



Parks for People
Phase 1 Engagement Outcomes Report
Leppington, Liverpool

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All care has been taken to prepare this report for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

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Acknowledgement

This document acknowledges that Liverpool is on Aboriginal land where the traditional custodians have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

“The area is rich in Aboriginal heritage. I think it is important to find a way to incorporate this into the park.”

– Online Survey participant

Executive Summary

In 2020, the New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) commissioned JOC Consulting to assist with the delivery of community engagement for a new park in Leppington (the Park) as part of the Parks for People Program.

This report presents the results from the first phase of consultation consisted of an online survey and social pinpoint map available for community comment between 9 and 31 October 2020. The engagement methods sought to identify community values, needs and aspirations for the new park to help inform drafting of the concept design for the park (at this stage there were no set design parameters for the park). A second phase of engagement will ask for community feedback on the draft concept design.

In total, 177 community members were energetic, eager and passionate in their responses, showing support for the Parks for People Program and sharing ideas for the new park in Leppington. These ideas along with community values and priorities in relation to open space have been captured in this Report.

Who participated in the consultation?



14,364
total visits



177 people participated
across the two platforms



99%
were local
residents



6,013
unique users

81
online survey participants

108
social pinpoint comments

Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65 years old. The main age bracket was the 26-35 year old (46%)



participants from
30
different cultural
backgrounds

74%
female

25%
male

N.B. Demographic statistics relating to online survey only

What did we hear?

A vision for the new park in Leppington

The new park will be a communal backyard for the growing community of Leppington. A family friendly space that brings the community together, and serves their need for play, activity, adventure and respite from day to day stresses.

The above vision statement was prepared by JOC Consulting informed by phase 1 engagement. It considers community ideas and feedback received through the survey, social pinpoint map and social media comments.

Community priorities

Participants wish to see a park that responded to the basic needs of the community. A place that enabled play and activity, encouraged people to foster connections, and created a sense of calm amongst greenery.



PLAY AND ACTIVITY

A fun place for people of all ages to play and be active



GATHERING AND CONNECTION

A place to gather with family, friends, and make connections in a new neighbourhood



RELAXATION AND RESPITE

A green space, that provides a break from the busyness of suburban life

Participants shared these common ideas for the new park in Leppington:

PLAY AND ACTIVITY

- A significant play space that encouraged play for all ages
- The inclusion of an element of water or waterplay
- Shared paths for pedestrians, runners, cyclists, and children
- The inclusion of facilities and assets that encourage residents to get active
- Connection to a wider cycleway and active transport network
- Using the natural landscape for nature play or exploration and discovery

GATHERING AND CONNECTION

- Barbeque and/or picnic facilities that can cater to a diverse range of groups

- Co-location of play spaces and amenities for socialising
- Improve connections in, across and out of the park via pedestrian and cycle paths with creative wayfinding to improve movement and spark interest from neighbouring residents and potential park users

RELAXATION AND RESPITE

- Opportunities to connect with the natural landscape, and seek respite from urban life
- Utilising the high points of the site to frame vistas and leverage the natural tranquillity of the expansive views

Key concerns and considerations:

The following concerns were raised by participants:

PROXIMITY TO CAMDEN VALLEY WAY

The site's proximity to Camden Valley Way was considered a key challenge to delivering on two of the three key priorities; Play and Relaxation. Participants who desired a space for play and adventure, emphasised the importance of ensuring children were unable to access the roadway, and, furthermore, for parents to feel a sense of ease that children were sufficiently removed from this danger.

In addition to these safety concerns, the noise of the neighbouring roadway will pose an additional challenge for the design team to create the sense of calm and relaxation that was identified as a key priority during the engagements.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PARK

It was commonly acknowledged that the site is difficult to access for local residents. This sentiment was shared by a range of demographics, including those who wished to see a park suitable for children, and those who considered the park a possible destination for cyclists. Comments relating to connections highlighted that this park was not easily accessible for local residents, whether by car, bicycle, or walking, and considered this a key risk to the project generating community buy-in and take up once the park is complete.

The following pages provide a summary of engagement responses sorted by project objectives and landscape benefits.

Project objectives

The table below provides an overview of community engagement findings as they align with the project objectives.

Table 1: Project objectives

Objectives	What did participants say?
<p>To create a park that respects and enhances the existing character of the site and its natural processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The topography of the site, and the views from the highpoints were recognised as key assets of the park ▪ The innate tranquillity, and ability for green spaces to offer a sense of calm and respite were key priorities
<p>To create a park that is connected to its history and context while creating a space for community regardless of age, ability or cultural background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park should serve to bring the community together and create new connections ▪ The park should offer facilities that enable family and friends to come together and socialise in open space
<p>To create a connected park that addresses its context and interfaces through interesting and innovative design solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proximity of the park to Camden Valley Way is a concern for community ▪ Better physical connection to neighbouring suburbs ▪ It is important to celebrate the view to the Sydney CBD that is offered by the site's high point
<p>To create a park which provides visitors shade, respite, and cooling to enable multifunctional community use throughout the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing shade for a diverse range of activities and group sizes is a priority feature for the new park ▪ The natural landscape should be utilised to provide a cooling space for the suburb ▪ Including an element of water, particularly in the form of waterplay

Landscape benefits

The following table outlines how the engagement findings and what the community has told us relates to the Landscape Architecture Foundation and University of New South Wales' research into the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural (SEEC) benefits for the Parks for People project.

Table 2: Overview of identified landscape benefits

	Where are we today?	Where do we want to be?
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The area is changing and growing rapidly ■ The community highlighted the need for engaging play areas ■ Participants want a space for exercise and fitness ■ The need for more physical connections to the park was a key consideration for the success of the park project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Park will be accessible and inclusive for everyone ■ Play spaces that will integrate nature and waterplay for different age, accessibility levels and intergenerational interaction ■ Inclusive health and fitness areas with outdoor gym equipment
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participants acknowledged the importance of communal open space as more people live in smaller and high density dwellings ■ Participants recognised the commercial value of utilising green space to minimise the economic impacts of global warming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Park will deliver a balance of spaces and uses ■ Improving access to the park could encourage greater visitation and tourism to the area ■ Greater activation of Leppington could generate revenue for the local economy
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participants value the importance of being able to access open spaces ■ Participants acknowledged the decreasing opportunity to access green spaces in the LGA ■ Participants wished to see a park that responds to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The park will utilise the existing tree canopy to provide valuable shade ■ The park will provide users a sense of connection to the natural landscape ■ The park will provide a cool respite from urban heat ■ The natural bushland will be maintained to ensure

	rising heat in Western Sydney	residents can connect with this landscape
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Participants valued the areas rich history of the area, and considered it a suitable theme for story telling within the park ■ Participants represented the diverse migrant population of the Liverpool LGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The park will contain opportunities to feel a sense of connection to local stories ■ The park will include stories that celebrate the multicultural community of Liverpool ■ The park will celebrate the rich local indigenous culture

The following pages provide more detail on community feedback collected during the engagement period.

About the project

Background

A new park in Leppington will be created as part of the Parks for People Program, an ambitious NSW Government initiative that focuses on the creation of high-quality open space throughout Greater Sydney. This project sees the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) collaborating with Liverpool City Council and the local community to create a vibrant space that encourages this growing community to get active and build greater connections.

The site for the park is located within the South-West Growth Area identified in the Greater Sydney Commission's Western City District Plan. An estimated 130,000 people are expected to move into the South-West Growth Area by 2036, and with the move towards higher density living, access to quality open space will become increasingly important. To keep up with this rapidly evolving community, it is essential that we get the planning right, and provide places and spaces that continue to serve the community's needs.



Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the first phase of engagement was to better understand the community's aspirations for the new park. It focused on gaining insights around how the community wants to use the space, the facilities needed in the park to support their desired activities as well as the general community sentiment around the park. The engagement was motivated by a desire to create a high-quality open space that is aligned with the needs and characteristics of the local community.

Community values

In relation to open space, participants value -

- Community connection: Spaces that help facilitate social interactions.
- Play: Spaces that provide play opportunities for all ages
- Health and wellbeing: Spaces that promote community health and well-being through both passive and active recreation.
- Nature and landscape: Spaces that provide the opportunity to engage with and connect to the landscape.

Community Priorities

The community feedback from all the engagement methods can be grouped under three key priority themes:

<p>1</p> <p>Play & Activity</p> 	<p>A fun place for people of all ages to play and be active</p> <p>Participants recognised this as the number 1 priority, and an essential need for the growing Leppington community.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Gathering and Connection</p> 	<p>A place to gather with family, friends, and make new neighbourhood connections</p> <p>Participants provided a diverse and detailed range of suggestions on park features that will encourage the community to come together and build connections.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Relaxation and Respite</p> 	<p>A green space, that provides a break from the busyness of suburban life</p> <p>Participants acknowledged the innate tranquillity of green space, and the importance of having easily accessible open space that holds a sense of calm.</p>

These priorities have been used to structure the findings from the engagement into outcome areas that can directly inform the development of the concept design.

Priority 1 – Play and Activity

“Families need a safe space to take their kids to play, (accompanied) with safe and clean seating and beautiful safe walking tracks.”

– Survey Participant



Figure 2: A play space that responds to rising urban heat. Inspiration; Healesville Sanctuary, Yarra Valley

The need for open space that provides opportunities to play, discover, and get active was the number one priority identified during the engagement. Importantly, the community commonly reiterated the need to ensure the park provides opportunities for people of all ages to get active and which offers an enjoyable experience for parents accompanying young children.

What people said

1. Creating a sense of adventure

The word “play” was the single most common word captured throughout the phase 1 engagement, mentioned in over 103 open response comments, and expressed across all genders and age groups. Participants emphasises play and adventure across a broad range of ideas, beyond simply play spaces, and should be considered a key characteristic vision for the new park in Leppington.

As show in figure 3 below, survey participants nominated *Adventurous*, *Playful*, and *Active* as three of the top four feelings that they would like to get from the new park in Leppington.

