



BEECROFT VILLAGE GREEN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT



February 2023

Parks, Trees & Recreation Branch
Hornsby Shire Council
296 Peats Ferry Road
Hornsby NSW 2077

INTRODUCTION

Council is planning renewal opportunities for the Beecroft Village Green. Prior to design work commencing, consultation with the community was undertaken to guide development of a Draft Master Plan for the park.

The resulting Draft Master Plan provides an overall vision for the park and guidance on the types of uses and facilities that occur there.

LOCATION

Beecroft Village Green is a parkland located at 111X Beecroft Road, Beecroft. The park is bounded by Beecroft Road to the west, the Northern Railway Line to the east, the Beecroft Community Centre to the north and Beecroft Lawn Tennis Club to the south.



Image 1 - Beecroft Village Green Existing Site Plan

BACKGROUND

Beecroft Village Green is a linear park of approximately 1.4 hectares. The park conserves a stand of remnant indigenous forest trees from the Sydney-Turpentine-Ironbark-Forest (STIF) vegetation community and features open lawn areas, a playspace, picnic shelters and seating, public toilets, a barbeque and pedestrian paths. The site generally slopes from the west to east.

Beecroft Village Green is of local heritage significance for its historical, aesthetic and social values. It historically formed part of the Field of Mars subdivision in 1886 and was officially opened in 1903. The park has continued to function as a recreational space since that time.

Beecroft Village Green exists to serve the local community and while it is used primarily as an access corridor the community also use the park for active and passive recreation, gatherings, exercise and community events.

The Hornsby Play Plan identifies the playspace as a *Local Level* playspace and lists renewal of the playspace as a high priority.

Council has recently constructed a new three metre wide shared path through the Beecroft Village Green to improve provision for cycling between Beecroft and Cheltenham railway stations.

CONSULTATION METHODOLOGIES

Community consultation is critical to the success of the Master Plan process. Two rounds of community consultation are proposed to provide the community the opportunity to contribute their ideas, as outlined below.

Community Consultation – Round 1

The community is invited to provide feedback on changes, if any, they would like to see at the Beecroft Village Green.

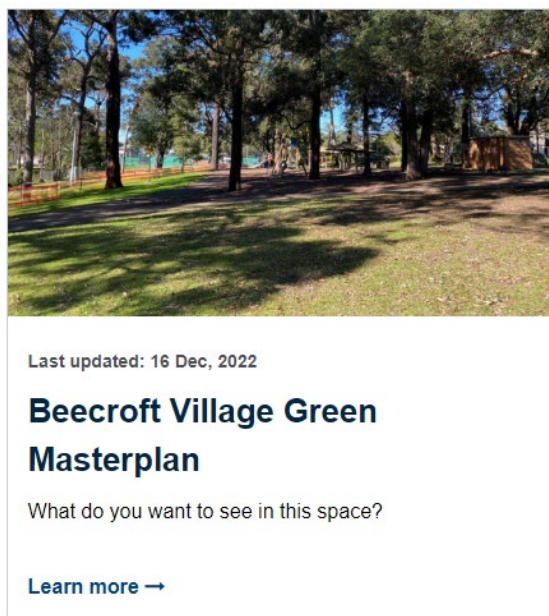


Image 2 – Screenshot of YourSay Hornsby webpage

Develop Draft Master Plan

A Draft Master Plan is developed based on feedback received from the first round of consultation.

Community Consultation – Round 2

The community are invited to provide feedback on the Draft Master Plan.

Revision of Draft Plan

The Draft Master Plan is further refined based on feedback received during Round 2 consultation.

ROUND 1 CONSULTATION

Round 1 consultation was undertaken prior to design work commencing. The community was invited to provide suggestions for possible changes and future directions for Beecroft Village Green. This information was used to guide development of the Draft Master Plan.

Round 1 consultation was undertaken from 15 November to 14 December 2022 and Council engaged with the community through the following channels:

- Advertisement on Council's website – YourSay Hornsby
- Online survey
- Social Media
- Council's eNewsletter
- Direct mailout to adjoining neighbours
- Notices placed on site
- 1 x drop in session on site on Saturday 26 November 2022.
- Notification to stakeholders including:
 - Beecroft Civic Trust
 - Rotary Club of Beecroft
 - Beecroft Lawn Tennis Club
 - Arden Anglican School
 - Beecroft Public School
 - Beecroft Fire Station
- Beecroft Community Centre regular hirers including:
 - Ryi Martial Arts
 - Bush Music Club Inc.
 - International Shaolin Wu Chu Chaun Martial Arts
 - The Golden Kangaroos
 - The Hills Club Physie
 - Vidusha Surige Dona
- Notification to residents who had written to Council about the Beecroft Village Green within the past five years.

