

ITEM 3 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT STUART PARK MASTER PLAN

In accordance with the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-23, a draft Landscape Master Plan has been developed to provide Council with a vision to inform the future enhancement of Stuart and JP Galvin Parks, North Wollongong.

Following Council endorsement of the draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan (Master Plan), the Master Plan was placed on public exhibition between 28 September and 2 November 2022 and a series of community engagement initiatives undertaken seeking further community feedback to help refine the Master Plan. This report now seeks Council's adoption of the Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan be adopted.
- 2 The draft Implementation Plan be noted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Engagement Report - Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Master Plan
- 2 Revised Draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan (February 2023)
- 3 Draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan (September 2022)
- 4 Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park - Images and Section (February 2023)

BACKGROUND

During November 2021, Council undertook preliminary community engagement to help inform the planning of the park and the development of a draft Master Plan. A draft Master Plan was subsequently prepared that sought to maintain the open space with a focus on enhancing, improving, and supporting community access and use of the park. Key features of the draft Master Plan include incorporation of the planned all abilities/all ages playground, new pedestrian and cycling links, new yarning circle and upgraded public amenities.

Stuart Park (including JP Galvin Park) is Wollongong's premier park and is a much-loved community asset. Located on Dharawal Country on a site with significant Aboriginal cultural value, it is a Crown Reserve and was gazetted as Stuart Park in 1885 for public recreation purposes.

Stuart Park is a vital recreational asset for the city. In terms of scale, Stuart Park is the most significant open space area in the city foreshore area. Located adjacent to the highly popular attraction of North Beach, and the natural areas of Puckeys Estate and Fairy Creek, Stuart Park provides a significant open area for leisure and recreation, and space for community events.

In 2007 Council adopted the Blue Mile Master Plan (incorporating Stuart Park precinct) which proposed a cohesive range of city foreshore improvements to realise the potential of the iconic urban beach and foreshore as a major people-oriented place and the focus for public activities. Council has progressively implemented significant public infrastructure, recreation and tourism experiences in the foreshore area stretching from the Wollongong Golf Course in the south to Fairy Creek in the north.

Since the adoption of the Blue Mile Master Plan, several improvements within Stuart Park have occurred including the upgrading of the playground, installation of contemporary toilets, and new and upgraded shelter and picnic facilities.

Despite the success of the Blue Mile Master Plan, several significant changes have occurred that requires a review of the Stuart Park precinct. This includes:

- Strong population growth and higher density living in the North Wollongong and City Centre area.
- Construction of the tramway and increased walking and cycling movement throughout the precinct.
- Increased visitation from western and southwestern Sydney.
- Recognition of Stuart Park as Wollongong's premier event site.
- Adoption of new policies including Urban Greening Strategy.
- Extreme weather events and climate change.
- Deterioration of ground conditions in some areas receiving higher usage.
- Improved understanding of Aboriginal cultural values attached to the site.
- Development of the Innovation Campus and planned future works.

Given these significant changes, Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-23 identified the need to develop a new Landscape Master Plan that will provide Council with a vision to inform the future enhancement of the park.

Key objectives of the draft Master Plan include:

- To provide an updated vision to guide changes to Stuart and JP Galvin Parks.
- Responding to the changing and diverse recreational requirements of residents and visitors.
- Ensuring the park is placed to support an increasing visitor population.
- Guiding future iterations of Council's plan of management, capital programs and works plans.
- Understanding the park's natural and cultural values and how they can be best preserved and enhanced.
- Making recommendations about the future pedestrian and cycle access and traffic management within the park.

To assist in clarifying aspirations for the site, significant engagement occurred during October to November 2021 which directly informed the development of the draft Master Plan. Council asked the community and key stakeholders for ideas on how they would like to use Stuart Park over the next 10 years.

Responses were received from 860 people ranging in age from early education and care services through to older residents and several organisations. Most respondents enjoy the park's amenity but offered multiple ideas and suggestions for enhancing the park experience.

Based on the preliminary feedback, a draft Master Plan was developed to guide future activities and enhancements that support current and future usage.

Key aspects of the draft Master Plan included:

Retaining Current Park Structure

The Master Plan seeks to enhance the intrinsic qualities of the park by retaining the current park structure. The Master Plan features enhanced vegetation management on the front dune and estuarine area, whilst maintaining the current level of natural area plantings that bound Squires Way and George Hanley Drive ensuring that the natural feel and biodiversity of the area is maintained. Opportunities for native grass and tree plantings will be pursued where integration with infrastructure and key activity nodes is desirable, for example, playground, sensory trail, picnic areas. Planting of trees in the park should be cognisant of the operation of events and other commercial activities.

The Master Plan does not envisage an increase in the footprint of The Lagoon restaurant although landscape interventions to immediately surrounding areas are required to improve condition, amenity, functionality and connection to parking, footpaths, foreshore, and playground.

The lagoon area incorporating the sanded/grassed area and stand of Norfolk Pines will remain relatively untouched but requires improved maintenance and sensitive treatment to minimise erosion resulting from high usage and inclement weather events.

Enhanced Pedestrian Experience

Defining key pedestrian circulation routes will enable Stuart Park to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors without compromising the condition of its green spaces and landscaped areas and will also ensure the aging population and less mobile residents can continue to access to the park activity nodes.

The Master Plan provides guidance for new pedestrian entry points to the park from surrounding residential areas.

The Master Plan envisages a new perimeter path that responds to existing desire lines and walking tracks connecting the Blue Mile with Fairy Lagoon through to Puckeys Nature Reserve and around the western fringe of the park to the shared path. The new path alignment shall take advantage of key views and logical connections with activity nodes, the form, dimensions, materiality, colours and detailing requiring careful consideration and response to the park's heritage significance and sense of place.

Consideration of future pedestrian level lighting (including solar) along the primary paths is required to support general park activity during the hours of 6am-9pm.

New Yarning Circle

In recognition of the significance of Stuart Park to the Aboriginal community, the new yarning circle will provide a space where stories and knowledge can be shared. The yarning circle will be located within proximity and visual connection to the artificial lagoon and take advantage of natural shade from mature trees. Function and scale should support gatherings and design will be connected to by footpaths to the perimeter walking circuit. Additional tree planting will provide natural shade over time.

Upgraded Play Experience

An expanded and improved play precinct targeting a broader age range and abilities will be provided. The draft Master Plan incorporates Council's planned all abilities/all ages playground and strengthens access with new pedestrian access to existing amenities.

Nature/Sensory Trail

The Master Plan envisages a new secondary path that will circumnavigate the artificial lagoon encouraging exploration and provide a series of experiences along a route that is designed to engage the different senses and to collectively immerse people in a multi-sensory journey.

The trail will be planned for people with disabilities, especially people with sensory impairments, but will connect and support all users of the new all abilities/all ages playground and the proposed yarning circle encouraging people to move between these spaces.

New and upgraded amenities

Amenity and usability of the park will be improved through the integration of additional toilet facilities. The Master Plan envisages that the main amenities southeast of The Lagoon restaurant will more than double in size to meet current demand.

The older southern amenities will be demolished and replaced with contemporaneous and automated style facilities, located closer to the realigned southern path and activities.

