

Haig Park *Place Plan*



IMAGE: Artist Impression, Haig Park, looking toward Lansdale Street



ACT
Government

**CITY
RENEWAL
AUTHORITY**

Haig Park *Place Plan*

Prepared by Tait Network
for the City Renewal Authority



tait
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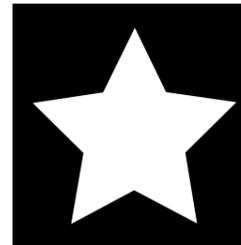
Tait Network

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We encourage you to participate in the new interventions and activations which are outlined in this plan to help us understand and achieve the full potential of this wonderful park.

Foreword

Canberra has incredible legacy of generous green spaces and beautiful parks. Haig Park in the heart of our city is a great example of our city's wonderful public open space. It is a heritage-listed urban forest linking the city's business and retail centre and the growing and changing inner north residential suburbs. It is one of Canberra's most prominent landscape features and a key community asset, the third largest of 11 inner-Canberra district parks. It is important to preserve and enhance these spaces in our changing and expanding city.

In its current state Haig Park is underused, perceived as unsafe and doesn't meet the needs of the Canberra community in 2018 and beyond.

The ACT Government and City Renewal Authority recognise the importance and potential of Haig Park and are committed to improving the park so we can all enjoy it while ensuring any changes respect and recognise its heritage value and role as a city park and urban forest.

Due to the diverse interest in the park by local residents and the wider community, a community engagement process was established to consult on how the public would like to see the park used, what they like about the space and what they would improve.

The first two stages of community engagement, which occurred in 2017, focused on understanding stakeholder and community views, the salient issues and aspirations for the site and on testing and reviewing draft design concepts for Haig Park. It included community workshops, online engagement, stakeholder meetings, drop-in consultations and presentations from subject experts.

The Haig Park Place Plan presents the next phase of the engagement process. It aims to establish Haig Park as a more inviting and usable green space while protecting and strengthening its heritage value. It identifies a series of short-term interventions and activations that are informed by and reflect what the community told us during previous consultation stages. We will test how people use and interact with those temporary activations to understand if and how well they achieve community aspirations for the park.

We would like to thank everyone for their contribution to date. The place plan represents a great opportunity to continue this community partnership. It is a very practical approach that reflects the people-focused approach of the City Renewal Authority and the important views of the community and stakeholders. We encourage you to participate in the new interventions and activations which are outlined in this plan to help us understand and achieve the full potential of this wonderful park.

Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer

1.0 Vision

In 2022 Haig Park will be known as an example of how thoughtful action can transform a living space into something truly representative of the community who uses it. It will be an active and reflective place geared toward recreation, relaxation and pleasure.

Great parks are places of delight and possibility.

Our individual and collective health is significantly improved through interacting with the outdoors. Great parks provide the arena to conduct such interactions.

The Haig Park Place Plan aims to provide a path toward making Haig Park a great park.

Haig Park's importance lies in its centrality, its connections to the past and the links it provides to so many elements of our community. It is a gateway, a key transit route, and a green belt brimming with potential.

It will continue to act as an urban forest that creates a sense of respite from the city, while providing greater opportunities for creative action, physical activity and joyful expressions of community engagement.

What we will build together over the coming months and years will result in an appealing, engaging and inclusive space that will become a true destination for the people of Canberra and beyond.

Great parks are places of delight and possibility.

A gateway, a key transit route, a green belt...



Relaxation



Pleasure



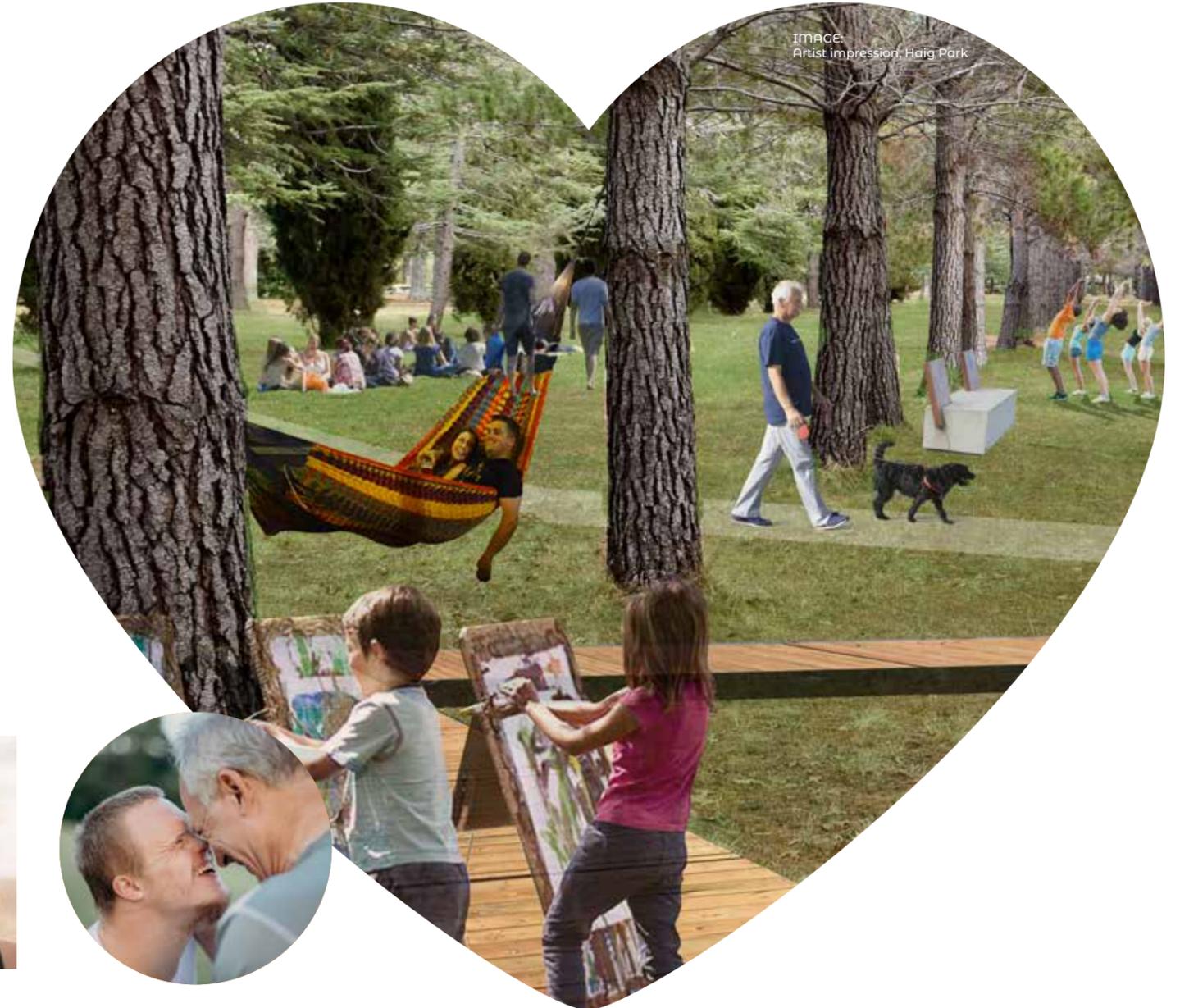
Recreation



1.1 Proposition

Haig Park, for all of us.

Haig Park is a place of rest and reconnection.
It is a space to create community.



1.2 Place Values

Safe

A safe community space, where the park encourages quiet reflection, community engagement and active movement through dedicated spaces across all times of day.

Community response

'I would like to see fairy lights in the trees and an inviting central point or large water fountain and sitting area, with a 'mall' style walking path towards the city.'



Community response

'Improving pedestrian access and safety around the park edges.'

Vibrant

A landscape with a range of facilities that encourages vibrant social gatherings and creative pursuits. Paths, play equipment and seating areas that are unique to Haig Park, respectful of heritage and encouraging a diversity of use.

Community response

'Keep simple intervention, park brings people together, kids playground good with nature play.'



Community response

'Hold some monthly events throughout the park.'

Accessible

An accessible space linking key Canberra destinations and residential hubs, providing an inviting active travel route through the city.



Community response

'Utilize the open space with pop-up market stalls, would work well in conjunction with light-rail, more pathways and lighting.'

Community response

'Yes! East-west path through the middle would be great.'



Healthy

A healthy urban forest that cools the surrounding city, supports a unique 'Haig Park' ecology and maintains its heritage value. A place to disconnect from the city and journey through an immersive green oasis.



Community response

'A running/bike track along the length of the park, including a bridge over Sullivans Creek, children's playground and BBQ areas.'

Community response

'We won't be losing the park or chopping down the trees.'



2.0 The Site

2.1 Context

Haig Park's 19 hectares spread through three suburbs in Canberra's inner north. It is a significant space adjacent to institutions, commercial occupants and a growing band of residents moving to the increasingly compact city centre alongside the gateway corridor. Its importance will grow as the development of the Northbourne Avenue residential precinct and the urban renewal of Braddon, Turner and Ainslie continues.

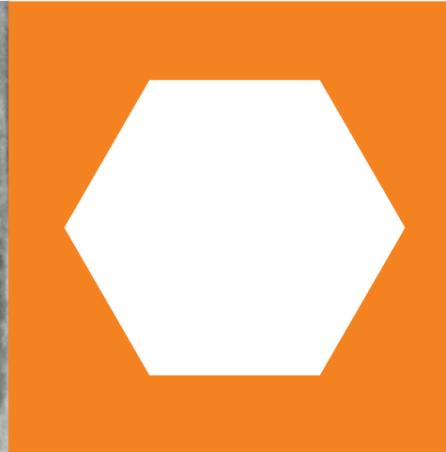
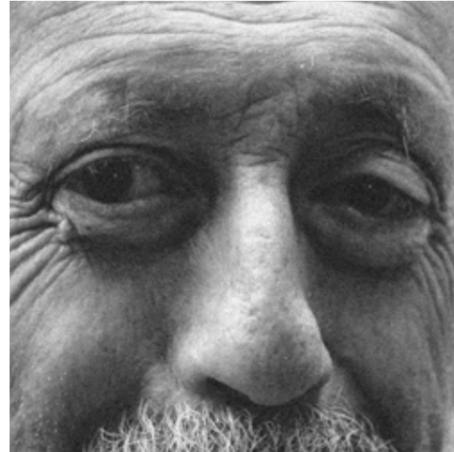
Enhancing and activating Haig Park in the City and Gateway Draft Urban Design Framework has been identified as a key city-shaping move that will provide city dwellers with a safe and appealing green open space. It is a critical linking element of the city and the suburbs that surround it.

Haig Park



2.1 Context cont.

In 1987 Haig Park was designated a public park, subject to the provisions of the ACT Government's Territory Plan, the key statutory planning document in the ACT. Haig Park is zoned Urban Open Space (PRZ1) with the objective of contributing to the recreational and social needs of the community as well as protecting flora and fauna habitats and corridors, and natural and cultural features.



