

August 2019



Executive Summary

This report, *Let's All Play Mayoral Youth Forum Report*, outlines the youth participants ideas and aspirations generated during the Mayoral Youth Forum held on Thursday, 1 August 2019 from 10.30am - 11.45am at the City of Canada Bay.

Background

As part of the City of Canada Bay's commitment to collaborate with the community we engaged with community members throughout February 2019 to help shape our new Let's All Play Strategy. This new strategy will focus on inclusive, well-designed, diverse and high value outdoor play spaces to attract and capture people of all ages and abilities, delivering a blueprint for future open space planning.

To assist Council in further understanding the outdoor recreation space needs and aspirations of our youth, and to inform the Let's All Play Strategy, on 5 June 2019, Mayor Angelo Tsirekas wrote to the 21 primary and secondary schools located in the City of Canada Bay, to invite a supervising teacher and four students to participate in the Let's All Play Mayoral Youth Forum on Thursday, 1 August 2019.

The Forum

The forum included: a presentation on the Let's All Play youth engagement outcomes to date; a Q&A session with the Mayor; morning tea including a tour of Council Chambers; and a design activity with students separated into four groups.

Thank you to the schools, their principals / vice principals and the students who invested their time in participating.

Participants

Host

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas

Welcome: Peter Gainsford, General Manager, City of Canada Bay

Participants

Abbotsford Public School

- Matt Hull, Relieving Assistant Principal
- Charlie D, Student
- Lauren B, Student
- Olek S, Student
- Zoe D, Student

Five Dock Public School

- Nicole McGee, Assistant Principal,
- Alice S, Student
- Evie S, Student
- Jack S, Student
- Tim O, Student

Facilitators

Robert Marshall, Parks Planner, City of Canada Bay and Kate Woodbridge, consultant

Drummoyne Public School

- Leigh Russ, Assistant Principal,
- Allegra L, Student
- Arion K, Student
- Lewis W, Student
- Zoe H, Student

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School

- Cathy Young, Principal,
- Isabel C, Student
- Kaila C, Student
- Monique A, Student
- Vaughn V, Student



Apologies

- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- Victoria Avenue Public School

MAYORAL WELCOME AND Q&A

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas welcomed everyone to the forum and introduced Peter Gainsford, General Manager, City of Canada Bay Council.

The Mayor explained to the participants:

- One of the roles of the Mayor is to listen to all community members to better understand community needs
- The Mayor collaborates with Council's General Manager, who's responsibility is to manage all Council's operations including delivering and maintaining infrastructure
- How important open recreation space design and management is to a community which is reaching 100,000 people
- Why it is important for the Mayor to meet with all community members including young people to better understand their open recreation space needs, ideas and aspirations

The Mayor invited participants to ask him questions. Three participants asked the following probing questions:

Q1: How long have you been Mayor?

Mayor Response: For 17 years

Q2: What decisions does the Mayor make?

Mayor Response: The Mayor explained how Council convenes in Chambers to make decisions on behalf of the community

Q3: What do you want to achieve from this meeting?

Mayor Response: The Mayor explained that his aim is to ensure that young people have access to open recreation space that they want to spend time in. The purpose of the meeting is to explore what facilities, infrastructure and spatial design would attract you to visit a park.

LET'S ALL PLAY PRESENTATION

Participants were provided with an overview of the intent of the new *Let's All Play Strategy* which is to assist our Council in parks planning.

Current Situation

The City of Canada Bay has over 50 parks which include equipment for public recreation eg: playground, outdoor fitness centres, basketball courts etc. Only two parks contain equipment which is intended for children over 8 years of age. This represents 4% of parks with equipment, however primary school aged children account for 7% of the community.

Key Youth Engagement Findings from the Consultation Process undertaken in February 2019

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

Most Important

- Public Bins - 100% of respondents
- Sheltered Picnic Tables - 92% of respondents
- Picnic Tables - 92% respondents
- Public Toilets - 85% of respondents
- Park Lighting - 85% of respondents
- Good cycling and pedestrian access to parks - 85% of respondents

Least Important

- BBQs - only 46% consider this important
- Free Wi-Fi - only 62% considered this important

FACILITIES

Youth stated they were most likely to use:

- Ninja obstacle course - 85% of respondents
- Zip line / Flying Fox - 85% of respondents
- Table tennis, Handball court, Outdoor rock/wall climbing, Basketball - 77% of respondents

Youth stated they were least likely to use:

Skatepark - 31% of respondents
 Badminton court - 31% of respondents
 Volleyball court - 38% of respondents

STUDENT WORKSHEET TASK

The students were asked to complete a concise worksheet.

