
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

North Curl Curl Skate Park

Impact level: Four

Report date: 20 May 2020

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1. Summary¹

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the North Curl Curl Skate Park project. The engagement followed a three-stage approach:

Stage 1: Ideas generation and visioning with the wider community

Stage 2: Consolidate feedback and draft design brief with the Project Working Group (PWG)

Stage 3: Finalise the design with the PWG

An overwhelming majority of the comments provided during community engagement for this project were favourable to the skate park being built at this location. The comments were around preferred skate elements and style, suggestions for surrounding elements, the need for a creative and design-focused approach, and a desire for the skate park to have variety and cater to different levels and age groups.

Where there were concerns, they included environmental and wildlife impacts, safety, noise, littering and the need for an additional toilet.

The result, guided by community feedback, is a final skate park design that:

- is distinctive yet functional
- incorporates desired elements that work well in the space
- has good flow and movement
- is welcoming and fun for a range of users
- is unique to the Northern Beaches.

1.1. Engagement dates

Online community consultation: 15 November to 15 December 2019.

Skate'N'Say youth consultation: 10 January 2020

Project Working Group: 15 January to 29 April 2020

1.2. Who we engaged²



Total comments

247

¹ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

² No demographic data was captured for respondents who contributed feedback through the online ideas board or emails. Demographics were captured on the comment form.



Gender



Most people who provided an idea or comment did not provide gender details.



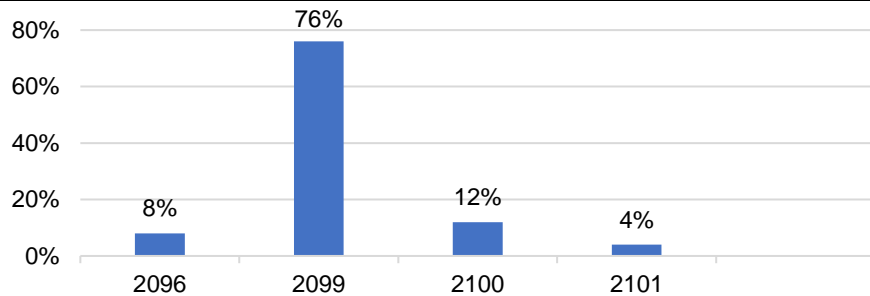
Age group(s)

While the online comment form attracted comments from an older demographic, a review of the Ideas Board comments suggests it is likely to have been very successful in capturing the views of younger people/skaters.

The majority of people who provided a comment at the Skate’N’Say event were between 4 and 16 years old. A few parents and grandparents also provided a comment.



Postcode(s)



A review of the comments from the comment form and the Ideas Board suggests that the majority of people who commented on this project are local to the North Curl Curl area. The majority of young people who provided feedback at the Skate’N’Say event were also from the North Curl Curl area.



Feedback themes

- | | |
|--|---|
| Overall support for the skate park | Preferred skate park models and designers |
| Preferred skate/riding elements | |
| Preferred non-skate/surrounding elements | Concerns from local residents, nearby facility users and environmental groups |
| Preferred skate styles | Request for environmental education and artwork |
| Request for unique design/creative approach. | |
| Request for variety/something for all levels | |



Project Working Group







The Project Working group (PWG) was established to represent the views of key stakeholders including potential skate park users and those who live in the immediate surrounding area. The PWG assisted Council’s project team and the appointed design consultant to review feedback received from the community, refine the design brief and finalise the design for the skate park.

**(PWG)
composition**

The PWG was comprised of:

| Number of members | Representative group |
|-------------------|---|
| 4 | Skate-industry professional |
| 2 | Local resident (within 1km radius of North Curl Curl Reserve) |
| 2 | Youth - local skaters aged between 12 and 24 years (Parent/Guardian required if under 18) |
| 1 | Parent of young child (under 12) |
| 1 | Representative of Unicycle Club |
| 3 | Council Parks and Recreation staff (Chair) |
| 1 | Council Community Engagement staff |
| 1 | Council Youth Services staff |

