6,949 followers) account. It is important to note that **55% of referrals** to the project page on Council's engagement platform came via social media. The following results were achieved.

	Paid advertisements	Organic
Reach	5,982	6,785
Link clicks	232	117
Engagements	241	293
Total spend	\$100	n/a

Letterbox Drop

- A postcard containing information about the exhibition period was distributed to 3100 properties at the start of public exhibition.

Onsite Signage

- Temporary signage containing information about the exhibition period was placed on-site for the duration of the exhibition period.

Hard Copy Reports

- Copies of the Draft Masterplan were placed at Council's Customer Service Centre and City of Parramatta Library for the duration of the exhibition period.

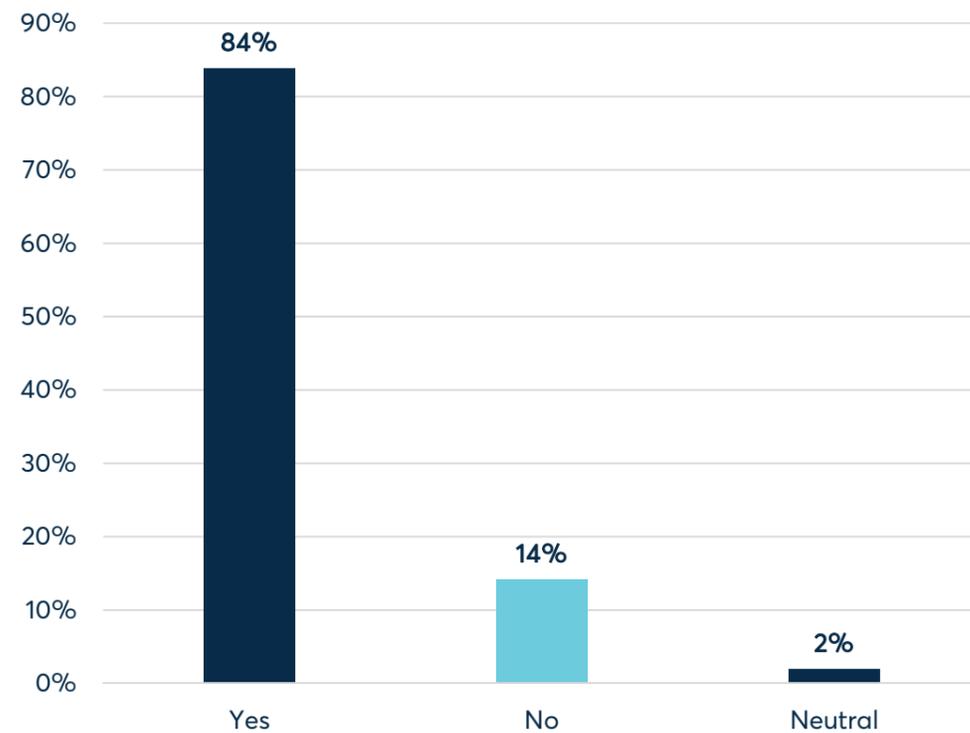
Email Databases

- Information about the consultation was sent to 9,964 Participate Parramatta Online Community Panel members on Wednesday 25 November 2020.
- On Wednesday 25 November 2020, information about the exhibition period was sent to 103 community members who provided their email address during Stage One Consultation (Community Engagement) on this project.

- Notification of the exhibition period was sent to sporting user groups and organisations including Parramatta District Cricket Club, Cricket NSW, Parramatta District Cricket Association, Football NSW, Granville and Districts Soccer Football Association, and Parramatta Junior Eels Rugby League Club and Association on Tuesday 17 November 2020.
- Notification of the exhibition period was sent to Dharug organisations and the local Land Council including the Dharug Strategic Management Group, Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation, Dharug Custodians, Burbaga Aboriginal Corporation, and Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council on Wednesday 18 November 2020.
- Notification of the exhibition period was sent to Council representatives to distribute to the The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Advisory Committee and the Access Advisory Committee on Thursday 19 November 2020 and Friday 20 November 2020 respectively.
- Notification of the exhibition period was sent to four local schools (Parramatta North Public School, St Monica's Primary School, St Patricks Primary School and Our Lady of Mercy College) on Friday 20 November 2020 for inclusion in their respective school newsletters.
- Notification of the exhibition period was also sent to Crown Lands as landowner on Thursday 19 November 2020.

4. Key Findings – Online Survey

Q1). Do you support the draft Masterplan that has been prepared by Council for Belmore Park? (Multiple choice – single response required)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	83.86%	213
No	14.17%	36
Neutral	1.97%	5
Total	100%	254

Q2). Please provide any comments you have about the Draft Masterplan prepared for Belmore Park. (Free text - optional response)

110 additional comments were provided. All comments have been analysed and provided in full below.

Qualitative Analysis

Community sentiment was generally very positive with significant support for various elements of the Draft Masterplan including the addition of premier cricket facilities and a turf pitch, spectator seating, change rooms, community garden, a walking track and new playground.