The first question asked students to state how likely they were to use the following park facilities:

	Students' Response			
	Never	Not Likely	Very Likely	Unsure
Outdoor rock/wall climbing	0%	13%	81%	6%
Zip line / Flying Fox	0%	6%	81%	13%
Ninja obstacle course	0%	19%	75%	6%
Hedge Maze	6%	6%	75%	13%
Large open spaces to encourage informal sports activity including flying a kite and kicking a ball	0%	6%	69%	25%
Balloon Trampoline	0%	13%	63%	25%
Water Play	13%	19%	63%	6%
Basketball hoop and/or court	6%	25%	56%	13%
Handball court	0%	31%	56%	13%
Netball hoop and/or court	6%	25%	56%	13%
Table tennis	0%	19%	56%	25%
Interactive (eg: sound, art and light) sculptures that allow climbing	0%	31%	50%	19%
Nature Play (eg: sand, sticks to build forts etc)	0%	44%	38%	19%
Skatepark	0%	50%	25%	25%
Badminton court	13%	69%	13%	6%
Volleyball court	6%	63%	6%	25%

The second question asked students to state how important the following park infrastructure is in encouraging them to visit a park:

	Students' Response			
	Not Important	Important	Very Important	Unsure
Public toilets	0%	6%	88%	6%
Drinking Fountain	0%	13%	75%	13%
Pathways connecting entry point to key activity zones within parks	0%	13%	75%	13%
Public Bins	0%	19%	75%	6%
Good cycling and pedestrian access to parks	0%	19%	75%	6%
Park Lighting	0%	13%	63%	25%
Sheltered Picnic Tables	0%	31%	63%	6%
Picnic Tables	0%	44%	50%	6%
BBQs	13%	31%	38%	19%
Free Wi-Fi	13%	31%	38%	19%
Bicycle parking	0%	75%	19%	6%

MORNING TEA AND TOUR

The students enjoyed morning tea, followed by a tour of Council Chambers led by the Mayor.

FORUM PHOTOS

Please note, some photos are blurred to protect the identity of the students.

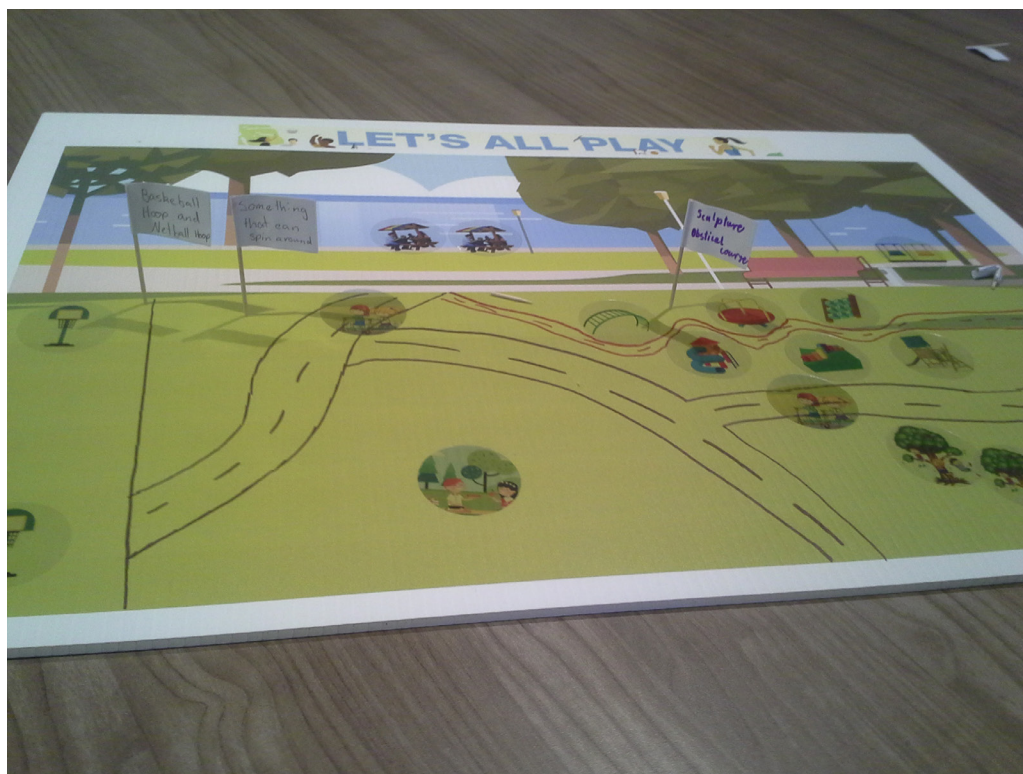


GROUP ACTIVITY

After morning tea the students were placed into four groups with each group provided a range of tools to work together to design park in relation to facilities, infrastructure and spatial design.

