

Summary:

How community feedback shaped the Hills Showground park design





Between August and October 2021, we sought community feedback to help shape the design of a new park in the Hills Showground Station Precinct. The park will provide an important local open space for existing and future residents to enjoy, and will form part of the new mixed-use neighbourhood, providing a highly valued shared backyard for residents living in the new apartment buildings.

We invited the community to provide feedback on the initial park design via the online consultation page to gather detailed information from a diverse range of community members. This provided a safe environment for feedback and responded to the COVID-19 public health orders.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The online consultation page was visited 2,065 times and more than 450 people participated.

Feedback about the initial design was overwhelmingly positive. We explored community views on five park themes which cover a range of activities – play and movement, relaxation, nature, discovery, creativity and, facilities and services. The table below summaries what you told us and how this shaped the park design.

Theme	You told us	What we did
Play and movement 	<p>You liked the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nature play• fitness spaces• a space to play footy and cricket. <p>You asked us to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• play spaces for older children• waterplay and skating facilities.	<p>We included the following in the updated design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nature play, as a central theme• a small lawn space for active recreation• play and fitness equipment for older children and adults, such as a more advanced web net. <p>The park is a local neighbourhood park and is not big enough to accommodate waterplay and skating facilities without removing other facilities. Landcom will consider opportunities to provide waterplay and skating facilities at other larger Sydney Metro Northwest Places.</p>
Relaxation 	<p>You liked the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• barbeque and picnic spaces for relaxation• spaces for groups of families and friends• robust shade, including weatherproof sail structures• relaxation spaces away from the playground area.	<p>The updated park design includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a range of spaces, seating types and facilities• waterproof shade structures over barbecue and table areas• shaded seating spaces• open spaces• tree shaded spaces. <p>The design separates quiet spaces from the high activity areas to allow for the space to be used for a range of active and passive activities.</p>

Theme	You told us	What we did
<p>Nature</p> 	<p>You liked the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature play because of the opportunity for experimental and challenging play • educational signage about plant species • spaces that support health and wellbeing. 	<p>The updated park design includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong links between nature play and formal play spaces • locations for signage about plant species • spaces for quiet enjoyment and reflection.
<p>Discovery</p> 	<p>You liked the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating spaces for discovery • references to history of the site, materials used and sustainability features. 	<p>The updated park design includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for discovery integrated in nature play • an amphitheatre that pays tribute to the performance space in the former Council Chambers building • a native planting strategy, which includes local species and has been developed in partnership with Mura Mittigar.
<p>Creativity</p> 	<p>You liked the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusion of a grass amphitheatre, which can also be used as a performance space for a range of activities • spaces which create an opportunity for local events, such as markets • opportunities to promote Aboriginal connection • the inclusion of public art. 	<p>The updated park design includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an amphitheatre adjacent to the open lawn space that provides space for performances and events • open spaces that create an opportunity for local events, subject to approval by The Hills Shire Council • yarning circle seating adjacent to native planting to promote opportunities for education, discussion and reflection • possible locations for public art. <p>In October 2021, we appointed an artist to begin the development of an artwork concept for the park.</p>
<p>Facilities and services</p> 	<p>You requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water stations • dog water stations • phone charging and Wi-Fi • toilets and baby changing facilities (particularly disabled / ambulant) • accessible and inclusive facilities, services and design. 	<p>The updated park design includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water bubbler locations • dog water station locations • space for toilets, subject to further discussions with Council. <p>Phone charging and Wi-Fi are not included in the design but could be added at Council's discretion.</p> <p>Elements of the design which have been updated to provide an accessible and inclusive park include the seating design; play equipment design; and pathway materials, width and levels.</p>