Some suggestions to improve the plan were also put forward, such as a second walking track, a kiosk, water stations, adequate lighting for night-time sport, as well as possible water play features in the new playground.

Respondents also expressed some concerns about the Draft Masterplan, including the amount of available parking and road safety issues associated with increased traffic. Other concerns put forward were that only one full-sized football field was being proposed and that there was too much focus in the plan on cricket and not the community as a whole. Multiple comments were also received on environmental concerns including the possible destruction of native Turpentine trees.

All Comments

2 soccer fields are a must to support community sport
A fantastic opportunity for a premier cricket facility that can be used by all clubs in PDCA. Turf wickets are something we don't have access to currently and with growth of female cricket in the area, having proper change rooms for access
A great tribute to a great man.
As a local resident, I am concerned about parking. When games are on at Parramatta stadium, parking in the area is at capacity and on several occasions, I have returned home to find someone parked in my carport behind my unit block, and nowhere to park.
Awesome idea to develop the park
Can a second walking track be considered? It could be possible for a longer walking loop track to be inside the triangle formed by Bellevue St, Castle St & Pennant Hills Rd. This track could be more of a nature track that meanders through the trees.
Can the seating be moved to where the existing building is? This means those who want to watch cricket or soccer can see both closely?
Can we have a community garden.
Concerns about the destruction of the Turpentine trees
Could the native vegetation section also include ground cover plants that prevent erosion and trenches with rocks that redirect and slow the flow of the water to prevent topsoil, and nutrients from washing out? (Natural Sequence Farming as reference).
Cricket balls hit on to roads a possible hazard - add trees? Grassed cambered hill for lying/viewing? \$4mill for a Clubhouse?! Recognition/plaque of Richie Benaud, e.g. 1961 Motion by Mayor. Park opened by Daphne Benaud/family?
Cricket turf is direly needed in this area

Critically endangered turpentine trees to be chopped down is an abomination and unAustralian.
Do keep and protect the turpentine trees over there.
Don't cut old legendary trees in the name of expansion. Please.
Enough of the destruction of Parramatta's history and natural beauty has already gone too far. Totally disgusting what Council and State government have done. No true love or care for the area.
Excellent, please implement. I like how Parramatta Council takes care of our community. Thanks
Exciting vision for sport in our city.
Great concept.
Great plan
Great project opportunity to support cricket activities and promote most favourite activity for surrounding community.
Has a preliminary Arboriculture assessment of trees across the park been carried out? This should be standard for all of council's developments to allow for high and medium retention values trees to be retained during design development.
How will you be protecting the grove of turpentine trees? Overall, this is a terrible plan. The demographics of your feedback are not representative of the broad community, no meaningful consultation - and there's a word limit here
I don't support perimeter fencing. This is a loss of a large area of land used by locals, families & individuals to play and train on. Disappointing this is lost to cricket being used once a week.
I don't trust anything that this government does.
I have experienced the problem with a field I use where the playing field halfway line ran across the turf pitches and one year the footballers used poison in the line, and it killed the grass in the pitch. Just in line with a good pitched ball.
I like the footpath surrounding the oval, spectator seating & new playground. I'm really excited about the possibility of a community garden! I just hope that there won't be too many existing trees lost, they're beautiful & many birds use them.
I look forward to improvements being made, it is an excellent space. With upgrades, it will allow so many more people to take advantage of the facilities
I object to the removal of any trees; with climate change and the hot days we experience in Parramatta we need all the trees!
I recommend that the walking loop track around Richie Benaud oval be outside the picket fence of the cricket ground. This will allow people to walk the track when cricket games are being played.
I support protection of the remaining Turpentine trees and adequate Bushland management as a priority.
I think it is a great idea for the community
I think it is beautiful and such a wonderful addition to the beauty of north Parramatta. Great job on the master plan. I hope it will include water stations. A water park could have also been a great addition.
I think putting in lighting so the facility can be used at night would be a great asset as well. I notice in the plan it is subject to approval in the detailed design - hope it gets approved.

