

MURDOCH PARK UPGRADE 2014 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

How you responded:

The community engagement period closed on 24 February and we heard from you through various sources including:

- 11 replied paid comment forms
- 14 online survey forms and
- 1 phone call
- 11 through the onsite engagement/cupcake day held on 10 February 2014

The detailed suggestions that we received highlighted that Murdoch Park is highly valued by the community who responded to the survey. The suggestions for upgrading the park have been prioritised and summarised below.

You thought the highest priority for the Park was the provision of seating, shade and landscape planting to create an area that was peaceful, safe and friendly. Other popular priorities included improving the fencing and gates around the Park by installing more attractive fencing, incorporating art or greenery into the fence, or installing self-closing gates for child safety. The provision of art such as mosaics, murals, bird baths, fountains and sculptures was also seen as a high priority, being suggested by 44% of respondents.



Quite a lot of people suggested replacing the diagonal path with a meandering path and five specifically suggested an arch or pillars at the entry.

The installation of a community garden or area to grow herbs, flowers and vegetables was requested by 17 respondents while two specifically said they would prefer not to have a community garden here. Another popular priority was for the installation of a table and seats to allow picnics in the Park.

Some interest was expressed about the use of the Park for dog exercising with eight people suggesting the area remain open to dog walkers (either off or on leash) while two said they would prefer no dogs in the Park. There were suggestions for a bin with dog litter bags attached, and for a bubbler.

A few people also suggested opportunities for informal play such as stepping stone sandstone boulders, pre cast concrete play, imaginative play elements such shop fronts or dolls houses that could also function as sculptural pieces, balancing beam, maze, hopscotch, chess, petanque and boules.

An overwhelming 35 out of 37 people (95%) supported that the name Murdoch Playground be changed to Murdoch Park; and three people suggested that the name be changed completely to commemorate well known personalities who lived in the area or to a relevant indigenous place name. The Park is named after Albert Edward Murdoch, Alderman of Marrickville 1948-1959.

Other suggestions:

A variety of other suggestions were received including providing a meeting place for the elderly, retaining the open space, creating separate spaces, extending the park over the stormwater channel, a secret entry, screening including to the back lane, kerb and gutter at Illawarra Road, water courses, aboriginal names, community vote on the use of the budget, screen to the back lane and maintaining the thoroughfare. Other facilities requested included toilets, a BBQ, swings, a sandpit, a skate park, coffee cart and equipment for teenagers

Where to from here:

Designs for the park being prepared based on the comments received and available budgets. Unfortunately not all suggestions will be able to be included in the current project, however they will be considered for future upgrades.

Construction is planned for May-June 2014 and advice of the work will be provided to residents closer to the time.