

October 2019

New Five Dock Park Playground & Outdoor Fitness Proposal



Community Engagement Report

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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

As part of our Let's Play Strategy, we are looking to replace and relocate the existing playground with a new playground for children up to 13 years of age in a more central location within the park, as well as add new outdoor fitness equipment for all ages to use nearby.

The existing playground is no longer fit for use and we are proposing that it be removed, the ground returfed and a new bench seat installed.

The budget is \$140,000 for the playground and \$100,000 for the outdoor fitness station.

With construction beginning early 2020, we are aiming to open both by the end of June 2020.

In September and October, we sought input from the local community to understand what equipment is needed and which elements are a priority for the families that use the playground.

Consultation Tactics

- Collaborate Canada Bay survey asking residents to rank elements by priority and provide ideas and inspiration for the equipment
- On site drop-in session:
 - 12 October 10-11AM
- Letter to residents on 12 September 2019:
 - 1750 residents surrounding Five Dock Park
- Social media: 16,116 reach
 - Facebook x 3
 - Twitter x 1
 - Instagram post x 1
 - Instagram story x 1
- Media: 40,000 reach
 - Inner West Courier story on Tuesday 8 October

Feedback Overview

1156
visitors to
Collaborate
survey



xxxxx
people reached
through
promotions



165
submissions
made by
community



8
drop in session
attendees

Participants are supportive of the upgrade and new placement of the playground with only 2 objections to decommissioning the existing site.

Key feedback regarding the design of the space

SHADE

- Many participants communicated the need for shade given the new placement of the playground does not have a lot of tree cover.
- The need for shade was mentioned 14 times in feedback.

FENCING

- Many participants highlighted the need for fencing to improve the safety of the area.
- There were several mentions made regarding dogs off-leash making children unsafe
- This was mentioned 17 times.

INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY

- There is strong support for varied play opportunities for all ages, particularly tweens and teens. Feedback highlighted a lack of play opportunities for older children.
- This issue was mentioned 20 times - with participants highlighting the need for a mix of both younger and older play.

OTHER

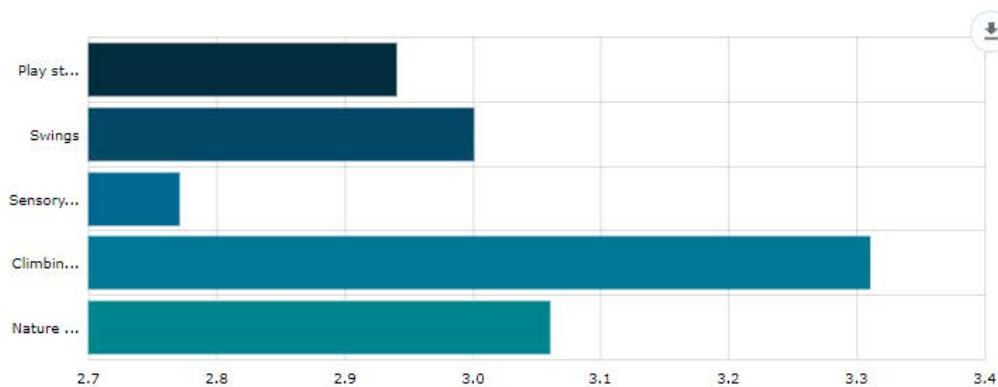
- Seating for parents was requested 3 times.
- A path around the playground was also suggested 3 times.

Please note: given the structure of the survey, most of the feedback submitted was qualitative to encourage the sharing of unique ideas within this individual community. The focus is on the quality as opposed to the quantity of the ideas.

Children's Playground Equipment Priorities

1 Rank each playground element from most important to least important

Ranking | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 35 (74.5%)



	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Score
Play structures	26.47% 9	14.71% 5	11.76% 4	20.59% 7	26.47% 9	34	2.94
Swings	20.00% 7	17.14% 6	20.00% 7	28.57% 10	14.29% 5	35	3.00
Sensory play - Sand/Soil/Music/Water	11.43% 4	20.00% 7	25.71% 9	20.00% 7	22.86% 8	35	2.77
Climbing Structures	20.00% 7	28.57% 10	25.71% 9	14.29% 5	11.43% 4	35	3.31
Nature play - play using natural elements such as timber logs, sandstone, mulch	23.53% 8	20.59% 7	17.65% 6	14.71% 5	23.53% 8	34	3.06

35 participants responded to this question, with climbing structures being the most important, followed by nature play, swings and play structures.