In addition to central turf wicket There should be a synthetic mat wicket and well and should be accessible for local community members to use for playing a social or competitive cricket game without any restrictions
Inappropriate for the area. Something like the pavilion at kings' school would be sympathetic but smaller
It is a fabulous proposal and Parramatta needs and deserves high quality facilities
It is a must. Parramatta council do not look after one turf wicket. Old Kings is controlled by Parra Park trust.
It is fantastic that there is an intention to improve the Richie Benaud oval into a premier cricket facility. The inclusion of change rooms is noted and applauded.
It is good we need to celebrate unique history and have a good quality ground for high level players to play on
it is inappropriate for the size of the land. Too much too close to residences, no extra parking, proposal of a museum and stadium seats is ridiculous
It is nice to see that the area will be improved.
It is recommended to increase public activity facilities such as basketball courts and table tennis tables.
It looks like a well thought out Master Plan.
It's about time Parramatta Council spent some money to upgrade this park. Having played junior football here 50 years ago and living in the area all my life. I'm excited that this well used loved area will be getting an upgrade. Hopefully the walking track.
Just needs to happen for the recognition. of an outstanding human being and legend of not just Parramatta but Australia.
Leave the Turpentine trees alone
Looks fantastic & very supportive of this for the large number of cricket lovers in the area
Looks great
Love it all. What a great proposal to Parramatta
Love the draft Masterplan, only concerns are spectator seating (will there be shaded/undercover spectator seating?) and availability of car parking
Make gym equipment near playground so families can be near each other. Have water refill/drinking station
Mature native turpentine trees and a spotted gum are earmarked for removal in this masterplan. I strongly object to this; mature tree canopy must be retained; Parramatta is heavily impacted by urban heat issues and new native plantings will not improve
My main concern is that the beautiful tall trees to the north of the field (along Bellevue St) are protected. These trees are very pleasing to look at, but more importantly provide habitat to many birds in the area.
Native plants may not grow under the Eucalyptus trees which produce oil that kills other plants maybe a natural looking rock water course can prevent further erosion for when it rains. I live in front and see every-time it rains the grass washes away
NO NO NO!! There MUST be 2 full sized football fields. It is ridiculous to have just 1. To have a successful club that must be an allowance for future growth which is

occurring in North Parramatta. A club require 2 full sized football fields. Get it right
No plans for a kiosk?
Not being mindful of the historical fauna.
Overdevelopment on an inappropriate site, serving a small proportion of the community. Waste of money only for cricketers and soccer
Parking is scarce in Parramatta. If you upgrade, it draws more people, hence please provide adequate parking. Multi story car park above/below the pavilion building is what I'm proposing.
Parramatta has lost enough to the government's destruction! DO NOT cut down any more of our trees & consult with actual people and residents, not make-believe numbers!
Please get this done asap
Please increase the parking space, free parking should be able to accommodate around 100 odd cars
Please protect the Turpentine trees
Please put mat on 2 cricket nets in Richie Benaud oval
Please update the playground. It could be something so wonderful. Please include trampolines and lots of play equipment. No imaginative play, we can do that at home! Some water play would be nice too!
Pls make good park for kids or like rouse hill water park for small kids
Raised zebra crossings and speed limit to be reviewed on Castle St. This road is very busy and with children crossing the road for sport and the playground it is important to keep everyone safe. Suggest that playground has a fence around it.
Removal of mature trees impacts urban heat
Retention of the tree canopy should be the priority. Concerned that the additional car parking will impact the existing vegetation.
Running track around outside would be good
Save large trees.
Save the trees!
Strongly recommend adding rebound fences on the side of the soccer pitch.
Supportive of the upgrade but community facilities should not be in the earlier stages as the community will be largely funding it. Suggest picnic facilities and BBQs for the many nearby residents in apartments.
That all existing Native trees and plants be retained.
The children's playgrounds and nets are too close together, the lighting will affect birdlife, you will increase traffic, where's the traffic management plan
The community garden is in the wrong place near the main road. Why are you limiting the characters for feedback on this forum
The inclusion of the community garden is important as we lost our space on Sorrell Ln. Living across the road, I see the challenges of parking when sports games/training is on. Space needs to be accessible & inclusive. Love the sensory planting & playground
The introduction of turf cricket pitches into the Parramatta LGA will be a fantastic edition to a cricketing community
The loss of trees that have been there for eternity is so wrong. Trees are needed for the health of our environment, for shade for people watching the event at the ground and just for their beauty.

The masterplan is very heavily focussed on Cricket facilities that will only service a small minority. As a significant amount of community money will be needed to fund the upgrade works, there should be more elements for the wider community to enjoy.
The mature Turpentine trees must NOT BE REMOVED as they are a recognised 'threatened species' by Council and are needed for VITAL SHADE and the many environmental reasons stated in many other reports/declarations/policies etc which LARGE trees contribute.
The mature Turpentine trees must NOT BE REMOVED as they are a recognised 'threatened species' by Council and are needed for VITAL SHADE and the many environmental reasons stated in many other reports/declarations/policies etc which LARGE trees contribute.
The plan gives an indication that green cover will be reduced
The slope from Bellevue St to the field provides a great area to watch games. Could additional picnic tables be installed under the beautiful tall trees so that people can enjoy the natural area, and also observe sport.
There is a lack of safe options for pedestrians to cross Pennant Hills Rd to Belmore Park. The only safe crossing is at intersection of Church St & Pennant Hills Rd. Consider traffic lights at Bellevue St & Pennant Hills Rd, or a pedestrian bridge.
There isn't enough information about saving the turpentine trees
There are never enough cricket nets in Parra.... so please make this happen!
This is a high-density area with lots of apartments and the fencing of the oval will indicate that it cannot be accessed and used by members of the public. There should be no fencing and no exclusive use for cricket or any other exclusive sport.
This park will be better suited to sensory trails and an inviting natural space for members of the community who may be vision impaired or have mobility limitations
This Plan does not map the extent of endangered ecological community turpentine trees assumed to be destroyed for the expansion of the 2 soccer ovals. A larger elliptical Cricket Oval only does not require this poor planning.
This plan is only relevant for weekend sports and doesn't suit the local community whose backyard this is
This plan will impact critically endangered Turpentine Trees as well as the Bellevue Street Spotted Gums. This plan needs a rethink.
To leave the Turpentine Trees alone
Too many Cricket nets and large building dominated by Cricket uses. Reduce / relocate cricket nets so toilets are better connected to playground. Great to see perimeter walking track but need picnic and BBQs for surrounding residents with no backyards.
Too many trees removed especially turpentine trees which are mature and rare. Rethink please.
Too many trees req'd to be removed, bush trees and on Bellevue St, the rugby field is too big for the area available it should be in the "Heart of Play" reserves, needs bigger community garden,
Too much remnant tree removal.
Very excited about the development

