

Clontarf Reserve Landscape Masterplan

Stage 1 Community Engagement Report

January 2019

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1 Background

Clontarf Park is a regionally significant harbour foreshore reserve that extends from Sandy Bay, south along Clontarf Beach to Clontarf Point. It comprises both Community and Crown-owned foreshore reserve areas.

The reserve is highly valued by local residents as well as day visitors and tourists. It has been a popular destination for socialising and picnicking since the mid-19th century and is a key stopping point on the Manly Scenic Walkway link.

2 Project aim

This project aims to deliver a landscape masterplan for Clontarf Park that will provide the long term vision for the recreational open space. It will guide the park's future conservation, enhancement and management, while addressing key issues including connectivity, inclusion, accessibility and sustainability.

3 Community engagement approach

Stage one community engagement was conducted from 17 November to 16 December 2018.

The study area was divided into two sections for the purposes of data collection –

- Area 1 Clontarf Park – the main picnic area between Holmes Avenue and Sandy Bay Road (including the small park south of the Sydney Water pumping station)
- Area 2 Sandy Bay – the foreshore from the northern end of Sandy Bay Road south past the marina and remnant bush to the park

The objective of the first stage of engagement was to find out what the community values about the space, how they use the park and to identify any issues or concerns, as well as any suggestions for improving the open space.

In particular, feedback was sought on the main features of the park, including

- playground and picnic facilities
- amenities
- pedestrian access/connections within the park
- car parking
- signage
- heritage/history

A Your Say page was created with an online feedback form. During the engagement period it received 1,100 visits, 121 comments and 289 document downloads.

The engagement period was advertised in the Manly Daily on 8 and 15 December and was promoted in the Community Engagement newsletter (bulk email) on 7 December 2018.

Council staff met with key members of the Clontarf Community Forum (CCF) onsite at the park and attended a CCF meeting to listen to concerns and issues of the local residents and for them to provide input in the masterplanning process.

Two drop in sessions were held in December where approximately 50 people chatted with staff and related their thoughts, concerns and priorities for the area.

A staff presentation and workshop held on 18 December 2018 and further liaison was undertaken to gather input from the internal stakeholders.

4 Community feedback

In general, comments gathered from the two drop in sessions and online during the 29-day consultation period described Clontarf Park as a much loved recreation area that is popular for picnics, barbeques, swimming and boating, for its aesthetic appeal and as a connection for the Manly Scenic Walkway. The playground is extremely popular as is the off leash dog area in Sandy Bay.

Feedback from residents and visitors was that the park was loved in its current state; people don't want it overdeveloped but would like to see some aspects upgraded or repaired, such as the amenities block, pool and playground. Any improvements should retain or enhance the existing character and 'essence' of the park.

People reported that the appeal of the area was that it offered something for everyone; it was 'good for all users'.

Several comments were received about traffic congestion during busy times and concern for pedestrian / child safety.

A detailed submission was received from the Clontarf Community Forum listing some key concerns about the reserve as well as considerations for the masterplan.

Feedback on Area 1 – Clontarf Park

Table 1 lists the main issues noted by the community for Area 1.

amenities	run down – facility needs upgrading unclean leaking taps not enough toilets ponding/drainage in front of entry
beach/pool	beach raking leading to erosion of grass fringe pool needs upgrading and sand dredging enclosure needs extending
boating	abandoned trailers surf boat storage in main car park boat storage clutters Sandy Bay
café - Clonnys	Café needs better, fresh, healthier food options Clonnys needs modernising

café – Clonnys – Cont.	Clonnys closes at funny times
carpark/road	chaos expensive congested dangerous dominates the park need more disabled parking don't move access road lack of carparking spaces on weekends move carpark away from playground not enough parking spaces more ticketed areas make aqueduct wall the back wall for parking priority parking for community buses
connections	more paths needs to be accessible/for mobility impaired improve drainage
dogs	allow unleashed dogs in the park dog poo/flies
lighting	not always working near amenities
picnic area	high volume of people leads to grass degradation grass needs maintenance/ regular turfing and watering more shade extra picnic tables and bbqs more bins with dog poo bag dispensers additional beach shower / foot wash facilities
playground	needs fencing/don't fence dirty sand rubber instead of sand softfall equipment worn out/ needs upgrading needs maintenance toilets too far away no activities for youth fitness equipment
trees	recent vandalism protect significant Fig & Norfolk Island Pine trees

Table 1

Feedback on Area 2 – Sandy Bay

Comments on Area 2 – Sandy Bay included that many people love the area as it's a dog friendly, off leash area where people can exercise and swim with their dogs. However, there were a few comments that there are too many dogs in Area 2 and that they shouldn't be off lead in this area.

There were also comments about the walkway around the bay between Areas 1 and 2. It was described as a lovely, enjoyable scenic walk and connection on the Spit to Manly track.

Comments also noted that the bay needed additional

- rubbish bins
- dog poo bag dispensers
- seating/benches
- beach shower/tap
- signs – warning and directional
- bubbler
- more trees/shade
- sandstone wall or entry point to the beach

Table 2 lists the main issues/comments received on Area 2

boats	should be stored elsewhere include marina-only parking
dogs	crowded, too many dogs dogs shouldn't be allowed area should be extended don't touch off lead area
maintenance	upgrade paths remove rubbish dog poo water the grass more often/maintain grass sand invasion onto grass/roads
parking	too expensive extend Council parking area should be more clearly marked needs turning circle at end restrict end of Sandy Bay Road to resident parking only more parking spaces needed
paths	need upgrading smoother for mobility impaired or prams timber not concrete include sensory or sculpture walk widen and extend walkway fence along roadside for safety reasons

stormwater drain	pollution/smell dirty water remove or close over for safety
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Table 2