These priorities should be considered when analysing feedback on each element throughout this report. For example:

- While sensory play was not a priority for these participants, water play and musical instruments were supported by many participants.
- Conversely, detailed ideas on climbing structures were not provided by participants beyond a need for intergenerational options, however it is the most important element for the playground. It is the responsibility for Council to find the best solution for this request.



Play structures

Play structure are the fourth most important element in the playground for participants

Intergenerational play structure options were requested 16 times by participants.

Variation is important to participants

“Play structures that have a variety of options to climb/enter such a rope nets, stairs, ladders, etc are great for a variety of age groups and developmental levels. Also play structures that are inclusive of larger children with additional needs”

Ninja Warrior style play space was suggested 9 times

“The setup of the play structure in Halliday Park - in a square - allows kids to tackle it in a “ninja warrior” style. That is, doing laps of the equipment, which they seem to enjoy the most.”

Feedback on concept designs include:

“Sample shown looks great but having different levels of difficulty is needed so that older children would not find it too boring.”

“There is no equipment that allows an adult to shadow their child. Particularly if they need to grab an active toddler who will jump out of any gap they can.”

“Play structures should be accessible and appropriate for a wide variety of children and young adults. This will allow the park to be inclusive and inviting. Larger slides and a ramp as displayed in the image are necessary in a new play structure.”

Swings

Swings are the third most important element in the playground for participants



Most participants highlighted the need for many swings of varied styles within the playground.

Bucket and basket/woven swings are most popular amongst participants.

Of 20 pieces of specific feedback on swings:

- 6/20 asked for bucket swings
- 7/20 asked for basket/family sized swings
- 4/20 asked for baby swings.

"You can never have too many swings. There always seems to be a line up at the swings."

Participants described large "woven" or "disc shaped" swings that could fit more than one child or both adult and child. Several also suggested accessible swings.

"Some parks have had community swings put in, where not only kids swing on them but even us adults get on them reliving our childhood:) Would be a nice to have a swing set for the litties and a community swing for us:)"

Feedback on concept designs include:

"Please do not place swings in between children's activity areas. On both drafts you have #2 places inbetween 5 and 6. Children will naturally run through the swing area #2 so I feel you have a duty of care in the design to place swings safely away."

"Individual swings, however love the swing at parramatta park- large round flat swivel swing that rotates in all directions. About 4-6 kids can sit at a time"



Sensory Play

Sensory play is the least important element in the playground for participants

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

6 participants like the idea of musical instruments, however 2 noted that they often go unused in other parks

"Musical instruments are a great idea, something that makes different notes."

"Livvies have some great sensory play like the musical bells you can stomp on and the chimes you can hit to make noise. Also a tyre that is like an accordion when you jump on it."

WATER PLAY

11 participants showed interest in water play with some feedback on execution.

2 participants do not think water play is safe or hygienic.

"Having a water play area with sprinklers etc so kids can cool off on hot days."

"Please do not do the water play like you did at livvies. It is disgusting and unhygienic."

"Water play should be seasonal and contained."

"Sand pit with water play channels for younger children. Having a water play area with sprinklers etc so kids can cool off on hot days. This would be highly valued as there is no public pool in five dock".

SAND

4 participants highlighted support for sand play.

"Water and sand is very popular with younger kids."

"Sand is a great surface for the playground, for example Cabarita Park. Children love it."



Climbing Structures

Sensory play is the most important element in the playground for participants



The most prominent request for climbing structures is that there is a mix of high and low for varied ages.

"Most climbing structures are not challenging for 6+ year olds (and the arch monkey bars are too hard for most kids). The Cabarita Park climbing frame is the best I've seen around."