North Canberra's population is projected to grow by 8% in the period between 2016 and 2020. This will increase the density of the suburbs around Haig Park and provides the opportunity to turn the park into a destination.

Community response
'Haig Park is a heritage park and part of its beauty are the trees.'



Suburb	Population 2018	Male	Female	Medium Age	Children 0-14	Adults 15 - 64	Seniors 65+	Population Forecast 2020
Braddon	6,186	51.5%	48.5%	29	4.9%	88.8%	6.3%	+5.92%
O'Connor	5,738	48.8%	51.2%	34	16.6%	71.6%	11.8%	+1.39%
Turner	4,204	51.1%	48.9%	31	7.8%	82.6%	9.6%	+4.02%
Ainslie	5,330	45.9%	54.1%	41	17.5%	64.2%	18.3%	+0.62%
Average Total	5,364	49.3%	50.7%	34	11.7%	76.8%	11.5%	+2.99%



*North Canberra
8% growth between
2016-2020*

The data was collected from ACT Treasury, the pdf can be found on the following link: https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/1041280/ACT-Population-Projections-2017-2020.pdf

2.2 History and Heritage

The history of Haig Park dates from the founding years of the National Capital.

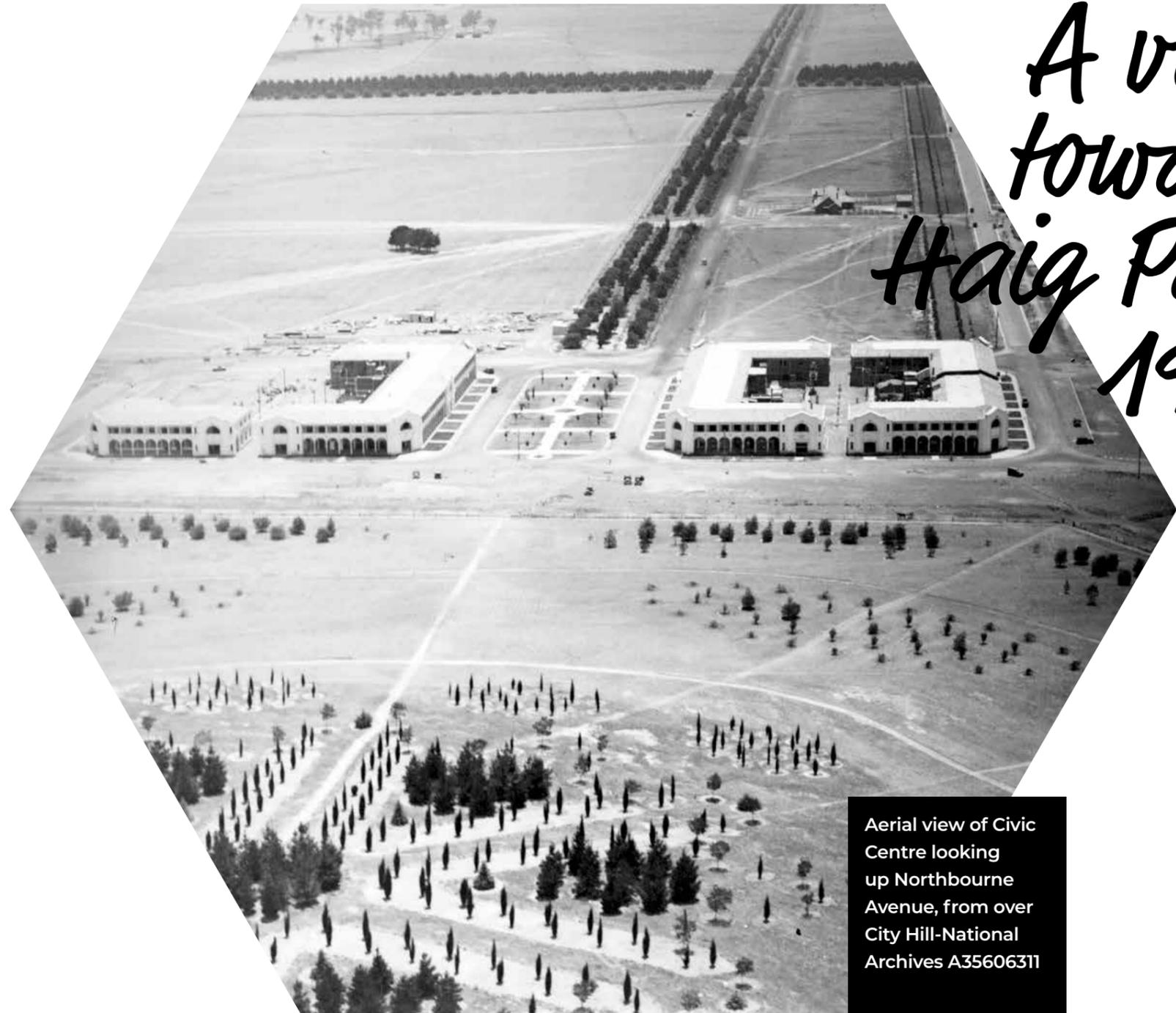
It was constructed in 1921-23 as a windbreak/shelter belt, planted east-west to protect the emerging Civic Centre from dust-laden north-westerly winds. The original plantings were designed by Charles Weston and were laid out in rows. Programs of thinning and tree replacement were undertaken in the 1940's and 1980's to maintain the integrity of the original planting structure. Today there are significantly fewer trees in Haig Park, with few original plantings in existence.

In 2000 the park was listed on the ACT Heritage Register for its significance as a landscape feature, in particular for its mass plantings designed to function as a windbreak.

Haig Park is also subject to Special Requirements in the National Capital Plan, the strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory that ensures they are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance. The special requirements seek to conserve the park's landscape and environmental qualities, in particular its historic and aesthetic importance.

2.2.1 Conservation Management Plan

A Conservation Management Plan that recognises and protects the history and heritage of Haig Park has been prepared independently from the place plan and will ultimately be approved by the ACT Heritage Council. It will provide heritage guidelines to direct the ongoing protective care of places or items of heritage significance. All proposed works within the park will be subject to assessment under the Conservation Management Plan.



*A view
toward
Haig Park
1928*

Aerial view of Civic
Centre looking
up Northbourne
Avenue, from over
City Hill-National
Archives A35606311

3.0 Purpose

The goal of the place plan is to collate and interpret the community's suggestions and opinions from consultation into a strategic document with clear principles and actions to achieve a vision for Haig Park.

This place plan utilises a community-led approach to goal setting, renewal and programming. It offers a collection of activations and interventions in the park to encourage an iterative and adaptive program of change. The intent of the plan is to inspire and lay out a way forward that addresses all aspects of the park.

The place plan builds on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Community Engagement Summary reports, the Place Utilisation Study and the Conservation Management Plan draft documentation.

The Haig Park Place Plan will:

- Be used as a guiding document to implement and evaluate action;
- Focus on key elements and the strategic focus from the consultation process; and
- Provide an actionable implementation strategy for short term 'quick win' goals as identified in the document.

The key attributes of the place plan are:

- Adaptability;
- Accessibility;
- Inclusiveness; and
- Collaboration.

It is proposed that the place plan is updated on a three-year cycle, reviewing community inputs, incorporating successes and dropping failed experiments.



4.0 Observation and Engagement

4.1 How We Engaged

Inform > Consult > Involve > Collaborate

Our approach to engagement is focused on eliciting a community vision for the park, documenting community concerns and recording ideas to inform the direction of change. The decision to develop a place plan instead of a traditional masterplan allows us to activate the ideas of the community with greater agility and flexibility. A place plan is a collaborative process facilitating community-driven reimagining and reinvention of public spaces. These word clouds capture community feedback on how they perceive the park from Phase 1 Community Consultation.

Workshop 1



Online Feedback



4.1.1 Place Utilisation Study

A utilisation study was undertaken in 2017 to gather information on how people use Haig Park based on direct observation.

The key findings arising from the study were:

- More people move through the park than stay within it for a period of time;
- Nearly two thirds of park users are male;
- Dog walking is the most popular activity in the park; and
- Children and seniors make up less than a quarter of park users overall.

The utilisation study employed the methodology used in Jan Gehl and Birgitte Svarre's Public Spaces Public Life studies. A comprehensive summary of the process and findings are contained in the *Haig Park Masterplan and CMP Utilisation Study Report*.

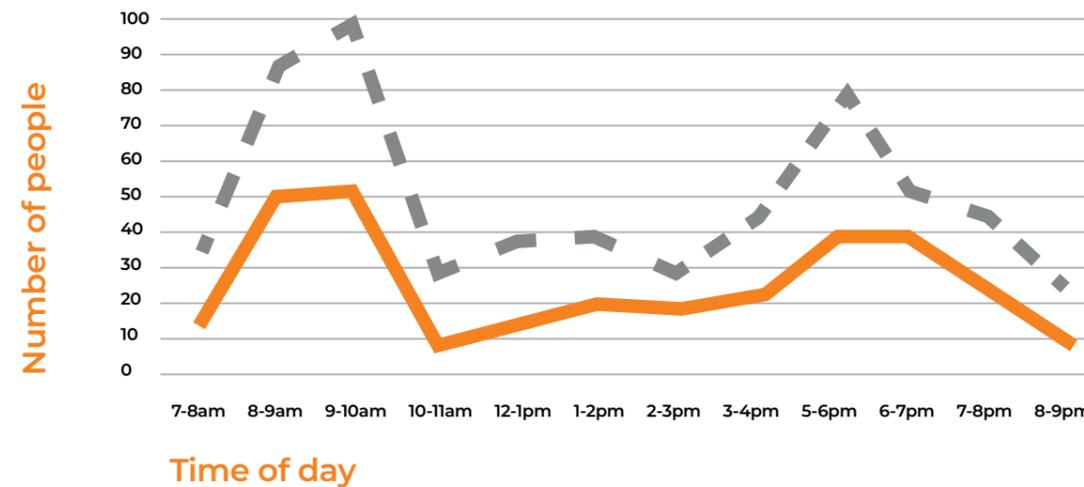
Exemplar parks such as Bryant Park, Spruce Street Harbor Park, Weston Park, Kings Domain and Green Park have been observed to be destination parks, attracting a large percentage of visitors both nationally and internationally.

