



Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow Masterplan

Phase 1 Community & Stakeholder Consultation Outcomes Report



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Moir Landscape Architecture would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands where the park is located. We acknowledge their contribution to the community and their deep connection to the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Report Register				
Revision	Issue	Author	Review by	Date
A	Draft for client review	MW	MW	16.12.20
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01 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to collate the feedback and outcomes from Phase 1 of the community and stakeholder consultation for the Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow (MPPCH) masterplan. The findings are based on conversations with identified stakeholders conducted through workshops, and completed surveys and messages on the Cessnock City Council's website 'Have Your Say' platform. There were three workshops held; one with Council internal stakeholders, another with identified key community stakeholders, and the other with Cessnock Young Parents Group. This document will provide Council the supporting information required to develop a masterplan that meets community and Council needs, and aspirations for a revamped MPPCH.

02 Project Background

Located in Weston, MPPCH is categorised as a Regional Park. It is one of three Regional Parks in the Cessnock LGA, with the other two being Bridges Hill Park in Cessnock and Poppet Head Park in Kitchener. A masterplan for MPPCH was adopted in 2006 with all the recommendations progressively implemented. Given its popularity with the general public and importance within Council's network of recreational assets, MPPCH has been identified as requiring a new strategic vision and updated masterplan to guide future development.

Cessnock City Council engaged the services of Moir Landscape Architecture to undertake a site assessment study and facilitate the community and stakeholder engagement process with the intent to deliver a site masterplan that can be implemented over a 20-year period.



03 Phase 1 Consultation Process

The purpose of the consultation process was firstly to gain an understanding of the park's current situation, using the knowledge of people who know the park intimately, to find out what's working and what's not. It was then asked of the identified stakeholders and the wider community what aspirations they might have for future development of the park to inform the masterplan.

Phase 1 of the consultation process involved the following;

- Internal stakeholder workshop with relevant Council staff members (November 9, Cessnock Council Depot meeting room)
- Key stakeholder workshop (December 7, Weston Civic Centre)
- Meeting with Cessnock Young Parents Group (December 9)
- Councillor briefing workshop (December 8, Council Chambers)
- Community survey on Councils website Have Your Say platform (November 21 – December 6)

The questions that were asked in the survey were;

- What suburb do you live in?
- What is your age?
- How often do you visit the Park?
- What time of day are you most likely to visit?
- How do you normally get to the Park?
- Who else visits with you?
- Do you, or people that visit with you identify as having a disability?
- What do you do at the Park?
- What features do you like about the Park?
- What improvements would you like to see at the Park?
- Is there anything else we should consider?

To stimulate discussion and generate ideas, the focus of the workshops were mostly around the questions of 'what do you like about the Park' and 'what improvements would you like to see?'. Attendees were encouraged to put forward their ideas and thoughts which were captured in notes recorded by Moir LA.

The Phase 2 consultation process will involve presenting a preliminary draft master plan to the stakeholders and gauging their enthusiasm for the proposed interventions prior to developing the final draft that will go on public exhibition for final feedback. Outcomes of Phase 2 will be recorded in an updated consultation outcomes report.

Internal Stakeholder Workshop

The internal stakeholder workshop was attended by the following Council representatives;

- Manager Open Space & Community Facilities
- Principal Recreation and Community Facilities Planner
- Recreation and Community Facilities Planner
- Acting Parks & Reserves Coordinator
- Vegetation and Civic Spaces Coordinator
- Building Projects Coordinator
- Building Maintenance Coordinator
- Principal Engineer Traffic & Transport Infrastructure
- Engineering Officer, Traffic & Transport
- Principal Community Planner
- Senior Strategic Property Specialist
- Recreation and Community Liaison Officer
- Asset Engineering Officer – Building

The general consensus in the internal workshop was that Maybury Peace Park is at capacity and that the play space is tired and needs to be upgraded. Traffic and pedestrian safety is a major consideration that needs to be addressed in the masterplan. Chinaman's Hollow is currently a passive recreational space loved by the community that has space and potential for additional recreational offerings.