Enhanced interpretation

Stuart Park plays an important role in both the environmental, indigenous, historical, and social history of Wollongong. A significant opportunity exists to create a new and enhanced interpretation experience to convey the multi-layered history of Stuart Park to every visitor. The Master Plan proposes a new interpretation overlay to be permanently embedded within the park landscape including new methods of wayfinding and interpretation so that all visitors can engage with its many stories. It is proposed that the perimeter walking circuit becomes the uniting element for this enhanced interpretive experience, whilst the man-made lagoon provides for a new trail with a focus for ecological exploration and fun.

Defined Events Area

The Master Plan will continue to support events by creating defined event spaces suitable for large and smaller events and temporary activations. These spaces will be supported by providing new power to the spaces, widening/strengthening of footpaths to allow for heavy vehicle movements, and improvements to flooding/stormwater infrastructure. Regrading of the area west of the access road may also be required to improve stormwater.

Removal of the old cricket amenities building will create a larger contiguous open area free of obstructions suitable for hosting larger music style events. The realigned southern shared path provides improved delineation that will allow the operation of events whilst providing continued access to activity nodes within the park.

Unstructured Recreation

Supporting healthy lifestyles through the creation of attractive and well-maintained spaces is a core priority for local government.

The Master Plan notes the desirability of Stuart Park for the high number of local residents who enjoy using the park to walk, run, and exercise in group fitness. The proposed upgrading of paths and improvements to stormwater and flooding will meet the needs of these groups.

This Master Plan notes that Stuart Park historically hosted tennis courts and a senior cricket field. The Master Plan does not support formalising any area for organised sport but acknowledges that the large expanse of grassed areas is conducive to light training by local sports groups and can be accommodated with minimal intervention subject to ground condition.

Other emerging recreation activities such as slacklining (walking and/or balancing on a suspended flat line) is to be supported with minimal interventions and harnessing the natural setting. Low-cost interventions such as kilometre markers along key jogging routes could be installed to encourage challenge.

Caretakers Cottage

The draft Master Plan envisages the restoration and refurbishment of the Caretakers Cottage to make accessible for public commercial use. Future works must also consider the adequacy of current storage facilities, amenities and outdoor gathering areas and plan for accordingly. Any new work should reveal and reinforce the role of the Caretakers Cottage whilst meeting the needs of current and future users.

Traffic and Parking

The draft Master Plan seeks to maintain current access arrangements and the current level of carparking within the park. However, several interventions are envisaged that will improve safety and support park users including:

- Renewal of the north-western carpark (immediately west of The Lagoon restaurant) incorporating new accessible carparking bays with extended lengths allowing for disability support vehicles adjacent to the playground area.
- Reduce vehicular speed limit within the entire park area from 40 kilometres per hour to a maximum of 10 kilometres per hour.
- Construct a new raised crossing at the intersection of Cliff Road and George Hanley Drive.
- Provide a new formalised parking area on the western side of Squires Way with appropriate pedestrian treatment to Stuart and Galvin Park.
- Provide space for minibus parking in the central carpark adjacent to the Caretakers Cottage.
- Provide new layover minibus parking adjacent to the main toilet facilities.
- Provide permanent emergency vehicle access to North Beach and Fairy Lagoon.
- Review parking configuration along George Hanley Drive with aim of increasing carparking.
- Consider bus parking bay along George Hanley Drive.

- Review the amount of accessible parking bays within the park to ensure adequate parking exists for future needs of the community.
- Explore opportunities to reduce or manage carparking demand to encourage a modal shift to transit, pedestrian and bicycling trips and opportunities for smart parking (real-time information).
- Provide new electric vehicle charging points.

PROPOSAL

Following the extensive community engagement process, several changes were made to the draft Master Plan including:

Yarning Circle

The proposed siting of the yarning circle has been moved slightly east closer to pond.

Inclusion of a Path Hierarchy and Additional Linkages

Additional paths are shown on Plan that provide improved access within the park.

Public Artwork/Interpretation

Notional locations for integrated public artwork and/or enhanced interpretation opportunities are shown on Plan.

North Wollongong Station Connection

Undertake a feasibility investigation to explore construction of a new footbridge and path that would enable improved access from North Wollongong Railway Station to Stuart Park.

Water Refill Stations

Potential locations for new water refill stations have now been incorporated on Plan.

Defined Events Areas

Given the scale of Stuart Park, 'primary' and 'secondary' event areas have been developed to assist in prioritising works. The primary area generally aligns with the footprint of the concerts held in Stuart Park. The 'primary' events area will be prioritised for extensive works to provide a more resilient space for hosting of concerts and other large cultural events.

From time to time, temporary, pop-up events or activities will occur in different areas of the park, which may provide for different opportunities yet explored. Except for works identified elsewhere in this Plan, with the exception of new electricity outlets, further infrastructure or additional works are not proposed to support these activities – see image below.



Given the cultural significance of the study area, it is anticipated that the local Aboriginal community will play a key role in contributing to the detailed design of future upgraded and new facilities in the park as identified in the draft Master Plan. This will ensure works are pursued in a culturally sensitive and collaborative manner whilst assisting residents and visitors gain a deeper understanding of local Aboriginal history and continuing culture, ensuring it is a visible part of the built and natural environment.

It is recommended that the revised draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan be endorsed as the key reference point for future enhancement and activation of the precinct.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Following Council's endorsement of the draft Master Plan on 12 September 2022, the Plan was placed on public exhibition between 28 September and 2 November 2022 seeking public feedback. The community was informed about the project by the following means:

- Community update in the Illawarra Mercury.
- Mail out to all households/businesses within 400 metres of site (approximately 4,000 residents).
- Our Wollongong: Join the Conversation - online survey, FAQ, key documents.
- Media release.
- Flyers/posters/feedback forms dropped off at local libraries.
- Onsite signage.
- Social media posts.
- Onsite information stalls.
- Presentation to Neighbourhood Forum 5 (NF5).
- Stakeholder workshop.
- Workshops with children and young people who participated in the first round of consultation.

Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented below.

Engagement Activities	Participation
Online information sessions	3
Onsite information session	21
Targeted workshop	7
School workshops	144
Online Participation – general public	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware – Total number of people who viewed the project webpage 	1,326
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed – Total number of people who clicked a hyperlink, e.g., to download a map 	772
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged – Total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g. by submitting comments via the survey 	119

We received ideas and feedback from 329 people, including from the general community, several groups, and organisations.

Table: Submission types

Submission type	Number of participants
Open – Email	24
Open – Letter	2
Survey (126 online, 33 hard copy)	159
School workshops with years 3, 4, 5 and 6 students	144
TOTAL	329

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 5 ‘We have a healthy community in a liveable city’. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026	
Strategy		Service	
5.4	Provide a variety of quality and accessible public places and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.	Develop and implement the Landscape Master Plan for Stuart and Galvin Parks, North Wollongong	

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The draft Master Plan has carefully considered the cultural and natural values of the site.

Stakeholder consultation with local Aboriginal community representatives has occurred with ideas shared that acknowledge, conserve, and celebrate first Nations people’s rights, knowledge, and culture. Taking a First Nations lens to the planning of Stuart Park has ensured that Country is cared for appropriately and sensitive sites are protected whilst ensuring Aboriginal cultural knowledge is valued and respected.