Fast facts:

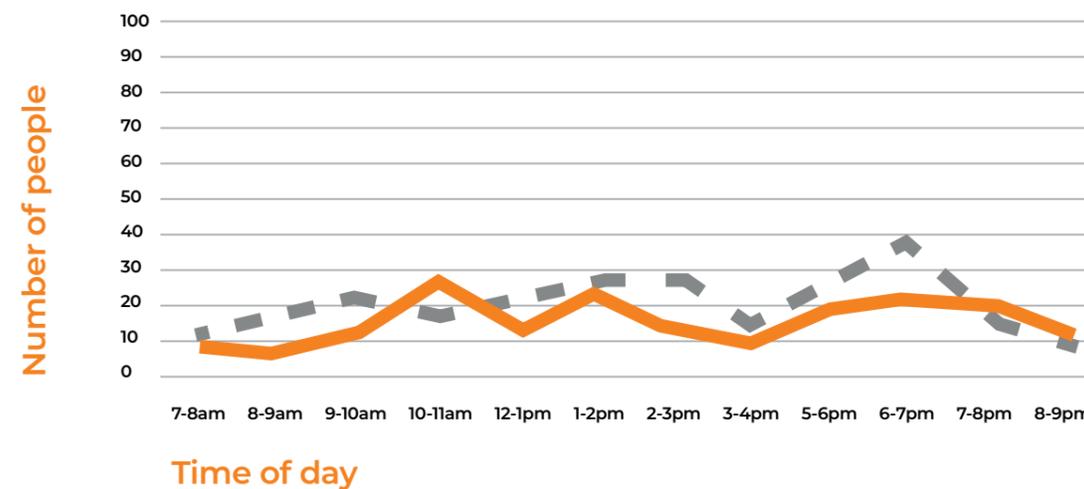
- The utilization study counted a total of 668 people using the park and 1360 moving through Haig Park, over a two-day period.
- 19% of visitors to Bryant Park are locals;
- Spruce Street Harbour Park had 750,000 visitors in summer 2017;
- From 2012 to 2016, Haig Park had 7 Public Land Use Bookings in comparison with Weston Park's total of 311;
- The fun run in Kings Domain can attract up to 30,000 participants in a single event;
- 34% of Green Park's visitors are from London, 26% are from the United Kingdom and the remaining 37% are international.

Movement count by Gender

Weekday



Weekend



4.1.2 Community Consultation Phase 1

The first phase of community engagement focused on understanding stakeholder and community views, issues and aspirations for Haig Park. It was held over nine weeks from late January 2017 to mid-April 2017 with 552 people in attendance.

This was followed by a workshop with community members that sought to identify a long-term vision, short term improvements to activate the space and characteristics for the different areas within the park. 552 people participated in this consultation phase. The following methods were used to gain the insight from the community:

- Online survey;
- Written submissions;
- Drop-In consultation sessions;
- Stakeholder group meetings; and
- Workshops.

Our Aim

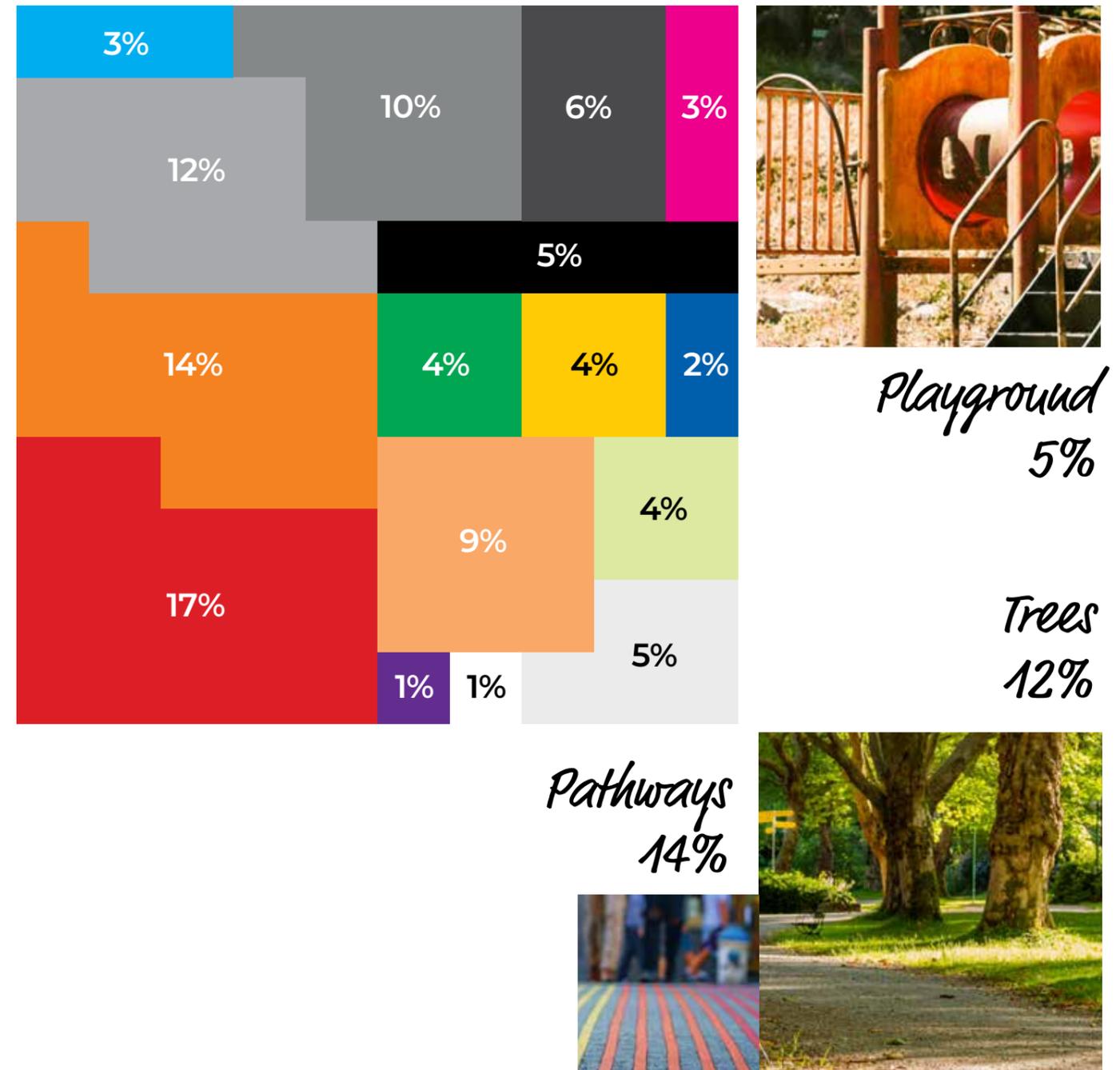
- Explain the significance of Haig Park;
- Provide context including heritage and sustainability reports alongside findings from the utilisation study;
- Involve the community members in identifying a long-term vision for Haig Park, short-term improvements to activate the space and characteristics of the different areas within the park; and
- Understand stakeholder and community views, issues and aspirations for the site.

Key Findings

- People value and appreciate the park as a large green space close to Canberra's city centre.
- The park needs to be enhanced to meet the needs of the changing urban area around it.
- The community prefers the park to provide for a variety of different activities.
- Many would prefer an improvement of infrastructure.
- Haig Park has a different feel in different areas.
- People value the trees, and some supported removing sections of trees to allow for more natural light and activation;
- Increased exercise opportunities were supported.
- Enhancing biodiversity through plantings and wetlands was supported.

More information is available in the *Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report*.

Online comments by theme



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| ■ Activities | ■ Amenities | ■ Playground | ■ Parking | ■ Dog Park | ■ Indigenous |
| ■ Pathways | ■ Other | ■ Lighting | ■ BBQ/Seating | ■ Wetlands | |
| ■ Trees | ■ Safety | ■ Open Space | ■ Bridge | ■ Wildlife | |

4.1.3 Community Consultation Phase 2

Phase 2 community consultation tested design ideas with the community. The ideas and feedback received in the first phase of engagement were used to develop draft themes, objectives and principles. The second phase ran from May to June 2017, with over 533 people in attendance.

Their feedback was received from the following methods:

- Online survey;
- Workshop;
- Drop-in consultation sessions;
- Stakeholder group meetings;
- Written submissions;
- An online discussion board; and
- A speaker series.

Our Aim

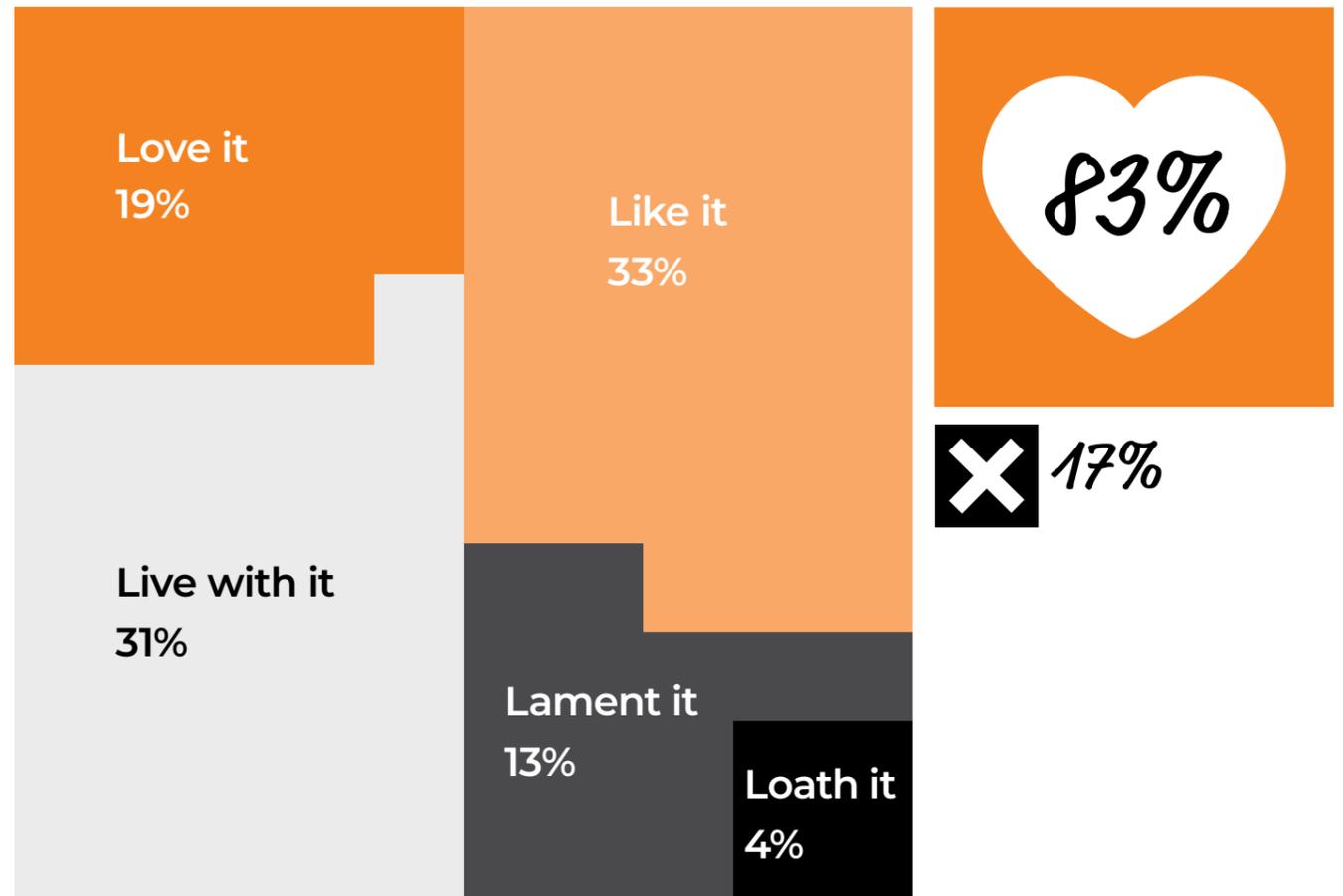
- Report on feedback received from Community Consultation Phase 1;
- Collaboratively develop core strategies to inform the draft place plan;
- Obtain stakeholder inputs to inform the development of a place vision and proposition; and
- Test key design ideas.

