

Mill Park Health and Fitness Space

Community Consultation Report

March 2022

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Project background

Council is proposing to construct a new health and fitness space at Mill Park, Rhodes. This project aims to create an intergenerational space where all members of the community are welcome.

The following elements are being considered for the space:

- A smooth surface court with multiple court lines and a multi-goal
- Additional seating for seated play and social gatherings
- Additional trees and landscaping to improve shade and canopy cover
- Public art such as a mural on the court to bring life to the space

A draft concept plan for the space was prepared and residents, visitors and park users were invited to provide feedback and share their ideas to shape the space.

The consultation ran from 6 December 2021 to 6 February 2022. The closing date was subsequently extended to 20 February 2022 to give all members of the community sufficient time to respond given delays with letter distribution.

Engagement methods

- Online survey
- Virtual brainstorm: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mill-park/get-creative
- Drop-in session at Mill Park
- Email/phone feedback

See appendix A for more detail.

Notification methods

- Project page on Collaborate Canada Bay: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mill-park
- Letterbox drop to 3,740 residences
- Council newsletters and enews
- Site posters
- Social media
- Direct email to 10 project followers

See appendix B for more detail.

Engagement summary

Collaborate reach

- 172 contributions
- 1,375 page views
- 737 unique site visitors
- 27 project followers

Social media reach

- Facebook – 4 x posts
- Instagram – 3 x posts
- Twitter – 1 x post

These posts reached a total of 14,400 people and received 864 engagements (likes, comments and shares).

Newsletter reach

- City of Canada Bay enews
- Rhodes enews (December) translated into Korean and Chinese Simplified
- City of Canada Bay enews (January)
- Good Living @Rhodes (Summer edition)

Total reach = 12,178

Results

Survey

The survey received 145 submissions in total. Reliability of results is limited as the survey was amended on 21 January 2022. Answer options were added, and some questions were made optional.

Open field feedback

84 respondents (58%) provided comments on this project, of which:

- 73% were against the construction of the health and fitness space
- 18% suggested improvements to the concept design
- 8% made comments in support of the project

How feedback is analysed:

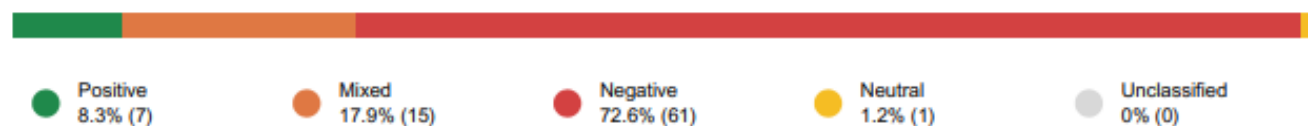
- Tags were created to group feedback which expressed similar ideas
- Feedback was categorised into 4 sentiment types:
 - Positive – statements which show support for the project
 - Mixed – statements which provide improvement suggestions
 - Negative – statements which do not support the project going ahead

- Neutral – statements outside the scope of this consultation

5. If you have any feedback on the draft concept plan, let us know here!

Long Text | Skipped: 61 | Answered: 84 (57.9%)

Sentiment



Tags



Tag	Percent	Count
Maintain green space	52.4%	44
Noise	25%	21
Antisocial behaviour	13.1%	11
Litter	4.8%	4
More exercise equipment	3.6%	3
Parking	3.6%	3
Overcrowding	3.6%	3
Protect flora and fauna	3.6%	3
Water fountains	2.4%	2
Improve lighting	2.4%	2

Other suggestions:

- Net cover (2)
- Shade (2)
- Children's mini bike track
- Nature play for kids

- Accessible picnic tables
- Detachable hoops that are removed at night
- Café nearby
- Full sized court
- Tables that are multipurpose
- Wall to play tennis against

Preferences for specific elements

The survey asked respondents to vote for various features to shape the space including types of sport courts, seating, sport equipment and tree species. Feedback is summarised below.

Option	Community preference
Sport (respondents were asked to select up to three options)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new active recreation facility (42%) • Basketball 7x7 half court (40%) • Badminton (18%)
Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic setting with 2 x chess boards (44%) • 4 seater setting with 1 x chess board (39%)
Sport equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotatable basketball to netball goal (49%)
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glochidion ferdinandi – Cheese Tree (44%)

See appendix C for more detail.