It was recognised that numerous special needs organisations and people with disabilities use the Park, enjoying the picnic facilities and accessible trails. There are plans for future residential development adjacent to the Park and key access points need to be identified and planned for in the masterplan. There was universal agreement that the Park is a much-loved community asset that is deserving of significant investment, and that Bridges Hill Park is now the benchmark that Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow should be striving for.

Key Stakeholder Workshop

Invitations were sent out to the following key stakeholders and organisations;

- City of Cessnock
- Weston Heritage Tidy Towns
- Weston RSL Sub Branch
- Challenge Disability Services Cessnock
- Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri
- Kurri & Weston Cricket Club
- Cricket NSW
- Samaritans Heart Foundation Walking Group
- Kurri Kurri Kid Zone Play Group
- Cessnock Young Parents Group
- Hunter Community Services
- Finding Yellow
- Hunter Prelude Early Intervention Centre
- Sunnyfields (Kurri Kurri)
- Early Links
- Lower Hunter Temporary Care Inc.
- Lower Hunter Peer Support
- The Hub (Mai-Well)

The key stakeholder workshop was attended by 8 people that represented the following organisations;

- Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri
- Weston RSL Sub Branch
- Cessnock City Council
- Challenge Disability Services Cessnock
- Weston Heritage Tidy Towns

All the representatives could see great opportunities and positive synergies with changes to the Park arrangement and general uses with their respective organisations and the broader community.

Similar issues were raised to that of the internal stakeholder workshop around traffic, safety, parking and overcrowding of Maybury Peace Park, particularly on weekends. As a result, a question was put to the group around re-focusing Chinaman's Hollow from a predominantly passive space to a more active space. The benefits of this is the amount of space available for items that are at capacity with no room for expansion in Maybury Peace Park such as the playground, kick about, picnic facilities and parking.

Key elements of the Park that the group unanimously felt strongly about include;

- Improve overall safety.
- The walking trails are a major attraction.
- Maybury Peace Park memorials are to be retained.
- Increased tree planting and shade.
- The pond is to stay in current configuration and remain unfenced.
- The bordering creeks require weed management and should be more accessible to park users.

A separate meeting was undertaken between Council and Cessnock Young Parents Group on the 9 December. Key messages from the meeting include;

- There is not enough play equipment for 0-3 year olds.
- Currently too scared to walk through the underpass to Chinaman's Hollow and do not visit this area.
- They would like the playground fenced but not the pond.
- Would love to see a children's bike track at the site.
- The ducks are a highlight.
- Would be a good idea to repair the existing creek crossing bridge at Maybury Peace Park to access the other side.

Councillor Briefing Workshop

The Councillor briefing workshop was attended by four Councillors and the following staff representatives;

- Manager Open Space and Community Facilities
- Principal Recreation and Community Facilities Planner
- Recreation and Community Facilities Planner
- General Manager, Acting Director Planning and Environment
- Director Corporate and Community Services

