

INNER WEST

Engagement outcomes report King George Park Upgrade 2022/23



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Summary

This document provides an overview of the community consultation process and outcomes for the proposed design of the King George Park Upgrade project.

Input from the community was sought online via Your Say Inner West (YSIW) and in person at an onsite engagement session at the park.

From 6 to 30 May 2022, the community could complete a survey sharing their level of support for each element of the proposed upgrade, with an option for additional ideas and feedback. An onsite engagement session was held on Saturday 14 May 2022 with the community. Key sporting club stakeholders were invited to a targeted engagement session on Thursday 5 May 2022.

In total there were 696 visits to the Your Say project page. 227 participants contributed to the survey and 15 community members attended the onsite engagement session.

Overall respondents supported all aspects of the upgrade. The main topics discussed included clarification of the scope, car park paving, sports lighting and dog off leash issues.

Background

King George Park sporting ground was budgeted for upgrade in the 22/23 financial year following presentations to councillors. This resulted in a Council Resolution in August 2021 to proceed with an upgrade of the playing surface, lighting, long jump pit, carpark and sports equipment storage.

The purpose of the community and stakeholder engagement was to give the community and sports clubs the opportunity to comment on the proposed upgrade, raise any issues with the concept designs and suggest needs not already addressed.

The input provided by the community and sporting stakeholders will influence the final design. The project team will carefully consider all provided input and assess what proposed elements are compatible and feasible within the available space and budget.

Engagement methods

- Online survey on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au
- Meeting with sporting clubs
- Onsite engagement session
- Email
- Phone (including via the National Relay Service for TIS National)

Online survey

Participants were asked questions regarding their relationship to the park (ie. Sports team, passive recreation, local resident) and how satisfied they were with elements of the concept designs. Participants then had the opportunity to comment on any elements they were not satisfied with.

Meeting with sporting clubs

Three key sporting clubs that use the Park were invited to attend an in-person engagement Council's Leichhardt Service Centre. Attendees included two representatives from each of the following clubs:

- Leichhardt Juniors RLFC
- Leichhardt Saints FC
- Balmain Little Athletics Centre

Council officers and the park designer were also present to explain the proposal and answer questions.

Inner West Council Mayor attended the session and stated that reasonable requirements from the sporting clubs would be met by Council if possible and within budget constraints.

The park designer presented views of the main elements of the project and answered questions on design issues.

Onsite engagement session

The engagement session onsite included a display board with pictorial representations of the project elements. Participants were invited to leave

comments and suggestions on a comment board using post-it notes. They also had a chance to speak to the project team regarding the upgrade components.

Promotion

Letters were distributed to residents of the Balmain/Baludarri Ward inviting residents to participate in the engagement.

A poster was installed at the park to advise park users of the engagement.

The engagement was promoted by:

- Resident letterbox drop
- Onsite posters
- Council social media
- Council website
- Direct email to key stakeholders
- YSIW e-newsletter

Half of visitors to the Your Say page came directly, e.g. by scanning a QR code on the onsite poster or navigating to the page manually. A third of visitors were redirected via Council's Facebook page.

Visitors who came to the page directly were most likely to engage in the survey (52% conversion rate).

Engagement outcomes

This section provides an overview of matters raised for King George Park Upgrade.