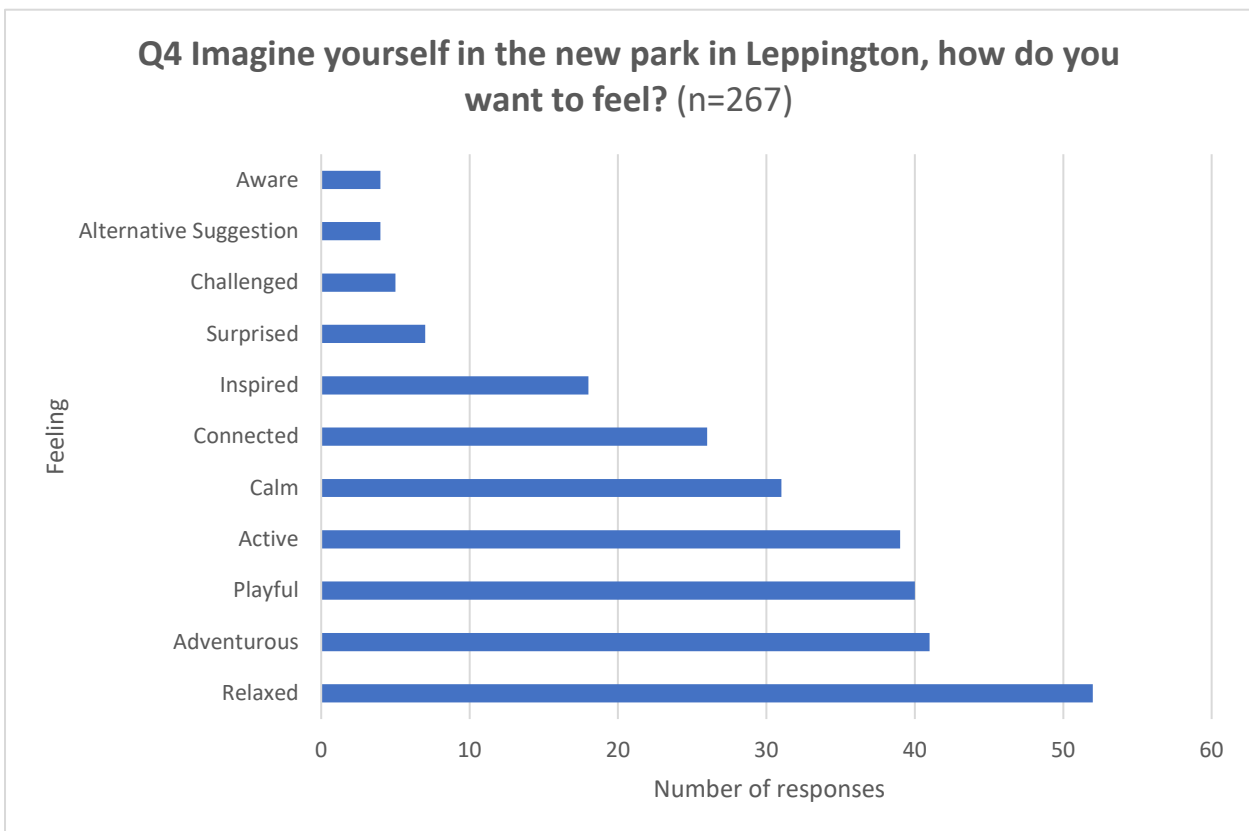


Figure 3: What would you like to feel in the new park at Leppington? Online Survey, Phase 1 Engagement

The common themes detailed below are features and ideas that were commonly suggested to create a sense of adventure within the new park and provide opportunities for people of all ages to play and be active.

2. More play spaces

The need for a greater provision of play spaces in the LGA was the number one comment captured during the entire phase 1 engagement. When asked to identify what elements they most liked about the parks they currently visited, nearly 50% of survey participants nominated playgrounds (the highest response within the survey).

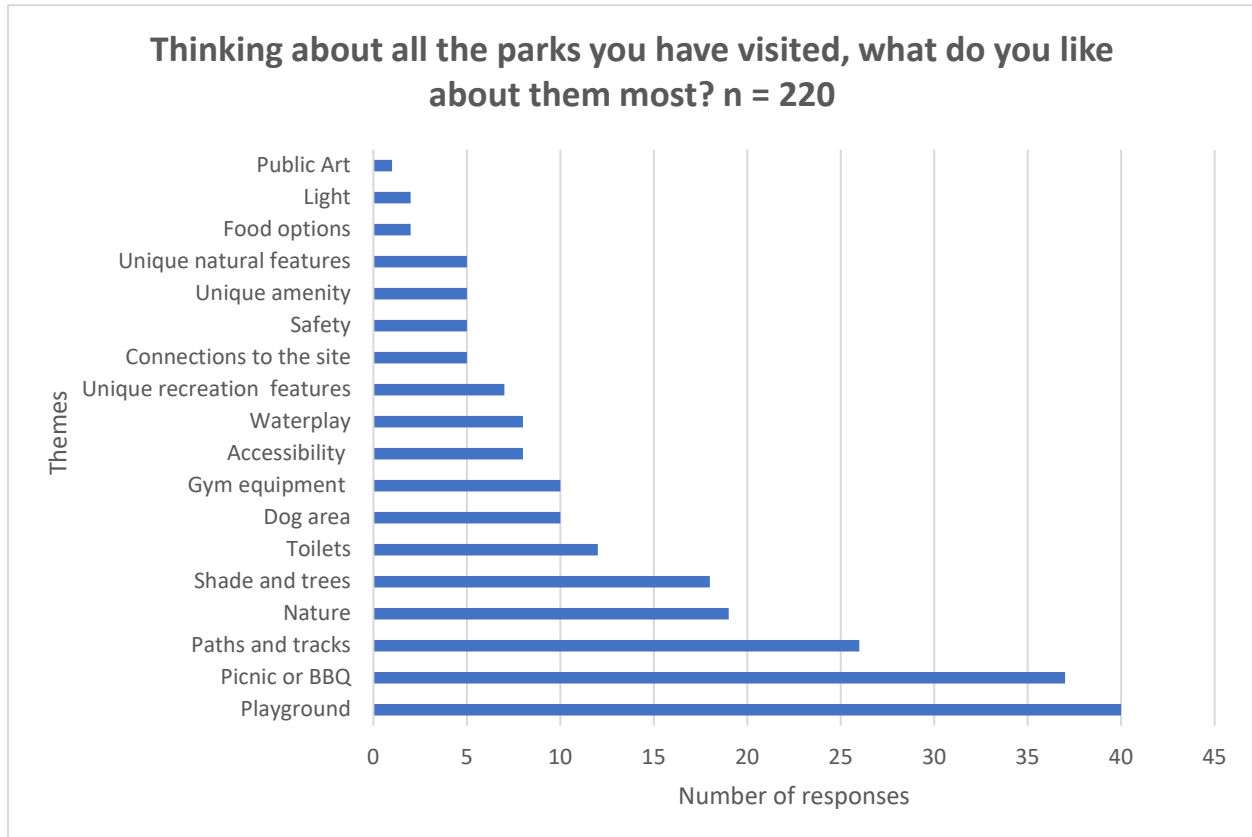


Figure 4: What do you like about parks? Online Survey, Phase 1 Engagement

This need for play spaces was further emphasised by 42% of survey participants, who nominated *Playgrounds* as one of the three most important features to include in the new park (as detailed in Appendix A, Figure 8). It should be noted that this feature was particularly important to those aged between 18-45, who made up 99% of all votes for this feature.

Furthermore, playgrounds were a particular priority amongst female participants aged 26-35, where it received twice the number of nominations as any other priority for the park. The need for more play spaces was also reflected in the Social Pinpoint activity, where play spaces were the third most common recommendation, with comments emphasising the need for a safe play space, that was adjacent to amenities and facilities that created an enjoyable experience for parents who accompanied children while they play.

3. Water play to cool off in summer

The inclusion of waterplay was the second highest priority feature for survey participants (48%). This desire was further expressed in the Social Pinpoint activity, where it was the second most common recommendation. Participant's recommendations ranged in scale, however most comments highlighted the need for this feature within the LGA, and importance of creating a space that is suitable for all ages. The following Social Pinpoint comment highlights the common sentiment amongst participants who nominated this feature (majority of whom were females, aged between 26 and 45) *"as mum of 3, I would love to see a nice playground for both small and older children, that incorporated water play for kids... to splash around in hotter months"*.

4. Healthy living and exercise

The desire for a space that encouraged an active community and provided opportunities to exercise was a common theme captured across the engagement methods. A sense of feeling "Active" was the fourth most common (48%) selection when survey participants were asked how they want to feel in the new park. This desire is congruent with the common suggestion for paths and tracks throughout the engagement; this was the most common recommendation captured through Social Pinpoint (receiving over 50% more pins than any other recommendation), and the third most common element that participants enjoyed about existing parks.

Throughout the engagement, participants expressed the view that the park is well located as a stopping point and destination within a wider active transport network in the LGA. Across all engagement activities, participants highlighted the importance of providing shared paths that have capacity to safely accommodate cyclists, recreational riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

A desire for sports and exercise opportunities was common across all age groups in the online survey, when asked to nominate three features they would like to include in the new park (Appendix A, Question 6). Walking tracks and trails were the most common recommendations for creating an active space (26% of survey participants), along with sports courts (18%) and outdoor exercise equipment (14%) also common recommendations. Interestingly, it should be noted that of those people who nominated exercise equipment, 99% were female – this is a trend not commonly found in open space usage data or surveys.

Challenges

- **Access to the site:** The need to create greater physical connections to the park and accessibility for neighbouring residents, was the number one challenge identified during the community engagement. The lack of convenient connections to the park was seen as being a major barrier of entry, especially for young families.
- **Safety:** The park's proximity to the roadway was commonly noted by participants who emphasised the importance of creating a safe environment for children.
- **Creating a natural escape:** Given the limited boundaries of the park, and the proximity to the roadway, the challenge will be to create a sense of wonder and exploration that feels disconnected from the built environment.

Opportunities and design ideas

Based on the engagement, the following opportunities and ideas may be considered in the design of the park:

- Explore opportunities for play and activity that respond to rising urban heat in Western Sydney (e.g. water play, shading).
- Establish an identity for the park that is grounded in play and adventure
- Include walking trails and cycle paths with consideration for linkages to the wider active transport network in the region
- Explore the user experience for adults supervising alongside the play space. How can amenities and design encourage community connections in this growing neighbourhood?

Priority 2 – Gathering and Connection

“There are plenty of "parks" around the local area in the new estates but providing a space that links the community together and has some history behind it would be great.”

– Social Pinpoint Comment



Figure 5: Participants emphasised the importance of a park that encouraged greater community connections

The fast-growing Leppington community want to see open spaces that encourage people to come together and create greater connection. As housing density increases, the community recognise the importance of high-quality open spaces as the venue for tomorrow’s barbecues, picnics, play dates, and catch up.

What people said

1. Coming together over food

Engagement participants wished for food to be a central component to the new park at Leppington, and an important way in which the Leppington community come together. Picnic and BBQ facilities were commonly desired across the engagement – they were participants’ second most favoured (41%) feature when asked what they like about current parks they visit, and was also one of the top 5 recommendations captured during the Social Pinpoint activity.

The Social Pinpoint comments highlighted the opportunities for these spaces to bring family and friends together and encourage intergenerational connections by being located alongside play equipment and activities for children. The desire to come together over food was expressed by participants across all age groups and genders and may be considered a broader value of the Leppington community. The importance of facilitating this activity was the fourth highest priority for survey participants when asked to identify their top three features for the new park in Leppington.

Comments relating to this feature, further detailed the essential considerations for picnic and barbecue areas, particularly emphasising the importance of shaded picnic areas, the need for private spaces within the public park, and the importance of placing these facilities adjacent to play spaces and key features that children will interact with.