Key Outcomes

- The community indicated a strong interest in the activities proposed.
- Markets and events were some of the most commonly supported activities, with support for Turner as the right location.
- Several people requested facilities to allow and encourage exercise including basketball courts, disc golf, and a pump track.
- The biodiversity of Haig Park should be maintained and strengthened.
- The community supports the naturalization of Sullivan's Creek.
- The community suggested a change in tree species to increase biodiversity.

More information is available in the *Phase 2 Community Engagement Summary Report*.

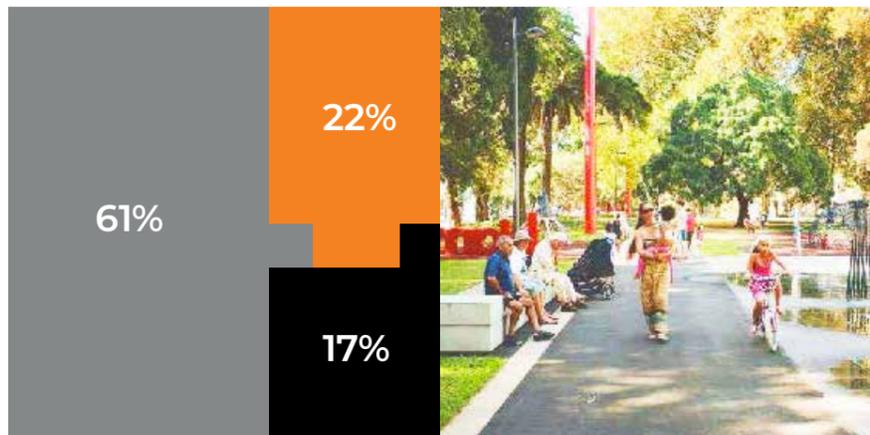
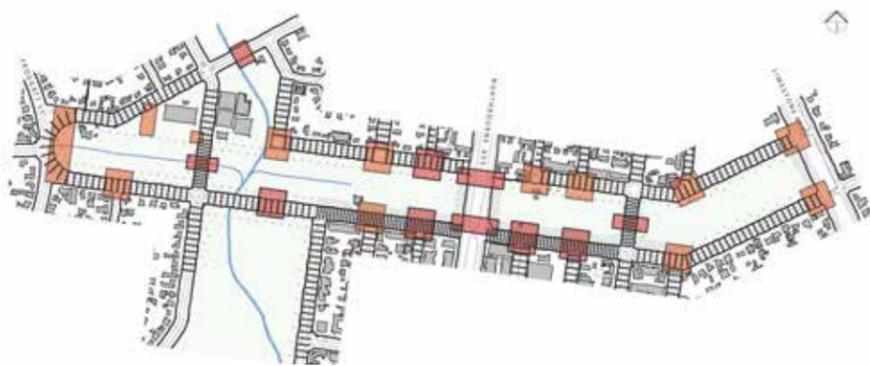
'Love it or Loath it' comfort level



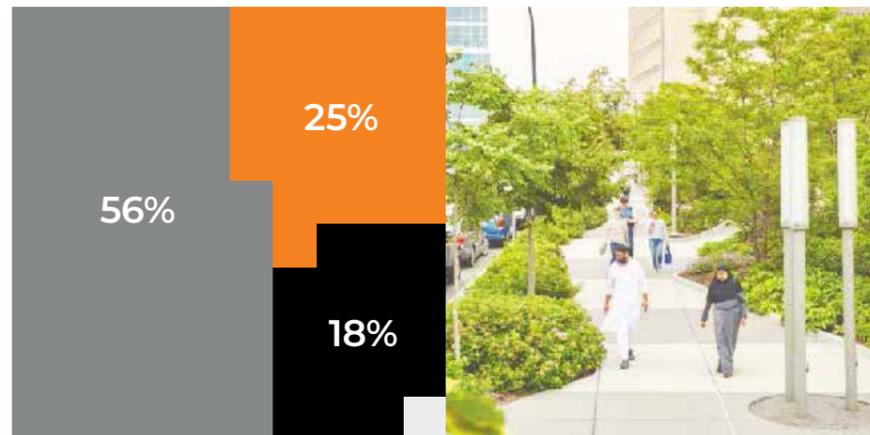
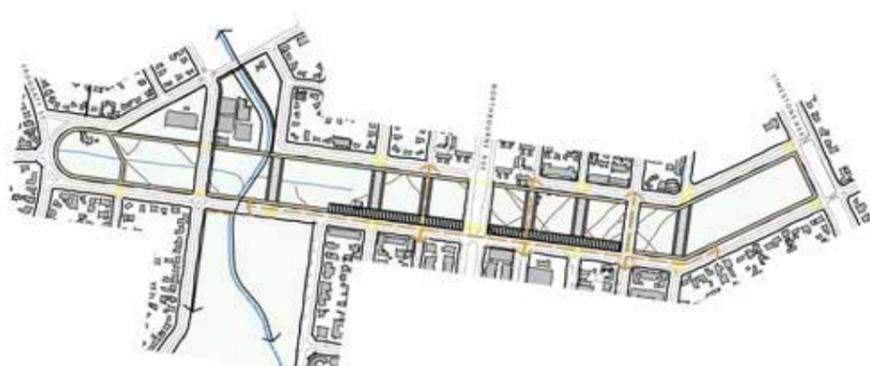
Legend

- Love it
- Like it
- Live with it
- Lament it
- Loath it

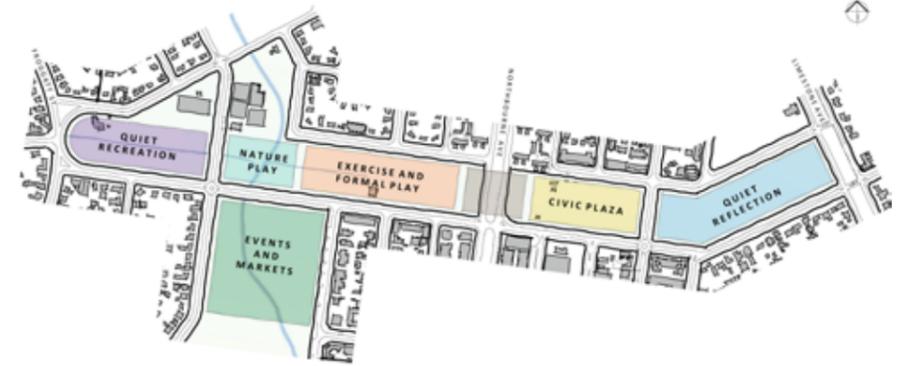
Edges



Pathways



Activities



Legend

- % of total responses for each design idea, coded for comfort level
- GREY - Comfortable to very comfortable with the design ideas and comments that build on ideas
- ORANGE - Moderately comfortable with some aspects of the design, but would like some changes or more information
- BLACK - Do not support at all

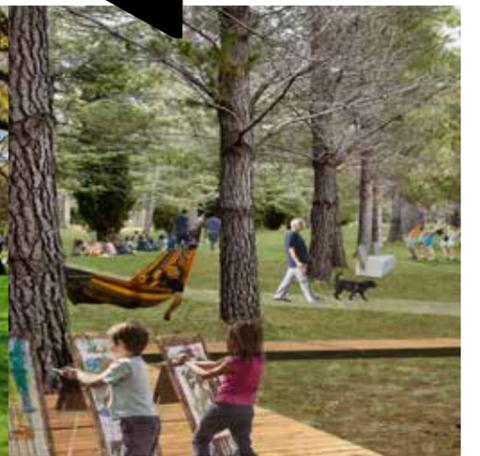
4.2 Parks Worldwide

The following parks have been analysed to provide a greater understanding of the potential within Haig Park.

■ All figure ground images scaled alike.

■ *Bryant Park*

■ *Spruce Street Harbour Park*



Bryant Park

This 3.8 hectare park is located in New York. It is privately managed with community events throughout the year including outdoor movies, ice skating, fitness classes, musical performances, chess, and recreational activities on the lawn. There are toilets, restaurants and a merry-go-round as permanent infrastructure in the park.

Spruce Street Harbour Park

Philadelphia's Spruce Street Harbour Park was created in 2013 and is open from May to October, offering live music, food trucks, magic shows and more. The Park is most popular in the evenings when temporary lights in the trees combine to create a magical atmosphere.

Weston Park

Weston Park is a 55 hectare park in Canberra that offers barbecue facilities, picnic tables, drinking fountains, toilets, playgrounds, miniature train rides and wild kangaroos. A gallery, café and the Yarralumla Nursery attract visitors throughout the year.

Kings Domain

Kings Domain Park's well-known features include the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, the Shrine of Remembrance and the Pioneer Women's Memorial. It contains a popular jogging track and offers a range of activities throughout the year such as musical events, ice skating, circus, car shows and more.

Green Park

London's Green Park is 19 hectares, the same size as Haig Park. During the year it provides pop up markets, fitness classes and tours. Many key memorial services and celebrations are held within its bounds. The Park is open to the public at all times.

Haig Park

Haig Park is one of Canberra's large green spaces. It contains toilets, electric and gas barbecues, a playground, picnic tables and it is also known for being an off-leash dog park. In recent years has been a place for periodic events, mostly occurring in the Braddon end of the park.

4.3 Mapping Haig Park

A comprehensive mapping of Haig Park has been undertaken during the earlier phases of the project. Analysis included context, existing conditions, access and circulation, trees, facilities, park hierarchy, shadows and microclimate, views and vistas, topography and geology, hydrology and servicing.



Turuer Parklands



Sullivan's Creek



View towards Lonsdale Street

View from the Eastern Section towards Ainslie



- ORIGINAL *Pinus radiata* (1921) PLANTING
- EXISTING *Pinus radiata*
- NEW PINE PLANTINGS (Approx. June 2010)
- EXISTING *Cedrus deodora*
- EXISTING DECIDUOUS TREES (*Quercus palustris* interplanted with *Fraxinus* sp.)
- EXISTING STREET TREES (*Eucalyptus* sp., *Cedrus deodora* & *Fraxinus* sp.)
- EXISTING *Cupressus sempervirens* Stricta and *Cupressus sempervirens*
- EXISTING PHOTINIA SHRUBS (Usually found in plantings of 2 shrubs per group, approx 13m from kerb)

5.0 Place Themes and Strategy

5.1 Themes

Ten key themes have been established to ensure the park’s activation, recognition of its recreational, historic and community values, its diverse public usage and longevity.