Online Survey

The community were asked to complete an online survey ranking their top five preferences for the Beecroft Village Green from a selection of eleven options. Opportunity was given to provide additional comments on

items not included in the list. A snapshot of the online survey is shown below and the full survey is included as Appendix A.

What would you like to see and do in Beecroft Village Green?

Feedback closed Wednesday, 14 December 2022

Below is a list of suggested activities or facilities. Please rank them from 1-5 (1 being the highest) indicating what you would like included in the park.

Note: Existing amenities including the toilets and barbeque will be retained in the Masterplan. New tree planting, soft landscaping and park signage will be included as part of any future works.

Click and drag your top 5 choices to the box on the right side in order of preference.

Improved walking paths through the park	⋮
Large picnic shelter (2 or more tables)	⋮
Outdoor exercise equipment	⋮
Toilet upgrade	⋮
Renewal of the children's playspace	⋮
Teen/older children's hang out area (i.e hammocks, parkour etc.)	⋮
Outdoor games area (i.e table tennis/boules etc.)	⋮
Artworks	⋮
Heritage Interpretation - trail signage/markers	⋮
Band stand/rotunda	⋮
Improved lawn amphitheatre/events space (regrading of lawn area)	⋮

Image 3 – Screenshot of online survey

Drop in Session

Council staff hosted a two hour drop-in session on site on Saturday 26 November 2022. The session was attended by seven community members and two Councillors. Attendees were directed to complete the online survey.



Image 4 – Drop in session at Beecroft Village Green

ROUND 1 CONSULTATION RESULTS

During Round 1 consultation the community was requested to complete an online survey.

141 contributions were recorded.

The most common age of respondents came from the 31-40 year old age bracket (31 respondents), followed by the 41-50 year old age group (29 respondents) as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Age of Respondents

Age Group	Percent	Count
Under 10	0.72%	1
10-20	19.75%	27
21-30	2.17%	3
31-40	22.46%	31
41-50	21.01%	29
51-60	13.77%	19
61-70	15.94%	22
71-80	2.17%	3
81-90	0%	0
91-100	0%	0
Over 100	2.17%	3
TOTAL	100%	138*

* Did not answer - 3

137 people answered the online survey. Table 2 shows the total number of respondents who included an item in their top five priorities, regardless of its ranked position.

Table 2 - Survey Results

Item	Total No. of Responses
Toilet upgrade	98
Renewal of children's play space	87
Teen/older children's activity area	85
Large picnic shelter	83
Outdoor exercise equipment	73
Improved lawn/amphitheatre space (re-grading of lawn area)	69
Outdoor games area (i.e. table tennis, boules)	60
Improved walking paths	53
Band stand/rotunda	28
Heritage interpretation signage	26
Artworks	23

The community's highest priorities for the Beecroft Village Green are ranked below. The number 1 ranking indicates the number of respondents who selected a particular item as their top ranked priority.

Table 3 – Top Ranked Priorities

Item	No. 1 ranking	%
Teen/older children's activity area	23	16.79%
Renewal of children's play space	21	15.33%
Toilet upgrade	20	14.6%
Outdoor exercise equipment	20	14.60%
Improved walking paths	16	11.68%
Improved lawn/amphitheatre space (re-grading of lawn area)	14	10.22%
Outdoor games area (i.e. table tennis, boules)	8	5.84%
Band stand/rotunda	8	5.84%
Large picnic shelter	7	5.11%
Artworks	0	0%
Heritage interpretation signage	0	0%
TOTAL	137	100%

In addition to the survey options presented, the community offered the following other comments and suggestions for consideration. Verbal responses received from community members attending the drop in session are also included in this data. These comments are summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Additional Comments

Community Comment	No. of Responses
Basketball hoop/half court	13
Improved fencing along Beecroft Road and continuation of the lilly pilly hedge	12
Space for community events such as markets, performances and the Rotary Carols by Candlelight	10
Development of the Village Green as a community hub. Comments were generally supportive of park renewal but did not offer specific suggestions.	9
Skate park or skating facilities	7
Community garden	6
Improved drainage, turf, lighting, and maintenance	6
Additional seating	6
Bike track/pump track	4
Ninja warrior course/parkour	4
Improved connection and activation between the Beecroft Community Centre and the Village Green (i.e. café or veranda)	4
Removal of some trees to improve solar access and enhance lawn areas	3
Preserve existing trees	3
No/minimal change	3
Water play area	2

Additional parking and improved safety for pedestrians crossing at Kirkham Street. Consider timed parking on Beecroft Road.	2
Bike racks	1
Off leash dog park	1
Tree planting to honour Queen Elizabeth II	1
Fenced playground	1

OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION

The community's interest in the Beecroft Village Green was evident with 137 people responding to the online survey. The community expressed their desire to see the site develop as a community open space with opportunities for play, exercise, recreation and social gatherings.