2. Creating functional spaces

The important of encouraging people to make connections was identified in the online survey, where 32% of participants expressed that they wish to feel “connected” when in the new park, a response equally shared by males and females. This sentiment was further detailed in Social Pinpoint comments such as the following, which were commonly up-voted by participants: *“Community spaces welcome communities: they attract people and create spaces (that) will draw people together”*

Engagement participants commonly nominated a number of key elements that they believed would encourage extended stays for passive park users, and encourage socialising and community connection.

Adequate shade

Shade was the most common specific feature that was nominated in open responses across the engagement, and the most common quality nominated when participants expressed how they would like the park to feel. The community highlighted the importance of creating spaces and amenities that respond to the challenge of urban heat.

Intimate spaces

Participants commonly identified a very specific need for shaded spaces that enabled small groups to socialise within the park.

Co-locating amenities

Throughout comments relating to play spaces and activities for young people, participants highlighted the need for supervision spaces that created an enjoyable experience for adults. Social Pinpoint comments detailed a number of features and inclusions that would encourage individuals to make casual connections and extend

their stay in the park. Shade and adequate lighting were two essential elements highlighted within the comments, as was the need for comfortable furniture, the provision of coffee, and initiatives to combat urban heat.

Challenges

- **Size of groups:** Creating spaces that enable a number of private groups to utilise the public space at the same time.
- **Public vs private space:** Creating opportunities for private gatherings within the public space
- **Urban heat:** Rising urban heat is a growing challenge for the delivery of all public spaces across Western Sydney.

Opportunities and design ideas

- Co-locating different amenities to encourage inter-generational, and new neighbourhood connections
- Designing a user experience specific to parents who are supervising young children
- Creating intimate spaces that feel safe and private, and encourage deeper connection between park users
- Providing a variety of shaded spaces that are designed for varied group sizes
- Creating spaces that encourage new connections between park users

Priority 3 – Relaxation and Respite

“I would love to see a large open seating area atop the hill overlooking the clear views to Liverpool and Sydney cities where multiple groups can congregate with enough space possibly around fountains or flowing water so it can be a central meeting place and/or place to relax.”

– Social Pinpoint Participant



Figure 6: The park site at sundown, captured from one of the highly valued hills

What people said

1. Creating a sense of calm

Creating a park that offered relaxation and respite was a top priority for engagement participants. When asked how they would like to feel in the new park at Leppington, “Relaxed” was the most common response, selected by 64% of all participants. This sentiment is further supported by the feeling of “Calm” also being amongst the top 5 responses selected.

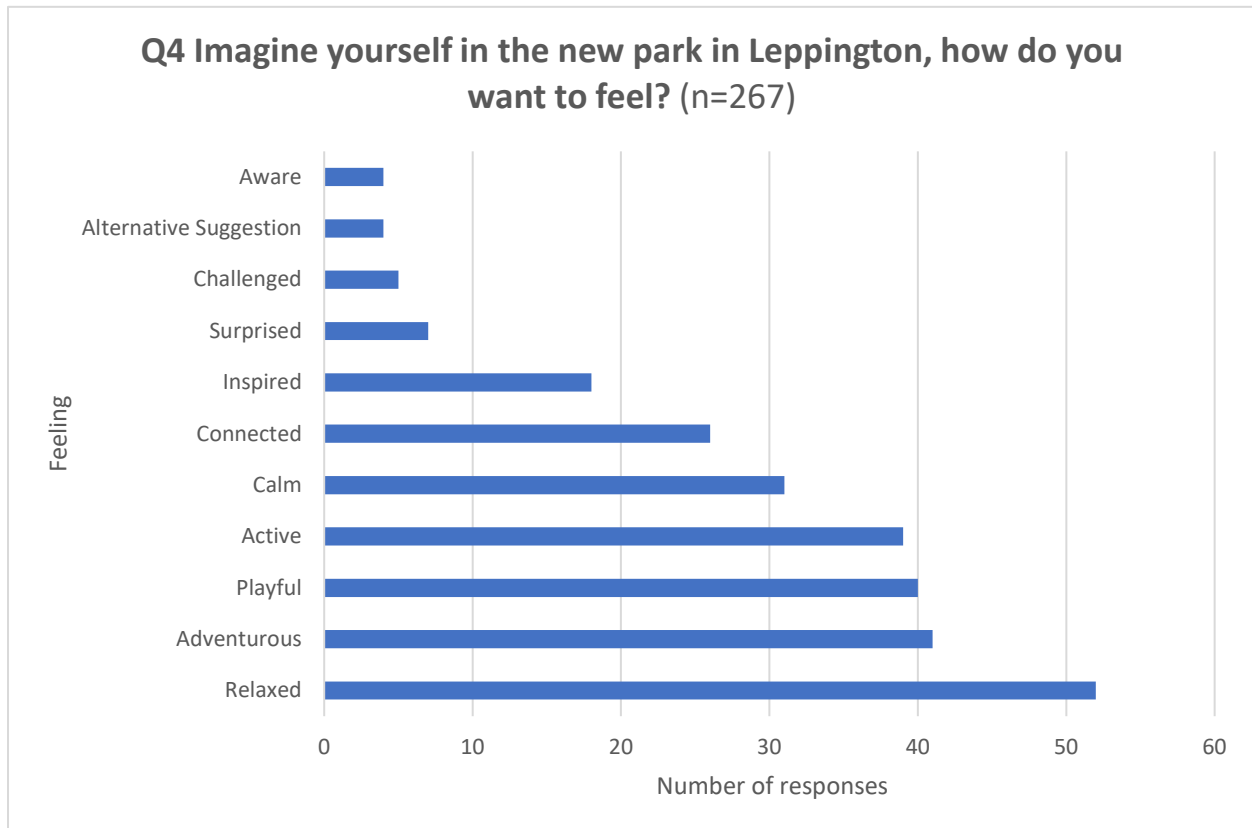


Figure 7: What would you like to feel in the new park at Leppington? Online Survey, Phase 1 Engagement

In Social Pinpoint comments and Survey open responses, participants commonly acknowledged the ability of green spaces to create and sense of calm and emphasised the importance of leveraging the existing bushland and greenery to achieve this. It was the simplicity of being in green space that was common amongst these comments. Survey ideas such as “*Relaxing areas to read and enjoy nature*” highlighted the simplicity of green spaces to create a sense of calm, rather than a specific action or level of greenery that was needed to achieve this.

Importantly, participants did not consider a calm and relaxing space to be mutually exclusive from a fun and playful space. Of the 52 participants who nominated “Relaxed” as a top priority for how they wish to feel in the park, exactly half also selected “Playgrounds” as a feature that they most like about the parks they currently visit.

2. Celebrating the natural features

Engagement participants wished for the new park at Leppington to be a fundamentally green space, and re-iterated the important function that this park will serve in providing local residents an opportunity to connect with nature. As illustrated in the below graph, Trees and Natural Areas was the number one feature that survey participants nominated when asked what were the top three things they wished to include in the new park, selected by 53% of respondents.

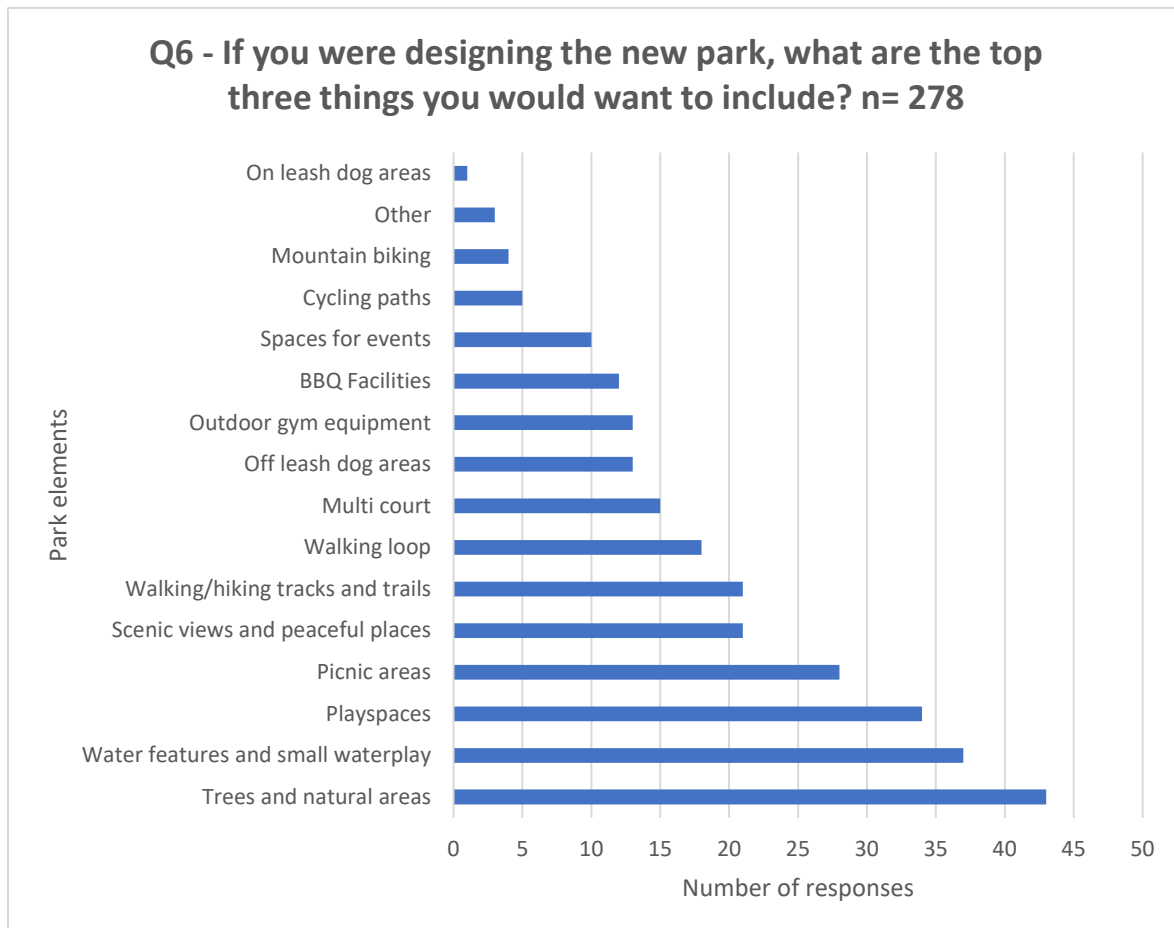


Figure 8: Top three features to include in the new park. Online Survey, Phase 1 Engagement

The importance of creating a space that is grounded in greenery and nature was further emphasised when survey participants were asked what themes or topics they would like to see in the design of the new park. As illustrated in Figure 8, the Natural Environment was the top response, selected by 30% of respondents