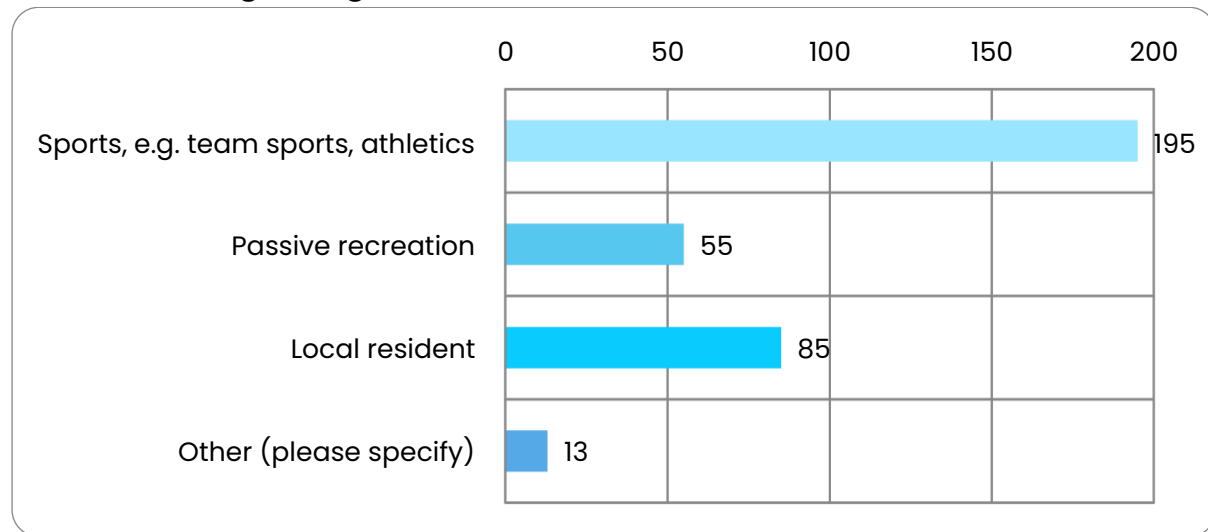
In total, 227 surveys were completed on YSIW with 142 respondents leaving additional comments or requests about the concept designs.

Seven emails and one phone call were also directed to the project lead during the engagement period.

15 individuals attended the in-person engagement session onsite. Five of these left post-it note comments.

What did the community say?

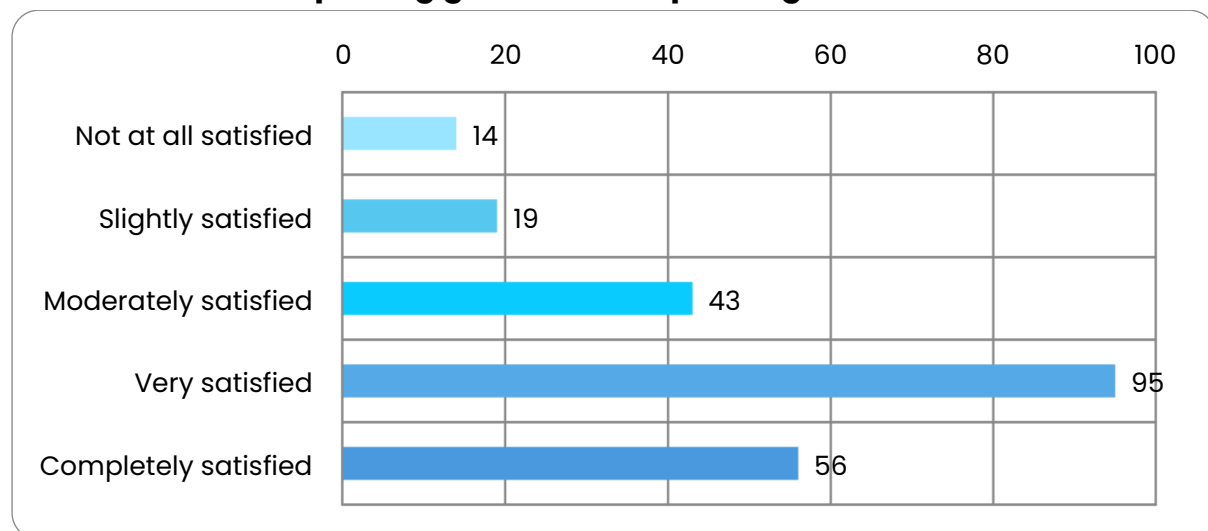
Interest in King George Park



The majority of respondents (86%) identified 'sports' as their main interest in King George Park. 25% of respondents identified as local residents who were also interested in sports.

13% of respondents were not interested in sports and identified as either local residents or interested in passive recreation.

