

A community vision for Wentworth Park



Contents

Background	3
Engagement summary	3
What we heard	4

A community vision for Wentworth Park

Background

In its Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy, the NSW Government has committed to relocating the greyhound track, currently licensed to the Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association until 2027, to create one large, unified park for the local community.

The north and south sections of the park are currently under the City of Sydney's care. We welcome the state government's commitment to provide this significant parcel of Crown land as public open space.

Working towards a consolidated park is also an identified action in the [City of Sydney's Wentworth Park plan of management](#).

A long-term plan for the park is needed to respond effectively to the likely removal of the greyhound facility and potential for greater public green space. This will ensure the best use of the park in the future.

In late 2022 we invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound facility and tell us what they'd like to see and do there.

Engagement summary

From 8 August 2022 to 5 September 2022, we asked the community to help us develop a vision for Wentworth Park.

Our consultation provided an opportunity for early community involvement on a vision for the future when the greyhound facility moves and the centre of the park becomes public open space.

Consultation activities

- 3 workshops with schools and children's services (61 children)
- 2 pop-ups in the park (250 people)
- An online information session (30 people)
- Interactive map visited by 713 people with 264 comments
- 34 surveys
- 50 email submissions, including 5 from community groups and 2 from schools or children's services
- A handwritten letter

What we heard

The community sees Wentworth Park as a significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other.

This is a place that welcomes people and can be safely and easily accessed from the surrounding built environment. The community is passionate about a unified and connected park people can move through easily and that is designed well to integrate its many uses.

The depth of connection people feel about the park and breadth of expectations being voiced about its future supports the creation of a long-term plan. Wentworth Park is deeply valued by the community as a large green space in an increasingly dense inner-city area.

The community were most engaged with the following 4 themes.

- A green place connected to nature – more than 630 engagements.
- A place of sport, exercise and play – more than 1,230 engagements.
- A place that supports social activities and events – more than 825 engagements.
- A place that is easy to get in to and move through – more than 470 engagements.

Removing the greyhound facility to create more green space

We invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound facility and tell us what they'd like to see and do there.

There was overwhelming support to remove the greyhound facility to create more green space and unify the park. There is a strong sense that its potential is not currently realised.



A green place connected to nature

The community strongly supports a sustainable park with rich biodiversity, incorporating green open spaces, mature shady trees, native plants and rewilded areas. They want to rediscover the natural water features of the area.

The community wants to connect with nature through the park, with walks and places to sit protected from the view of surrounding buildings and local traffic noise. They want to interact with water running through creeks, ponds and fountains and to see and hear a diversity of wildlife.

Wentworth Park is viewed as an essential public oasis of natural calm in the dense built environment of the inner city.



A place of sport, exercise and play

The community wants a park that supports a diverse range of exercise and sporting activities for a wide variety of people and organisations, including schools.

There is strong interest in open sporting fields for football, soccer and hockey, and more specialised facilities for sports like tennis, cricket, basketball and netball. The community raised the need for upgraded playing surfaces, better drainage and improved amenities for sporting teams and spectators.

An expansion of active recreation opportunities included outdoor gym and parkour equipment, walking tracks, skateboarding areas and open space for more informal activities.

The community wants a place that supports a variety of play options for children of all ages. Nature play with water features were highlighted.

The subject of dogs is important to community members and different views about how best to manage dogs in the park were expressed.



A place that supports social activities and events

The community wants the park to have facilities that encourage relaxation and socialising, and education and entertainment.

The northern part of the park was identified as an area for picnic shelters and barbecues as it is close to the Sydney Fish Market.

The community would like more public toilets, seating, bins, bubblers and lighting throughout the park. They would like homeless people supported as the park changes.

Ideas for future facilities included the creation of small intimate natural spaces for quiet relaxation, an amphitheatre for outdoor events, a community centre and library, a place for markets and the repurposing of heritage buildings for community events and as arts spaces and cafes.

The community is interested in seeing the local heritage recognised including the connections and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the park's industrial and sporting history.



A place that is easy to get in to and move through

The community wants a park that encourages safe, easy movement within it, and one that has sensible connections into surrounding neighbourhoods for walking and cycling.

People are interested in paths that move them through the park efficiently, while also providing paths for recreational and social purposes.

The community is interested in overhead walkways and cycleways to integrate the park, the new Sydney Fish Market development and public transport options such as the light rail.

Increased traffic and parking are concerns for the community. Traffic calming options as well as pedestrian and cycle connections throughout the surrounding streets are desired by the community.