Q5 - What themes, topics or local stories would you like to see expressed in the design of the new park? N =94

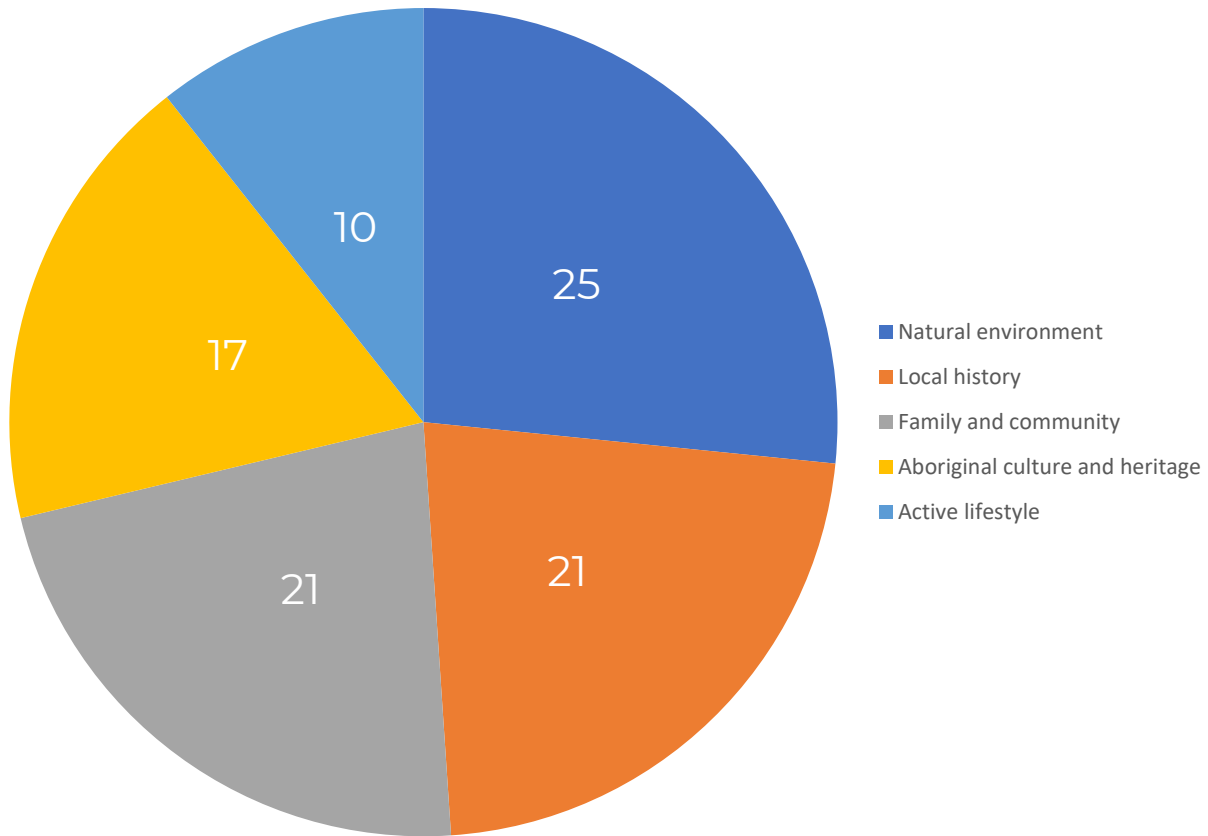


Figure 9: Themes, topics or stories for expression in the new park. Online Survey, Phase 1 Engagement

Social Pinpoint comments and open survey responses specified that participants wished to utilise the natural features of the site to improve the user experience, rather than nominating preservation as a key priority, or suggesting that the site be left un-touched. The increased importance of having access to the natural environment, as housing density increases in the area, was a common sentiment expressed throughout all engagement activities, along with a recognition that the natural landscape already provided many of the key features that participants prioritised for the new park; “Trees and shrubs for shade, view and natural setting”.

3. Enjoying the views

The elevation of the site was a specific asset that participants recognised as a key feature for the new park in Leppington, and a major contributor to creating the sense of calm that was desired from the new park. “Scenic views and peaceful places” was nominated by survey participants as a top 5 feature to be included in the new park, with the open responses and Social Pinpoint comments providing details on the importance of utilising the elevation of the site.

The high point of the site was commonly nominated as an important part of the site, suitable for crowning feature that would offer park users a place to sit, relax, and take in the views to Sydney CBD. The specific acknowledgement of the views to Sydney CBD were noted by 5 separate participants in the engagement, and the importance of the wide open vistas noted by another 6 participants, who wished to see these accentuated by the park design; *“Preserve the hills with open space and grass area to enjoy the views of Liverpool and the City.”*

Challenges

- **Noise and vehicle pollution:** Creating a sense of tranquillity and calm, despite the site’s proximity to the roadway.
- **Land forming:** Maintaining the natural topography and high points of the park, whilst delivering additional amenities and features that the community prioritised.
- **Tension between uses:** Simultaneously providing a playful and calming experience for different members of the same user group.

Opportunities and design ideas

- Leveraging the natural tranquillity of the site to provide opportunities for park users to take a moment from day to day stresses
- Utilising the natural bushland and vegetation to create a barrier from the roadway and create a sense of escapism for park users
- Celebrating the vistas from the natural high points of the site
- Celebrating the community’s connection to the Sydney CBD

Where to from here

The intention to create a new park in Leppington has been well received by participants throughout the engagement. Through the course of community engagement, a shared vision for the park was identified along with ideas and elements for consideration by the design team.

These engagement findings, along with the site analysis, environmental reports, and findings of the other project consultants will provide a firm foundation for the development of a draft Concept Design for the park.

Next steps

- This findings from this report will be used to inform the 50% Concept Design to be prepared by lead design consultant; Phillips Marler
- The 50% Concept Design will form the basis of the next phase of engagement which involves the testing of the park design with the local community via an interactive Design Board (Social Pinpoint ideas wall feature) and online survey

Appendix A – Survey Analysis

Overview

A total of 81 people participated in the survey.

To create a logical sense of narrative for the reader, and for the sake of locating the data as it responds to the early references in this report, the following survey data has been organised under themes and priorities previously identified in the Engagement Outcomes Report

Demographics

This section provides a profile of survey participants. It looks at their relationship to the area, age, gender as well as cultural background.

What is your connection to the area? (Q1)

With the exception of one participant, all survey responses (80 of 81) were from local residents.

Three respondents were local residents as well as local business owners. Only four of the 81 total survey responses were from local residents who also are members of a local sports club; two were members of a local youth group; one participant reported being a member of a local community group.

Where do you live? (Q11)

As shown in the table below, the vast majority of respondents live within the Liverpool LGA. Only one participant does not live in the LGA.

Table 1: Participants' place of residence

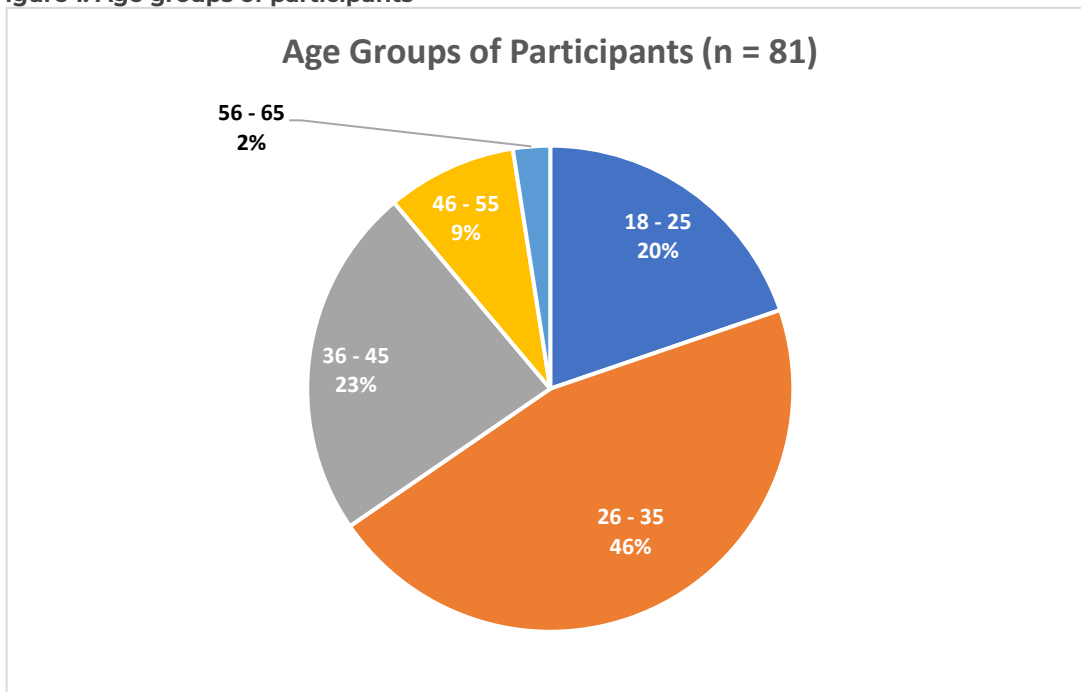
Postcode	Suburbs	Number	Percentage (81)
2179	Austral; Leppington	43	53%
2171	Middleton Grange; Horningsea Park; Carnes Hill; Cecil Hills; Elizabeth Hills; Hoxton Park; West Hoxton; Len Waters Estate	13	16%
2565	Bardia; Macquarie Links; Ingleburn; Denham Court	11	14%
2170	Casula; Lurnea; Mount Pritchard; Moorebank; Liverpool; Hammondville;	8	10%

	Warwick Farm; Chipping Norton; Prestons		
2174	Edmondson Park; Ingleburn Milpo	2	3%
2167	Glenfield	1	1%
2168	Busby; Cartwright; Hinchinbrook; Heckenberg; Sadleir; Green Valley; Ashcroft; Miller	1	1%
2173	Holsworthy; Wattle Grove	1	1%
2220	Hurstville; Hurstville Grove	1	1%

What is your age? (Q10)

As shown in Figure 1 below, there was fairly good representation of survey responses across the adult age categories but no participants reported being under the age of 18. The age brackets with the highest representation were 26 – 35 years old (46%), followed by 36 – 45 years olds (23%). None of the participants were over the age of 65 years. All 81 participants answered this question.