"Structures that promote imaginative play, suitable for older kids, ninja warrior style would be extremely well received"

"Climbing structures for different age groups ie under 6 and 7-10"

"Climbing structures should be tall rather than long to be more entertaining."

"Large structures that have high entry point to prevent little children climbing too high. Rope design. Low ropes section eg rope for walking along and rope to hold for balance"

"Larger climbing structures for the older children, net trees etc. Also smaller net structures for younger children to climb over."

The ground surface was also a concern for some participants:

"Mulch under climbing structures should be able to withhold falls from structures without further inflicted injury by large hard and dangerous pieces of bark"

Rubber soft fall was suggested twice.

Feedback on the concept designs include:

"Wooden frames are better."

"Climbing structures should be tall rather than long to be more entertaining."

"Love the netting."

"No climbing nets that are too high. Always seems like a child is going to fall and also hard to get children down who get stuck etc."



Nature Play

Sensory play is the second most important element in the playground for participants

Participants were very supportive of the inclusion of nature play and made some unique suggestions.

"Logs to balance, sandstone blocks to climb, obstacle style stepping stones. Plants and trees to allow for nature play. Mud kitchen would be very interesting."

"Love suggested picture! Suggest nature trails and areas for exploring like trails ending in trees to climb."

"Add bush tucker gardens and herb gardens please."

"Nature play environments are highly stimulating and encourage activity. Lots of nature play should be encouraged within Fivedock park."

"Uneven natural surfaces to venture around and upon"

"Relay nice to have in our heavily built up urban environment."

"Height varied tree stump walking path"

"Plants that have scents, timber structures arranged to promote fort-like pretend play etc."

"Garden exploration area with logs and large rocks to jump on, grasses and small shrub plants to give sense of hiding and quiet space to collect sticks and stones and hunt for lizards."

Outdoor Fitness + Accessible Fitness

Less participants provided responses to the survey questions on outdoor fitness and accessible fitness than the children's playground, signalling that it is not a priority for families.

Facebook responses showed interest in the outdoor fitness equipment, signalling that the wider community are more likely to make use of the space.

Participants showed a preference for the fitness station being placed away from the playground as in design Plan 2 as it would separate adults and children somewhat.

Safety for children was a concern:

"Seperate this area from the kids area, the assimilation of ages make alot of parent feel uncomfortable for example if a group of men are exercising without children."

"Please locate fitness equipment away from playground, so it is available for use. Keep equipment simple eg incline sit up bench, pull up bars, parallel bars, pushup station, box jumps, step up, stretching stations"

"Outdoor fitness equipment could be dangerous for younger children as they might play with heavy weight equipment. Small children may also not know how to properly use the equipment in the park which will also make it dangerous."

Suggestions for the outdoor fitness area include:

"Having the fitness station next to the play area is great so mums and dads can watch their kids and exercise at the same time."

"Yes more free outdoor fitness for adults and even teens is needed."

"Consider a focus on group fitness equipment. Adjustable equipment is important as no two bodies are the same e.g. seat height. Hydraulics can be hit or miss."

"No table tennis - too breezy and wouldn't be playable."

"Please include parallel bars and bars for chin ups (varying heights). Rings (gymnastics) and a swedish ladder would also be ideal."

"Stations that allow for participation for those that are not sure how to begin."

"Have a look at the setup in King Georges Park on the other side of the bay run - that is always well used. It's the only fitness area I've ever seen that gets a lot of use every day."



Playgrounds the community loves

We'd love to see what playgrounds you've visited and loved in Sydney and beyond!



Park Warrior obstacle course designed to engage teens in active play **17 Likes | 6 comments**

This exercise equipment was co-created with teenagers, identified as a forgotten demographic in active play. It was inspired by the Ninja Warrior outdoor obstacle course. The children's equipment is way too small for them to use. There's an app that goes along with this equipment to show you how to use each section and to help you make it through the course in the fastest time you can.

cricket | a month ago

Great idea to do something for our youth. I hope something like this is incorporated so we include all parts of our community.

ravidotel | a month ago

Fanatastic idea but younger should be aloud to use it.Maybe ages 9+?