All proposed initiatives utilise existing site topography, avoiding extensive cut and fill exercises and wherever possible maintaining current landscape form. Existing native vegetation will be maintained with some further urban greening options and increased natural shade across the site will be pursued over time.

Social sustainability is maintained by conservation of the open space for ongoing use by current and future generations. The park will enhance the lives of persons with a disability by the creation of an expanded playground catering for persons of all ages and all abilities, new adult change facilities, and additional and widened paths improving access. Social sustainability of the park could be further improved with additional recreational related infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyles and opportunities for younger persons residing in the city centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft Master Plan envisages significant works that will provide new and upgraded recreational opportunities along with additional supporting amenities. These works are designed to be delivered in a staged manner over time. It is anticipated that once adopted, the Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan will help inform the forward capital delivery program requirements and external grant opportunities.

Future staged delivery of these works will be subject to citywide priorities with potential funding through Council's annual planning process and external grant programs. In accordance with best practice approaches to asset management planning, Council will also need to consider whole of life costs supporting the proposed initiatives and provide appropriate resources to support planned maintenance and long-term renewal.

Preliminary high-level cost estimates and a staging plan has been developed to assist in understanding financial considerations and anticipated timing for the implementation of proposed works.

Staging	Project	Inclusions	Funding Status	Programming
1. Playground	A. All Ages All Abilities Playground	New playground Artwork	Funded	Design/Construct 22/23 Construct 23/24
	B. Accessibility enhancement package	New pathway to existing amenities Minibus layover bay	Funded	Design/Construct 22/23 Construct 23/24
2. Pedestrian/ Cycling Safety Improvements	A. New Raised crossing	New signage	Funded	Design 23/24 Construct 24/25
	B. Renewal and realignment of southern shared path	Line marking New Pedestrian Smart Lighting		
	C. Speed control from 40km/h to 10km/h			
3. Carpark and Amenities upgrade	A. Western Carpark Renewal	Reconfigure two car spaces into accessible spaces New line marking New bollards	Funded	Design 23/24 Construct 24/25
	B. Upgrade/Expansion of Main public amenities	Female toilets Unisex toilets Adult change facilities	Unfunded	Not programmed
	C. Renewal of shelters adjacent to All Abilities playground	DDA compliant furniture	Unfunded	Not programmed
4. Event Upgrade	A. Drainage improvements to primary event space and southeast corner	New pit and pipe Regrading	Unfunded	Not programmed
	B. New Electricity Distribution boards	Standard Event boards	Unfunded	Not programmed
5. Lagoon	A. Nature trail	Signage (Educational/interpretative) Seating Bush tucker garden	Unfunded	Not programmed
	B. Yarning Circle	Path connections from realigned path Interpretative signage New plantings	Unfunded	Not programmed

Staging	Project	Inclusions	Funding Status	Programming
6. Promenade	A. Eastern Promenade	Interpretative signage Integrated public art Wayfinding signage Seating Bins Water refill station	Unfunded	Not programmed
	B. Lagoon Restaurant forecourt upgrade		Unfunded	Not programmed
	C. Beach Emergency access	Constructed road Gate Signage	Unfunded	Not programmed
7. Caretaker Cottage Enhancement	A. Caretaker Cottage Enhancement	Storage Covered Landscape area Parking External lighting Connecting Paths Landscaping Amenities	Unfunded	Not programmed
	B. Central Carpark Renewal	Minibus bay Line marking EV charging	Unfunded	Not programmed
8. Future Activation Area	A. Demolition of Old Cricket Amenities Building & Toilet	Returfing	Unfunded	Not programmed
	B. Fitness Zone	Fitness equipment Seating Water refill station	Unfunded	Not programmed
	C. New amenities	Automated DDA compliant toilets	Unfunded	Not programmed

CONCLUSION

The revised Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan focuses on retaining the intrinsic qualities of the park whilst improving community access, engagement and usage of the popular park and surrounds. A comprehensive phased community engagement process has been undertaken with findings used to directly develop and refine the Master Plan. Several key initiatives have been developed that are anticipated to bring direct benefit to the park and its users.

It is now recommended that the draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Landscape Master Plan be adopted.



OUR WOLLONGONG JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Draft Stuart & JP Galvin Park Master Plan

Phase 2 – Draft Engagement Report

December 2022

Draft Stuart and JP Galvin Park Master Plan – Phase 2 Engagement Report December 2022

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The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and issues. While it's not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.

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Executive Summary

Feedback received in Phase one of the engagement in 2021 was used to help develop the draft Master Plan for the Stuart & JP Galvin Park Master Plan (draft master Plan). In Phase two, we asked the community and key stakeholders their level of satisfaction with the draft Master Plan, whether they thought anything was missing and if they had any other comments on the draft Master Plan.

Methods and stakeholders

During the engagement period, 28 September to 2 November 2022, we sent more than 4,100 letters, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and surveys to residents, businesses, and property owners near Stuart Park. The community were invited to learn more, share feedback and join the conversation. We sent emails with this information to key stakeholder groups including:

- Aboriginal community members
- Destination Wollongong
- Emergency services
- Local businesses, licensees, and event holders
- Primary schools
- Neighbourhood Forums
- NSW Crown Lands
- Participants in previous engagements linked to Stuart Park
- Register of Interest – Access, Cultural/Arts
- Sport, fitness, recreation, health, multicultural and disability groups, and organisations
- University of Wollongong

We published a project webpage on our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au, which included an online survey, Promotional signs were installed around Stuart Park, written in English, Arabic and Simplified Chinese, with a QR code linked to the project webpage. We issued a media release and published a notice in the Illawarra Mercury Community Update. People could access the information from Council's Customer Service and Wollongong Library. We held an online information session on Thursday 13 October. A targeted workshop was held with some key stakeholders and facilitated workshops with school students. We contacted people from the local Aboriginal community via phone and email.

Feedback

We heard from 329 people ranging from school children, individuals, businesses, and several organisations. Feedback came from 159 surveys and 26 open submissions. Community comments are summarised in the following pages.

Surveys

Level of satisfaction with the plan (survey and school children)

The survey results for level of satisfaction were mixed. 78 people said they were either satisfied or very satisfied, compared to 37 who said they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the draft Master Plan. 33 people said they were neither satisfied, nor dissatisfied.

School children had a higher level of satisfaction, with the majority of students saying they were happy (77) or very happy (33) with the draft Master Plan. Four students rated their level of satisfaction between very happy and happy. None of the students taking part in the school workshop said they were unhappy with the draft Master Plan.

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Reasons for level of satisfaction included

Survey respondents were asked to share the reasons for their level of satisfaction. These reasons have been themed and included general satisfaction (it's a good plan), parking, pathways, outdoor gym equipment, the All-Abilities Playground, toilets near the playground, Indigenous recognition, Sky Dive the Beach, drainage, and access. Some themes such as parking, were listed as a reason for satisfaction or dissatisfaction by respondents.

School children were asked why they were happy with the draft Master Plan. The reasons given have been themed and include: the playground (most mentions for the 'mouse wheel'), the All-Abilities Playground, the extra parking, more paths, food vans, the Yarning Circle, keeping open space, space for events, more trees and additional toilet facilities.