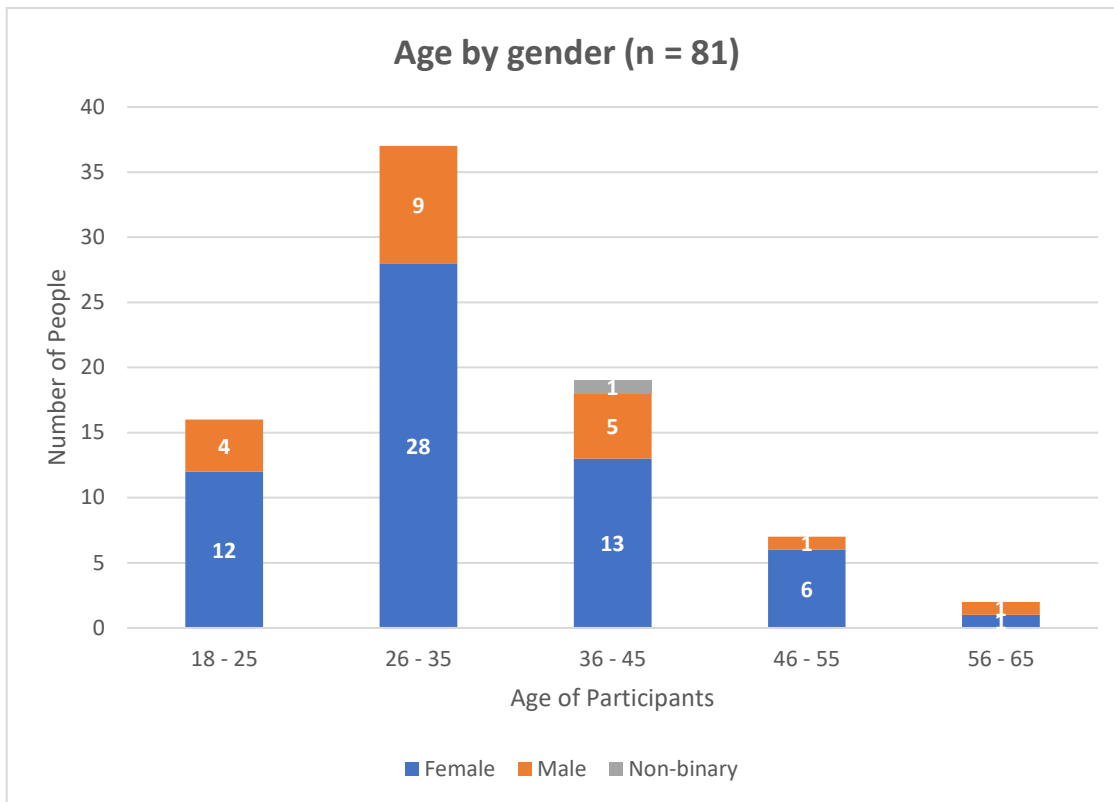
Figure 1: Age groups of participants



What gender do you identify with? (Q14)

The vast majority (74%) of the survey respondents were women, 25% were male, and one person identifying as non-binary. There was a consistent ratio of male/female across the age groups (with women outnumbering men in all age groups barring 56 - 65). See Figure 1 below. All 81 participants answered this question.

Figure 2: Gender by age



Do you identify with a cultural background? (Q15)

Survey respondents were culturally diverse, with 57% (equalling to 46 people) indicating that they identified as Australian while the other 43% (35 people) other identified with another cultural background. The largest of these groups identified as Filipino (3 people), Middle Eastern (2 people), Italian (2 people), and Vietnamese (2 people).

All 81 participants answered this question.

Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? (Q16)

One respondent identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Two respondents preferred not to answer this question.

A total number of 79 responses to this question were received.

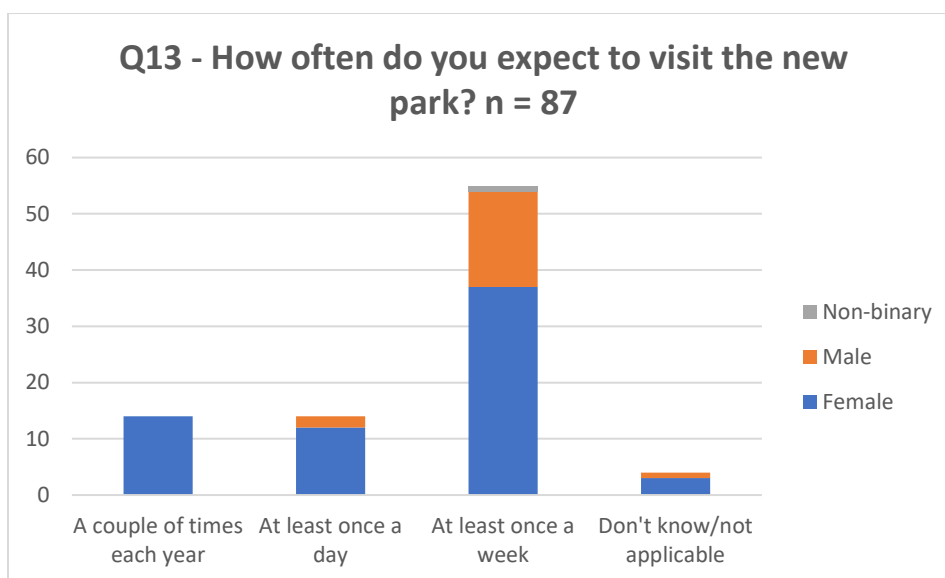
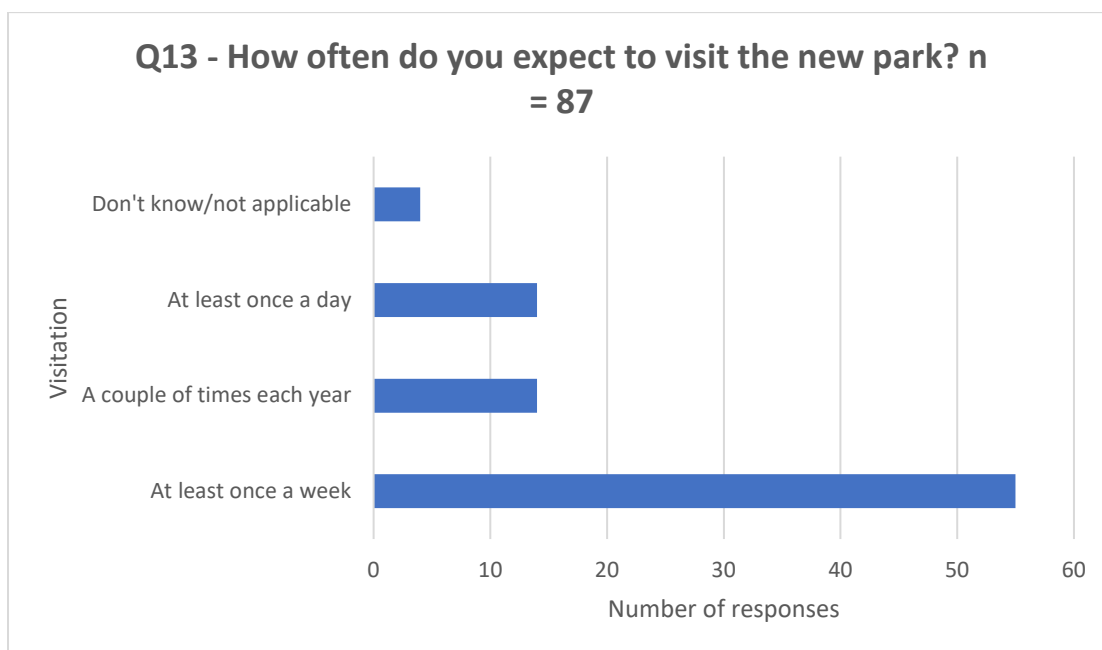
Visitation Patterns

This section focuses on the projected visitation for the new park in Leppington. It looks at how often people expect to visit the park and how they will get there.

How often do you expect to visit the new park? (Q13 – choose all that apply)

The vast majority of responses (79%) indicated they would visit the park on a regular basis (daily or weekly), 16% a couple times each year and the remaining 5% of responses indicated that they were unsure. A total of 87 responses to this question were received (with some participants nominating more than one answer).