1.3. How we engaged

| | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--|
|  | Visitors: 1078 | Visits: 1507 | Av. time onsite: 2m24s |
| Your Say | | | |
|  | Post: 1 (KALOF) | | Reach: 572 Clicks: 50 |
| Social media | | | |
|  | Manly Daily: 4 ads + 1 article Letter drop: 2096 Site signs: Yes Collateral availability: Service Centres | | Distribution: 236,000 Distribution: 400 Number: 2 Number: 4 |
| Print media and collateral | | | |
|  | Community Engagement newsletter: 3 Stakeholder emails: 2 | | Distribution: 20,000 Distribution: 597 |
| EDM(s) ³ | | | |
|  | Key stakeholder meeting: 1 Skate'N'Say event: 1 | | Attendance: 6 Attendance: 100 + |
| Face-to-face | | | |
|  | Comment form: 1 Ideas Board: 1 Email comments received: 11 | | Completions: 28 Completions: 108 |
| Forms and forums | | | |

³ Electronic direct mail



Project Working
Group

Nomination form: 1
Meetings: 2
Group email consultation

Members: 14

2. Background

The North Curl Curl Community Centre Final Concept Plan (also commonly referred to as the North Curl Curl Community Centre Masterplan) was adopted by Council on 9 August 2016.

The concept plan was developed to provide a multi-use facility that promotes shared and intergenerational engagement. The plan identified a program of work to:

- enhance the existing Community Centre
- improve the existing park space including the development of a community garden, skate area, picnic and BBQ facilities, nature play and carpark.

As part of Council's commitment to providing facilities for the young people of the Northern Beaches, Council decided to proceed with the first stage of the concept plan, the design and construction of the skate park in the North Curl Curl Community Centre precinct.

Community and stakeholder feedback was sought on the design and features of the skate park before proceeding to construction.

A budget of \$250,000.00 has been allocated for the skate park in the 2019/20 financial year.

Funding has also been allocated for other elements of the plan, including carpark and reserve upgrades, in the 2021/22 financial year.

3. Engagement approach and objectives

3.1. Our engagement approach

North Curl Curl Skate Park community engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

The engagement followed a three-stage approach to ensure the outcome of the project was a skate park that would be enjoyed and utilised by a broad cross-section of the community.

Stage 1: Ideas generation and visioning with the wider community

Community consultation to help identify guiding principles for the skate park design. What do people want most for this new local skate park?

Stage 2: Consolidate feedback and draft design brief with the Project Working Group (PWG)

A Project Working Group (PWG) to review community ideas and feedback and refine the design brief for the design consultant.

Stage 3: Finalise the design with the PWG

The PWG to work with the design consultant to finalise the design which will be presented to the community.

3.2. Our engagement objectives

The following reflects the engagement objectives identified in the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the actions Council took to achieve them:

Objective 1: Build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform).

How we achieved it:

- We wanted to get the message out about the skate park to as many people as possible in the local and broader LGA community. We put up some signage on the site of the skate park and distributed letters about the project to local residents. We promoted the project on social media, in the Manly Daily, and through Council's various communication and engagement newsletters.
- We asked the Youth and Community Development teams to promote the project to their networks, including local schools and groups. We asked Council's Community Centre and Bushcare teams, who operate in the area, to promote the project to their stakeholders.

Objective 2: Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform).

How we achieved it:

- As the first stage of engagement was a broader online community consultation, we built a project page on Council's Your Say platform with clear and accessible information and calls to action. This included context information about the project, a site map of the skate area and some frequently asked questions. The project page also contained guidelines and a nomination form to join the Project Working Group.

Objective 3: Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult).

How we achieved it:

- We offered different ways for community members to provide feedback and ideas for the skate park. We had a general comment form on the main Your Say page and created an online Ideas Board on which people could easily post and view others' ideas and comments. This also allowed for some dialogue and bouncing of ideas off one another.
- To ensure we captured the voice of young people on this project, we collaborated with Council's Youth Development team and ran a Skate'N'Say consultation session during a Summer Skate Night event.
- We met with the Friends of Curl Curl Lagoon to discuss environmental issues.

