

Appendix E

Consultation Reports

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ABOUT QUALITY RECREATION SPACES IN ERSKINE PARK

During April and May this year, Council spoke to residents in Erskine Park about recreation spaces in their area.



Image: Peppertree Park, Erskine Park, © Penrith City Council 2015.

BACKGROUND

Council owns many areas of open space in Erskine Park. Some are formal parks with play equipment, others are informal recreation spaces and some are not really used for recreation at all. Some of the parks and recreation spaces in Erskine Park could do with improvements.

In April, Council spoke to residents about the idea of funding sustainable improvements to recreation spaces in Erskine Park, by selling some of the Council owned land that is not meeting the community's needs.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR FROM THE ERSKINE PARK COMMUNITY

To ensure residents were thoroughly consulted the views of the community were sought through numerous channels:

- a letter box drop to residents in Erskine Park
- a survey available both online and at events
- two community drop in sessions
- a workshop with local high school students
- intercept surveys

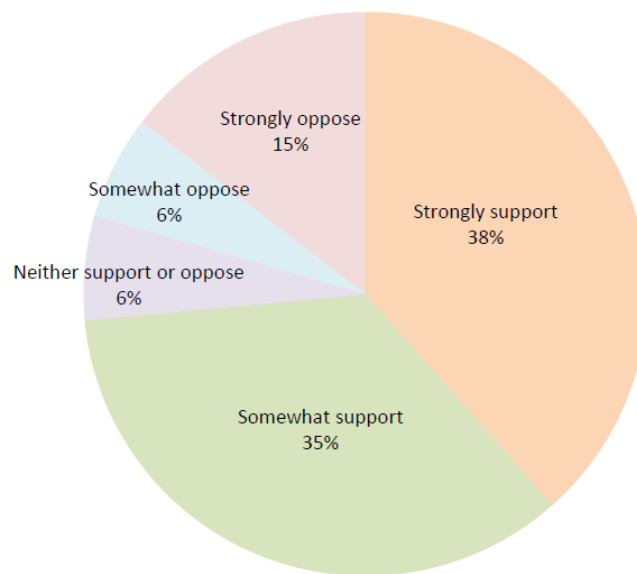
A total of 121 responses to the survey were received.

SNAPSHOT – SURVEY OUTCOMES

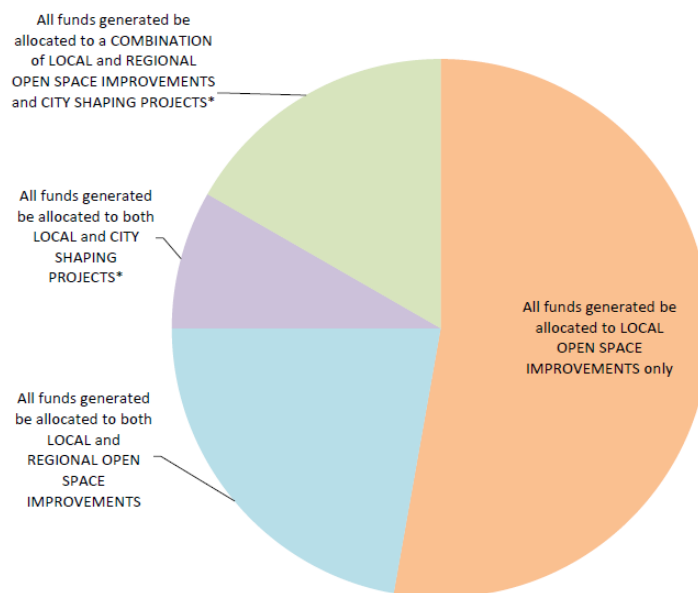
The survey found that there is **broad support for the concept**, with **73% of respondents indicating that they either strongly support or somewhat support** Council funding improvements in recreation spaces, by selling some of the Council owned land that is not meeting the community's needs.

About half (53%) of respondents would prefer that any funds generated from potential sales should be invested locally within Erskine Park.

We asked: Would you support Council funding sustainable improvements in recreation spaces in Erskine Park, by selling some of the Council owned land that is not meeting the community's recreation needs?



We asked: How would you like the money from any potential sales to be allocated?