Virtual brainstorm

The virtual brainstorm asked for inspirations and ideas for court artwork to bring life to the space. 26 suggestions were put forward by 4 contributors and included:

- 6 suggestions for murals
- 5 suggestions for indigenous artwork
- 4 suggestions for outdoor furniture
- 4 suggestions for court artwork
- 3 suggestions for creative lighting installations

All suggestions can be viewed here: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mill-park/get-creative

Email/phone feedback

40 submissions were received via email or phone, from 37 residents. Of these:

- Most submissions (98%) were opposed to the project going ahead
- 29 submissions (73%) forwarded a link to a community petition against this project, signed by 222 people

Key concerns

Key concerns put forward by residents included:

- Excessive noise (90%)
- Loss of green space (80%)
- Antisocial behaviour (75%)
- Light pollution (8%)
- There are other basketball courts nearby (5%)
- Loss of parking (5%)

Drop-in onsite

Council officers were onsite at Mill Park on Saturday 5 February to talk to residents and park users about the project and collect feedback. Approximately 35 people attended and provided feedback on the day. Hard copy survey results have been combined with the online survey results summarised on pages 3-5. It's important to note that most attendees had already provided feedback via email, phone, or the survey.

One piece of written feedback was submitted at the drop-in which was not in favour of the health and fitness space being constructed, noting the following concerns:

- Noise
- Antisocial behaviour
- Safety risks for older people
- Loss of parking and traffic congestion
- Disruption of peace in the area
- Foreshore Park suggested as a more suitable location

Conclusion

Although some community members showed support for this project, the large majority of residents bordering the park strongly oppose the project. Key issues raised include excessive noise (both from basketballs and users of the space), loss of green space and antisocial behaviour. Concerns about loss of parking due to increased use of the space, light pollution, increased litter and impact on existing flora and fauna were also put forward.

Residents have asked Council to reconsider the location of this health and fitness space, however it is important to note that some residents do support the introduction of seating and more planting in the space.

Appendices

A. Engagement methods

Survey questions

Help us refine certain elements of the design for the Mill Park Health and Fitness Space by selecting your preferred option for each category. Note: images used are for illustrative purposes only.

Vote for your preferred sporting options for the space. Select up to 3 options. Required

These options will assist in determining linework to paint on the court. We would like keep the options to 3 to reduce confusion in play. If your preference is for no new active recreation facility, please advise by selecting the answer below.

- ☐ Basketball - 7x7 half court
- ☐ Netball - half court
- ☐ Futsal - half court
- ☐ Badminton - full court
- ☐ Handball (4 square) - 2 courts
- ☐ European Handball - half court
- ☐ No new active recreation facility
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Optional questions

What kind of seating would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.

We would like to specify benches that allow opportunities for outdoor board games. These could be provided as individual 2 seater table settings, 4 seater or picnic style. Please note, we want to specify 1 picnic table setting already, so the below options would be additional.



2 seater setting with 1 x chess board



4 seater setting with 1 x chess board



Picnic setting with 2 x chess boards

What kind of sport equipment would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.

We would like to specify public sport equipment that supports multiple sport opportunities.



Rotatable basketball to netball goal



Multi-goal



Badminton net with storage box

What kind of trees would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.

We would like to include shade trees to increase tree cover, reduce heat on site and provide a pleasant and welcoming space.



Melaleuca linariifolia –
Snow White Summer

Tatiana Gerus, 2001



Eucalyptus reticulatus –
Blueberry Ash

G. Sicari CCBC



Glochidion ferdinandi –
Cheese Tree

Randwick City Council

If you have any feedback on the draft concept plan, let us know here!

Virtual brainstorm

What kind of court artwork would you like to see at Mill Park Health and Fitness Space?

Post your ideas below and help us create a great health and fitness space for the whole community to enjoy.

Some ideas to get you thinking:



Share your creative ideas.

Have you seen an inspiring piece of art? Let us know – you can upload photos, videos or just share your thoughts. If you like something someone else has posted, click 'like' on the post so we know it's popular with the community.

25 contributions

B. Notification methods

Letter to residents



The Resident
RHODES NSW 2138

Dear Resident,

Mill Park health and fitness space

As part of our Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2019) we are proposing to construct a new intergenerational health and fitness space at Mill Park, Rhodes.

We plan to invest \$150,000 in these works which will include a multi-use court, seating, public art and native garden beds with trees to provide shade that will integrate with the surrounding landscape.

We are committed to working closely with the community to refine the design of this new space and your input will help shape the draft design.

I invite you to share your suggestions for Mill Park by **Sunday, 06 February 2022**.

Feedback can be submitted via:

- Online: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mill-park
- Email: council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
- Phone: 9911 6555

We will have a drop-in session at Mill Park on Saturday, 05 February 2022 from 10am - 12pm where residents can speak to the project team in person.

For more information on this project, please contact Council's Landscape Architect, Philippa Dunstan, on 9911 6280.

Kind regards,

Samantha Urquhart
Acting Director City Services and Assets

Mill Park

Health and Fitness Space

Community consultation

6 December 2021 - 6 February 2022

We're constructing a new health and fitness space for the whole community to enjoy at Mill Park, Rhodes! The space will include a multi-use court and additional seating and landscaping.

Our aim is to create an intergenerational health and fitness space where all members of the community are welcome.

We are inviting residents and park users to help refine the design of this new space. View the draft concept plan and provide your feedback via the methods outlined below. Join us at our drop in session on site 10am-12pm 5 February.