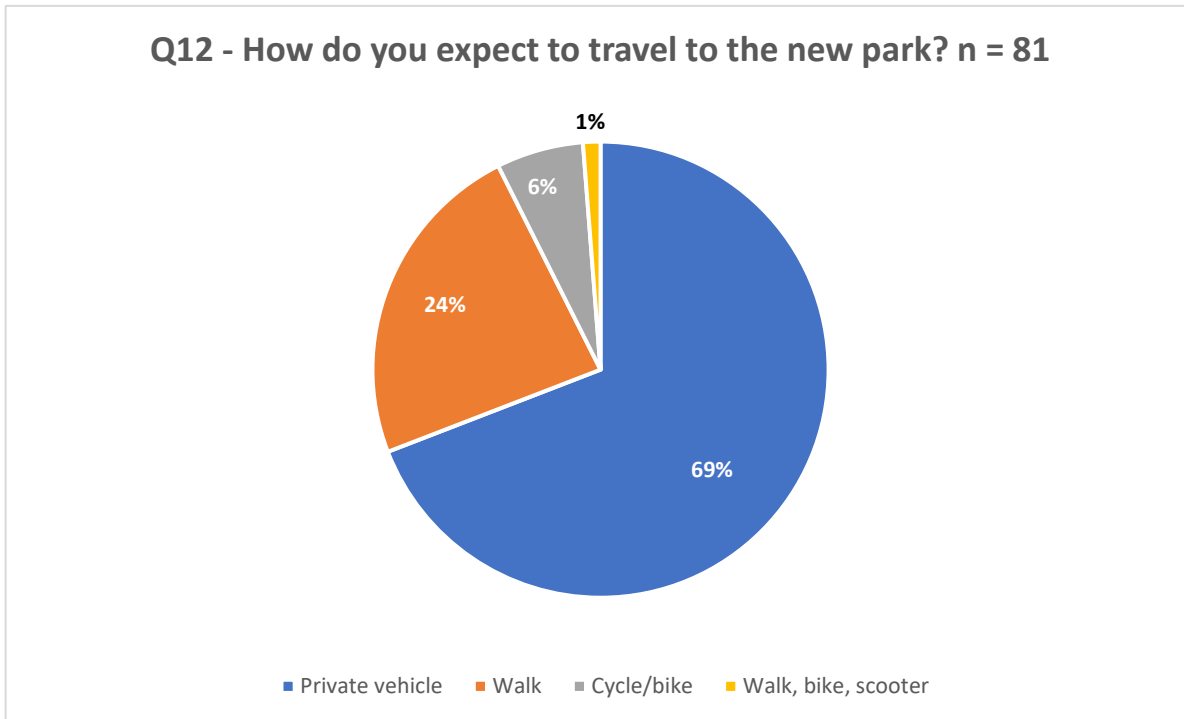
Figure 3: Visitation

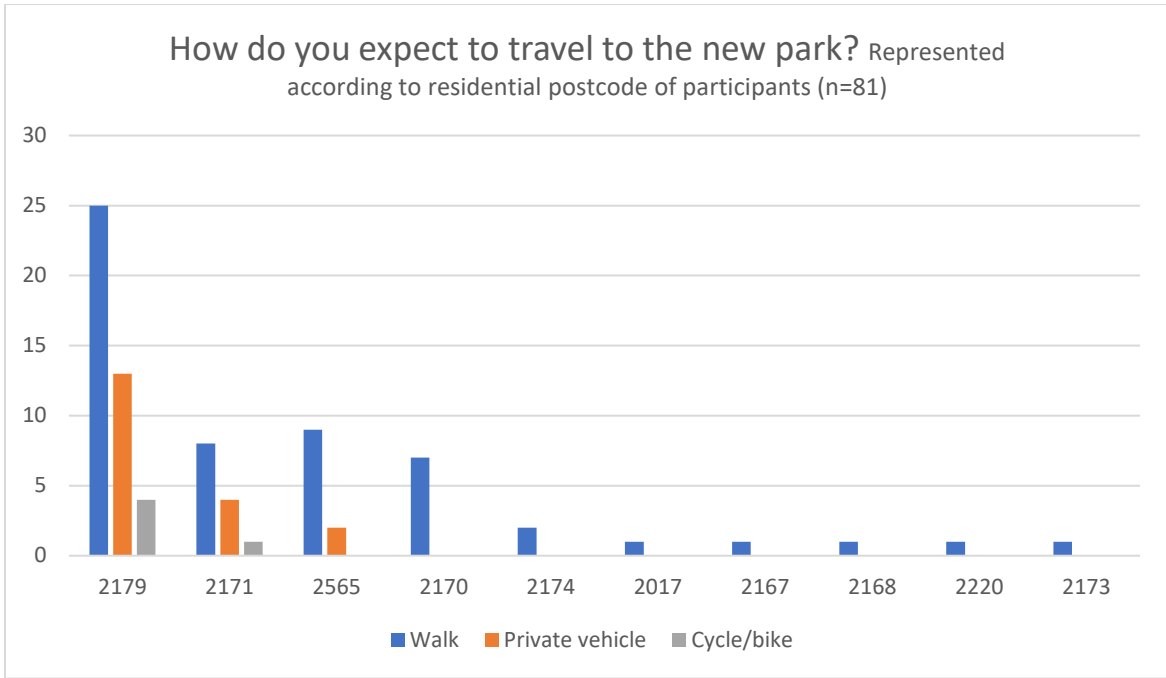


How do you expect to travel to the new park? (Q12)

The vast majority of respondents indicated that (84%) indicated that they would travel to the park using a private vehicle and 24% said they would walk. All 81 participants answered this question.

Figure 4: Methods of travel





Aspirations for the new park

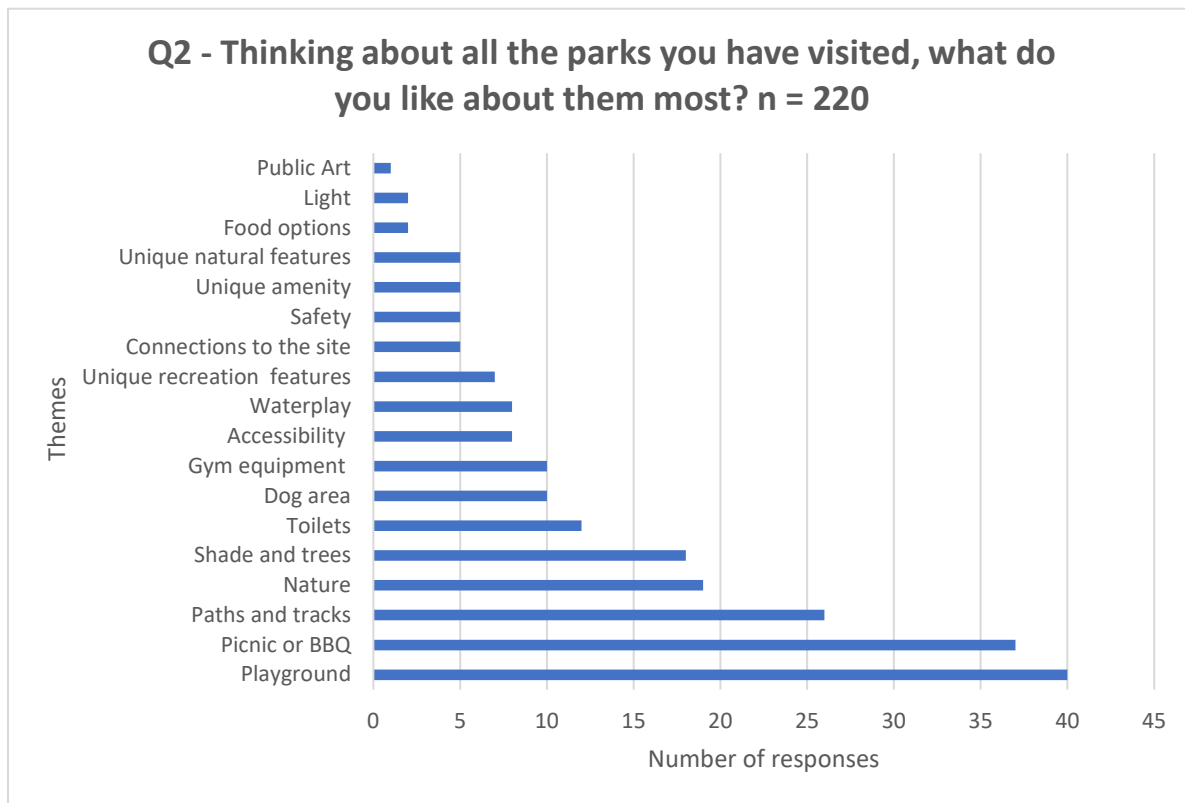
in relation to the new park in Leppington. Across all the questions, participants prioritised getting active. This encompasses play opportunities for all ages, creating enjoyable walking and cycling tracks, and water features that will help the community stay cool in summer.

Thinking about all the parks you have visited, what do you like about them most? (Q2)

As shown in the figure below, the most commonly referenced feature of attractiveness of parks was playgrounds (40 responses, equalling to 49% of participants), closely followed by picnic and BBQ areas (37 responses, equalling to 46% of participants), and paths and tracks (26 responses, equalling to 32% of participants).

All 81 participants answered this question. The responses were then themed based on the most common threads running across comments with one comment possibly containing more than one theme.

Figure 5: What do you like the most about parks?

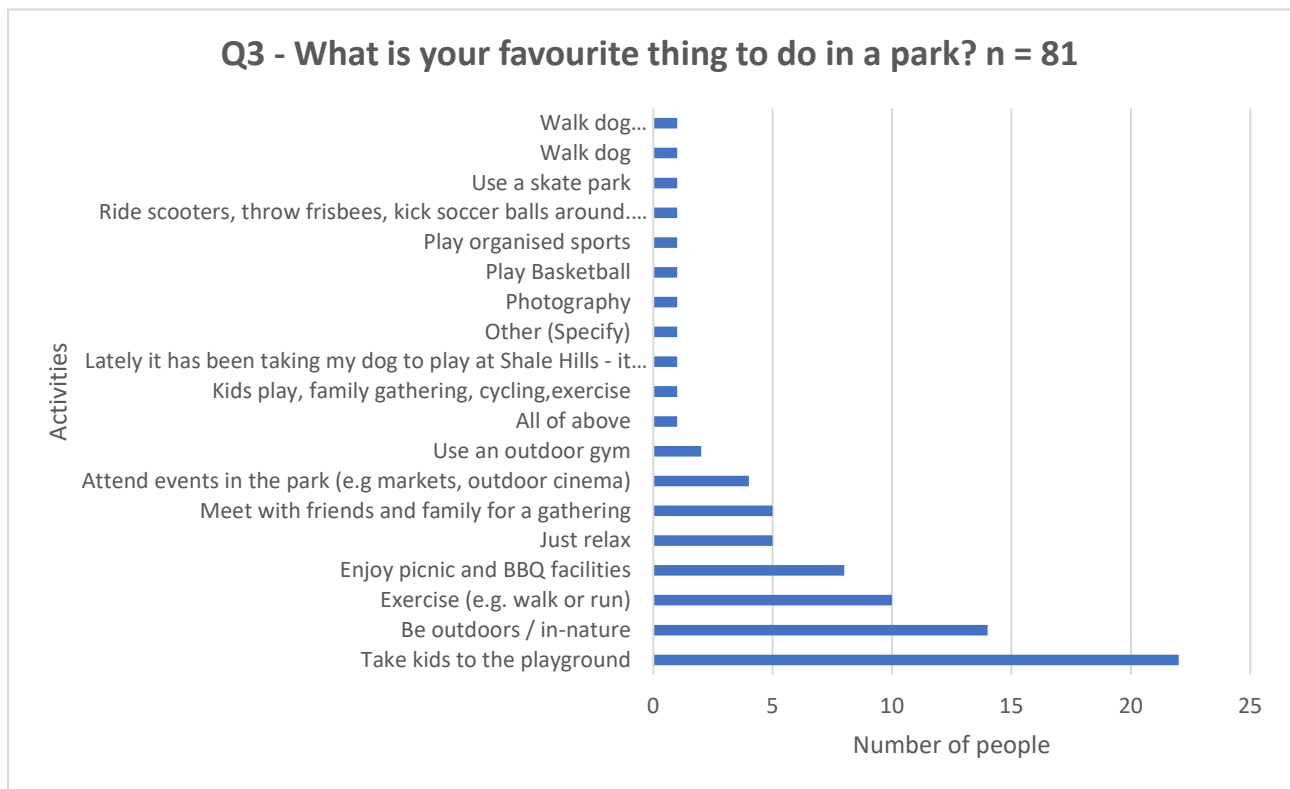


What is your favourite thing to do in a park? (Q3)

The majority of responses identified 'taking kids to the playground' (22 respondents, equalling to 27% of participants) and 'Be outdoors/ in-nature' (14 respondents, equalling to 17% of participants) as the top two favourite things to do in a park. There were a range of answers that were only chosen once.

All 81 participants answered this question.

Figure 6: Favourite park activities



Imagine yourself in the new park in Leppington, how do you want to feel? (Q4 – choose all that apply)

As indicated in Figure 7 below, a total of 52 people (equalling to 64% of participants indicated that they wanted to feel relaxed in the new park. This was followed by adventurous (41 people, equalling to 51% of participants) and playful (40 people, equalling to 49% of participants).

A total of 267 responses were received for this question.



Figure 7: Park feel

If you were designing the new park, what are the top three things you would want to include? (Q6 – choose all that apply)

The majority of responses indicated ‘trees and natural areas’ (43 responses, equalling to 53% of participants) and ‘water features and small waterplay’ (37 responses, equalling to 46% of total participants), ‘play spaces’ (34 responses, equalling to 42% of participants) as the top three elements to be included in the new park. Spaces for ‘mountain biking’ (4 responses, equalling to 5% of participants), ‘Other’ (3 responses, equalling to 4% of participants) and ‘on leash dog areas’ (1 response, equalling to 1% of participants) were identified as the three least important elements.