Theme

Theme visual

Strategy



Heritage

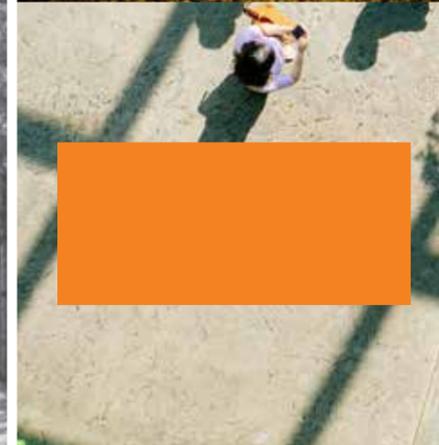


Protect and conserve significant elements of the park

Promote the historical significance of the park while protecting and conserving its historical character



Linkages



Introduce interconnected pathways and thoroughfares to provide greater connection through and within the park

Introduce integrated cycle networks that provide safe passage for cyclists throughout the park



Infrastructure



Introduce amenities and upgrade existing infrastructure

Create a more functional and user-friendly place



Biodiversity



Introduce natural amenity and environmental initiatives to promote sustainability in Haig Park

Protect and conserve significant elements of the rich biodiversity of the park



Identity



Enhance the rich cultural value of the park

Turn Haig Park into a destination, not just a thoroughfare



Safety



Introduce a formal light strategy that creates greater visibility throughout the park

Increase the use of the park during the day and night



Play



Develop nature play opportunities

Provide a range of play opportunities to different age groups



Health & Fitness



Introduce a running track across the park

Develop a strategy for long term and fixed term infrastructure



Destination



Increase the use of the park in an environmentally sustainable manner

Improve quantity of events across the year



Cultural Program



Provide a diverse range of activities that compliment the nature of the park

Provide a park to all ages

5.2 Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes for the park have been drawn from community input gathered through the consultation along with the deliverable aims and actions to improve and enliven the park.

Theme

Strategic Focus

Community Input



Heritage



To conserve and respect the heritage values of the park

- Promote greater awareness of the historical significance of the park
- Introduce educational signage that explores the history of the park
- Actively support the conservation of the biodiversity of the park
- Enhance Haig Park as a heritage site
- Respect the symbolism of the park to the community



Linkages



To strengthen connections into and within the park

- Establish a series of linkages and destinations through and within the park
- Develop an east-west link which caters to pedestrians and cyclists
- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist movement across Northbourne Avenue at Girrahween Street and Masson Street
- Establish a series of bridges and crossings to break down circulation barriers between watercourses
- Explore options to enhance connectivity between dividing streets
- Enhance existing desire lines with an appropriate ground treatment
- Slow the park edge streets to improve pedestrian access into the park



Infrastructure



To enhance the function and use of the park

- Upgrade the existing toilet block to ensure usability and amenity
- Investigate options for additional amenities blocks
- Provide better barbecue facilities
- Remove car parking within the park to enhance greenspace
- Explore alternative parking strategies
- Repurpose the existing depot site to accommodate civic uses of the park
- Introduce digital facilities infrastructure
- Explore solar powered options
- Introduce water stations at multiple locations within the park, connecting to activities and recreation loops



Biodiversity



To enhance Haig Park's status as a green lung

- Develop natural edges to existing waterways
- Develop an educational strategy to enhance understanding of the park's history and its biodiversity
- Identify prominent trees through the use of plaques and signage
- Develop a tree planting strategy to enhance the history and public nature of the park
- Develop a planting strategy for the park's understorey to enhance biodiversity



Identity



To celebrate the unique identity of Haig Park

- Develop a signage strategy to define the park within the city context, particularly along major thoroughfares
- Install wayfinding signage linking the park to the wider city context
- Create a 'park heart'
- Introduce artistic elements to enhance park identity and act as landmarks and focal points



Safety



To ensure Haig Park is a safe place to be at all times of day and night

- Introduce a formal lighting strategy that creates greater visibility throughout the park
- Introduce a decorative lighting strategy which celebrates the trees
- Develop a strategy to enhance views and vistas disrupted by branches within the understory
- Facilitate a park that functions across more than just business hours



Play

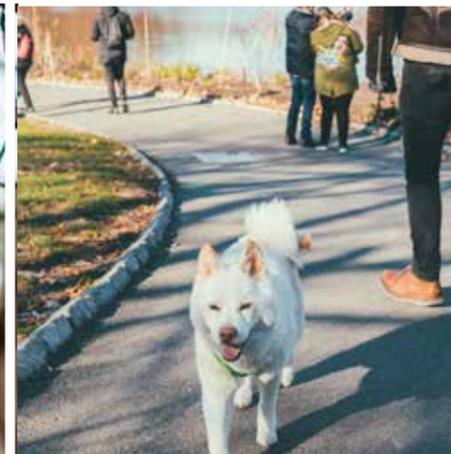


To strength connections between nature and activities

- Develop opportunities for nature play
- Develop opportunities for formalised play such as playgrounds, pump tracks and table tennis facilities
- Investigate options for treetop exploration for all ages, celebrating biodiversity and tree species
- Develop an enclosed dog park
- Develop a water play area in Sullivan's Creek
- Investigate options for skate and bike facilities



Health & Fitness



To meet the recreational needs of the local community

- Introduce fitness equipment that caters to multiple age groups
- Develop a running track with various options for track distances
- Provide ground plane treatments that allow for various recreational activities including yoga, boot camps and other forms of group fitness
- Develop a strategy for long term and fixed sporting infrastructure such as basketball half courts, bocce courts and facilities for lawn games. Consider appropriate locations such as Turner Parkland



Destination



To provide a place to meet other people

- Introduce a community library that caters for all ages
- Introduce a civic building that may cater to multiple uses, with opportunities for public hire
- Provide opportunities for cafe operators and seating near activity areas



Cultural Program



To provide a diverse range of things to do within the park

- Develop an events calendar for activities and programs within the park, including sculpture festivals, film festivals and food markets
- Upgrade Turner Parkland to allow for large events such as music festivals, carnivals and farmer's markets

6.0 The Plan

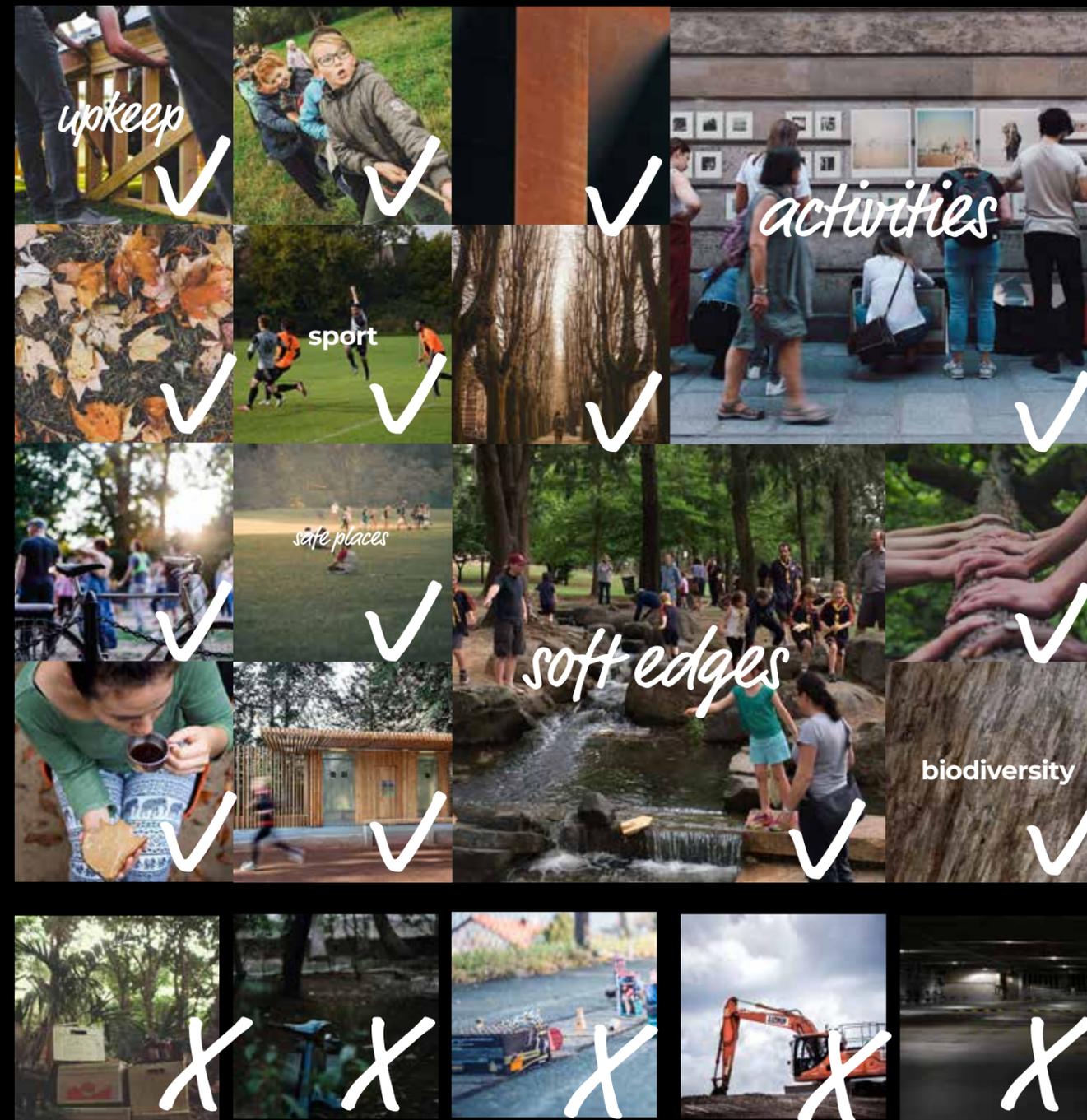
The Haig Park Place Plan sets out three stages: short term experiments and activations, evaluate and change, and long term improvements.

These stages are cyclical and allow ongoing evolution and community participation throughout its lifetime. The first short term experiments are expected to be in place for a period of six months, during which they will be monitored and feedback from users sought. Following feedback the nature or location of the short term experiments may be adapted (if they are retained), entering another period of monitoring. The process will continue until a decision is taken to either implement the experiment as a permanent long term improvement or discard it as unsuccessful.

This process adopts a placemaking approach to the evolution of Haig Park, as explained by Project for Public Space:

As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.

With community-based participation at its centre, an effective placemaking process capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, and it results in the creation of quality public spaces that contribute to people's health, happiness, and well being. Project for Public Space <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>



Activity mapping

- Attractive** ✓
- upkeep + maintenance
 - pedestrian accessibility
 - events + activities
 - pathways + lighting
 - biodiversity
 - engagement
 - of heritage values
 - softer edges to Sullivans Creek
 - social inclusion
 - sport + recreation areas
 - safe places
 - food + beverage
 - nature play
 - amenities
 - active edges

- Less attractive** X
- poorly landscaped and maintained areas
 - lifeless and inactive areas
 - unsafe areas
 - major development
 - socially stagnant
 - poor connectivity
 - poor lighting

What are the three Stages of the plan?