Missing from the Draft Master Plan

The community told us that they wanted some things currently missing from the draft Master Plan. These included the Wollongong Workout Park Project, additional outdoor gym equipment, more parking, additional wider paths, toilets near the playground, things for teens to do such as a skate park or basketball court, more lighting, seating, dog facilities, a fence around the All-Abilities Playground and separated cycleways.

School children said they wanted more food outlets, things for teens to do (a skate park, bike track, basketball courts), facilities for pets, toilets closer to the playground, a ninja warrior course, treehouse, more parking, more public art and more rest areas.

Other comments

The community had the opportunity to provide other comments. Many of the same themes mentioned in the two other open-ended survey questions were repeated. New themes raised in response to this question included suggesting Master Plans were needed for other areas in the Local Government area, waste management and maintenance issues and restricting the location of BBQs in Stuart Park.

Open and group submissions

The same themes identified in survey responses were included in the open submissions. Wollongong's Bike City status was raised in open submissions with requests for Council to improve cycling infrastructure in Stuart Park and connections from North Wollongong Train Station.

Across all forms of submissions 25 different themes were identified. Of these, the most mentioned themes were parking, pathways, more activities for teens, outdoor gym equipment (more), appreciation of the green space, All-Abilities Playground (fence needed), toilets near the playground, food outlets (more and greater variety), dog park (needed) and additional Indigenous recognition.

Opinions were mixed on parking. Some thought there was sufficient parking, others thought more was needed. Respondents also suggested alternative parking sites, timed, or paid parking and a greater emphasis on active transport and discouraging cars.

Pathways comments included requests for additional, separated, wider paths to provide safety for riders and pedestrians. Linking pathways, to connect east to west and to North Wollongong Train Station, were also mentioned. There were mixed views on the perimeter path.

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Aboriginal stakeholder submissions

Concerns about the location of the boardwalk were raised and it was requested the boardwalk near the dunes be moved slightly inland to avoid a sensitive cultural area. The placement of the Yarning Circle was mentioned and the need to confirm the most suitable site with the Aboriginal community.

Facebook comments

More than 50 comments were made on Facebook about aspects of the draft Master Plan. 22 comments said Council should spend money in Windang rather than Stuart Park. Eight comments were about other areas in the Local Government Area.

Next steps

Feedback received during this second stage of engagement will be used to update the draft Master Plan, before it goes to Council seeking adoption.

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Background

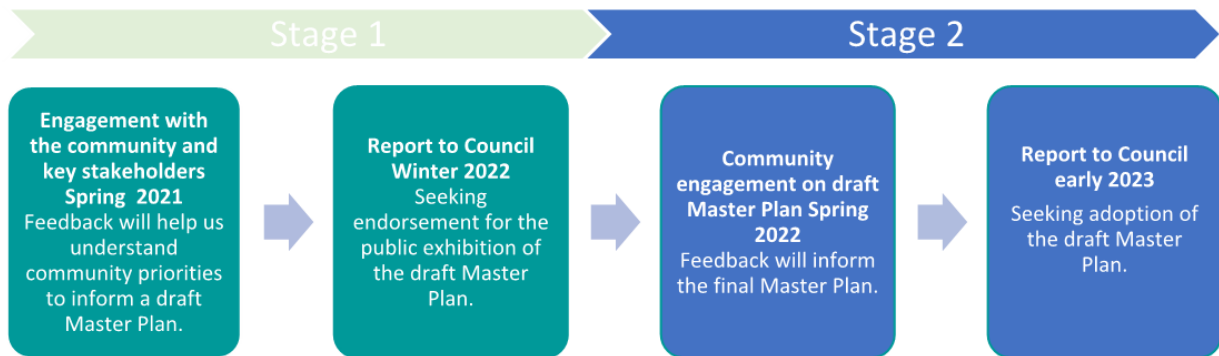
Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) commits to provide a variety of quality public spaces and opportunities for sport, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community.

Planning for the Future of Stuart Park Phase one engagement ran from 25 October to 22 November 2021. Findings from Phase one were used to influence the development of the Draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Park Master Plan.

The overarching goal of the project is:

“To provide a strategic approach to the sustainable long-term development and enhancement of the Stuart Park as Wollongong’s premier park to accommodate the future recreational and cultural needs of our community”.

We are involving the community in a staged approach for developing the Stuart Park Master Plan.



We will implement the Stuart Park & JP Galvin Master Plan subject to:

- Council endorsement.
- Further community engagement on specific projects in the Plan.
- Available budgets.
- Annual capital programming.
- Environmental approvals.

Draft Stuart and JP Galvin Park Master Plan – Phase 2 Engagement Report December 2022

Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of the engagement period included:



Methods

Our Methods



Table 1: Details of Communication and Engagement Methods

Methods	Details of Methods
Communication Methods	
Email to key stakeholders	An email and FAQ was sent to key stakeholders identified through an analysis process.

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<p>Letter</p>	<p>A letter about the engagement and how to submit feedback (via phone, email or online) was delivered to more than 4,100 local residents, businesses, and property owners.</p>
<p>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</p>	<p>Responses to questions about the Draft Master Plan and the engagement were distributed with the letter and emails and published on the project webpage.</p>
<p>Maps</p>	<p>Two maps were produced: The study area:</p>  <p>Indicative images:</p>  <p><i>A series of outdoor rooms accessible to all</i></p> <p>DRAFT STUART PARK & J P GALVIN PARK COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - IMAGES & SECTION</p>
<p>Our Wollongong website</p>	<p>The project webpage hosted background information, and supporting documents:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently Asked Questions • Online survey
Community Update	<p>A notice appeared in Council's Community Update page, printed in the Illawarra Mercury, on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 September • 12 October
On-site signs	<p>Corflute signs in English, Arabic and Simplified Chinese that included a QR code linking to the Our Wollongong project webpage were installed in multiple locations around Stuart Park.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
Newsletter to Register of Interest groups	<p>A newsletter was sent to a total of 2,070 people from various ROI groups including ... with a 64.7% open rate</p>
Media release	<p>A media release about the engagement was distributed on 7 October 2022.</p>
Social media	<p>City of Wollongong Facebook page published a post promoting the engagement</p>
Engagement Methods	
Our Wollongong website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey was used to capture participants' comments.
School workshops	<p>Workshops were held with students at the following primary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniston Public School • Towradgi Public School • Wollongong Public School
Email	<p>People emailed in open written submissions.</p>

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Results

All stakeholders and the wider community were invited to share their ideas for improving Stuart Park.

The Illawarra Mercury published a letter to the editor on 5 October 2022 raising questions about the Stuart Park Swamp.

Engagement Participation

This section provides details on the participation in engagement activities and feedback received during the engagement period. Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Participation in Engagement Activities

Engagement Activities	Participation
Online information sessions	3
Onsite information session	21
Targeted workshop	7
School workshops	144
Online Participation – general public	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware – Total number of people who viewed the project webpage. 	1326
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged – Total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g., by submitting comments via the survey 	119

Submission results

We received ideas and feedback from 329 people, including from the general community, several groups, and organisations.