Satisfaction with sporting ground concept design



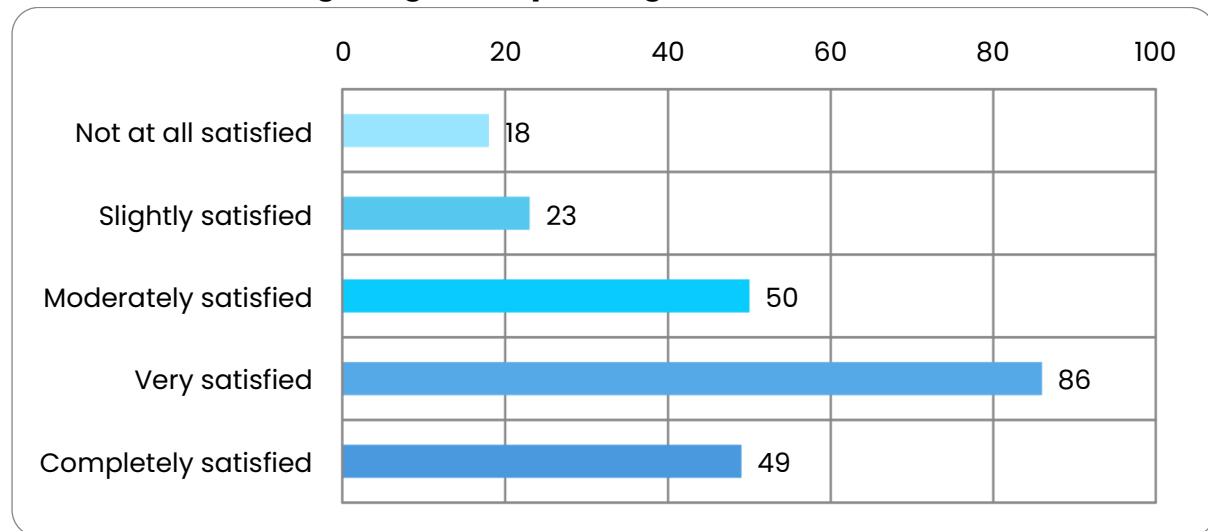
67% of respondents were either very satisfied or completely satisfied with the sporting ground concept design.

19% of respondents were only moderately satisfied, while the remaining 14% were not at all or only slightly satisfied with the concept design.

All direct emails received supported the concept design with one requesting more improvements.

Six of the 142 additional survey comments requested synthetic sports ground surfacing.

Satisfaction with lighting concept design

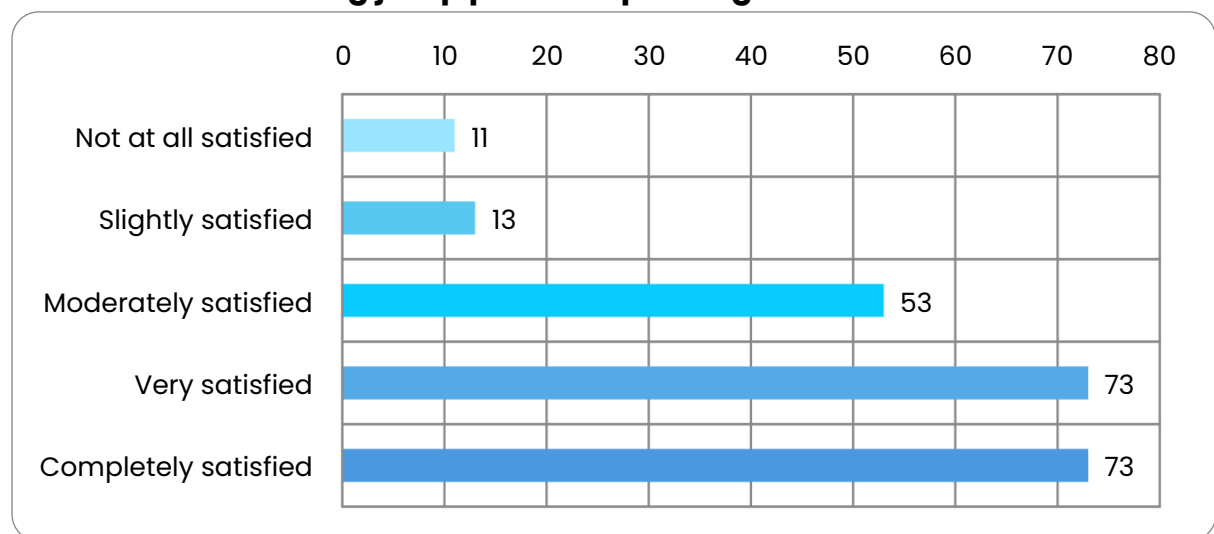


59% of respondents were either very satisfied or completely satisfied with the lighting concept design.