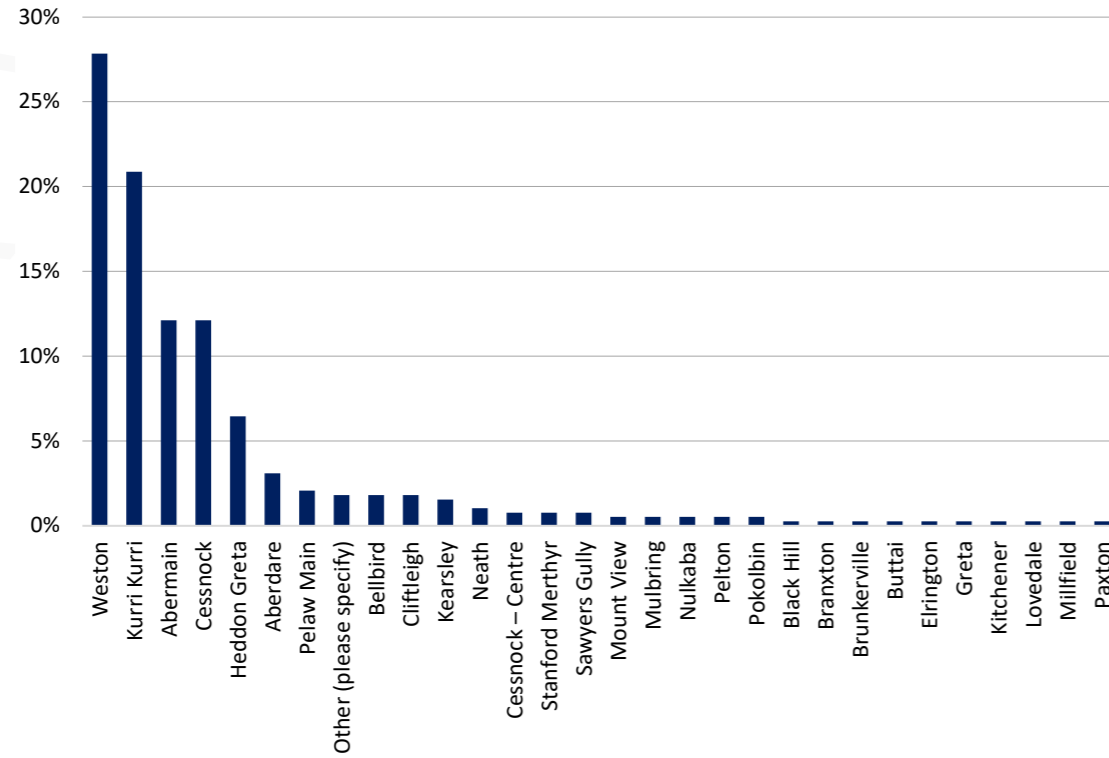
The Councillors appreciated the presentation and a briefing on the general community sentiment, current site challenges and opportunities. A key consideration raised was the acknowledgement that there is an increase of young families moving into the LGA and the need to provide a quality open space and recreation offerings. They would like to see the Park cater better for the youth and improve the overall safety and explore ideas to increase the capacity of the Park without detriment to its existing character.