Very happy with the proposal. With Richie Benaud Now being a dedicated cricket facility, Doyle ground should now have all synthetic pitches removed to ensure other sports can enjoy the surface without risk of injury.
We need trees. We need to keep and protect the trees we have and plant more.
What about the responsibility to protect the few remaining older trees in this park?! How can you justify cutting down these unique remnants of a unique ecological community in favour of yet another sporting ground? Short-sighted and despicable betrayal!
Where is Parramatta and war memorial
Why cricket as the participation numbers are way lower than say soccer. We don't have a true soccer ground in the area. Robin Thomas has been significantly impacted by the light rail
Why will there only be access to turf wickets for club members. Taxpayers are funding this!!! Do not support this as stands
Wonderful initiative. Congratulations City of Parramatta.
Wonderful upgrade to existing facilities and something for everyone in the local community.
Would be great if the sports pavilion also included some indoor nets, as women's grade club spends a lot of money hiring indoor nets in bad weather.
Your planning to remove turpentine trees unnecessarily. It's like all the fig trees in Cumberland hospital with that stupid light rail that will be gone in 30yrs. bloody embarrassing

5. Key Findings – Written Submissions

Council received 17 additional written submissions about the Draft Masterplan Report from user groups/ organisations and the wider community. It was clear from the submissions that user groups/ organisations (notably sporting groups) were generally supportive of the proposal, but the level of support from the wider community was mixed.

Parramatta District Cricket Club (PDCC) provided general support, however expressed a view that the Draft Masterplan does not go far enough in the development of a 'flagship' cricket destination. PDCC also noted a continued preference for an oval sporting field shape.

It should be noted that a number of submissions were made after the public exhibition period had closed (9am 15th December 2020), however all comments have been captured below and were assessed.

Level of Support (Written Submissions – Email and Mail)

Comment	Percent	Count
Support	41.18%	7
General/ Conditional Support	11.76%	2
Not Stated	11.76%	2
Not Supported	35.30%	6
Total	100%	17

User Groups and Organisations Submissions

5 submissions were received from user groups/ organisations including:

- Parramatta District Cricket Club,
- Cricket NSW,
- Football NSW,
- AFL NSW/ ACT,
- Dharug Strategic Management Group.

Parramatta District Cricket Club

Parramatta District Cricket Club (PDCC) has provided **general support** to the Draft Masterplan Report. In their submission, PDCC have stated they continue to prefer a traditional oval shaped cricket field, however accept that a compromise may be necessary (i.e. the proposed irregular shape to allow a full sized football pitch off the turf wicket).

In their submission PDCC have stated that the Masterplan does not fully present the Richie Benaud Oval component as a flagship cricket destination for Parramatta. PDCC envisage that Richie Benaud Oval should be a "flagship" facility for the district (equivalent to Bradman Oval). A higher quality facility could attract corporate, charity and professional matches such as pre-test tours and Women's Big Bash matches (such as Drummoyne Oval does). PDCC have noted a traditional oval shaped ground would move towards this vision.

PDCC did provide specific support for sections of the Draft Masterplan Report including Aboriginal Heritage recommendations, provision of "covered" practice nets, and recognition of the site as a premier cricket facility with turf wicket.

In addition to the comments above, PDCC requested some minor editorial and design modifications to the Draft Masterplan Report.

Cricket NSW

Cricket NSW has provided **support** for the Draft Masterplan Report. In addition to facilities proposed, Cricket NSW have also requested an electronic scoreboard.

Football NSW

Football NSW has provided **support** for the Draft Masterplan Report. Concern was raised regarding potential over-scheduling of the site for multiple winter sports, and the negative impact this would have.

AFL NSW/ACT

AFL NSW/ACT **conditionally supports** the Draft Masterplan Report. No further details were provided, however they wish to be considered for seasonal hire/ use of the facility for local Australian Rules football clubs.

Dharug Strategic Management Group

The Dharug Strategic Management Group (DSMG) thanked Council for consideration of previous submissions. **No objections** to the Draft Masterplan Report were made. The DSMG noted they look forward to working with Council in developing art/ interpretation of the Dharug story during delivery of the masterplan (construction).