Table 3: Submission types

Submission type	Number of participants
Open – Email	24
Open – Letter	2
Survey (126 online, 33 hard copy)	159
Schools' workshops with years 3, 4, 5 and 6	144
TOTAL	329

People contributed comments in different ways. This is a summary of all the feedback we received:

Open feedback received via email/letter

Individual submissions

We received 18 submissions from individuals

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- A community member who had attended the targeted workshop session also emailed through their "Wollongong Workout Park" proposal. The Wollongong Workout Park are local health & fitness enthusiasts working towards the construction of a publicly available, cost free, all-inclusive outdoor fitness area by the beach in Wollongong. The group provided concept plans and a description of health, social and economic outcomes. Letters of support of the initiative were provided and included Southern Youth and Family Services, the Heart Foundation, Public Health Association Australia, Baker Heart And Diabetes Institute, Grand Pacific Health, Life Be in it, and talk2mebro.

Group submissions

We received detailed submissions from seven groups. The full submissions have been provided to the project team for consideration. Following is a high-level summary of each:

One community cycling group made the following comments:

- The intersection of Cliff Road and George Hanley Drive needs a new raised crossing
- The shared path portions of the perimeter paths should be upgraded to separated paths for pedestrians and cyclists.
- George Hanley Drive - proposed crossing near Virginia Street should be upgraded with kerb bulb-outs on both sides of the road. The intersection of Virginia Street and the alignment of George Hanley/Squires Way should be redesigned in a future program of works to provide better road safety. Include restoring a level surface for walking path. Space for safe riding route to and from Virginia Street
- Reduce the speed limit south of Fairy Creek to make the area safer. The proposed crossing on Squires Way and the expanded parking together with increased use of Stuart Park has the potential to increase conflict between pedestrians, cyclists, and road users.
- Make the new pedestrian path on the northeast side of Stuart Park a wide shared path.
- Instead of increasing car parking, create a safe separated link between Stuart Park and North Wollongong Station along Ajax Avenue to encourage people to walk/cycle to the Park.
- Seek innovative solutions including designated loading zones, shared parking arrangements with UOW, time limited parking/shuttle services would help accommodate future park growth without compromise to natural areas and carbon emissions reduction targets.

A local resident community action group made the following comments:

- The Plan needs to include more Bike City Friendly features such as bike lockers, secure bike parking areas, better bike service station signage and a large map showing the bike paths & safer neighbourhood streets to cycle, with cafes and other destinations - to encourage people to explore away from coastal cycleway.
- The planned improvements should accommodate people of all ages, promote active transport and sustainability.
- Comments also included points similar to the community cycling group on intersections, crossings, parking, the perimeter path improvements, and request for a shared separated link between Stuart Park and North Wollongong Station.

A State Government agency made the following comments:

- The whole area is a huge asset to Wollongong and Council does a great job in maintaining and improving it on a regular basis.
- The two areas that need improving are the Lagoon Restaurant waste area and preventing rear to kerb parking onto JP Galvin Park. Some vehicles park too close to the curb, often overhanging the pathways.

Neighbourhood Forum 5 made the following comments:

- Support in principle for the Draft Master Plan, subject to Council's advice on the one-page plan's role in relation to a Plan of Management required under the CLM Act, and a Master Plan, which are yet to be prepared, as satisfactory responses on matters raised by residents including lack of detail re commercial uses, access and parking, management, and maintenance responsibilities, particularly drainage.
- Council is requested to advance the required Plan of Management which will determine uses in accordance with legislation and redress commercial uses in this public park for passive recreation.
- Council is requested to set up a working party to inform and contribute to the preparation of the Stuart Park Plan of Management, then a Master Plan.

A charity health organisation shared their feedback made the following comments:

- Support most elements of the Plan except the sealing of the car park west of Squires Way.
- The All-Abilities playground, bush tucker garden, yarning circle are all welcome.
- Need improvements for active and public transport access are needed.
- Build a shared path on south side of Ajax Avenue, the eastern side of Montague St, and then across Fairy creek through to Virginia St. This would link Stuart Park to North Wollongong Station. Such a path would connect to the proposed crossing point on George Hanley Drive, and provide direct access not just for rail users, but those travelling from west on foot and by bike.
- Add a raised crossing at the existing crossing point where the shared pathway crosses the access road to the Lagoon area to give priority to pathway users.

A local tourism organisation made the following comments:

- The Plan needs to give greater recognition that Stuart Park is an important event site. There is a disconnect between the draft Master Plan and other Council documents such as the Major Events toolkit, which declares Stuart Park as Wollongong's premiere event site! The park brings approximately \$7-\$10M in economic impact annually.
- Agrees with Point 6 in the Plan – *providing better facilities to support temporary events*. If Point 6 is location-specific that would seem too close to the restaurant and should relate more to the main field to the south. It was suggested Council should be garnering feedback from key event operators who use this site. In particular asking what facilities they require to optimise this space. Improving drainage (Point 11) was supported across the entire site used by event operators.

A national conservation body made the following comments:

- Believes there is merit in the draft Master Plan.
- Encouraged the Plan recognises the importance of natural environment, Indigenous & European heritage & cultural plantings in both parks. They expressed support for the proposed increase in vegetation cover in line with Urban Greening. They hope Council will incorporate initiatives like the proposed vegetation management plan to assist in dune stabilisation.
- Congratulates Council for restoring the original stone shelter-sheds.

Survey

People could complete either an online or paper survey. We received a total of 159 completed surveys - 126 online surveys and 33 paper surveys. The results from the online and paper surveys have been combined.

Main reasons for visiting Stuart Park

People were asked to state the main reasons for visiting Stuart Park and could select all options that applied. The results are shown in Table 4 below.

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Table 4: Main reasons for visiting Stuart Park

What's your main reason for visiting Stuart Park?	
Visit the playground or to play	67
Structured exercise like group exercise or Park Run	36
Informal exercise like going for a walk or a jog through the park	116
Spending time with family and/or friends	93
Other (please specify)	35

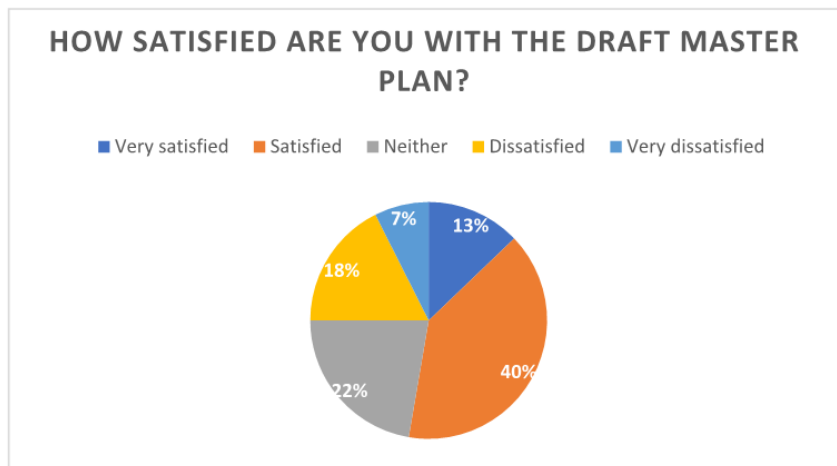
The most reasons for visiting Stuart Park were informal exercises (116), spending time with family and friends (93), and visiting the playground or to play.