Objective 4: Recognise, manage and communicate the needs and interests of community and stakeholders, including decision makers (consult-involve).

How we achieved it:

- We gathered the various ideas and comments from the community and reported these to the Project Working Group. The group reviewed the feedback, balanced the ideas with the constraints, and developed a set of agreed upon recommendations that fed into a design brief for the consultant.

- It is important to note that the strength of project working groups hinges upon good interaction and input from all involved. This was indeed the case for the North Curl Curl Skate Park Project Working Group; their enthusiasm and insights were truly appreciated. The group was quickly able to assess the information on hand and forge ahead with a creative but pragmatic process.

4. Engagement outcomes

4.1. What we heard during Stage 1 community consultation

| THEME | Commentary/main points |
|--|---|
| Overall support for the skate park | Of the 247 comments provided, an overwhelming majority were very favourable to the skate park project. |
| Preferred skate/riding elements | <p>There were many requests for a bowl. However other feedback suggested that a bowl might be too expensive.</p> <p>Other top preferred elements included: ramps (for all levels), half or quarter pipes, stairs, pump track, rails, flat bars, ledges.</p> <p>Other requested elements included: flat bars, manny pads, fly outs, euro gap, spines, snake run, flat spaces.</p> |
| Preferred non-skate elements/surrounding elements requested | <p>The main requests were for a bubbler/water station to ensure people stay hydrated, shade, seating and tables, grassed area, as well as play elements to keep younger children entertained. There were also requests for recycling bins.</p> <p>There were mixed views on trees for shading, with concerns about things falling on the skate area.</p> <p>Some comments indicated the bark chips commonly used around parks can also cause skaters problems.</p> <p>Though the project scope has confirmed there will not be lights, quite a few people asked for lights in their comments.</p> <p>A few people said it was important to have good connecting paths to the other recreation areas such as the netball courts.</p> |
| Preferred skate style | <p>There were mixed views on street style, many wanted it included in the design, others said we had enough street style on the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>Many wanted a mix of styles catered to so.</p> <p>Transition style skating and flow were often requested.</p> |
| Request for unique design/creative approach | A recurring request was for a design that is different from what we already have on the Northern Beaches. |
| Request for variety/something for all levels | A large proportion of the comments highlighted the need to have a variety of skate/riding elements and obstacles that catered to people of all levels and ages, ranging from beginners to the more advanced and competition level skaters/riders. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Some mentioned the need to ensure that beginners had their own space or were not at risk from (or did pose a risk to) older or more advanced skaters.</p> <p>There were many comments asking for a wide range of elements/obstacles catering to a variety of riding activities (skateboard, scooter, bikes, unicycle, etc).</p> |
| Preferred skate park models and designers | <p>Mona Vale, Meadowbank and Belconnen were mentioned by quite a few people as their preferred models.</p> <p>In general people wanted a focus on design expertise.</p> |
| Concerns from local residents, nearby facility users and environmental groups | <p>Main concerns included excessive noise, littering, vandalism, safety (including road safety), environmental and wildlife impacts.</p> <p>A new toilet was requested and people asked that it be delivered at the same time as the skate park.</p> <p>A few people requested that the skate park not be too close to the community centre or be suitably separated.</p> <p>Griffin Rd was the preferred entrance for the skate park.</p> <p>Some wanted to make sure we took into account the local wildlife.</p> |
| Request for environmental education and artwork | <p>Since the skate park will be located within a precinct that houses environmentally focused facilities and groups, some people suggested open days to educate the users of the skate park about the environmental initiatives. Others suggested involving the young people who will use the skate park in an artwork project to design a mural or other artwork at the skate park. The artwork could have an environmental focus.</p> |
| Miscellaneous comments | <p>Some people commented that the budget was too low and should be increased to provide something suitable for the area.</p> |

Responses to the various requests, questions and concerns from the local community are outlined under Council Responses in Appendix A.

