

TIMES SQUARE PARK UPGRADE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Times Square Park upgrade project will deliver a new local level playground in Sanctuary Lakes.

The works are in response to a request from Sanctuary Lakes Resort Services who have identified a lack of playground assets for the community of Sanctuary Lakes.

Phase 1 of community engagement was held in October and November of 2021 to scope what equipment would best suit the community. Feedback from this phase was used to help create our Draft Concept Plan

Phase 2 was held in May and June 2022.

The purpose of this engagement was to:

- Seek feedback from the community about the Draft Concept Plan for the upcoming park upgrade,
- Identify what the community likes and dislikes about the proposed changes.

The project will be delivered in the 2022/23 financial year.



METHODOLOGY:

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	432 total visitors to the page 659 page views 7 new followers
Online survey	25 surveys completed
Community drop in session	21 residents attended
Sanctuary Lakes Resort Services meetings	2 meetings with staff
Letter box drop	Letters notifying residents of the project were posted to all residences within 400m of the Reserve (total 469 letters)
Direct contact from residents	1 resident contacted Council officers via email and phone to give their feedback

Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Online promotion (Facebook posts)	Wyndham residents
Site posters and postcards	Local residents

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

The following feedback will help to shape the final design for the park. Once complete the plan will be made available to the community.

We Asked	You Said	We did
What do you like about the concept design for the Times Square Park Upgrade?	<p>Support was received for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space is largely retained • Picnic area • Table tennis • Playground and swings • Nature play 	<p>Over 70% of responses were in favour of making the proposed additions to the park.</p> <p>These features remain in the concept plan.</p>
Is there anything we may have missed in the concept design or could do better?	<p>72% of responses requested making additions to the concept, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add sport equipment (basketball/netball hoop, soccer goals) 2. Increase playground size; add more playground items 3. Add water play elements 4. Add a BBQ 5. Add additional car parking spaces 6. Ensure the playground caters to all ages 7. Include park benches 8. Add a drinking fountain 9. Add dog poop bags 10. Add habitat planting for native fauna 11. What about snakes? 12. Add bins 	<p>1-4. The park is being upgraded to include a local-level play space only. This will provide for families that currently use the park, primarily residents within 400m. Council limits sport hard courts, water play and BBQs to District Level parks that service multiple neighbourhoods. Residents travel from further afield, typically via car, to access District level facilities. Council is seeking to avoid encouraging any additional vehicles into the neighbourhood.</p> <p>5. Two additional car spaces will be provided at the eastern end of the park, north of Rockerfeller Way.</p> <p>6. The play equipment selected caters to a range of age groups.</p> <p>7. Park benches are included at the play area and the paved areas at the western and south-central edges.</p> <p>8. A drinking fountain has been included.</p> <p>9. A dog poop bag dispenser will be provided at the new bin.</p> <p>10. Additional garden beds will provide habitat for local fauna. Proposed plantings will match the existing park's style</p> <p>11. Play areas will be offset from garden beds and any planting will avoid the creation of snake-friendly spaces.</p> <p>12. A bin has been included.</p>

We Asked	You Said	We did
<p>Any other comments you would like to add?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't change the park, leave it as it is. • Relocate the playground to the western end of the park. • The upgrade should encourage intergeneration play • It looks like it is squashed into a small area. Is the spacing here consistent with the normal spacing in parks? • Playground should be in muted, natural colours. • The height of the bushes around the park need attention. • Traffic safety issues are a concern at the intersection of Liberty Drive & Times Square. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 5 responses reflected this view. The remainder of responses were in favour of the of the proposed changes and the project will move forward. • The location at the eastern end was chosen to maximise community benefit, being within walking distance of more houses than a western location. It is also the best location for a new accessible entry pathway. • The play area is designed for all ages of children to access it and play with their parents, grandparents, extended family and friends. Older children and families will enjoy the table tennis table as well. • The space allocated to the play area is consistent with other parks. Round 1 feedback prioritised the retention of the large open grass area free from playgrounds, pergolas, and plants. • Muted and natural colours have been selected for the proposed play equipment. • The buffer garden beds provide important screening and containment of the new play area. With the upgrade of the park there will be additional children crossing surrounding roads. Routine pruning, especially at the park corners, will be prioritised by Sanctuary Lakes Resort Services to ensure vehicle sight lines are not obscured and pedestrian safety is not compromised. • Centre road line marking and additional signage has recently been installed.

We Asked	You Said	We did
Any other comments you would like to add?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about increased traffic.• Concern over increased noise• Plovers nest close to the proposed playground site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The park upgrade is intended for local families who already use the park and have no other playgrounds within walking distance. Traffic-generating activities such as basketball courts, BBQs and water play have not been included.• The playground is located at least 20m away from any of the surrounding dwellings in all directions, as per Council guidelines. The locations of the swings and combination play unit have been swapped to further increase the distance between houses and these slightly higher noise-generating play equipment elements. The playground area will be well enclosed by trees and garden beds that will limit noise and act as a barrier to the road.• Most of the grass area will remain untouched by the upgrade and suitable for nesting plovers. Care will be taken during construction not to disturb any nests.

NEXT STEPS:

- Council will use the feedback provided by this consultation to inform the final design and outcome of the park upgrade.
- The final concept design will be shared on The Loop to inform the community.
- The project will be constructed early in 2023.

Contact details for further information

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