35 people listed 'other reasons', listed included:

- Cycling around or through the park connecting to other suburbs
- Walking with family and/or the dog
- Going for coffee or a meal
- Skateboarding
- Watching the parachutes
- Surfing
- Jumping with Sky Dive
- Picnics
- Social excursions and community connections
- Workout groups
- To be close to the sea

Level of satisfaction with the draft Master Plan

The community were asked to rate their level of satisfaction. The results appear in graph below.



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Seventy-eight people said they were either satisfied or very satisfied, compared to 37 who said they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Thirty-three people said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Reasons for level of satisfaction

The reasons given for level of satisfaction have been themed, summarised and are listed below. The order of these themes reflects the number of mentions from highest to lowest.

Good plan

About a third of respondents said the Plan was good and/or addressed issues raised by the community. People said there were a lot of good things in the Draft Plan, that the improvements added look appropriate and that most issues were covered. [Good plan \(32\) Addresses issues raised by the community \(10\)](#)

Pathways

Just under a fifth of respondents mentioned pathways when giving their reasons for level of satisfaction. Of these a third said they liked the pathways in the Plan. Some said the paths need to be wider, they should be separated, and more connecting paths should be added. Only a few people said they didn't like the perimeter paths or wanted all the paths to be formalised. One person said the dirt bowl near the Lagoon should be a formal path. [Pathways \(29\)](#)

Outdoor gym

About a seventh of the respondents mentioned outdoor gym equipment. About a half of these said we need to include more outdoor gym equipment. Many asked why Wollongong Workout Project wasn't included in the draft Plan. A few people said they liked the equipment included in the draft Plan, and a few said outdoor gym equipment wasn't needed. [Outdoor gym 23 mentions](#)

Parking

An eighth of respondents mentioned parking when providing a reason for their level of satisfaction. Opinions were mixed on parking. Of those who commented on parking in this section of the survey, about a third thought the Plan had provided sufficient parking. Some people said we should add more parking and an equal number said either don't add more or introduce paid parking. [Parking \(21\)](#)

Greenery

Some respondents mentioned greenery with most saying they liked the vegetation included in the Plan. Several respondents said they wanted more trees to be included. Others were happy that the Plan still included a lot of green space. One person didn't think a Fig Tree was appropriate and one commented on the bindis in the green open space. [Greenery \(18\)](#)

All Abilities Playground

The majority of respondents who mentioned the All-Abilities Playground said a fence was needed. Some said a change table should be added in facilities near to this Playground. Several said they liked the Playground and one person wanted to know more about the Playground. [All Abilities Playground \(12\)](#)

Indigenous Recognition

Most people said they liked how the Plan recognised Indigenous culture. Several said they wanted more features added to the Plan. [Indigenous Recognition \(11\)](#)

Skydive Skydive (10)

A few respondents said Sky Dive the Beach should be moved from Stuart Park. Others thought they had been moved from the Plan. There were mixed views on whether Sky Dive was in the public interest or good for tourism. One person thought other businesses should be added to the Plan.

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Vague plan/not ambitious enough (7)

Some people felt the Plan hadn't changed much or was vague. Several said the Plan wasn't ambitious enough. One person said more could be added to the Plan and another said the Plan looked a little crowded.

Improve drainage, move toilets closer to the playground

An equal number of respondents said the drainage needs to be improved and that the toilets should be move closer to the playground.

What's missing from the draft Master Plan?

The survey asked the community if anything was missing from the draft Master Plan. The responses have been themed, summarised and appear below in order of mentions. Many of the themes are the same as listed in the level of satisfaction question. Not everyone completing the survey answered this question.

Wollongong Workout Project

Of the ten items mentioned as missing from the draft Master Plan, more people said the Wollongong Workout Project than any other item. Comments included:

- this is a great community project that will benefit the public and have returns on investment in terms of health and well-being of the community.
- what a missed opportunity it would be for those who like to keep fit and healthy, and mingle with people of all age groups with a similar mindset of staying fit
- it's missing a great place for people to workout outside. See Wollongong Workout Park Project on Instagram

Outdoor gym equipment and parking

An equal number of people said outdoor gym equipment and parking were missing from the Plan. Outdoor gym equipment comments included:

- better outdoor exercise gear
- workout gym that actually works
- an outdoor gym, the one at Lang Park is absolutely horrible
- Parkour like Wangaratta Apex Park
- 'fitness' stations like Lang Park

Parking comments included:

- more parking and ramps
- not enough parking - multi level car park on Cliff Rd
- electronic signage for car spaces
- timed parking
- keep supporting the free city bus this would help alleviate road traffic and parking issues

Pathways and toilets near the playground

The same number of people said pathways and toilets near the playground were missing from the Draft Master Plan.

Pathway comments included:

- lack of paths to facilities, pedestrian priority/access to beaches
- pathways on Squires Way need to be separate for walkers
- there is a need for access cross path from east to west
- paths not wide enough

Toilets near the playground comments included:

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- toilets near the playground
- toilets at the playground
- the current amenities are too far from the playground and not visible from the playground making it extremely difficult when supervising multiple children at the park

Things for teens to do

Some people said the Plan didn't include things for teens to do and suggested a skate park or basketball court should be added. Comments included:

- Wollongong needs a skatepark and a bike pump track, can we please have them in Stuart Park
- stuff for teens
- basketball court & something for teens
- additional recreational activities for the younger generation like a skate park / pump track

More lighting and seating

Respondents suggested the Plan was missing additional/passive lighting and seating.

- passive lighting options should be included
- extra lighting needed/ lights on paths
- bench seating in Galvin Park
- seating near wetland/duck pond

Dog park/facilities

Some people were disappointed that the Plan didn't include more facilities for dogs. Comments included:

- dogs are part of the family too. The walking paths will be great for them, maybe some water bowls and things near the taps so they can spend the day there with their families?
- a fully fenced dog park
- fenced off-leash dog area

Separated cycleways

Some respondents said separated cycleways were missing from the Plan. Comments included:

- please separate bikes/walkers
- make cycleways separate to walkways to avoid conflict, the path along the foreshore should be duplicated for cycling
- signage on walking tracks saying no bikes
- separate paths for pedestrian movement and cycle/scooter riders such as installed along Lang Park Marine Drive would enhance the safety of both parties

Fence around the All-Abilities Playground

Several respondents said a fence around the All-Abilities Playground was missing. One of the comments stated that fencing around All-Abilities playground was essential for safety and independence.

Several people said they was nothing missing from the draft Master Plan.

Other comments

The survey asked the community if they had any other comments on the Draft Master Plan. The responses have been themed. Many of the comments made were similar to the responses given in the other two open response survey questions. Samples of the comments under each theme appear below. The themes appear in order of most to least mentions. Not everyone taking the survey, answered this question.

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Outdoor gym equipment

Most comments asked Council to include the Wollongong Workout Park in the Plan or to add additional outdoor gym equipment.

Provide an outdoor work out setup similar to the once located at Corrimal beach Surf Life Saving Club

Would really love to see the Wollongong Workout Park come to fruition. This would be social inexpensive and interactive for all ages and all abilities.