4.2. Project Working Group (PWG) recommendations for the design brief

Stage 1 community feedback was reported to the Project Working Group who then looked to balance the different ideas and comments from the community with the budget and site conditions. From the start, the group identified that these conditions would not lend themselves to a bowl design, certainly not the size that some community members had initially envisioned. Given this constraint and aligning with community desire for something 'unique', the group resolved that this skate park's design should be distinctive but functional.

The group concentrated on incorporating the elements that would work in the space and ensuring the design had good flow and movement. Everyone was clear on wanting to offer a design that was fun for a range of users and unique to the Northern Beaches. In line with the community feedback, the group also resolved the following:

- The park should be progressive in nature and allow for novice and younger kids, but with a focus on the enthusiast progressing to more advanced levels.
- The skate park should be designed to be welcoming rather than intimidating.
- The park should have skating 'lanes' so it can be used by multiple people simultaneously.
- Connections should lead pedestrians 'around' not 'through' the skate park and provide fun elements for young scooter riders around the core skate area.
- The park should be street style but encourage laps to allow skaters to hit the element and still take flowing lines, but not crossing.
- The design could have a central passive area, potentially turf or a piece of street art.
- The skate park design should accommodate the needs of unicyclists by slightly modifying lengths of Manny pads and heights of some elements.

4.3. Choosing the final design

Due to the Covid-19 situation and restrictions on face to face consultation, the final PWG meeting was replaced by a group email consultation on the two draft designs provided by the consultant. One of the designs received overwhelming support from the group, with members providing some final feedback to ensure it met as many components of the brief as possible.

The result is a design that best reflects community sentiment in that it:

- is distinctive yet functional
- incorporates desired elements that work well in the space
- has good flow and movement
- is welcoming and fun for a range of users
- is unique to the Northern Beaches.