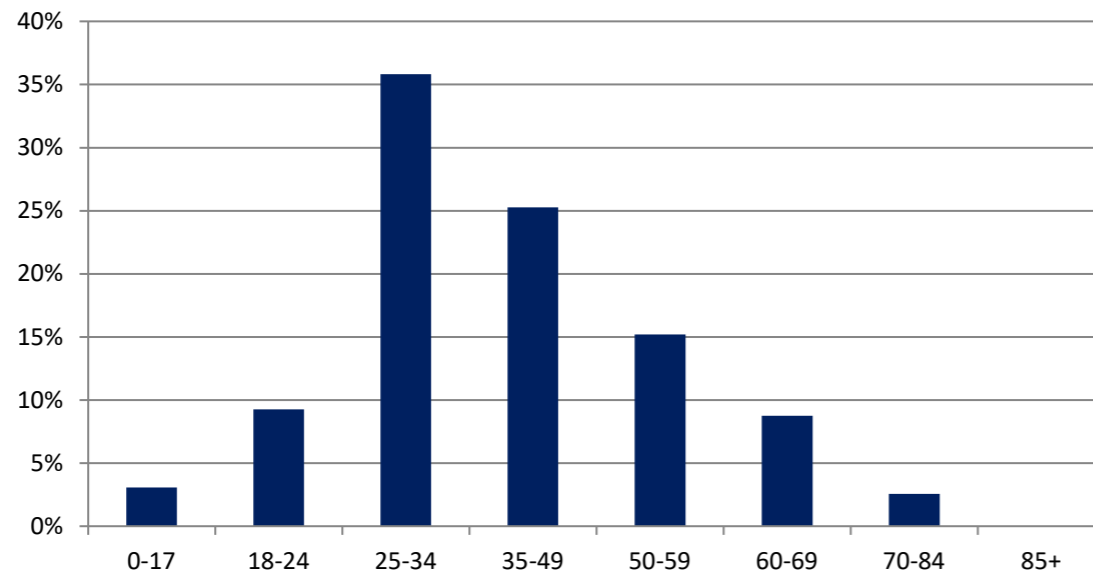
Have Your Say Survey

In total there were 388 surveys completed on the Have Your Say platform on Council's website. The number of surveys far exceeded expectations and reaffirmed the Parks importance and standing within the community. The results of the survey questions are represented in the graphs below.

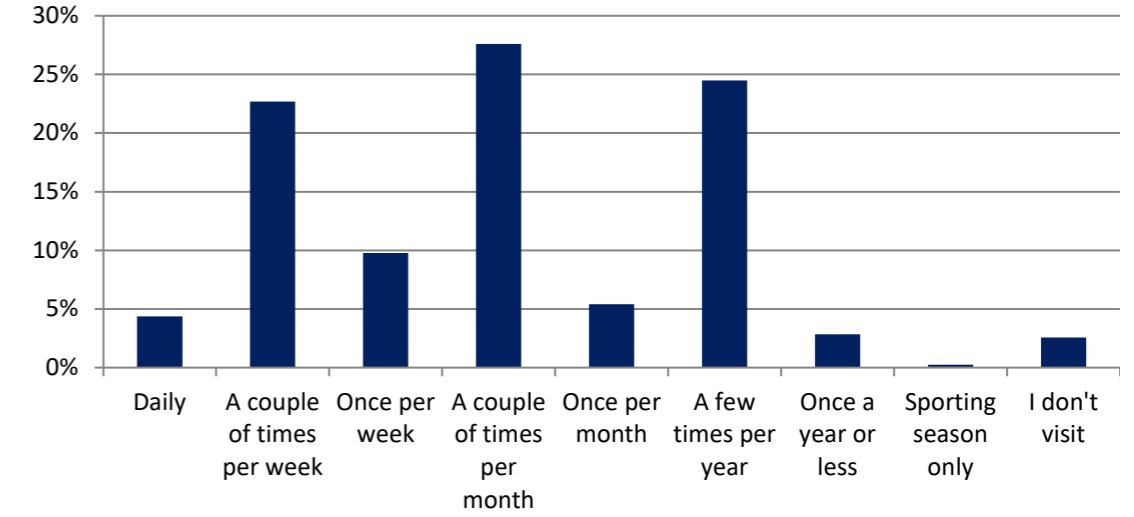
What suburb do you live in?



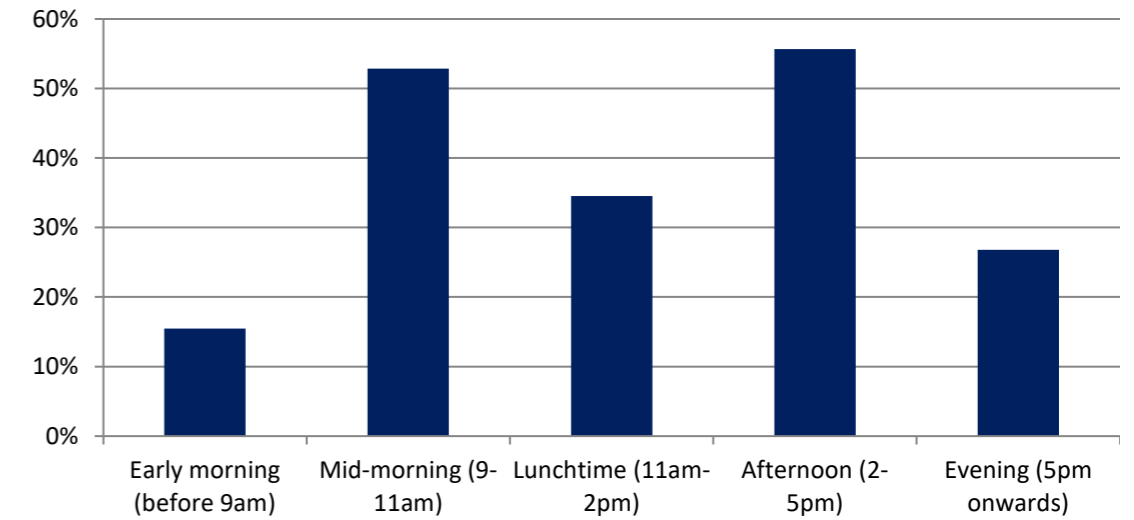
What is your age?