Parking

Comments about parking ranged from happy with the parking, don't provide more parking - promote active transport, introduce timed parking, parking fees and find alternative parking sites such as the Innovation Campus

No car park on western side of Squires Way

Turn Sky Dive into car park

Free parking for rate payers/non-residents parking fees

Pathways

Views on the pathways varied from liking the perimeter paths, to making them more accessible, removing adult riders and making path around Galvin for walkers only.

Perimeter paths are a good idea

Make pathways accessible for wheelchairs/scooter

Pathway around Galvin Park for walkers only

No adult riders on path, speed limit, designated times

Greenery

Keeping the green space was mentioned by several people. Some respondents were happy to see more trees added to the Plan, with some asking for regional native planting, Norfolk Pines rather and Fig trees and one person said better maintenance was needed.

Keep green space

Better maintenance needed

Great to have more trees

More native plants – educate about native biodiversity

Playground

Comments made about the ranged from access, the type of activities offered, its size and including parents in its design.

Provide better access to the playground

Need a splash play feature

Don't extend the playground – it's not needed

Include carers/parents in the design, prior to finishing the Master Plan

Lagoon

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Comments were made about the state of the waste area near the restaurant. One person asked if details of the rent paid was on public record. Another person mentioned the benefits would have when the Master Plan upgrades were implemented.

Waste area
needs fixing

Query about
rental amount

Offsetting the benefits
when the Master Plan
changes are
implemented

Good plan

Some respondents said the Master Plan was good, would be welcomed by users and thanked those involved in the design.

It maintains green
space/more
accessible, plus caters
for major events

Improvements will be
welcomed by the users

Well done to all
concerned

Move Sky Dive

Comments were made about Sky Dive the Beach being in Stuart Park.

Sky Dive the
Beach not
suitable for
Stuart Park

Query about the
timeframe for Sky
Dive moving
elsewhere

Sky Dive the Beach should
move to Dalton Park or
adjacent parkland at Fairy
Meadow

Separate cycleways

A few people said separate cycleways were needed in Stuart Park

Separating cyclists
from walkers is
paramount in my
mind

How can older adults, children,
adults with prams, young
children on bikes and animals
share a walkway safely??

Recognition of Indigenous culture

Some people commented on the yarning circle included in the plan. Recognising and promoting Indigenous culture was also mentioned.

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Love the yarning circle

It is wonderful to recognise the cultural significance of the space & incorporate public education into the space

Please ensure Aboriginal community are consulted regarding the plan regards the proposed yarning circle. Is there anything else that can be done to promote cultural inclusion and/healing.

Improve drainage

Drainage was mentioned by several people in the additional comments question.

Drainage on grassed area in a huge problem

Drainage in the eastern section needs to be improved

Park needs extensive drainage issued to be addressed.

Additional facilities

Several people said additional facilities such as seating near the pond, additional water refill stations and a stop sign and raised pedestrian crossing where needed. The location of the signs/crossing wasn't mentioned.

Add seating near the pond

Include more water refill stations

Add stop signs and a raised pedestrian crossing

Criticisms

Some respondents were critical of the Plan, or thought Council should concentrate on other areas in the Local Government area.

- The master plan is a long way from best-practice design, and I think it's a wasted opportunity to positively give back to the city and public in the longer term.
- Wollongong is saturated, develop other areas.
- I can think of higher tourist areas from Thirroul to Windang that require master plans and major

Business as usual approach – why bother?

Wollongong is saturated – develop other areas in the LGA

Fix Windang!

Events

Several respondents mentioned events with one in favour of more events, one wanting event sites to be limited and one saying there were too many events, and they damage the area (ground).

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Great more events
– but fix drainage!

Too many events
damage the area!

Limit event sites

Toilets near playground

A few respondents said to add toilets closer to the playground

Add toilets next to
the playground

Toilets closer to the
playground! So far to
walk when you are
an elderly babysitter

BBQ's

The location of BBQs was raised as an issue.

Cooking only in BBQ
areas. Introduce penalties
for non- compliance

Restrict BBQs to foreshore
areas only.

Other

Other individual issues raised in this section included:

- fines for littering
- North Wollongong needs a supermarket
- considerate to WCC workers
- Stuart Park is ideal for Special Needs facility
- WCC profit from tourist cabins
- protect duck pond/don't overdevelop park
- what are the timeframes for implementing the Plan?
- don't allow camping in Stuart Park.

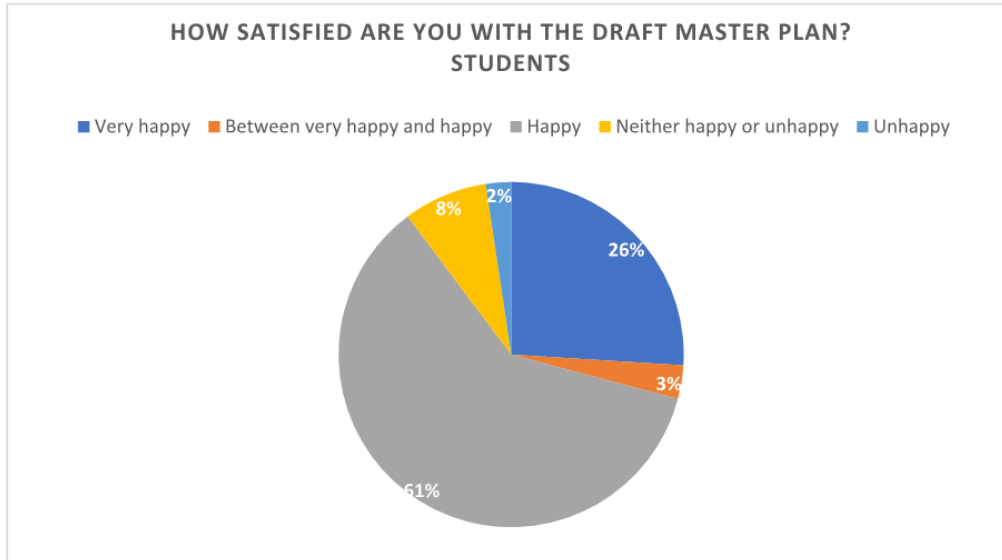
Schools' workshops

We facilitated workshops with students from Wollongong Public School, Towradgi Public School and Coniston Public School. A total of 144 students from years 3,4,5 and 6 participated across three workshops.

Level of satisfaction with the Draft Master Plan

The students were asked to describe their level of satisfaction with the Draft Master Plan. The results appear in the chart below.

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The majority of students said they were happy (77) or very happy (33) with the Draft Master Plan. Four students rated their level of satisfaction between very happy and happy.

What are you most excited about in the Plan?

The responses from school children are listed below in order of most to least mentions:

- The playground
- The All-Abilities Playground
- Extra parking
- More paths
- Food vans
- Yarning circle
- Open space
- Event space and trees
- Additional toilet facilities.

What are you most disappointed about that is missing from the Plan?

The responses from school children are listed below in order of most to least mentions:

- More food outlets
- More bike/pump tracks and hubs
- Basketball courts
- Facilities for pets
- Toilets closer to the playground
- Ninja warrior course
- A treehouse
- More parking
- Skatepark
- More public art
- More rest areas

Open submissions

Individual submissions

We received 18 submissions from individuals. The comments made in the individual submissions have

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been themed. The themes are the same as those identified in the survey responses with the exception of an additional theme 'Bike City'.

