

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY

Stage One Engagement Summary

This Open Space and Recreation Strategy (OSRS) has been developed in consultation with the community and with input from key stakeholders. It is based on evidence-based research, a review of background studies, and industry best practice.

Stage One community and stakeholder engagement took place in February and March 2019. Engagement activities were designed to gain a better understanding of how the community currently use open space and recreation facilities in Waverley and the changes they would like to see for these spaces in the future.

Direct emails and workshops were targeted at schools, sporting clubs and community groups that frequently book Waverley Council spaces. A dedicated Have Your Say Waverley webpage and an online survey was created to allow the broader community to provide input to the project for the duration of the engagement period. We also held Intercept surveys and three 'have your say' days at targeted locations to capture community members and users of Waverley's open space and recreation facilities who may not be linked to a school or sporting club or groups.

These community and stakeholder views are key considerations for the development of the Waverley Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

A summary of community participation included:

- 138 people participated in the online survey
- 179 pins were added to the interactive map
- 14 people participated in the stakeholder workshops
- 3 Have your Say Days were conducted
- 81 intercept surveys were completed

The following themes summarise the feedback collected through community and stakeholder engagement activities. These themes are further explored and addressed through the OSRS.

Maintenance

Maintenance of parks and reserves and maintaining the quality of spaces is an important issue. The current level of maintenance is satisfactory; however, specific parks require more care.

Spaces that have high visitation and spaces that are popular with tourists were seen to require particular attention and more frequent maintenance than other parks.

Playgrounds

Creating spaces for young children is important. The play facilities that Council provides are widely enjoyed.

However, considering the demand on current playgrounds, providing more facilities in and around playgrounds such as shade and water fountains, and replacing the ageing equipment in some parks, are needed.

Dog parks

Many parks in Waverley are well visited by dog walkers. Dog-owners would like to see more parks have off-leash areas, water fountain and bins. Conflicts that arise between dog-owners and other people using parks when there are a large number of dogs, is a concern that needs to be considered and managed well. It is important to maintain separation between dog off-leash areas and the rest of the park where other activities happen, to reduce conflicts and manage risks to safety.

Accessibility

Availability of car parking is an issue, especially for carers who drive children to play sports at the courts and ovals. Provision of more parking would make it more convenient for visitors to the parks; however, it may create more congestion on local roads and the impact on residents living near parks. The creation of additional parking is not straightforward.



Recreation facilities

The courts, sports field and oval in Waverley Park are well used by sporting clubs and groups. These clubs and groups would like to see additional fields created to allow for the scheduling of more games and less competition with other clubs for space. Conversion of more fields to synthetic grass across Waverley would also allow for more play in all seasons as the field would be less affected by the weather.

The addition of more basketball hoops and tennis courts would enable more casual play for people not associated with sporting clubs and groups. A large number of swimmers in Waverley would also like to see an indoor swimming pool developed.

Improvements to amenities and facilities

Provision of amenities and facilities in parks and reserves is important to maintain the quality of the spaces and would make people's visits more pleasant. This includes providing more water fountains and toilets in larger parks, particularly next to sports fields and courts.

Feedback received indicated they would like Council to provide shade and shelter next to sports fields at Barracluff Park,

Hugh Bamford Reserve and Rodney Reserve to make the fields more pleasant places to be, particularly for spectators at matches where the fields are exposed to sun, wind and rain.

Feedback also indicated that they'd like Council to provide storage facilities for sporting equipment close to sports fields and courts for clubs and community groups to use.

Affordability

It is very important that open space, beaches, and recreation facilities can be accessed for no or little cost. Maintaining affordable hire fees for sporting clubs and community groups to use Waverley recreation facilities is very important for the financial health of clubs and allows them to continue setting affordable fees for their members.