Whilst there is great affection for the Beecroft Village Green as a treed park comments received from the community indicate that sensitively considered changes have the potential to improve and enhance people's experience of the park.

The results of the consultation tell us that provision of activity opportunities for teens and older children and renewal of the playspace were considered high priorities. Opportunities for outdoor games and fitness were also ranked highly.

The existing toilet block is ageing and does not meet current requirements for accessibility. An upgrade was considered to be a high priority, receiving the highest number of top five responses in the survey.

Improved walking paths were included in the top five ranked priorities as the park is a well used pedestrian corridor.

The survey results indicate the community value the Village Green as a gathering space but consider there is scope to improve the lawn area for events, picnics and outdoor fitness.

The linear and constrained nature of the site was recognised and additional screen planting along both the railway line and Beecroft Road were priorities for improving visual and acoustic amenity. Improved fencing along Beecroft Road was identified as an important safety feature.

Other suggestions from the survey included requests for items such as a skate park, water play area, community garden and a ninja warrior course. Most of these are considered unsuitable for the site given the constraints of mapped threaten species bushland, existing trees, sloping topography and heritage significance. The site is not identified as an off-leash dog park in Council's Off-Leash Dog Park Strategy.

Further requests raised in the consultation for additional parking, a pedestrian crossing on Beecroft Road and extensions to the Beecroft Community Centre are beyond the scope of the Draft Master Plan.

DESIGN BRIEF

Based on the results of Round 1 community consultation the key priorities for the Beecroft Village Green have been identified and are listed below. These priorities provide guidance on what should be considered when developing the Master Plan for changes at the Village Green.

- Provision of activity opportunities and play equipment for teens and older children.
- Renewal of the playspace in accordance with the Hornsby Play Plan.
- Provision of a basketball half court and informal seating opportunities.
- Upgrade the toilet block to include two unisex accessible cubicles.
- Create opportunities for unstructured recreation and provide outdoor exercise equipment.

- Provide new park furniture including a large picnic shelter, additional seating and site signage. The existing BBQ is to be retained.
- Improve circulation through the park by providing new footpaths and articulate entry points into the park. Provide an accessible path to key facilities.
- Retain and enhance the open lawn area for events, exercise and gatherings.
- Provide screen planting alongside the railway line to improve visual and acoustic amenity.
- Provide a fence and hedge planting along Beecroft Road to improve safety and acoustic amenity.
- Utilise materials and finishes that reflect the heritage character of the site.
- Retain and protect existing trees.

ROUND 2 CONSULTATION

The community will be invited to provide feedback on the Draft Master Plan concept during Round 2 consultation.

CONCLUSION

Round 1 consultation results reflect significant interest and request for some changes to Beecroft Village Green. The community have clearly communicated their key priorities for any future works. The resulting Master Plan provides guidance on key elements that respond to the community based on Round 1 consultation outcomes.

Appendix A

Beecroft Village Green online survey

You are invited to have your say about improvements to the Beecroft Village Green by answering the following survey. Your suggestions for improvements and future directions for the park will be used to guide development of a Master Plan for the Beecroft Village Green. The Master Plan will be used to seek funding opportunities for implementation of the agreed park facilities.

The Beecroft Village Green exists to serve the *local* community. Please note that structured sports such as soccer and cricket will not be catered for in this park. Council's Play Plan identifies the playspace as a *Local Level* playspace and any new developments will reflect this level of service provision.

Beecroft Village Green is of local heritage significance and heritage issues will be considered during the development of the Master Plan.

The park conserves a stand of remnant forest trees from the Sydney-Turpentine-Ironbark-Forest (STIF) vegetation community and the Master Plan will consider appropriate protection measures based on arboricultural assessment.

1. What improvements or facilities would you like to see at Beecroft Village Green? Below is a list of suggested facilities. Please rank them from 1-5 (1 being the highest) indicating your preference for what should be included in the park. Existing amenities including the toilets and barbeque will be retained in the Master Plan. New tree planting, soft landscaping and park signage will be included as part of any future works.

PLACE NUMBERS 1-5 ONLY AGAINST YOUR PRIORITIES (1 being the highest)

- Improved walking paths through the park
- Large picnic shelter (2 or more tables)
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Upgrade toilets
- Renewal of the children's playspace
- Teen/older children's hang out area (i.e hammocks, parkour etc.)
- Outdoor games area (i.e table tennis/boules etc.)
- Artworks
- Heritage Interpretation Trail signage/markers
- Band stand/rotunda
- Improved lawn amphitheatre/events space (regrading of lawn area)
- Other (Please specify)

2. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments?

3. Name:

4. Address:

5. Email (optional if you want to receive updates on the Master Plan progress)