22% of respondents were only moderately satisfied, while the remaining 18% were not at all or only slightly satisfied with the concept design.

35 of the survey comments as well as two emails requested a change in the proposed location of some light poles to alleviate negative impact on the field aesthetics and usability.

Satisfaction with long jump pit concept design

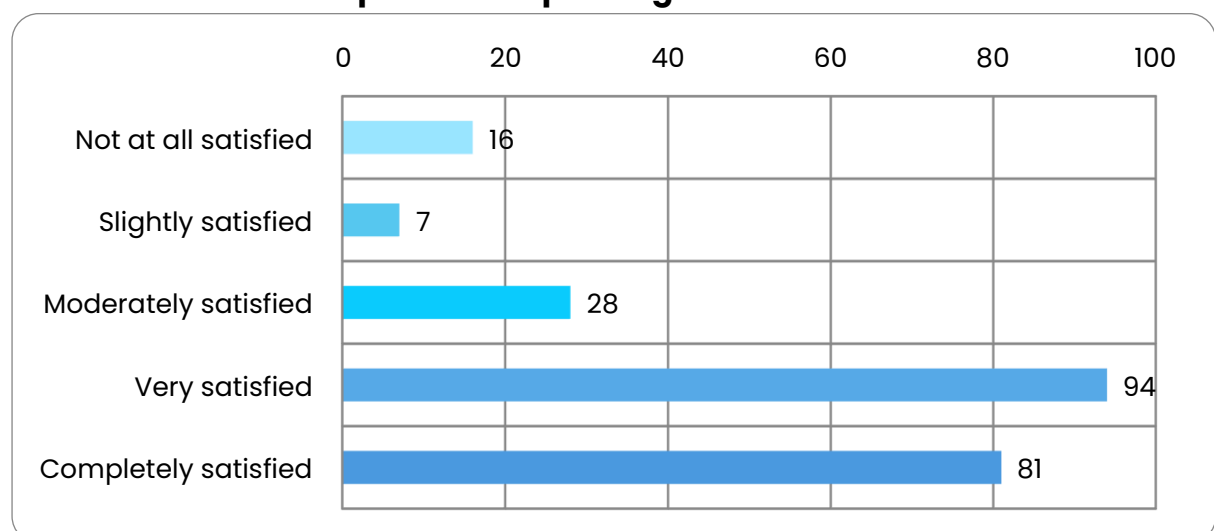


64% of respondents were either very satisfied or completely satisfied with the long jump pit concept design.

23% of respondents were only moderately satisfied, while the remaining 11% were not at all or only slightly satisfied with the concept design.

Only one comment referred to the long jump pit stating that it would be used as a play area.