5. Appendix A – How we responded to community feedback

Council responses to Stage 1 community consultation - North Curl Curl Skate Park

| THEME | Commentary/main points | Council response |
|--|--|---|
| Overall support for the skate park | Of the 247 comments provided, an overwhelming majority were favourable to the skate park project. | |
| Preferred skate/riding elements | <p>There were many requests for a bowl. However other feedback suggested that a bowl might be too expensive.</p> <p>Other top preferred elements included: ramps (for all levels), half or quarter pipes, stairs, pump track, rails, flat bars, ledges.</p> <p>Other requested elements included: flat bars, many pads, fly outs, euro gap, spines, snake run, flat spaces.</p> | <p>Those hoping for a bowl had envisioned a facility similar in design and scale to the park in Bondi Beach. A bowl style facility was not possible given the location, site conditions and budget.</p> <p>Therefore, the Project Working Group (PWG) concentrated on incorporating the elements that would work in the space, ensuring the design had good flow and movement, and offering a design that was fun for a range of users and unique to the Northern Beaches.</p> |
| Preferred non-skate elements/surrounding elements requested | <p>The main requests were for a bubbler/water station to ensure people stay hydrated, shade, seating and tables, grassed area, as well as play elements to keep younger children entertained. There were also requests for recycling bins.</p> <p>There were mixed views on trees for shading, with concerns about things falling on the skate area.</p> <p>Some comments indicated the bark chips commonly used around parks can also cause skaters problems.</p> | <p>The landscape concept plan includes water stations, bins and seating (both formal and informal). Shade will be provided by trees with a view to providing further shade in the next stage of the masterplan implementation. There will be plenty of space for smaller children.</p> <p>Trees have been preserved on site but will not be over the skateable area as vegetation and debris impact on skateboard wheels.</p> <p>Lights have been considered and the decision is to not proceed with a lighting plan.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>Though the project scope has confirmed there will not be lights, quite a few people asked for lights in their comments.</p> <p>A few people said it was important to have good connecting paths to the other recreation areas such as the netball courts.</p> | <p>Inclusion of a path connection from Griffin Road through to the John Fisher Park Precinct has been detailed in the Landscape Concept Plan and is due to be constructed as part of the staged masterplan implementation.</p> |
| Preferred skate style | <p>There were mixed views on street style, many wanted it included in the design, others said we had enough street style on the Northern Beaches.</p> <p>Many wanted a mix of styles catered to so.</p> <p>Transition style skating and flow were often requested.</p> | <p>In order to incorporate as many requests as possible and include the range of user groups, the PWG resolved to request the creation of a fun street-oriented plaza style (not exactly a classic street park style) which fitted with allocated budget and site environment.</p> |
| Request for unique design/creative approach | <p>A recurring request was for a design that is different from what we already have on the Northern Beaches.</p> | <p>This facility is unlike any other in the Northern Beaches Council area.</p> |
| Request for variety/something for all levels | <p>A large proportion of the comments highlighted the need to have a variety of skate/riding elements and obstacles that catered to people of all levels and ages, ranging from beginners to the more advanced and competition level skaters/riders.</p> <p>Some mentioned the need to ensure that beginners had their own space or were not at risk from (or did pose a risk to) older or more advanced skaters.</p> <p>There were many comments asking for a wide range of elements/obstacles catering to a variety of riding activities (skateboard, scooter, bikes, unicycle, etc).</p> | <p>There will be paths around the park that will suit absolute beginners, then the skate park picks up and progresses the skater from novice to intermediate, plus a couple of elements that can be skated in an advanced way.</p> <p>How new they are to the sport will determine where an individual chooses to go. For the absolute beginner, the precinct offers connecting pathways that are gentle in their various undulations, as well as the flat Netball area.</p> <p>All wheel activities are catered for. The president of the Unicycle Club has been instrumental in fashioning the outcome of the various elements.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Preferred skate park models and designers</p> | <p>Mona Vale, Meadowbank and Belconnen were mentioned by quite a few people as their preferred models.</p> <p>In general people wanted a focus on design expertise.</p> | <p>Revolution ASC was the winning bidder and brings vast experience with the design and construction of many successful skate facilities.</p> |
| <p>Concerns from local residents, nearby facility users and environmental groups</p> | <p>Main concerns included excessive noise, littering, vandalism, safety (including road safety), environmental and wildlife impacts.</p> <p>A new toilet was requested and people asked that it be delivered at the same time as the skate park.</p> <p>A few people requested that the skate park not be too close to the community centre or be suitably separated.</p> <p>Griffin Rd was the preferred entrance for the skate park.</p> <p>Some wanted to make sure we took into account the local wildlife.</p> | <p>The activation of this space will provide the area with increased passive surveillance. The youth of the area have been heavily involved in the design and will take ownership and care of the space they have helped to create.</p> <p>An amenities building is planned for later in 2020. It will service the community garden and the skate facility.</p> <p>Some community/youth planting activities, environmental public art and other youth initiatives are currently in the planning phase for the precinct as part of the overall masterplan implementation.</p> <p>Entry will be via Griffin Road and through the playing fields to the west. There will also be a formal carpark constructed on the site via Abbott Road in 2021/2022.</p> <p>The utmost care and respect for the local flora and fauna have been considered through the design process.</p> <p>The project team have been liaising with The Friends of Curl Curl Lagoon as well as Council's Hydrology, Community Centres and Greener Communities teams. All have been involved as key stakeholders through the course of the skate park and masterplan design development.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Request for environmental education and artwork</p> | <p>Since the skate park will be located within a precinct that houses environmentally focused facilities and groups, some people suggested open days to educate the users of the skate park about the environmental initiatives. Others suggested involving the young people who will use the skate park in an artwork project to design a mural or other artwork at the skate park. The artwork could have an environmental focus.</p> | <p>Council's Parks and Recreation staff and Public Art Co-ordinator attended the Project Working Group meetings in order to consider these options from the start of the project. They have also been involved in providing input into the development of any art outcome within the North Curl Curl Community Centre Precinct.</p> <p>Public art was also identified by the PWG as something that could define the skatepark.</p> |
| <p>Miscellaneous comments</p> | <p>Some people commented that the budget was too low and should be increased to provide something suitable for the area.</p> | <p>As per the adopted masterplan, the skate park is only part of the precinct upgrade and it was conveyed and outlined at the time of the adoption that the skate park would be in keeping with and respectful of with the local and natural environment. Therefore, the budget allocated for the skate park component has been tailored accordingly.</p> |