PRL | a month ago

definitely need equipment for older children. All playgrounds are focused on toddlers and pre-schoolers

moniquenatasha | a month ago

Wow great idea

Britt | 16 days ago

Great idea - would be good for young ones too- primary school

L_auren | 2 days ago

Yes! My 8 yo no longer looks forward to going to playgrounds. They're all boringly safe and designed for small children. Something like this would be great!

Playgrounds the community loves



Bicycle/Scooter Loop

5 likes | 1 comment

All the paths in this park lead to a main road - but a little footpath or designed track for smaller kids and their balance bikes/ scooters to practice in a loop would be fantastic! It could easily circumnavigate the new play area- which gives parents good sight lines for safety.

CS1 | 3 days ago

Petersham has functional traffic lights, would be nice for kids to have intersections with lights and crossing.



OUTDOOR TABLE TENIS/PING PONG

8 likes | 1 comment

this would be a great activity to attract family's or friends of all ages to play and have a friendly game. i know i would certainly use it.

jjb | 15 days ago

At last!! I have seen these in Germany and wondered why they were not more common. Congratulations!



An area for mindfulness, meditation and yoga

14 likes | 2 comments

Today there are so many pressures in life and we're experiencing higher levels of mental illness and burnout than ever before. I love this mindfulness area, especially for people in units to be able to get out into the outdoors.

tailoi | a month ago

A wonderful idea. Having sound of flowing water and wind chimes in this area would add to the ambience. Also shade is essential and maybe a partial windbreak to escape the elements

moniquenatasha | a month ago

Amazing idea

Playgrounds the community loves

Many parks were referenced in feedback:

- We love the new playground in Mindarie park in lane cove
- Livvi's Place Elara - Trampoline pads
- Hi there, The kids of Canada Bay would benefit from their own waterplay park. The one out at Governor Phillip Park in Windsor is small but sufficient. <https://hillsdistrictmums.com.au/governor-philip-park-windsor/>
- Wangal Park Concord
- Sibbick St Russell Lea
- Annandale Park
- Halliday park
- The long swings like they have at Blaxland Riverside Park are the most popular for kids who can swing themselves.
- Five Dock Public School has a really great selection of musical instruments - the best I've seen.
- Larger version of the (climbing structure) at Drummoyne oval
- The climbing structure at Cabarita Park is good. The more options for danger and risk the better.
- An epic slide is always a winner. A good example is the slide at Darling Harbour playground, it takes effort to get up there (climb) and then multiple children can slide down/race. It's also quite fast and throws some children off at the bottom. Fun!