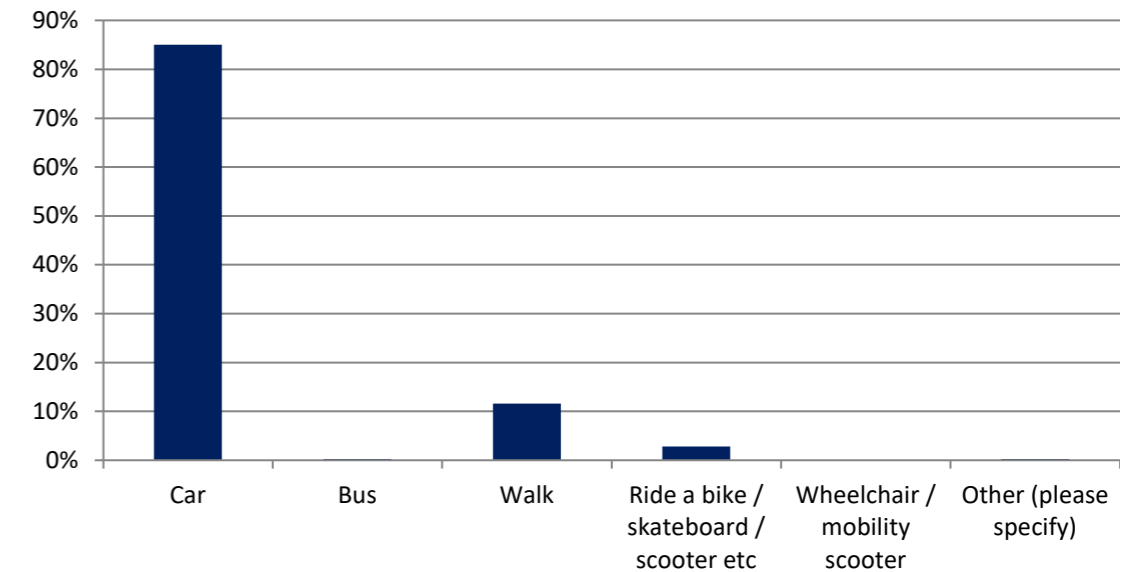
How often do you visit Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow?



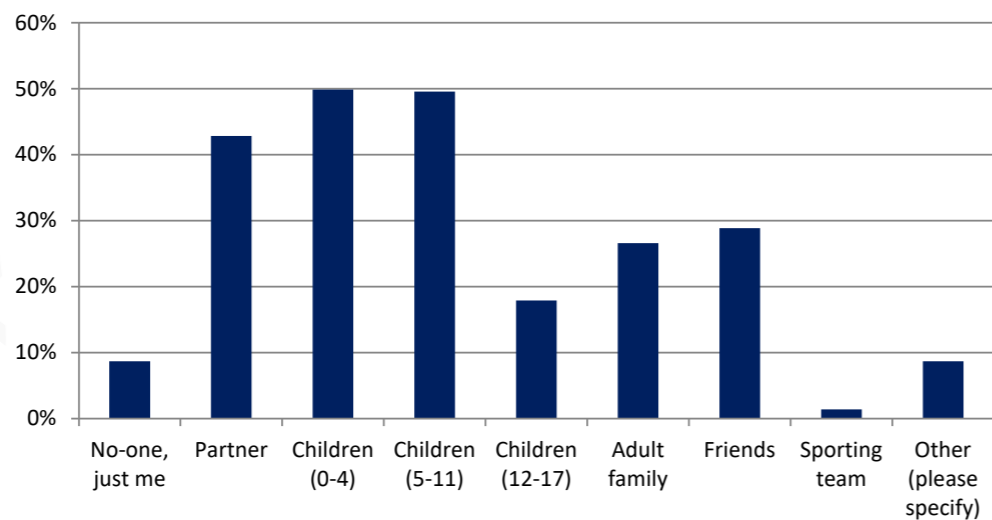
What time of the day are you most likely to visit? (Tick all that apply)