Short Term Experiments and Activations:

- Community selected;
- Temporary (tactical urbanism);
- Cost effective;
- Monitorable (can monitor the effect of intervention);
- Create momentum and interest; and
- Trial ideas.

Monitor and Change

- Monitor the success of short term experiments and activations through the ACT Government Place Audit Framework;
- Respond to findings through adaption and modification; and
- Facilitate community input to the next experiment and activation selection.

Long Term Improvements

- Implement long term improvements of proven short term experiments and activations.

For example, a temporary play facility could be installed for a three month period as a short term experiment. The temporary play facility would be monitored and, based on feedback and observation, may be trialed in another location for a further three months. Monitoring and feedback in this new location may provide confirmation that a permanent play facility should be installed. Design and approvals would then take place to implement this long term improvement.

1. SHORT
TERM

2. TEST
AND
CHANGE

3.
IMPLEMENT

6.1 Short Term Experiments and Activations

Subject to approvals and funding

This stage involves temporary installations and events ranging from 3, 6 and 12 months. Short term experiments and activations will trial different ideas and suitable locations, community usage will be monitored and feedback will be obtained prior to the introduction of a more permanent approach. They can occur in the park immediately, promoting high visibility and drawing public activity within the park. They are designed to be completely removable, causing no permanent damage or footprint within the park. Opportunities exist to use existing gaps and spaces within the park for activations.

Theme

Possible Short Term Experiments and Activations

Outcomes



Heritage

Physical Works

Educational signage and artwork exploring the heritage of the park

Activations

Program of educational talks within the park



Linkages

Physical Works

East-west cycle link through light and quick measures (linemarking)

North-south connections at key city grid locations

Street crossings at key locations along the length of the park

Alternate treatments for enhancing existing desire lines through park

Bridge crossings to break down circulation barriers between watercourses



Infrastructure

Physical Works

Water stations at multiple locations within the park, connecting to activities and recreation loops

Grass beds into existing pocket parking lots

Seating throughout the park

Trial infrastructure locations and types

Reclaim carpark for civic activities.

Maintenance

Fix and refresh toilet block at the end of Mort Street

Improve toilet cleaning regime and security cameras

Activations

Install civic uses to the existing depot site such as a pop up stage or pavilion



Biodiversity

Physical Works

Educational signage demonstrating the history and biodiversity of the park

Activations

Trial plant species to determine the most appropriate planting outcomes, particularly along Sullivan's creek and understorey





Identity

Physical Works

Wayfinding signage throughout the park

Signage along major thoroughfares such as Northbourne Avenue and Limestone Avenue to define the park within the city context

Activations

Sculptural elements within the park to enhance identity and act as landmarks and focal points



Safety

Physical Works

Lighting along key linkages and decorative lighting amongst the trees

Maintenance

Attend to dead and dying trees that pose a safety risk



Play

Maintenance

Dog walking amenities such as water bowls and pick-up bags

Activations

Pop up nature play and a pop up playground within the park

Mobile pump track

Game facilities such as table tennis, chess, and checkers



Health & Fitness

Activations

Fitness equipment

Running tracks of different distances

Partner with local organisations to facilitate yoga, bootcamp and group fitness classes within the park

Encourage walking and dog walking through and within the park



Destination

Activations

Pop up library with associated loose seating

Provide opportunities for temporary cafés or coffee vans with associated seating

Pop up civic building that could cater to multiple users, with opportunities for public hire

Provide facilities in the Turner Parkland to facilitate larger events and cultural program



Cultural Program

Strategic

Develop partnerships with local organisations to deliver the program

Activations

Develop an events calendar to introduce activities and programs within the park such as:

Sculpture festival or other temporary arts event

Film screenings

Food markets

Music festivals/performances

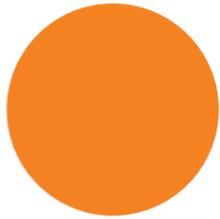
Carnivals

Farmer's markets



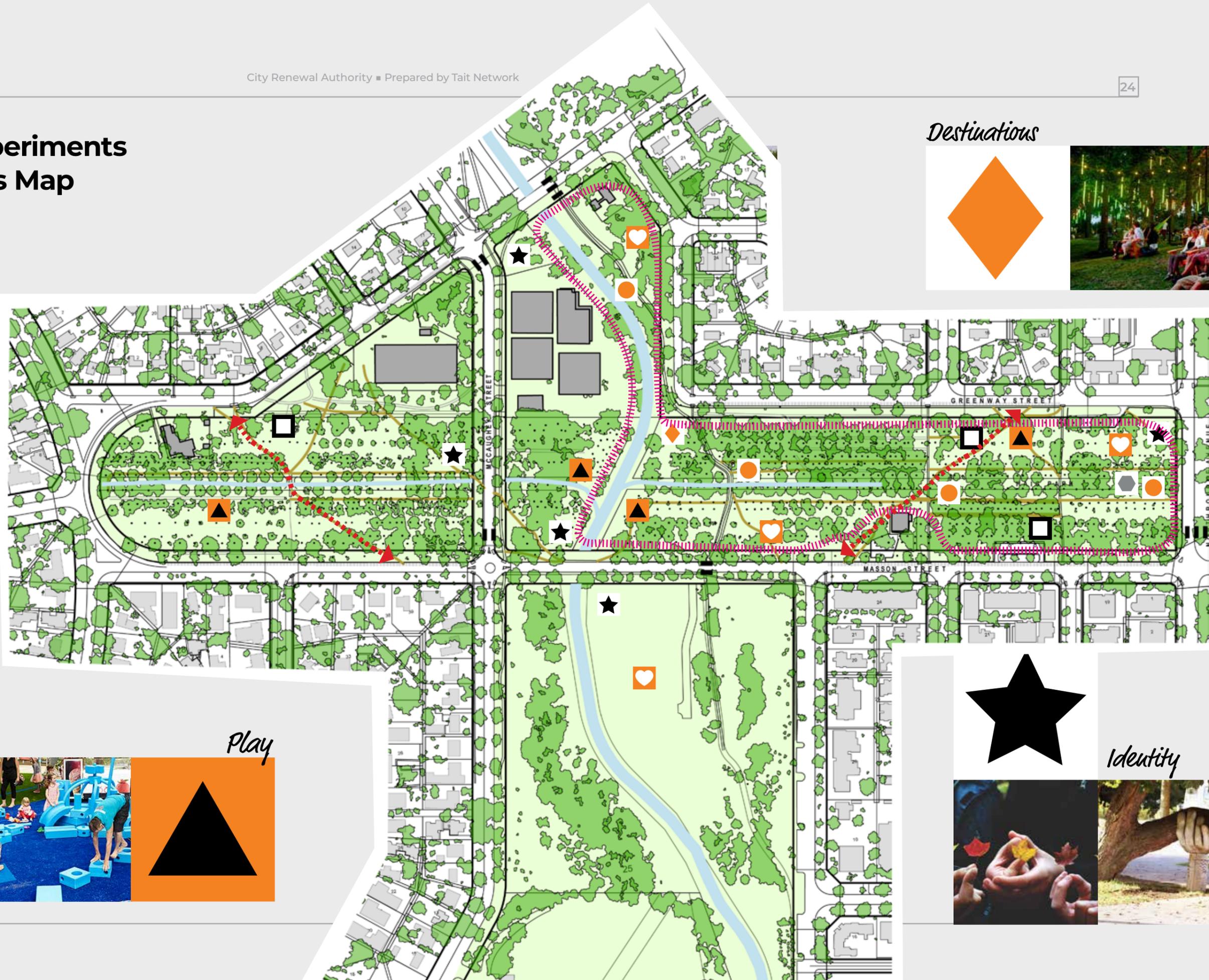
Short Term Experiments and Activations Map

Biodiversity



Play

Destinations

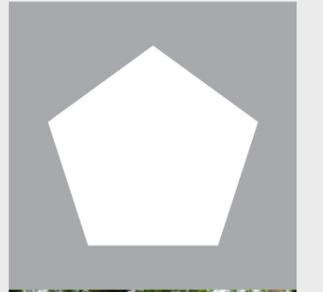
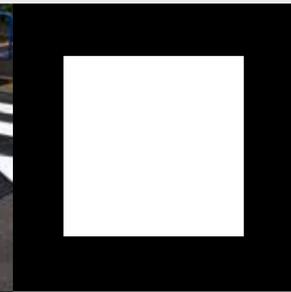
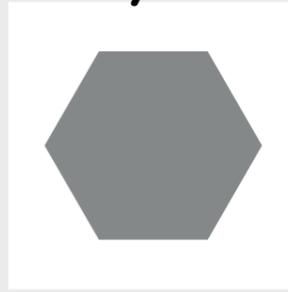


Identity



Heritage

Heritage values and conservation apply across the park



Infrastructure



Cultural Program



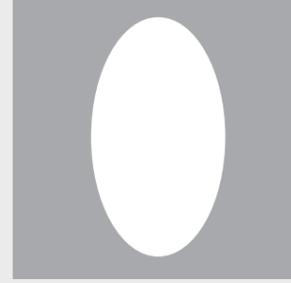
Linkages



Health & Fitness



Safety



Legend

- BUILT FORM**

 - BUILT FORM
 - MATURE TREES
 - NEWLY PLANTED TREES
 - RECLAIMED CARPARK
- LINKAGES**

 - East-west cycle link
 - New – Existing through way
 - North-South cycle link
 - Lit shared path
- ROAD CROSSINGS**

 - Road crossings
 - Edge path & on street parking
 - Bridges
- HEALTH AND FITNESS**

 - Running track
 - Enhanced desire lines
 - Fitness equipment
 - Sporting infrastructure
- INFRASTRUCTURE**

 - Upgrade
 - Digital facilities
 - Water stations
 - Slow street
 - Toilet facilities
 - Reclaim carpark
- BIODIVERSITY**

 - Naturalise waterways
 - Educational signage
 - Understorey planting
 - Tree planting strategy
- IDENTITY**

 - Identity signage
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Sculptural elements
- PLAY**

 - Nature play
 - Formalised play
 - Tree top walks
 - Dog park
- DESTINATIONS**

 - Civic building
 - Mobile library
 - Mobile food van
 - Mobile gallery
- INTEGRATED MIXED USE PARK**

 - Markets
 - Festivals
 - Walking tours
 - Outdoor films
 - Carnivals

6.2 Monitor and Change

The success of these activations will be measured through various channels and assessed against a firm and well researched set of criteria. Community data and feedback will be collected in person and online. Feedback on the success of short term experiments and activations and how they might be modified, or the next round of experiments and activations to be included will be sought.

Findings will be made public through regular updates to the Haig Park website.

This ongoing and iterative data collection will provide a firm basis for the ongoing development and delivery of a program of works for the park.

The methodology will be informed by a Place Audit Framework, regarded as the best practice methodology for mapping public places. In 2018 the ACT Government developed a Place Audit Framework that adopts the Public Space Public Life (PSPL) practices advocated by Jan Gehl and Gehl Architects, Project for Public Space (PPS) and the Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) (GDCI and NACTO 2016). PSPL audits capture distinct qualitative and quantitative metrics that, when read together, inform a holistic understanding of the public realm.