Community Submissions

12 submissions were received from the community. Of these:

- 5 supported the Draft Masterplan Report,
- 1 did not state a level of support for the Draft Masterplan Report,
- 6 objected to the Draft Masterplan Report.

Five submissions were received providing support for the Draft Masterplan Report. Of these submissions, 3 made recommendations/ requests for additional facilities and information.

One submission was received that did not state a level support for the Draft Masterplan Report, however made recommendations/ requests to the proposal.

Six submissions were received objecting to the Draft Masterplan Report. The primary concern made related to proposed removal of existing Turpentine trees for the expansion of Richie Benaud Oval, with all 6 submissions noting tree removal as a primary concern/ reason for objection. Turpentine trees in these submissions were often described as *Critically Endangered*.

In addition to tree removal, it was evident that other community concerns were:

- The proposal will cause significant negative environmental impacts,
- Local traffic and car parking will be adversely affected,
- The development will be an inappropriate scale for the site (the sports field upgrade should be limited to a traditional cricket oval only),
- The community garden is too small and inappropriately located,
- The development is not in the best interests of the local community.

Details of all submissions are summarised below.

Summarised Comments

All submissions.

Note: where numbers are provided following a comment, it shows a comment was represented in multiple submissions.

Summarised Comments
<p>Recommend/ request editorial modifications to the Draft Masterplan Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend objective "Develop a premier cricket facility that incorporates new turf wickets into the field layout". Insert as the first objective (Masterplan Objectives). • Update name of the new light rail station from "Factory Street" to "Benaud" (Site Context). • Reference heritage Parramatta District Cricket Club enriches heritage of Richie Benaud Oval (Heritage). • Information regarding the early life of Richie Benaud (Heritage). • Contribution of proposed Hall of Fame to heritage interpretations in the park (Heritage). • "New Sports Pavilion Building" to be referred to as "New Sports Pavilion incorporating Hall of Fame & Kiosk" (Site Masterplan). • "Storage Building" to be referred to as "Curators Building" (Site Masterplan) (2).
<p>The Masterplan does not does not fully present the Richie Benaud Oval component as a flagship cricket destination for Parramatta. Richie Benaud Oval should be a "flagship" facility for the district (equivalent to Bradman Oval in Bowral). A higher quality facility could attract corporate, charity and professional matches such as pre-test tours and Women's Big Bash matches (such Drummoyne Oval does).</p>
<p>Recommend/ request inclusion of tiered spectator seating utilising the current contours of the park along the northern boundary of Richie Benaud Oval (reference Hurstville Oval).</p>
<p>Winter use should be kept to a 'light' level. Usage levels of winter codes at Bankstown Oval and Hurstville Ovals provide successful examples for maintaining premier cricket facilities and should be referenced in the Masterplan.</p>
<p>Further consideration/ investigation is required on the impact of the southern sight screen on access to the curators shed and encroachment onto the football field.</p>
<p>Further consideration/ investigation is required on floodlight pole locations and whether appropriate lighting levels can be achieved for cricket and football with the current field configuration.</p>
<p>Request/ recommend the main sports pavilion building include a commercial café with viewing deck over the field which could be operated in association with the Hall of Fame. Additional external eating would be required as the upper level would have limited capacity for general spectators.</p>

<p>Careful consideration needs to be given to safety of people using the playground from flying balls and the operations of the curators building. The safety of those walking around the oval (from flying balls) will also be required.</p>
<p>Every effort should be made to secure funding for a one stage development of the Masterplan due to the significant additional costs associated with staging.</p>
<p>The embankments on the eastern and southern sides of Richie Benaud Oval may be more significant than portrayed in cross sections.</p>
<p>Request provision of addition information such as activation and participation estimates, and employment estimates to assist with funding requests and applications.</p>
<p>Request/ recommend the inclusion of an electronic scoreboard (3).</p>
<p>Comment related to scheduling of scheduling of winter sports (2).</p>
<p>Request/ recommend the inclusion of ball screening to field boundaries.</p>
<p>Concern regarding potential anti-social behaviour in the new facilities (which may lead to increased noise at night).</p>
<p>Request/ recommend public BBQs and associated picnic tables.</p>
<p>There are a number omissions and errors in the cost estimate (notably cricket related) which have resulted in a budgetary underestimation of proposed works. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk Earthworks (no contours shown on plan), • Surfaces (drainage system not shown), • Storage facilities and amenities (omitted from estimate), • Turf wicket (requires separate category), • Turf and synthetic practice nets.
<p>The storage building should be called the 'Curator's Building' (2)</p>
<p>The storage building looks too small and insufficient detail is provided. The masterplan should include details including building size (dimension), function, and WHS requirements (who uses the building and how, and the potential risks to the general public).</p>
<p>The masterplan does not adequately consider the public roads and footways (verges). This will lead to erodes footways and points of conflict between cars and pedestrians.</p>
<p>The new sports pavilion building requires a scorer's box with a clear line-of-sight.</p>
<p>Objection to tree removal (Turpentine trees) (6).</p>
<p>Proposed design is not an appropriate scale for the park.</p>
<p>The sports field upgrade should be limited to a traditional cricket oval only (1x football field centred within that oval) (5).</p>