For more information
scan the QR code.



Have your say

📍 collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/mill-park

✉ openspace@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

☎ 9911 6555

📍 Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 1470

🕒 Drop-in session 10am-12pm 5 February 2022

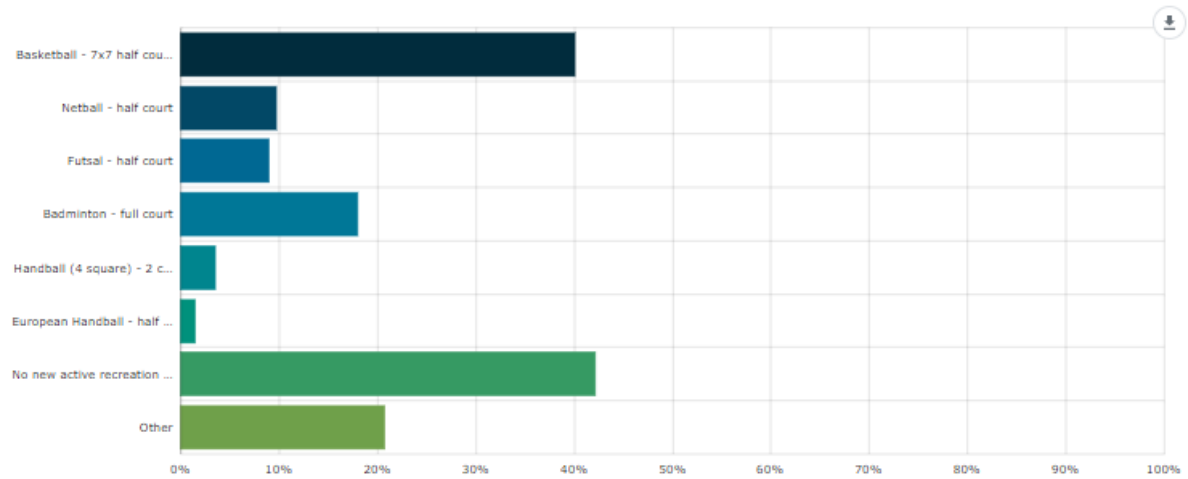


C. Survey results

Preferred sporting options

1 Vote for your preferred sporting options for the space. Select up to 3 options. Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 145 (100%)

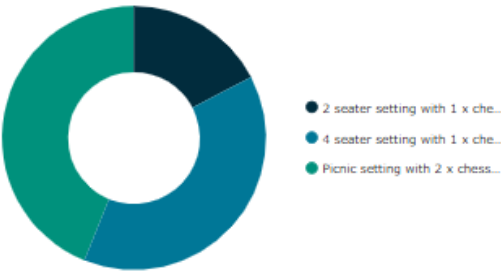


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Basketball - 7x7 half court	40.00%	58
Netball - half court	9.66%	14
Futsal - half court	8.97%	13
Badminton - full court	17.93%	26
Handball (4 square) - 2 courts	3.45%	5
European Handball - half court	1.38%	2
No new active recreation facility	42.07%	61
Other	20.69%	30

Preferred seating

2

What kind of seating would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.
Multi Choice | Skipped: 47 | Answered: 98 (67.6%)

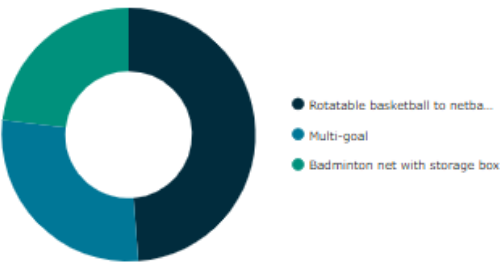


Answer choices	Percent	Count
2 seater setting with 1 x chess board	17.35%	17
4 seater setting with 1 x chess board	38.78%	38
Picnic setting with 2 x chess boards	43.88%	43

Preferred sport equipment

3

What kind of sport equipment would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.
Multi Choice | Skipped: 63 | Answered: 82 (56.6%)



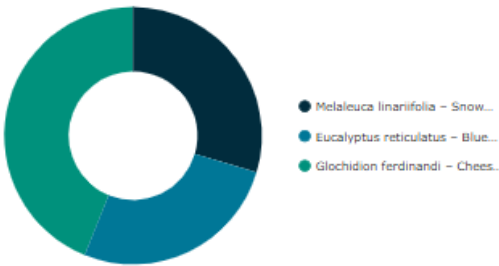
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Rotatable basketball to netball goal	48.78%	40
Multi-goal	28.05%	23
Badminton net with storage box	23.17%	19

Preferred trees

4

What kind of trees would you like to see in the space? Vote for your preferred option.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 47 | Answered: 98 (67.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Melaleuca linariifolia – Snow White Summer	29.59%	29
Eucalyptus reticulatus – Blueberry Ash	26.53%	26
Glochidion ferdinandi – Cheese Tree	43.88%	43