This new theme appeared in five submissions by individuals and in four group submissions. Comments under this theme challenged Council to live up to our Bike City status and improve cycling infrastructure in Stuart & Galvin Park. Requests to improve linkages from Stuart Park to North Wollongong Train Station were made to make it easier for active transport rather than relying on cars.

The most to least mentioned themes identified in individual submissions are: parking, pathways, Bike City, additional lighting, benches and bins, drainage, more toilets, dog facilities, greenery, Sky Dive the Beach, waste management at Lagoon, Indigenous recognition, things for teens, events and the playground.

Open feedback received during online information session

Three people attended a one-hour online information session.

Open feedback received during onsite information session

21 people attended the onsite information session. Topics raised included: separated paths for walkers and cyclists, footpath along Virginia Street and Squires Way, George Hanley Drive, maintenance of the open spaces, bins, parking, a dog park, Indigenous signage drainage, commercial businesses using the Park, public art in the park, access points to the Park, and the status of the Plan of Management for Stuart Park.

Open feedback received in targeted workshop

An invitation to attend the workshop was sent to 16 different community groups and key stakeholders. Representatives from Wollongong Workout Park Project, Health Cities Illawarra, Sky Dive the Beach, Neighbourhood Forum 5, Illawarra and Shoalhaven Health Service and Savvy Fitness attended the workshop. Issues discussed included - parking, the importance of green space, Stuart Park as a hub for health and fitness, passive recreation, Sky Dive the Beach and the Plan of Management.

Aboriginal Stakeholders

Our conversations with people from the local Aboriginal community are ongoing as we plan for Stuart and JP Galvin Park's future. During this second engagement period we contacted Aboriginal Elders, community members, and Registered Aboriginal Parties via phone and email encouraging them to review the Draft Stuart Park Master Plan and to provide feedback. At the time of this report two submissions had been received from individual community members.

A cultural knowledge holder and traditional owner provided the following feedback.

- A buffer zone needs to be set back from the footpath along the park perimeter to protect middens and the culturally sensitive area in the dunes.
- If the yarning circle is included, this needs to be co-designed with members of the Aboriginal community, including the protocol for using the circle. The general community should be made aware of the protocols.
- any ground-breaking work needs to be observed by Aboriginal Site Officers working alongside Council officers.
- More toilets are needed closer to the playground/towards the central area of the park
- Include water taps for fresh water
- Council is to work with the local Aboriginal community to develop any interoperative signage for Stuart Park to ensure the information shared with the community is culturally appropriate.
- Stuart Park is a very significant site for members of the Aboriginal community. It needs protecting.

Aboriginal community member provided the following feedback

- appreciate that you took on board feedback about being respectful with the culturally significant areas.

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- the yarning circle is pretty good where it is, an alternative is to move it around a little to the next event space (or between this and the current location), this would be closer to the Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) which would be a significant location for learning about Country. It's also nearer the amenities and has greater access to parking – both on the straight section of George Hanley and the carpark in Stuart Park. Noting that from memory there were drainage issues with this location which would need to be addressed. Alternatively, can the western toilet block be moved further north-west along the pathway towards the yarning circle?
- the yarning circle will need access to a water source – from memory there is a tap over between the two event spaces you've got marked there. Drinking water there would be good also.
- where is the **bush tucker garden** and the native grasses? Ideally these would be planted near the yarning circle, with attention paid to planting a range of grasses and other plant species with traditional uses, particularly around weaving and dying etc. This needs to be more than just the Lomandra.
- There is a lot of erosion caused by the foot traffic around the tool site and the Norfolk Island pines near the lagoon. The **raised walkway around the restaurant** will help. Raised seated areas around the pines themselves may also help to reduce impact on the area and increase amenity. However, this may in turn increase the foot traffic.
- I note that there are **no bins along most of the western track**. Given the large volume of littering along that section presently, particularly in the EEC, I would consider having another bin at the junction of the access path from George Hanley and the path around the perimeter of the park. As most of the rubbish in the EEC and along the Western side is coffee cups and bags of dog faeces, I'd consider making the above bin one with the bag dispensers as well. It would be worth installing these at key entry points to the park. There seems to be no bin along the front of the lagoon, which will result in people dumping / continuing to dump their rubbish along this area.
- are there any **water fountains**?
- will there be educational signage around the perimeter? While this is the master plan largely for the physical environment, do you include use of technology such as **QR codes around the park which can be used for the provision of digital information** eg. stories about Country, soundscapes, history of the site, something about the astronomy seen from the site etc.

Council will continue to engage with the Aboriginal community as parts of the plan are delivered, particularly with anything related to the dune area, yarning circle, EEC and the interpretive signage.

Summary of themes from all submissions

Twenty-five different themes were identified across the three open ended questions in the survey, the children's survey, individual and group submissions. The comments for each theme have been summarised throughout this report. The word cloud below shows the themes.



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Of these 25 themes, the most mentioned in order were:

- Parking
- Pathways
- Things for teens
- Outdoor gym
- Greenery
- Support the plan
- All Abilities Playground
- Toilets closer to the playground
- Food vans
- Playground
- Dog facilities
- Indigenous recognition
- Sky Dive the Beach
- Improving drainage
- Wollongong Workout Park Project
- More lighting/seating/bins
- Events
- Treehouse
- Ninja warrior course
- Separated cycleways
- Bike City status and facilities to match the title
- Waste area near restaurant
- Improving access
- Pedestrian safety
- Public Art
- BBQ facilities.

Next steps

Feedback received during this second stage of engagement will be used to update the draft Stuart Park and JP Galvin Master Plan before it goes to Council seeking adoption.







LARGE FESTIVALS



SPECIAL EVENTS



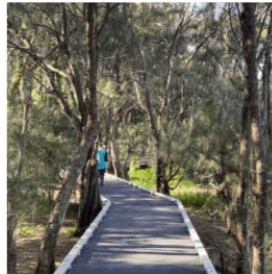
YARNING CIRCLE



PATHS



REST AREAS



BOARDWALK



URBAN GREENING



LAGOON



ALL ABILITIES ALL AGES PLAYSPACE - CAROUSEL



ALL ABILITIES ALL AGES PLAYSPACE - MOUSEWHEEL

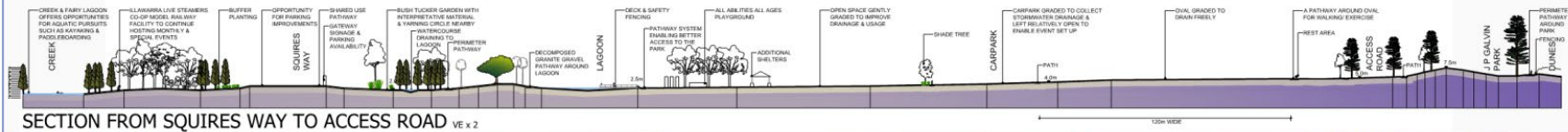


PARKING



WASTE & BIN STORAGE

A series of outdoor rooms accessible to all



SECTION FROM SQUIRES WAY TO ACCESS ROAD VE x 2

100m WEST