The community garden is inappropriately located (too close to Pennant Hills Road) and/ or should be substantially larger (3).
Proposed design will cause negative environmental impacts including loss of natural area, light pollution, impact on wildlife and increased litter (3).
Proposed design is primarily focused on sport and sporting teams not the local community (2).
Proposed design will have negative impacts on local traffic and place strain on existing car parking (2).
Proposed design will lead to increased noise pollution/ disturbance on adjoining residents (2).
<p>Suggested design changes (in addition to reconfiguration of sporting field and community garden) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments to proposed car parking. • Relocation of cricket nets. • Relocation of buildings. • Relocation of fitness stations. • Inclusion of art circuit. • Inclusion of a piazza. • Management of the site as bushland.
The Draft Masterplan Report lacks detail including impact on car parking, impact on flooding and the 'Hall of Fame'.
The Draft Masterplan Report does not consider ongoing operational costs.

DRAFT BELMORE PARK MASTERPLAN REPORT KEY ISSUES SUMMARY

Notes:

- The table provides a summary of Key Issues Related to the Public Exhibition of the Draft Belmore Park Masterplan Report undertaken from 16 November 2020 to 15 November 2020.
- The 'Number' refers to quantity of submissions relating to an issue. It should be noted that it was possible for individual members of the community to make numerous submissions on a single issue.

Theme	Issue	Number	Council Officer Response	Amendment
Sporting Facilities (excluding buildings)	Richie Benaud Oval upgrade should be limited to a traditional cricket oval only (with 1x football field only centred within the oval).	6	Not Supported: Council's Community Infrastructure Strategy recommends an additional capacity for winter sports at the site. The proposed design allows for 1x full size football field located completely off the turf wicket and 1x mini football field for junior sports.	
	Provision of an electronic scoreboard.	3	Supported. Has been included in revised Masterplan.	✓
	Provision of ball screening to sports field.	3	Supported. Has been included in revised Masterplan.	✓
	Two full sized football fields should be provided at the site.	2	Not supported. Site constraints make inclusion of two full sized football fields unachievable. Destruction of archaeological sites and additional trees would result.	
	Provision of a synthetic wicket on the main oval for local community to use.	2	Not supported. Does not align with the vision for the development of a turf wicket premier cricket facility.	
	Objection to perimeter fencing. This will block off use/ give the impression that Richie Benaud Oval cannot be used by the general community.	2	Perimeter sporting field fencing will be traditional picket fencing approx. 1m high. Richie Benaud Oval will be available for community use at all times (excluding when under hire).	
	The Masterplan does not fully present the Richie Benaud Oval as a flagship cricket destination for Parramatta. Richie Benaud Oval should be a "flagship" facility for the district (equivalent to Bradman Oval in Bowral) suitable for hosting corporate, charity and professional matches.	1	The Masterplan envisages the site as a unique high quality recreation destination for Parramatta City. The park will become a premier cricket facility that celebrates local history and its unique setting. Given the site's long standing history with cricket and sport in general, it is proposed to tell the sporting history of Parramatta through a 'Hall of Fame' and other interpretive works. In-line with Cricket NSW recommendations, the Masterplan makes provisions for a 'Premier/ District' 'Tier 3' cricket facility suitable to host Sydney 1st grade cricket matches. The Masterplan aims to balance premier cricket with community use and access of the site for other recreation opportunities including winter sporting use.	
	Suggested re-location of cricket nets as part of alternate design proposal.	1	Not supported. Cricket nets have been designed in accordance with Cricket Australia's Community Facility Guidelines. Cricket nets have been placed with consideration to other proposed infrastructure.	
	Provision of running track on the outside of Richie Benaud Oval	1	Not supported. Insufficient space available on Richie Benaud Oval.	
	Further consideration/ investigation is required on the impact of the southern sightscreen on access to the curators shed and encroachment onto the football field.	1	Noted. This will be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
Further consideration/ investigation is required on floodlight pole locations and whether appropriate lighting levels can be achieved for cricket and football with the current field configuration.	1	Noted. This will be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.		
Sports Pavilion Building and Storage Building	Replace phrase "Storage Building" with "Curators Building"	2	Supported. Has been included in revised Masterplan.	✓
	The proposed sports pavilion building is an inappropriate scale (too large).	1	Sports pavilion building is at a conceptual scale which supports proposed functions. Final size, layout and composition subject to detail design.	
	Suggested re-location of proposed buildings as part of alternate design proposal.	1	Not supported. Building locations developed in response to site analysis, and consideration to other proposed infrastructure.	