A total number of 278 responses to this question were received.

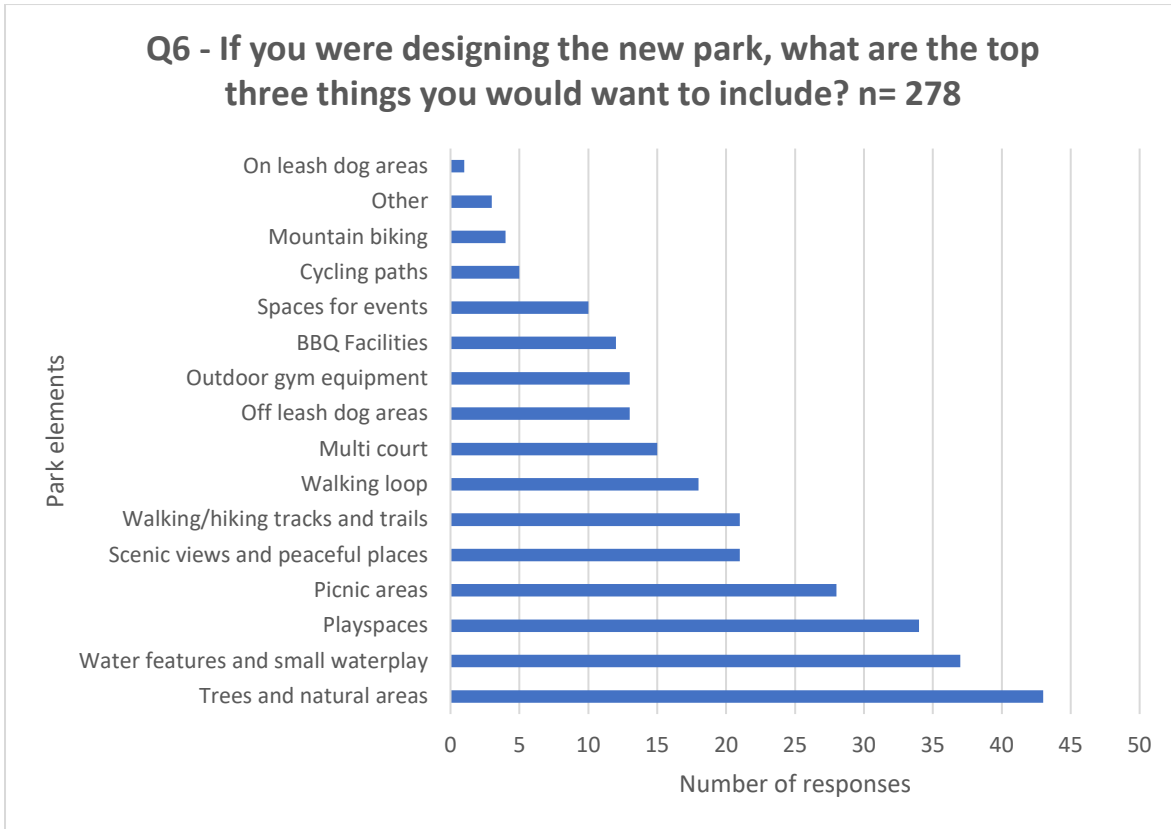


Figure 8: Top 3 park elements

Please provide a comment on why you chose your top three (Q7)

An overwhelming majority of participants nominated “need” as the number one justification for the answers they provided. Irrespective of the selection, the most common justification was that the LGA currently lacked that particular features, and participants recognised the growing need for this as the community expands. The most commonly shared theme was that higher density living placed increased pressure on open spaces in the area, and placed additional importance on providing young families and opportunity to connect with nature.

A number of participants voted for play spaces highlighted the importance of including appropriate safety measures to keep children off the road.

67 participants answered this question.

Quotes:

“Allowing children to explore and learn about our eco system. We need children to learning about how our environment works by bring back creeks, insects, discovery.”

“A mix of recreation and active lifestyles to encourage families and children to enjoy different environments.”

What themes, topics or local stories would you like to see expressed in the design of the new park? (Q5)

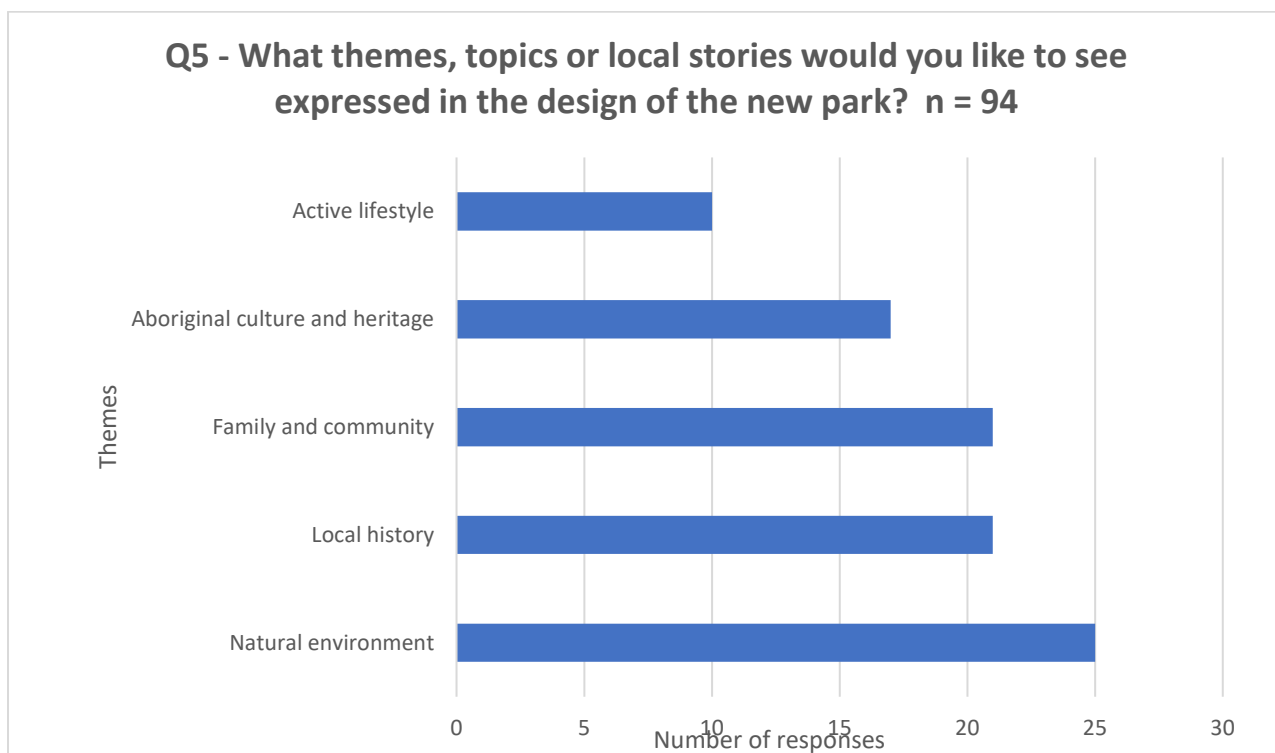
The largest proportion of responses wanted stories centred around the natural environment (25, equalling to 31% of total participants), followed by the local history of the area (21, equalling to 26% of total participants) and the diverse community and family connections (21, equalling to 26% of total participants).

All 81 participants answered this question. The responses were then themed based on the most common threads running across comments with one comment possibly containing more than one theme.

Particular stories that were mentioned more than once included:

- The early settlement of the area, with the history of the Upper Nepean Canal being singled out
- The stories of the diverse cultures that make up today’s community
- Local indigenous history

Figure 9: Themes, topics and local stories



Have you got any other ideas, suggestions or comments to help the design team? (Q9)

In alignment to question 7, the responses to this question largely focused on creating a multipurpose space that can be used by the whole community. The participants wanted to see well-equipped spaces that honour the area’s history, culture and natural environment.

A total of 42 responses were received for this question.

Quotes:

“A park that is multipurpose would be fantastic. If you could provide a park that not only is multi functional but can also generate economic benefits (eg stages for concerts, events etc) this would bring the whole community together. A multipurpose park is something which the South West seriously lacks.”

“Keep it natural, keep it true to the area and it's history. Make it authentic and it will be not only used well but also become a talking point and attraction. Make it functional for families. They will be your focus groups and biggest users.”

“It is imperative to include numerous facilities located along the track including but not limited to; outdoor gym, playground, sporting fields, futsal court, seating areas etc. The walking track should take advantage of views and vistas and should include informative plaques with reference to tree species that can be found in the park, the heritage of the upper canal etc. The future park should also have various access points into the facility.”

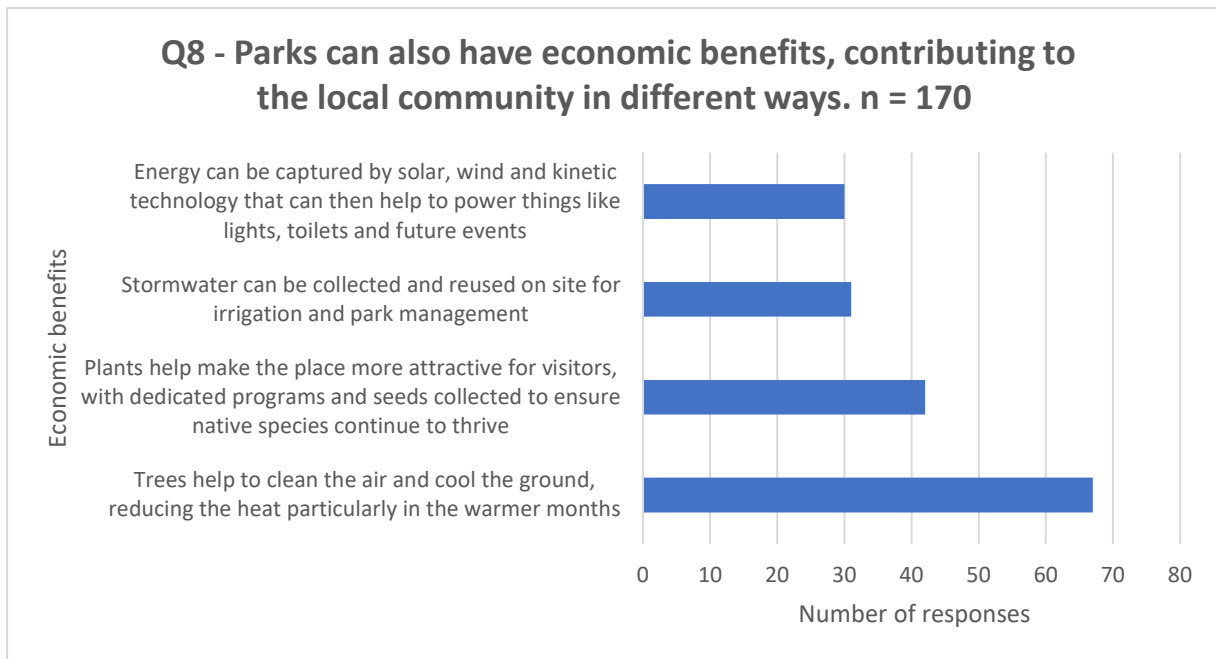
“Make it as interesting and practical as possible so people are motivated to leave their houses. It has to be aesthetic yet functional. Community spaces welcome communities.”