Public Space is the physical and operational conditions in which public life occurs. Public Life observes people's movement and behaviours within public space. Together, PSPL measure the current performance of public space, enhancing comprehension of the physical, social and environmental factors that make public space successful.

Using the Utilisation Study as our baseline data, a series of audits would be undertaken to objectively assess how the short term experiments and activations are performing against the key themes and desired outcomes identified for the park. Full audits may not be required dependent on the nature of the experiment and activations that are being monitored.



*Measuring the
performance of
public space*

6.2.1 Measures of Success

The success of the park will be measured against the City Renewal Authority success indicators. Non-financial success criteria that will be measured are:

- **People and activity** – maximising pedestrian footfall, ensuring equitable access and mobility and providing public amenity via the power of 'free'
- **Diversity and vitality of place** – the provision of artistic, cultural and leisure activities; events; market exchange; retail offer; and the focus on pedestrian comfort and safety
- **Community and business sentiment** – ensuring urban design outcomes exceed community satisfaction and experience; builds business confidence; and is considered a place of great attractiveness
- **Viable opportunity** – Creating places that ensure economic success; promote a night economy; add tourism potential; underpin investment and renewal attractiveness; and stimulate development approvals
- **Resilient and sustainable communities** – ensuring that heritage values are protected and enhanced as guided by the Conservation Management Plan. Seeking opportunities through adaptable re-use; fostering demographic diversity; and climate-smart design



6.3 Long Term Improvements

Subject to feedback, funding and approvals

Long term improvements will be implemented following confirmation that the proposals have broad support, demonstrated through monitoring and evaluation of short term experiment and activations.

Possible Long Term Improvements subject to monitoring and feedback

Theme visual



Heritage

Strategic

Educational strategy to enhance understanding of the park's history in Canberra

Tree planting strategy to enhance the historic and public nature of the park

Physical Works

Educational signage and artwork that explores the historical nature of the park

Identify prominent trees within the park through the use of plaques and signage

Maintenance and replacement tree program



Linkages

Physical Works

Develop an east-west link which caters to pedestrians and cyclists

Enhance pedestrian and cyclist crossing across Northbourne Avenue at Girrawheen Street and Masson Street and at street crossings along the length of the park

Create a series of bridges and crossings to breakdown circulation barriers between watercourses

Enhance connectivity between dividing streets including Sullivan's Creek path

Enhance existing desire lines with an appropriate ground treatment

Better pedestrian connections into the park, particularly along Girrawheen Street and Torrens Street



Infrastructure

Strategic

Strategy for infrastructure throughout the park (seating, lighting, flag poles etc) to ensure a consistent identity and quality

Additional amenities blocks

Physical Works

Upgrade and replace infrastructure throughout the park

Upgrade the existing toilet block ensuring safety, usability and amenity

Remove pocket parking within the park to enhance greenspace and remove opportunities for anti-social behaviour

Create alternative parking strategies around the perimeter of the park

Reconfigure perimeter park streets prioritizing pedestrian and cycle movements

Repurpose the existing depot site

Infrastructure that provides digital facilities



Biodiversity

Strategic

Educational strategy to enhance understanding of the park's biodiversity and how it can be improved

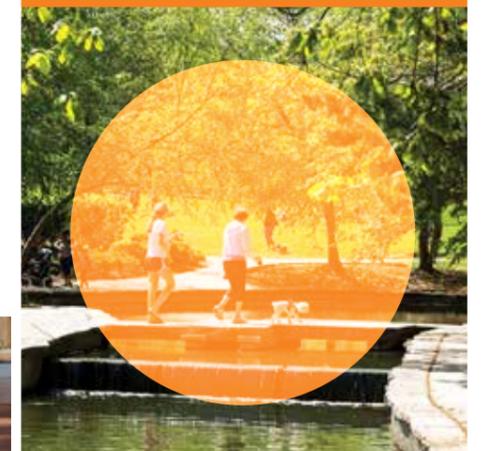
Planting strategy for the understorey of the park to enhance biodiversity

Physical Works

Naturalise Sullivans Creek and associated water courses within the park. Consider the inclusion of ponds in the Turner Parkland for amenity and recreational purposes

Activations

Connect the public with biodiversity in the park and introduce the characters who live here, like the powerful owl





Identity

Strategic

Wayfinding signage, linking the park to the wider city context

Ensure the infrastructure strategy (seating, lighting, barbecue, water stations, flag poles, bollards) has a strong and unique identity

Physical Works

Entry markers at Northbourne Avenue and Limestone Avenue

Sculptural elements to enhance park identity and act as landmarks and focal points



Safety

Strategic

Ongoing safety audits to identify areas for improvement

Formal lighting strategy to enhance lighting along linkages and destinations

Decorative lighting strategy which celebrates the trees while contributing to enhanced safety through greater visibility

Strategy to enhance view lines under the tree canopy

Activations

Use the program of events to encourage activity in the park throughout the day and evening



Play

Strategic

Investigate options for treetop exploration for all ages, celebrating biodiversity and tree species

Physical Works

Nature play, particularly associated with Sullivans Creek

Formalised play such as playgrounds, pump tracks and table tennis facilities

Enclosed dog park



Health & Fitness

Physical Works

Develop opportunities for recreational fitness

Introduce fitness equipment to cater to multiple age groups

Running track with various options for track distances

Introduce an appropriate ground plane to allow for various recreational activities including, yoga, boot camps and other forms of group fitness

Fixed sporting infrastructure. basketball half courts, bocce courts and facilities for lawn games may be located at the Turner Parkland



Destination

Physical Works

Deliver a permanent small scale civic building that may cater to multiple users, with opportunities for public hire

Formalise facilities within the Turner Parkland to support cultural program

Upgrade the scout hall with a view to reshaping the building form such that it contributes more positively to the park



Cultural Program

Strategic

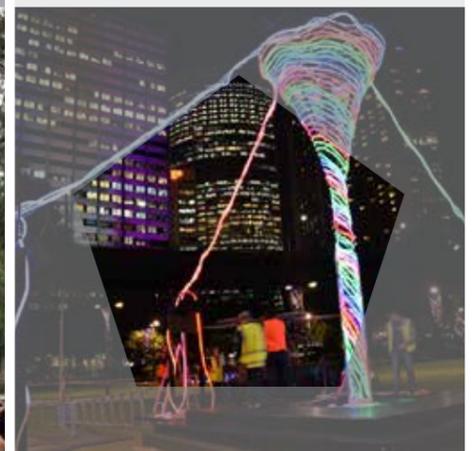
Build partnerships to ensure a consistent annual program of events

Introduce findings and opportunities from the art strategy being developed by CRA

Activations

Formalise the events calendar to facilitate ongoing activities and programs within the park such as:

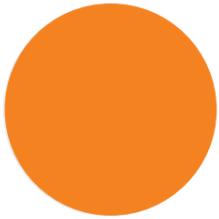
- Sculpture festival
- Light festival
- Tree talks
- Film screenings
- Food markets
- Music performances
- Carnivals
- Farmer's markets