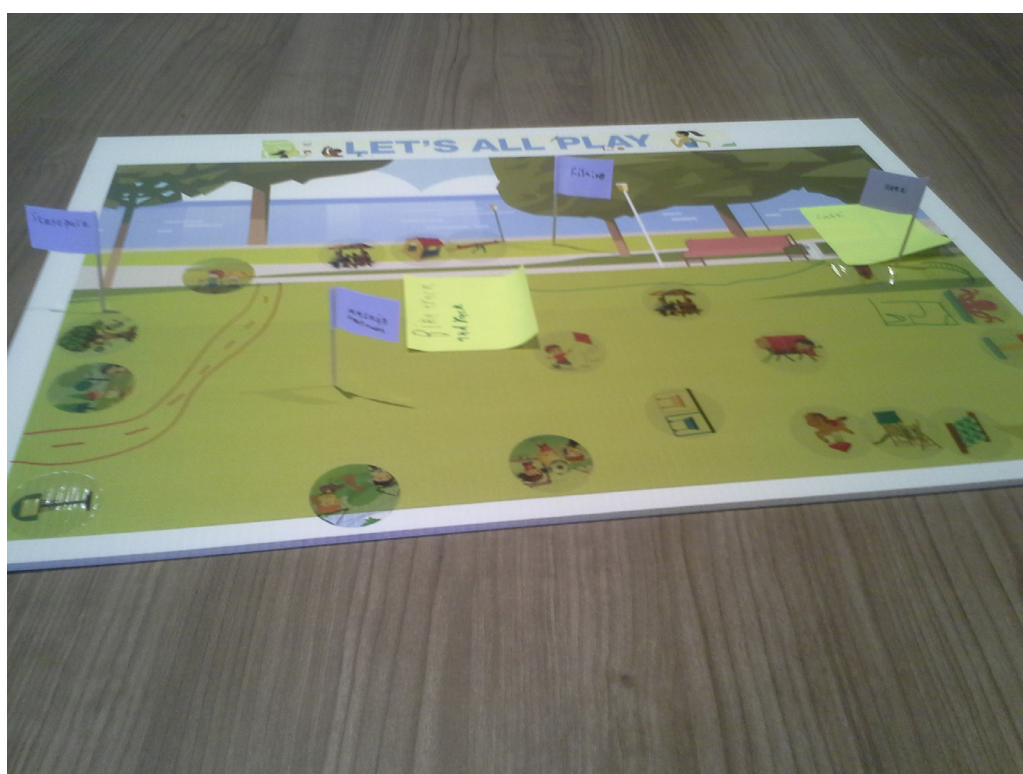
Key observations of the four designs:

- creating zones for different activities and/or ages
- utilising scootering / cycle pathways to connect and separate zones
- active sports infrastructure
- open space is highly valued
- diverse equipment to provide mental and physical challenges



Group One:

- utilising scooter/cycle paths to separate zones
- zones: multi-purpose sports court (eg: hoops for both basketball and netball) zone; open space zone for picnicking; sculpture/obstacle zone; area for younger children zone; more challenging zone eg: climbing; waters-edge picnic tables
- key point they made that all ages / abilities should be able to enjoy a park together



Group Two:

- scootering / learn to ride a bike
- small skateboarding facility
- cafe facilities
- fishing area / facilities
- bike parking
- a one way hedge maze
- open area to fly a kite
- basketball court
- picnic areas
- a large play equipment area
- water play
- spinner
- trees to climb
- this group also referred to creating zones within a park



Group Three:

- scootering / cycle pathways
- small skatepark adjacent to pathway
- naturally shaded play zones: open space zone for flying a kite; active sports (basketball, handball, netball) zone; youth to adult play zone; young children play zone
- youth/adult play zone linked by flying fox to younger children play zone
- jumping pillow / trampoline
- maze



Group Four

- central area of park to be open space and a tree house
- scootering / cycle paths to connect and separate zones
- zones: water play zone; water sports and fishing area; chill zone; young children play zone; youth/adult play zone including rock climbing, basketball, netball, skatepark; picnic/bbq zone
- ninja obstacle course
- hedge maze
- parks for all ages and abilities

Thank you to the schools, their representatives on the day and of course the amazing 16 students!