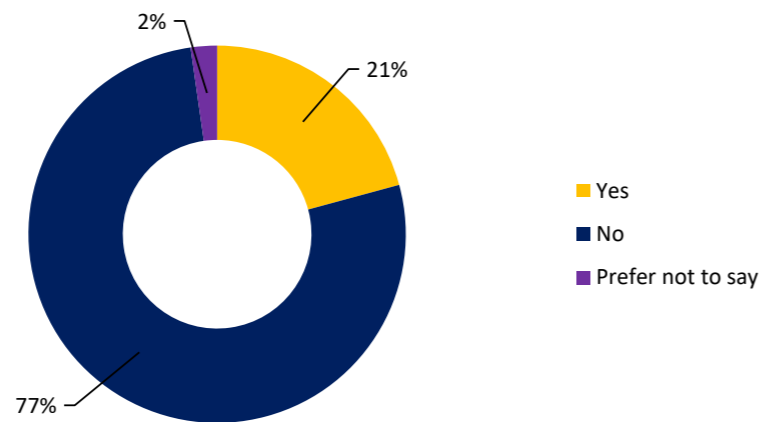
How do you normally get to the park?



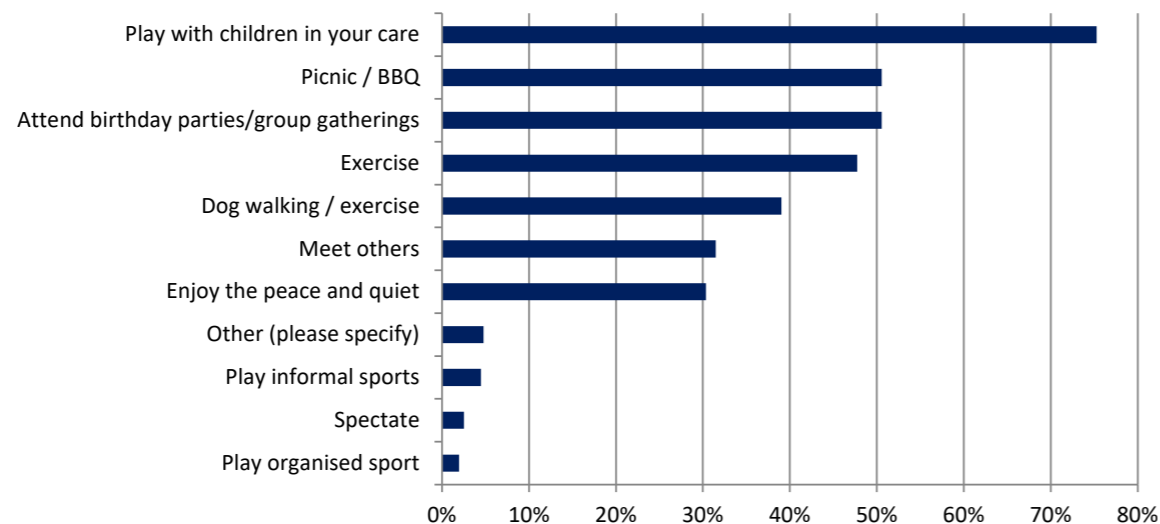
Who else visits with you? (Tick all that apply)