	Provision of café with viewing deck over the field which could be operated in association with the Hall of Fame.	1	Commercial activities of the site would be covered within Council's Community Land Plan of Management and are to be considered as part of the detailed building design review. Masterplan amended to note consideration of café.	✓
	Provision scorer's box with a clear line-of-sight in sports pavilion building.	1	Consideration of scorer's facility to be considered in detail design of building. Masterplan amended to note consideration of scorer's facility.	✓
	Provision of indoor cricket net facility in sports pavilion building.	1	Not supported. Covered (all weather) synthetic practice nets to be included under the existing proposal.	
	The storage building looks too small and insufficient detail is provided. Further details including building size function, WHS requirements and operation should be noted.	1	Noted. Storage building is at a conceptual scale which supports proposed functions. Final size, layout and composition subject to detail design.	
	The Draft Masterplan lacks details about impacts of the Hall of Fame on the community.	1	The Hall of Fame is envisaged to a modest inclusion in the sporting pavilion which compliments heritage interpretations of the site. It is not envisaged to be a stand-alone facility or have adverse effects on the community	
Environment	Objection to tree removal (notably Turpentine trees for Richie Benaud Oval expansion often cited as 'Critically Endangered').	30	The Crown Land at Belmore Park is categorised as 'Park' under the Local Government Act in-line with the Reserve purpose. The park will not be managed as a natural area as it will not meet this criteria under the act. All environmental impacts with be assessed under and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process. No threatened ecological or endangered communities have been identified onsite.	
	The proposed design will cause negative environmental impacts including loss of natural area, light pollution, impact on wildlife and increased litter.	4	All environmental impacts with be assessed under a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process.	
	Manage vegetation as Bushland	2	The Crown Land at Belmore Park is categorised as 'Park' under the Local Government Act in-line with the Reserve purpose. The park will not be managed as a natural area as it will not meet this criteria under the act.	
	The proposed design will lead to destruction of history and natural beauty.	1	All environmental impacts with be assessed under a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process. All works relating to heritage will be conducted under advice from qualified archaeologists and with all necessary approvals under legislation.	
	Objection that fauna has not been considered	1	All environmental impacts with be assessed under a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) process.	
	The Draft Masterplan lack details about impacts of flooding.	1	The extent of flooding is shown in the Site Analysis. All proposed works are outside the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) level and the existing Sydney Water detention basin.	
Car Parking and Traffic	Proposed design will have negative impacts on local traffic and place strain on existing car parking.	6	The Masterplan recommends a review of car parking following detailed investigations (which is beyond the scope of the Masterplan). The Masterplan recommends no net loss of car parking over the site. Traffic studies are beyond the scope of the Masterplan, however the construction of the new Parramatta Light Rail may assist in improving public transport provision to the site.	
	Provision of additional car parking.	2	The Masterplan recommends a review of car parking following detailed investigations (which is beyond the scope of the Masterplan). The Masterplan recommends no net loss of car parking over the site.	
	Additional car parking should be on Castle Street, not Bellevue Street.	1	Noted. Car parking subject to detail investigation and design.	
	Provision of multi-story parking or car parking below sports pavilion building.	1	Not supported. Construction of multi-story or underground parking would be financially unviable. It is anticipated that the level of patronage will not require such a facility.	
	Public roads and footways (verges) not considered. Risk of erosion of footways and points of conflict between cars and pedestrians.	1	Noted. This will be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	

	Provision of zebra crossings on Castle Street.	1	The Masterplan recommends a formal crossing point on Castle Street and improved links to the light rail station. Crossing point subject to detail design and approvals.	
	Speed limit on Castle Street should be reviewed for pedestrian (park user) safety.	1	Beyond the scope of the Masterplan.	
	Provision of safer crossing opportunities of Pennant Hills Road. For example traffic lights at Bellevue St & Pennant Hills Rd, or a pedestrian bridge.	1	Beyond the scope of the Masterplan.	
Impacts to Local Residents and the Community	Proposed design is primarily focused on sport and sporting teams not the local community.	5	The proposed Masterplan focuses on the delivery of a high quality recreation destination and premier cricket facility. The Masterplan not only benefits the local sporting community, but also provides a range of passive and informal recreational improvements and opportunities for the wider community.	
	Proposed design will lead to increased noise pollution/ disturbance on adjoining residents.	2	Implementation of proposed works will require the preparation of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) which will assess potential for noise pollution and provide mitigation measures. The Masterplan does not propose any activity outside Council's standard hire arrangements for parks, community assets and sports facilities.	
	Proposed works are too close to existing residents	1	All proposed works are within the boundaries of the park. Roads also provide a buffer to all residential properties.	
	Concern regarding potential anti-social behaviour in the new facilities.	1	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to considered in detail design.	
Playground	Provision of water play.	2	Not Supported. The proposed Masterplan provides for a significant amount of facilities. There is insufficient room for an Aquatic playground within the existing scheme. Council is currently considering other sites in the Parramatta Ward for an Aquatic playground.	
	Play equipment is located too close to cricket nets.	2	Cricket nets will be fully enclosed to ensure park user safety (prevent injury from flying balls). The playground is also located to the rear and side of cricket nets.	
	Objection to Imaginative Play.	1	Results of Stage 1 Consultation (community engagement) indicated over 75% of respondents would like to see some level of imaginative/ sensory play in the new playground.	
	Provision of trampolines (play equipment).	1	Noted. Final playground design subject to detail design.	
	Provision of fence around the playground	1	Noted. This will be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
Park Facilities (General)	Proposed works are an inappropriate scale for the park.	6	The Masterplan has been designed to maximise community use of the site while maintaining site character. Facilities have been designed in accordance with relevant industry standards and guidelines to achieve the vision to transform Belmore Park into a unique high quality recreation destination.	
	Provision of public BBQs and associated picnic facilities.	4	Supported. Has been included in revised Masterplan.	✓
	Provision of water stations (bubblers).	2	Supported. Has been included in revised Masterplan.	✓
	Provision of spectator seating in location of existing building to be removed.	1	Masterplan proposes spectator seating in association with sports pavilion building. Additional locations to be considered in detail design where space is available.	
	Provision of a grassed hill for spectating.	1	Noted. Seating details to be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
	Provision of tiered spectator seating using existing contours.	1	Noted. Seating details to be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
	Provision of covered spectator seating.	1	Noted. Seating details to be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
	Provision of a secondary walking track through wider park.	1	Not supported: Site topography and presence of concrete drainage channel limit opportunities for additional paths in the north east corner of the park.	