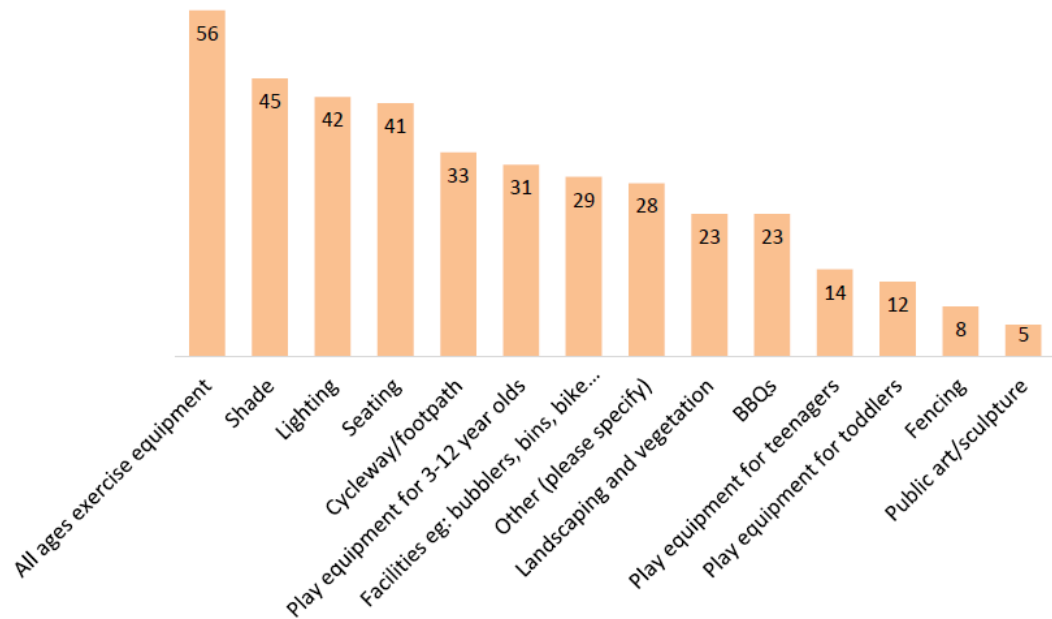


There is strong support for all **ages exercise equipment**, being the most popular choice of the improvements listed in the survey. A variety of other



improvements to recreations spaces were supported, including **play equipment for teens, toddlers and children, shade, lighting and seating.**

We asked: What improvements would you like to see to the recreation areas in Erskine Park? (Select your top three)



FIND OUT MORE

For more information, contact the project team on 4732 8109 or email EPCC@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au or visit [our website](#).

DRAFT OPEN SPACE MASTERPLAN FOR ERSKINE PARK RECREATION SPACES

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

During August and September 2015, Council consulted with residents on a Draft Open Space Masterplan.

The draft was informed by the first stage of community consultation in April and May 2015, which sought feedback on the concept of funding sustainable improvements in recreation spaces in Erskine Park by selling some Council owned land that isn't meeting the community's recreation needs.

The draft Masterplan identifies sites in Erskine Park where improvements could be made, as well as the types of upgrades and facilities needed, and opportunities where underutilised spaces might be sold to fund improvements.

The second round of consultation presented potential sites to the community and sought feedback on the Draft Masterplan. The feedback received during Stage Two will be used to help refine the draft Master Plan and inform the way forward.

WHAT WE HEARD

We wanted to be sure everyone in the community had an opportunity to have their say, so we sought input through a range of channels:

- a suburb-wide letterbox drop
- letters to approximately 800 landowners within 100m of affected parks and reserves
- targeted doorknocking of directly affected residents
- an online and face-to-face survey, and
- two community drop in sessions.

A total of 120 responses to the survey were received.

SNAPSHOT – SURVEY OUTCOMES

Support for the range of proposed improvements in the Draft Masterplan was fairly evenly split, with survey responses indicating:

- 53% *strongly* (31.1%) or *somewhat* supported (21%) the proposed improvements
- 47% *strongly* (39.5%) or *somewhat* opposed (7.6%) the improvements

Many comments focused on specific sites. For example, specific comments about Chameleon Reserve were supportive of the ideas outlined in the opportunities map and the recommendations in the Draft Masterplan.

Warbler Reserve and Aquarius Reserve were the two specific locations most often mentioned throughout the survey. Many of the comments focused on concern over the partial sale of these reserves. Of the 56 respondents who strongly or somewhat opposed the

range of proposed improvements, approximately 35 made comments expressing their opposition to the sale of Warbler or Aquarius Reserves. This feedback will help guide the next stage of the project.

Community members who strongly or somewhat supported the range of proposed improvements made comments which have been summarised into the following key themes:

- upgrades and improvements to facilities are needed and well overdue
- activation of underutilised spaces is supported
- improvements would benefit the overall community
- proposal to sell underutilised spaces to upgrade others is logical

Many indicated that their support was reliant on only a limited percentage of open space being sold and on the condition that any land sold would be developed with respect to the surrounding properties.

The responses from those who strongly or somewhat opposed the range of improvements have been summarised into the following key themes:

- access to open spaces – particularly for direct neighbours
- lack of consultation / mistrust that Council will not implement the project as we say we will
- disagreement that upgrades are needed
- strong community connections to specific sites
- wildlife impacts, trees, and visual amenity
- cost – including the need for more detail and questioning if the funds realised would be enough to cover improvements
- opposition to additional housing locally and concerns around overdevelopment and
- potential congestion and traffic issues

FIND OUT MORE

For more information:

Contact the project team on 4732 8109 or email: EPCC@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au.

Visit [Council's website](#) and search 'Have your say Erskine Park'.