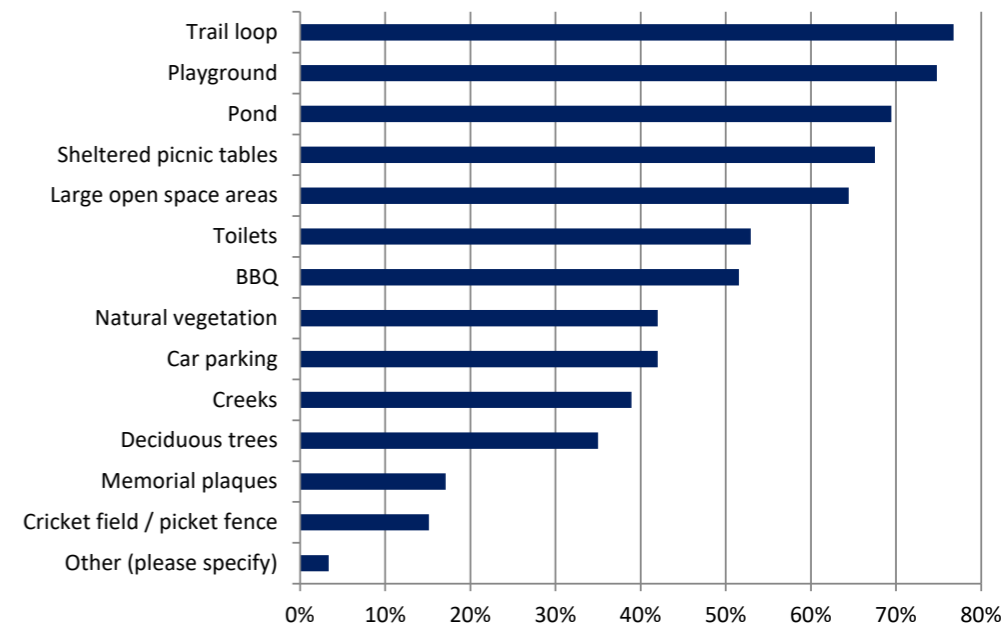
Do you, or the people you visit with identify as having a disability?



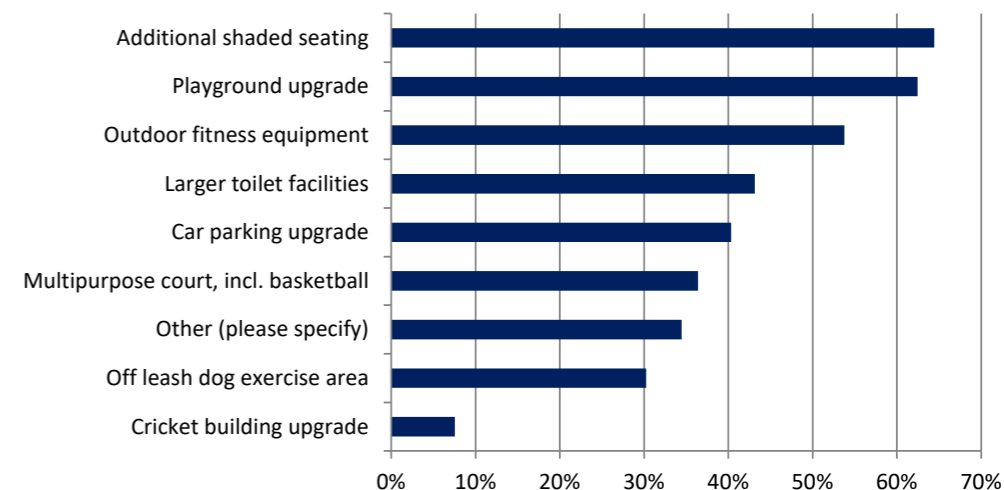
What do you do at Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow? (Tick all that apply)