Other suggestions for the park

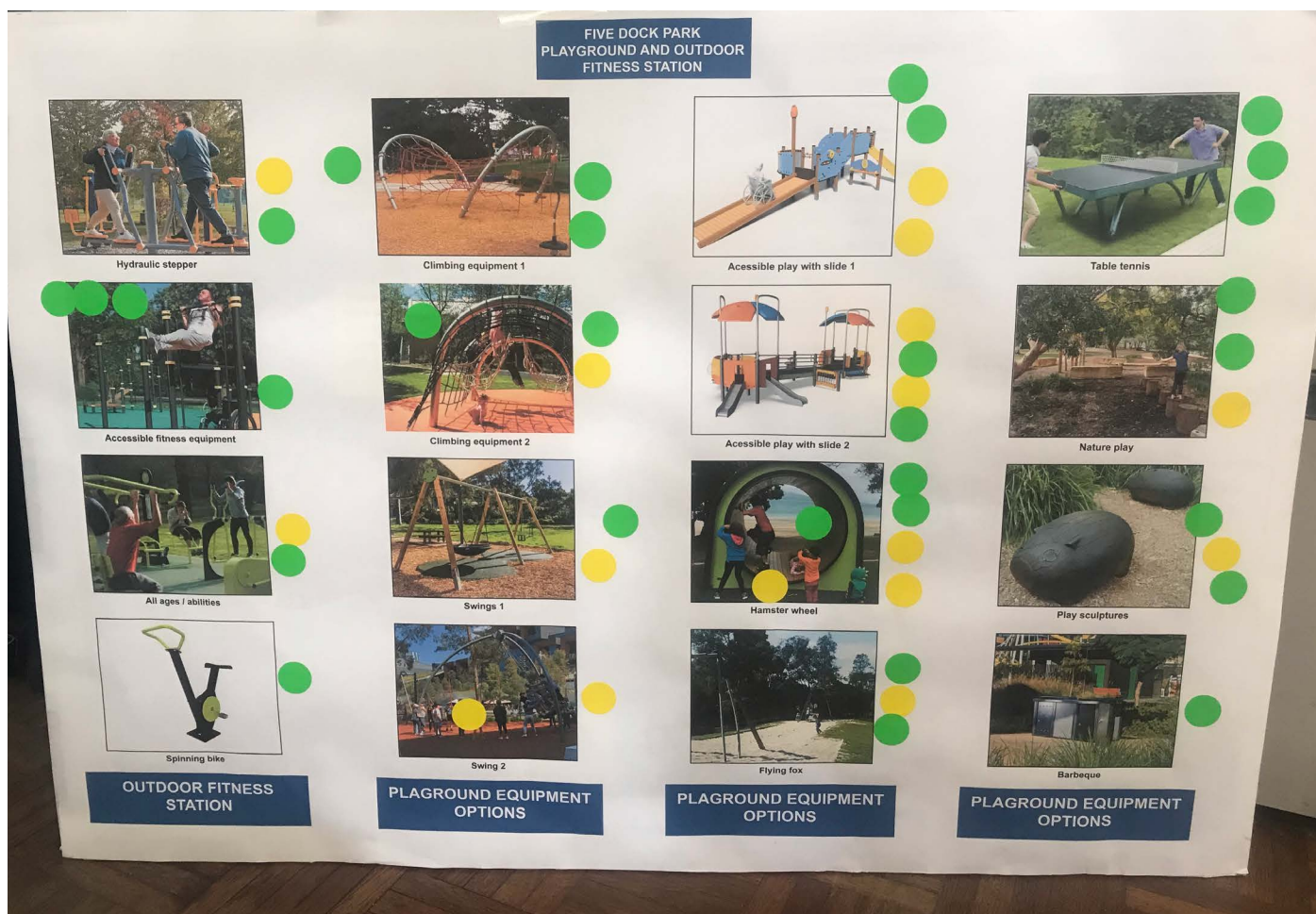
Suggestions and queries outside the project scope include:

- Safer access to the park:

The main problem with five dock park is that there is only one safe approach to the park for pedestrians - from Domremy across the pedestrian crossing. The other 3 sides of the park have no safe crossing places for pedestrians. Approaching from the south west, we have to cross Ingham Ave at the roundabout, which is a nightmare with children. You're putting in exercise and play equipment, yet making no provision for people to get some exercise by walking to the park.

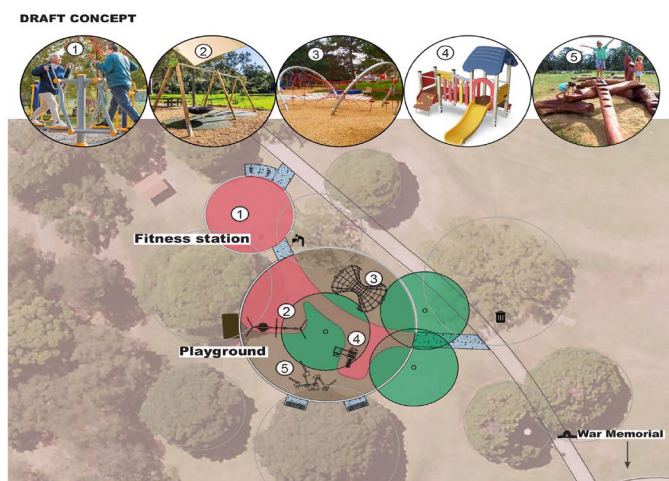
- How about opening the tennis courts to the public for free as well. Courts originally granted to Drummoyne Council by NSW State of Sport and Tourism now leased by CBC raking in \$\$\$\$
- What are the plans for the bowlo?
- What's happening with the now abandoned Bowling Green in the Park?