Parks can also have economic benefits, contributing to the local community in different ways. (Q8- choose two that apply)

The majority of responses indicated ‘trees that help to clean the air and cool the ground, reducing the heat particularly in the warmer months’ (67 responses, equalling to 83% of total participants) and ‘Plants that help make the place more attractive for visitors, with dedicated programs and seeds collected to ensure native species continue to thrive’ (37 responses, equalling to 46% of total participants) are the biggest economic benefits in a park.

A total of 170 responses were received for this question.

Figure 10: Economic benefits of parks



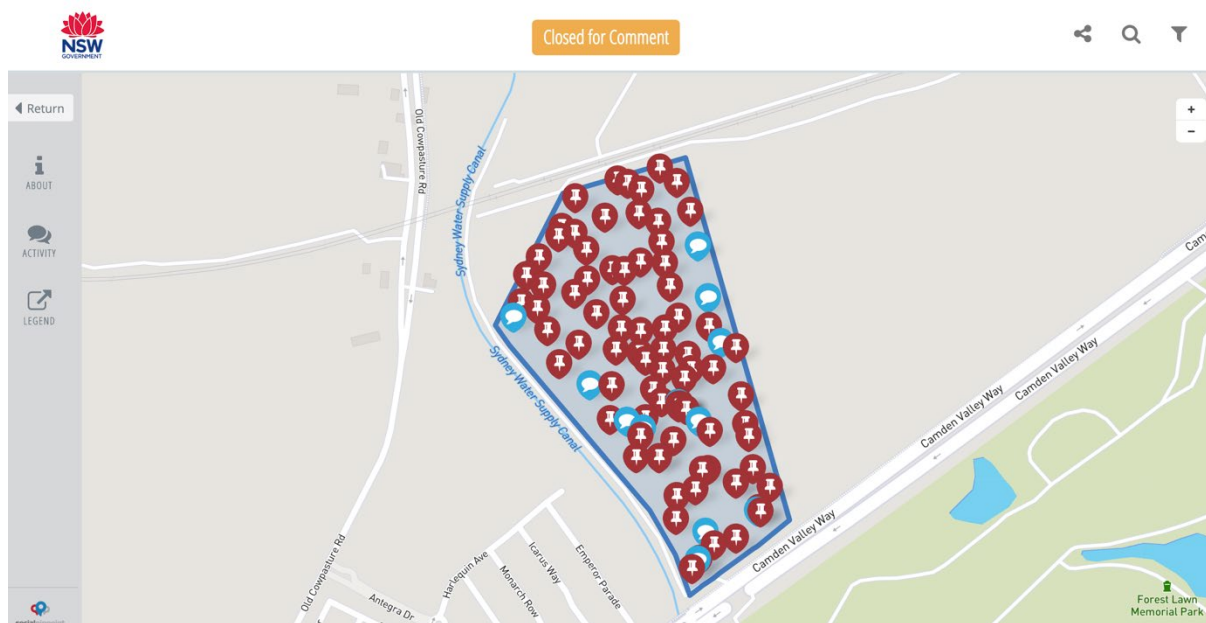
The following appendix provides an analysis of social pinpoint results.

Appendix B – Social Pinpoint Analysis

Overview

A total of 108 responses were recorded:

- 92 (85%) 'What do you want to add?' pins (the red pins in the map below)
- 16 (15%) 'What do you want to preserve?' pins (the blue pins in the map below)



Heat map:

The heat map below displays concentration of pins that were dropped onto the Social Pinpoint.

As the site is not currently accessible to the public, the below map may not necessarily provide insight into place specific suggestions within the boundaries of the park.



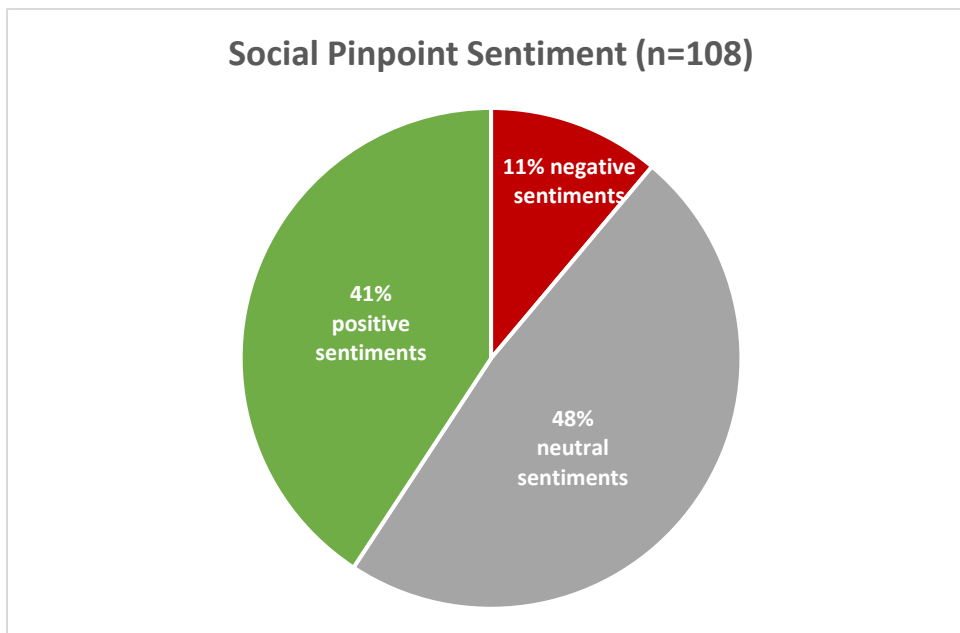
**Most
comments on
the map were
directed to this
area**

Overall Sentiment

The comments have been grouped based on the sentiment they express. This was done by the Social Pinpoint program and are only indicative.

Of the 108 pins dropped, only 11% (equalling 12 comments) expressed negative sentiments. Of these, 2 comments expressed negative sentiment toward the new park, citing that a new park in the area shouldn't be a priority.

44 comments expressed enthusiasm for the new park. Of these 44 positive sentiments expressed, most related to the provision of facilities and amenities that would help facilitate social interactions and greater recreational opportunities. The remaining 52 comments were neutral but followed a similar vein to the positive comments, expressing the need for a gathering space with suitable amenities.



Community values

The following provides a summary of community values as they relate to key opportunities for the park:

Opportunities to stay active

The community expressed that they value active recreation, and in particular walking, cycling, outdoor gym equipment, and multipurpose courts.

Quotes:

- *"I would also love to see exercise equipment for parents to exercise near a playground so we can work out whilst the children are playing. They are always away from so my children are climbing all over the equipment and I can never exercise on them."*
- *"Basketball Court to get the kids and adults into sports and activities rather than gadgets."*

Opportunities to socialise and play

The community displayed interest in the provision of comfortable picnic spaces, playgrounds, and the integration of water play in open space, expressing an underlying value of social gathering spaces and play.

Quotes:

- *“Water play space, cafe in close proximity to a nature-based playground. Adequate bbq and picnic gazebos. Bike tracks”*
- *“Shade for play equipment and seating for parents to supervise”*

Opportunities to learn

Community members noted their appreciation of informal learning opportunities that expand knowledge on topics such as native flora and fauna, Indigenous culture, and local heritage.

Quotes:

- *“Something to recognise the local traditional owners like a bush tucker track with signs about the plants and information about the Aboriginal history of the local area”*

Opportunities to take in nature

The community expressed an underlying value of the local area's natural environment and landscapes. They expressed a desire for a park that integrates the natural 'feel' and features of the area, such as using trees with large canopy cover for natural shading and cooling.

- *“Walking track that goes through the natural landscape, a divided track for people/bikes like the Bay run in Drummoyne. Outdoor gym facilities.”*
- *“Preserve the vegetation along the western side and have a child-oriented obstacle course through the bushland.”*

Most popular comments

Community members voted on each other's comments. Listed below are the most popular comments as voted on by members of the community.

- Camden Valley Way is a fast and busy dual carriageway. Traffic lights and a footpath link to the local residential area should be considered as part of the development. Currently the footpath runs on the opposite side of the road to where all the residential development is taking place. (9 up votes)
- Large off lead dog area. (8 up votes, 1 down vote)
- A waterplay area would be nice, like the James Ruse water playground. (7 up votes)
- I would love to see a large open seating area atop the hill overlooking the clear views to Liverpool and Sydney cities where multiple groups can congregate with enough space possibly around fountains or flowing water so it can be a central meeting place and/or place to relax. (7 up votes)

Community Aspirations

The word cloud below provides a snapshot of most common words used by respondents to describe their aspirations and ideas for the area.



Ideas

Across the 108 responses, community members suggested ideas for the new park which are described below as they relate to the following themes:

- Community and culture
- Play and activation
- Look and feel
- Amenity and access

Community and culture

- Picnic/BBQ facilities, restrooms, and increased seating opportunities.
- A space where the community feel safe.
- Honours and acknowledges the traditional owners of the land through creative wayfinding.

Quote

"I'd love to see acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land at entry and exits to the parklands and information on the local tribe/clan of First Nations people i.e. The Cabrogal Clan of the Dharug Nation - information like their local dialect/language, how they took care of the land, native species they helped cultivate and maintain etc." – 2 likes

Play and activation

- Walking and cycling tracks with shaded provided by vegetation.
- Aspects of water play to provide relief from the heat in summer.
- Playground for all age and access levels.
- Outdoor gym equipment to encourage fitness.

Quote

"Include a walking/cycle track similar to the bay run where there are numerous facilities located along the track including but not limited to; outdoor gym, playground, sporting fields, seating areas (particularly along the upper canal and high point on the site where there are views to the surrounds)."

Look and feel

- Overhead shade provided by vegetation.
- Makes the most of the natural environment.
- Native vegetation with creative signage that encourages learning.

Quote:

"Take advantage of the natural views and vegetation. Have a small cafe, walking tracks, play equipment. Western regional Park - Plough and Harrow is good reference." – 2 likes

Amenity and access

- Universal design principles to encourage people of all ages and access levels to use the park.

- Good provision of amenity including lighting and toilet facilities.
- Unique amenity like a lookout to better user experience.

Quote:

“Park to be accessible by wheelchairs and people with low mobility skills. Education spot that has things like Braille and Auslan alphabet. The deaf and blind community is increasing and it is extremely helpful for people to learn from a young age basics of Auslan.” – 2 likes

- end of appendices -

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