Satisfaction with car park concept design



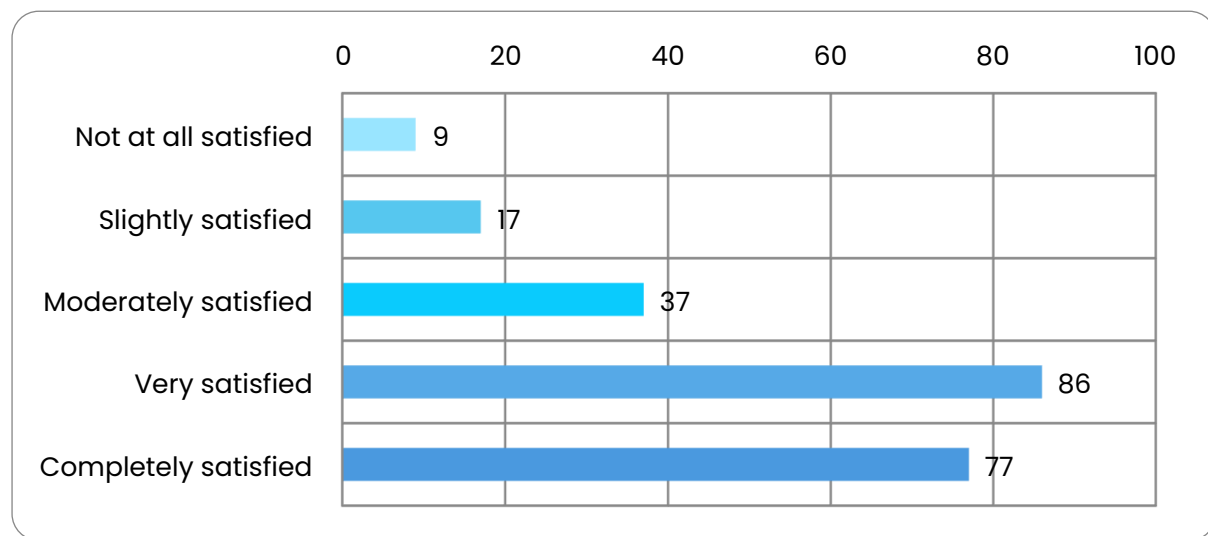
77% of respondents were either very satisfied or completely satisfied with the car park concept design.

12% of respondents were only moderately satisfied, while the remaining 10% were not at all or only slightly satisfied with the concept design.

37 comments requested electric vehicle chargers to be included in the carpark. Five comments requested permeable paving for the carpark while three respondents requested more car park capacity.

Other matters raised included restricting long term parking and traffic calming measures.

Satisfaction with equipment storage concept design



72% of respondents were either very satisfied or completely satisfied with the equipment storage concept design.

16% were only moderately satisfied, while the remaining 12% were not at all or only slightly satisfied with the concept design.

Two respondents requested the location of the storage to be reasonably close to the sports grounds without impeding the discus area. Three comments suggested the storage capacity be increased.

Other comments from the community

- Change and shower facilities
 - 60 comments requested change and shower facilities for the sporting grounds
- EV charger
 - 37 comments requested EV chargers to be included in the car park
- Athletics track
 - Seven comments requested a proper athletics track including six requests for a synthetic surface

- Bike parking
 - Four comments requested a bike parking facility to be incorporated into the car park
- Dog off leash area
 - Four comments related to the need for an off-leash dog area

Less than three comments were recorded on each of the following matters:

- Concerns of Bay Run safety caused by mixed use and request for signage to guide safer uses
- Requests for park seating, shaded picnic area, a fence to stop balls running into the bay, and a café
- Park maintenance and stormwater management/drainage issue
- Access by public transport and alternative access than Victoria Road
- Concern to preserve the current bushland boundary

Requests from sporting club stakeholders

One sporting club requested to add change rooms and showers to the existing amenities block. This request is currently being investigated.

The views of the sporting clubs were discussed and requested changes will be investigated for feasibility. In general the clubs supported the upgrade.

Officer comments and clarifications

The feedback received during this engagement provided valuable information to assist in fine tuning the design for the upgrade.

The capacity to increase equipment storage space is limited by site constraints involving trees, utility easements, visual impact and current sporting use.

Dogs are prohibited in children's play areas (even on leash) as outlined in the Companion Animals Act. Information regarding rules and rights of pets in the Inner West can be found on Council's website – search 'dogs and cats'.

Requests for change rooms and showers are being investigated by the designers with a view to potentially re-arranging space in the amenities building.

Requests to relocate one or more sports lighting poles have been referred to the lighting designer to investigate their feasibility.

Next steps

The tender design will be reviewed and if possible adjusted using ideas, requests and priorities identified by the community engagement. Outcomes from the engagement will influence aspects including the overall layout, storage space, change facilities, lighting, car park, EV charging and other ancillary facilities in the park.

The project team will:

- Balance the needs and wishes of different user groups and consider potential conflicting and complementary uses
- Work with the available budget and site constraints

The finalised tender design for King George Park Upgrade will be uploaded to the project page on Your Say Inner West and the community members who provided feedback will be notified.