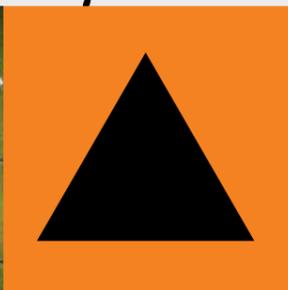
Long Term Improvements Map

Subject to approvals and funding

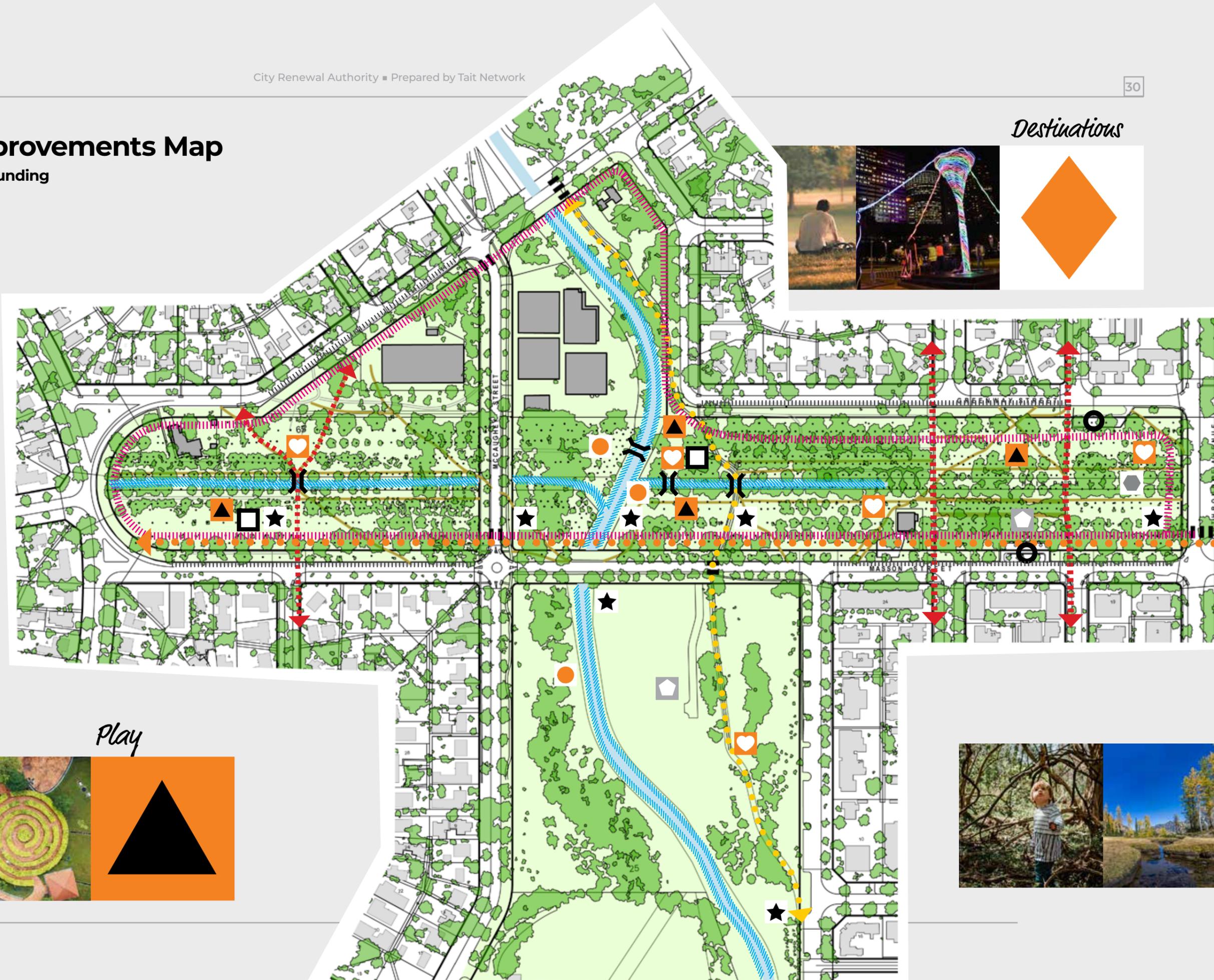
Biodiversity



Play



Destinations

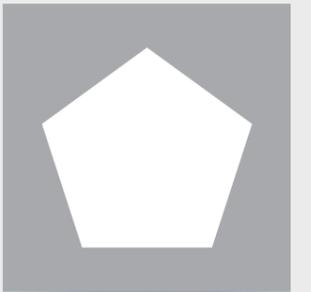


Heritage

Heritage values and conservation apply across the park



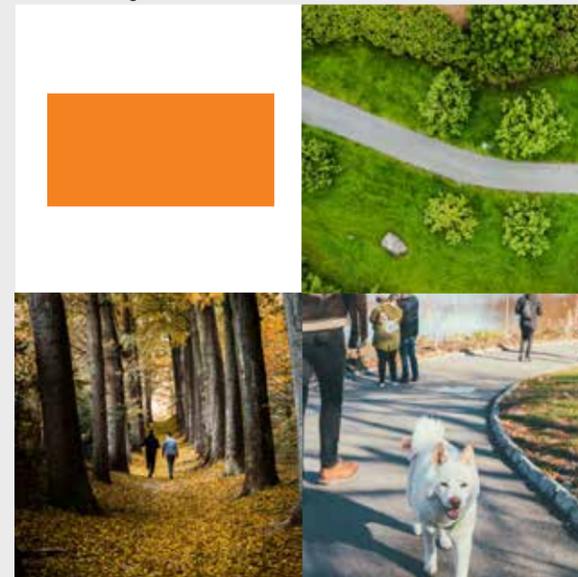
Cultural Program



Infrastructure



Linkages



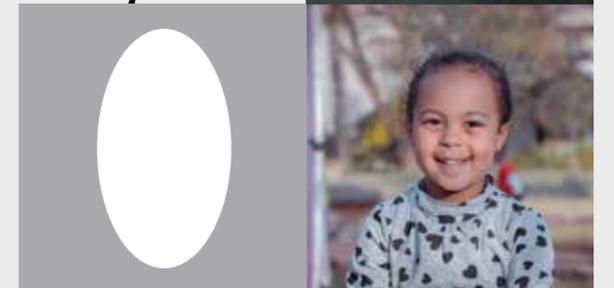
Identity



Health & Fitness



Safety



Legend

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUILT FORM MATURE TREES NEWLY PLANTED TREES RECLAIMED CARPARK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LINKAGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East-west cycle link New - Existing through way North-South cycle link Lit shared path Road crossings Edge path & on street parking Bridges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HEALTH AND FITNESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running track Enhanced desire lines Fitness equipment Sporting infrastructure INFRASTRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Digital facilities Water stations Slow street Toilet facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIODIVERSITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturalise waterways, retention ponds Educational signage Understorey planting Tree planting strategy IDENTITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity signage Wayfinding signage Sculptural elements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature play Formalised play Tree top walks Dog park DESTINATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civic building Mobile library Mobile food van Mobile gallery INTEGRATED MIXED USE PARK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markets Festivals Walking tours Outdoor films Carnivals |
|--|---|---|---|--|

6.4 Possible Futures

Building on the proposition that Haig Park is ‘for all of us’ and the finding that there are distinct areas within the park that are more suited to certain activities, four ‘possible futures’ have been developed to capture each character. These ‘possible futures’ provide a window into the types of outcomes that might be expected based on the feedback received through the observation and engagement phases to date. They will be highly influenced by stages 1 and 2 (‘Short term activations and experiments’, and ‘Monitor and change’) as outlined above.

6.4.1 Eastern



■ Artists impression

A place for reflection, respite and connection. The strength of the existing canopy and its grounds invite a quieter approach to the park. Discrete educational signage will inform visitors of the park's history and the vegetation throughout. Purpose-built seating will encourage families and individuals to take stock and admire the beauty and heritage of the eastern end.

6.4.2 Central



The lively extension of Braddon's strong urban heart. A place to meet, see and be seen. The young and old will congregate around food trucks, take in film screenings and performances, and continue to build on the strong and satisfying relationship to street life in the city, creating closer ties to their Canberra through spending more of their recreational time out in it.

6.4.3 Western



An active natural hub in the city for all ages to take in Canberra's magnificent seasons and engage in activities that strengthen the body and mind. Park and play equipment co-mingle with areas to sit, meet, meditate and exercise. The naturalisation of Sullivans Creek will provide a reference point, either side of which the Community will be able to leave their indoor environs and connect with the outdoors.

6.4.4 Southern



A rare opportunity right on the city's doorstep to bring the Canberra community together and strengthen public life. A place for culture-music, theatre, film, markets and food uniting in the fantastic green expanse, surrounded by trees and the hint of the city skyline. A space where local entrepreneurialism can take flight, filled with pop ups and savvy activations that can engage and enrich the community.

6.4.1 Eastern

Provide a program
of educational talks
within the park

'Desire lines should be kept as natural, keep it wild. Don't pave everything'

Introduce dog walking amenities such as water bowls and pick up bags



Partner with local organisations to facilitate yoga, bootcamp, and group fitness classes within the park

Sculpture festival or other temporary arts event

Trial alternate treatments for enhancing existing desire lines through park

"Yes! East-west path through the middle would be great. Not necessarily straight, it could weave through. And yes, the desire lines (worn tracks) that are there are very useful information!"

A place for reflection, respite and connection. The strength of the existing canopy and its grounds invite a quieter approach to the park.

IMAGE: Artist impression

6.4.2 Central

Introduce temporary sculptural elements within the park to enhance identity and act as landmarks and focal points

'Chess boards would be a welcome attraction, like those of Hyde Park, Sydney. Chess is highly inclusive: everyone from ages 5-90+ can play, regardless of background and ability.'

Develop an events calendar to introduce activities and programs within the park



'I would like to see fairy lights in the trees and an inviting central point or large water fountain and sitting area, with a 'mall' style walking path towards the city. Pop up cafes, markets, music..'

'Replace the car park with food trucks (similar to the Hawlet which is being moved anyway). If there were more options with the Maudalay Bus it would invigorate this section of Braddon and the park.'

'Improving pedestrian access and safety around the park edges'

Provide temporary seating throughout the park

The lively extension of Braddon's strong urban heart. A place to meet, see and be seen.

IMAGE: Artist impression

6.4.3 Western

'Keep simple intervention, park brings people together, kids playground good with nature play'

'A running/bike track along the length of the park, including a bridge over Sullivans Creek, children's playground and BBQ areas.'

'Naturalising creek to create softer edges and places kids can engage with creek and encourage increased biodiversity around the water source would be great'



'Keep as many trees as possible, they are great for a children's orienteering course.'

'I think several frog ponds should be created to help increase the local frog population. They can also be used for schools to undertake nature based activities.'

Exercise trail, with exercise stations, such as pull up bars, and sit up benches such as those in Weston Park around the lake.

An active natural hub in the city for all ages to take in our magnificent seasons and engage in activities that strengthen the body and mind.

IMAGE: Artist impression



6.4.4 Southern

Music festivals/
performances

Introduce a pop up civic building that could cater to multiple users, with opportunities for public hire

'Hold some monthly events throughout the park. It would be great for a few food stalls, wine tasting pop-ups or even a market!'



Carnivals

Provide temporary facilities in the Turner Parkland to facilitate larger events and cultural program

'Utilize the open space with pop-up market stalls, would work well in conjunction with light-rail, more pathways and lighting. Could create little local business hub in a natural environment.'

'Outdoor films in summer under the pines, with food stalls, near a simple kiosk w/ small tables and umbrellas that sells ice creams, drinks (hot and cold), and baked goods such as muffins.'

A place for culture- music, theatre, film, markets and food uniting in the fantastic green expanse, surrounded by trees and the hint of the city skyline.

IMAGE: Artist impression



7.0 Governance Framework

Haig Park has a strong governance framework as a heritage listed public space in Canberra. Numerous agencies have a hand in its management and future, including:

- ACT Heritage and the Heritage Council, tasked with protecting elements of historical significance;
- Transport Canberra and City Services, responsible for maintenance, asset management and tree management;
- National Capital Authority, responsible for protecting its contribution to our National Capital; and
- City Renewal Authority, responsible for leading the transformation of the city renewal precinct to make it a great place to live, explore and enjoy.

As these agencies continue to work overseeing the evolution of Haig Park, this place plan will assist in its transformation from a public space to a place whose unique cultural and social identity is defined by the way it is used and the people who use it.

In addition to Government, there are a significant number of external stakeholders who have a genuine interest in the park's success. These include:

- North Canberra Community Council;
- Turner Scout Hall;
- Turner Tennis Club;
- Turner Bowls Club;
- ANU Student Association;
- Fenner Hall (ANU);
- Turner Residents Association; and
- Braddon traders.

The clear vision for Haig Park set down in this document will provide confidence to decision makers that allows a move towards proactive management and facilitation. It challenges the status quo, establishing a culture that says yes to taking risks, innovative delivery, experimentation and new maintenance and management arrangements. This is crucial to ensuring the best possible outcomes for the park and the people who will use it.

Key elements of the place management and governance framework going forward are:

- Implement a place-led approach to decision making across governance bodies. Utilise the Haig Park Steering Committee to drive this approach and streamline decision making;
- Procure and manage activities, experiments, cultural program and events throughout the year, to be coordinated through the City Renewal Authority City Activation Unit;
- Implement a systemic audit program to provide consistent and ongoing data on the park;
- Build strategic partnerships with local businesses, community groups and individuals interested in contributing to the park's development. Consider undertaking an Expression of Interest program to attract interested parties;

- Actively manage and deliver on the requirements set down in the Conservation Management Plan, working with ACT Heritage to ensure the park history is enhanced into the future;
- Review the Tree Management Plan in light of the Conservation Management Plan;
- Pursue the reclassification of Haig Park from a District Park to a Town Park. Work with Transport Canberra and City Services to enhance the maintenance and management regime for the park;
- Develop a vehicle and parking management strategy noting the impact of Braddon, light rail, bus routes changes, proposed parking and street reconfigurations;
- Develop a capital works program to address long term high capital cost investments included in the place plan, for example lighting, perimeter street upgrades, water, irrigation, power/data/communication provisions;
- Identify elements of the place plan that may require Heritage Council and National Capital Authority approvals, and ensure requirements are met;
- Undertake a safety audit at regular intervals (possibly 2 years) to assess the safety situation in the park;
- Develop a communications strategy for the period of the place plan and beyond to ensure open and consistent transfer of information between governance bodies and stakeholders; and
- Update this place plan on a 3 yearly cycle.

By putting people at the heart of the process we can create something that reflects the desire, ambition and creativity of the community who surround and utilise this important natural asset. The potential of Haig Park is limitless, and through listening carefully and acting with clarity and courage we will create a truly significant place for the people of Canberra and the generations to come.

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Haig Park *Place Plan*



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