Drop-in session feedback



Most popular elements:

- Hamster wheel
- Accessible play equipment with slides
- Accessible fitness equipment



Promotional materials

Letter to local residents surrounding Five Dock Park & Site Poster for existing playground

12 September 2019

The Resident
Five Dock NSW 2046

Dear Resident,

Five Dock Park playground and outdoor fitness station project

As part of our Let's Play Strategy, we are asking the local community for feedback on a proposed new playground and outdoor fitness station in Five Dock Park.

We are looking to replace and relocate the existing playground with a new playground for children up to 13 years of age in a more central location within the park, as well as add new outdoor fitness equipment for teenagers and adults to use nearby.

The existing playground will be removed, the ground returfed and a new bench seat installed.

Our budget is \$140,000 for the playground and \$100,000 for the outdoor fitness station. With construction beginning in January 2020, we are aiming to open both by the end of June 2020.

We invite your feedback on the design for the playground and outdoor fitness station. Your feedback will help us develop the design further and understand any concerns or ideas you may have for the space. Please see the draft design overleaf.

To have your say, visit our Collaborate website at <http://bit.ly/fivedockplayground> before 15 October 2019.

You can contact our Landscape Architect, Gabriel Sicari on 991 6372.

Kind regards,

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas
City of Canada Bay



A NEW PLACE TO PLAY IS COMING YOUR WAY!

The City of Canada Bay is proposing to relocate this playground to a more central location in Five Dock Park and update the equipment.

Head to collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au to learn more and provide your input from 16 September - 15 October.

Help us create a great place for your family to play!



Meet with the project team on
Saturday 12 October
10 – 11am at the existing
playground. Come along and
give your feedback and ideas
on the design and layout of the
new playground!



bit.ly/fivedockplayground
or scan this code with your
phone camera



council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
or call 9911 6555



 City of
Canada Bay

Promotional materials

**City of Canada Bay**
September 16 · 🌐

We have exciting news!

Five Dock Park playground is being replaced and relocated to a more central location within the park. We'll also be installing a brand new fitness station so visitors can get fit for free!

Find out more about the plans and tell us what you think by visiting bit.ly/fivedockplayground before 15 October 🙌




City of Canada Bay
Government Organization

13,701
People Reached

2,545
Engagements


Learn More

Boost Again

**City of Canada Bay**
October 9 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

Five Dock Park playground is getting an upgrade! We're planning to replace and relocate the current playground to a more central location within the park. We'll also be installing a brand new fitness station so visitors can get fit for free!



What do you think about the plans? Stop by the current playground site in Five Dock Park this Saturday, 12 October from 10-11am to tell us what you think in person or submit feedback via bit.ly/fivedockplayground.




3,996
People Reached


338
Engagements


Boost Post


  Nicholas Rollinson, Lily Wang and 49 others

8 Comments 4 Shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share





City of Canada Bay

September 30 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

Have you heard about our \$240,000 upgrade at Five Dock Park?

We're planning to relocate the current playground to a more central location within the park. We'll also be installing a brand new fitness station so visitors can get fit for free! 💪

Find out more about the plans and tell us what you think by visiting bit.ly/fivedockplayground before 15 October.



4,120

People Reached

494

Engagements

Boost Post

👍❤️ 65

5 Comments 4 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Five Dock Park plans

FIVE Dock residents will soon have access to free gym equipment after the City of Canada Bay revealed new plans to upgrade the playground at Five Dock Park.

Under the proposed plans \$140,000 has been allocated to replace and relocate the current playground to a more central location within the park. A new \$100,000 adjoining fitness station will also be installed giving visitors free access to exercise equipment.

Construction is set to begin in early 2020 with the site opening in late June.

•Details: bit.ly/fivedockplayground and feedback before October 15