	Recommend the walking path around Richie Benaud Oval be located outside the picket fence.	1	The Masterplan proposes the walking track be located outside the fence as suggested.	
	Provision of art circuit.	1	Interpretive artwork is proposed in the Masterplan.	
	Provision of sensory trails and an inviting natural space for members of the community who may be vision impaired or have mobility limitations.	1	Noted. This will be considered and accordingly addressed in detail design.	
	Provision of a basketball court.	1	Not supported. Insufficient open/ flat space available within the proposed design. Basketball courts received a limited level of support in Stage 1 Consultation (community engagement) with only 17.4% (43 of 264) of respondents requesting them.	
	Recommend table tennis tables.	1	Not supported. Insufficient open/ flat space available within proposed design. Table tennis tables received a low level of support in Stage 1 Consultation (community engagement) with only 6.5% (16 of 264) of respondents requesting them.	
	Provision of native vegetation including ground covers be planted to prevent erosion.	1	The Masterplan proposes native vegetation planting including ground covers. Final locations subject to detail design.	
	Provision of piazza on Castle Street	1	Noted. Entry point at Castle Street/ sports pavilion are shown paved in the Masterplan. Paving type and extent subject to detail design.	
	Re-locate gym equipment to be close to playground so families can stay together.	1	Not Supported: Gym equipment to be separated from playground equipment to ensure clear delineation of play areas and fitness areas for the amenity of all park users.	
	Suggested re-location of fitness equipment as part of alternate design proposal.	1	Not supported. Fitness equipment locations developed in response to consideration of other proposed infrastructure.	
Community garden	The community garden should be larger.	4	The community garden is shown indicative only and implementation will be subject to community 'buy-in'. Due to site constraints and other proposed facilities, suitable available space is limited. The community garden has been given a low priority in the scheme due to results of Stage 1 Consultation (community engagement) where only 6.1% (15 of 264) of respondents wished to see a community garden.	
	The community garden is inappropriately located (too close to Pennant Hills Road).	2	Due to site constraints and other proposed facilities, the proposed location is considered the most suitable. The community garden has been given a low priority in the scheme due to results of Stage 1 Consultation (community engagement) where only 6.1% (15 of 264) of respondents wished to see a community garden.	
Heritage	Request recognition of Richie Benaud be incorporated.	1	It is proposed Richie Benaud will be recognised at this site (including at the Hall of Fame)	
Sports Programing/ Hire	Richie Benaud Oval should not be limited to exclusive use by cricket or any other sport.	2	Richie Benaud Oval will remain available for use by the whole community. The oval will be available to hire on a seasonal and casual basis (as is the case with all Council's sporting fields).	
	Request for access/ use by sporting organisation	2	Site programing is beyond the scope of the Masterplan.	
	Winter use should be kept to a 'light' level.	1	Site programing is beyond the scope of the Masterplan.	
The Masterplan Report	Secure funding for a one-stage development of the Masterplan.	1	Noted. Pending available sources of funding.	
	Community facilities should be provided in the first stages.	1	Staging may change subject to funding sources and availability, and construction sequencing.	
	Provision of additional information to assist with funding requests and applications.	1	This level of information is beyond the scope of the Masterplan. Organisations seeking this information can contact Council for assistance.	
	Noted omissions/ errors in the cost estimate including bulk earthworks, surfaces, storage facilities and amenities, and turf wickets.	1	Noted. Cost estimation has been amended in the revised Masterplan where required.	✓
	The Draft Masterplan does not consider ongoing operational costs.	1	This level of information is beyond the scope of the Masterplan. A summary of operational costs is provided in the Council Report.	
	Request various editorial amendments.	1	Noted. Minor editorial amendments made to the revised Masterplan.	✓



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