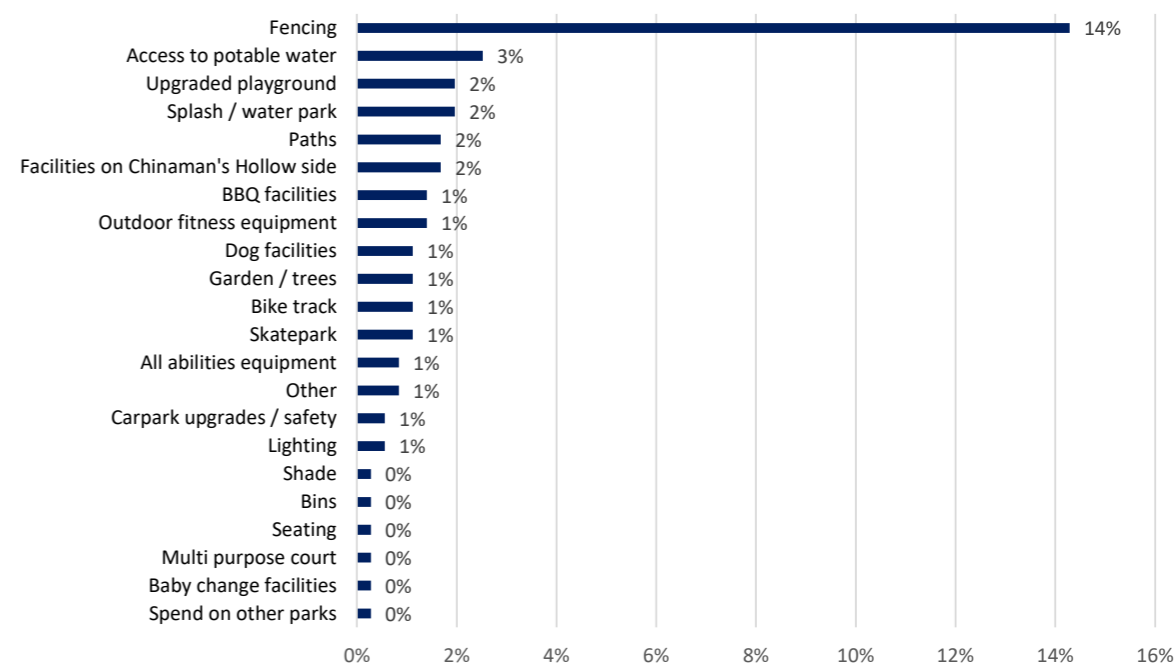
What features do you like about the park?



What improvements would you like to see at the park?



Improvements - 'Other'



Of the 388 surveys completed, a total of 144 respondents provided comments on the question, 'Is there anything else we should consider?'. There were a variety of suggestions, however, some common messages included;

- Fencing around the playground to improve overall safety and stop children running onto the road.
- Upgraded playground with a variety of play experiences that caters for all ages.
- New playground in Chinaman's Hollow.
- Improved safety and connections between the two parks.
- Inclusion of fitness equipment.
- Dedicated space for dog park.
- More shade and picnic facilities.
- Enhanced tree planting.

06

Recommendations

The following recommendations are a result of the outcomes of the Phase 1 consultation and are designed to assist Council with the next steps towards delivering the Maybury Peace Park / Chinaman's Hollow masterplan.

- Make the results of the Phase 1 consultation process public via the Council website and update the community on the program and process.
- Commit to delivering the masterplan based on the positive feedback and suggestions.
- Prepare a preliminary draft site masterplan for internal stakeholder review and feedback.
- Prepare a draft site masterplan for public exhibition (Phase 2 consultation)
- Review feedback from Phase 2 and prepare an updated Consultation Outcomes Report, compiling feedback on the draft masterplan.
- Finalise the masterplan for Council adoption.