



ACT
Government

Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report

HAIG PARK MASTERPLAN



Contents

Project Timeline	3 :
Executive Summary	4 :
Engagement Purpose	5 :
Methods	5 :
YourSay Online	7 :
Online comments by theme	8 :
Use	24 :
Heritage value	24 :
Describing the park	25 :
Email and written submissions	26 :
Drop-in sessions	31 :
Facebook feedback	36 :
Workshop	37 :
Appendix A: Email and written submissions	38 :
Appendix B: Stakeholder meetings	84 :
Appendix C: Facebook comments	90 :

Project timeline

January 2017 - early 2018



Executive Summary :

This report documents the feedback received in the first phase of involving the community in developing the Haig Park Masterplan 2017.

This first phase of community engagement focused on understanding stakeholder and community views, issues and aspirations for Haig Park. Over nine weeks, from 30 January 2017 to 12 April 2017, we heard from:

- 252 people online who provided 642 comments through the YourSay website.
- 39 people via email, phone or written submissions.
- 164 people at four drop-in consultation sessions in different locations near Haig Park.
- Eight local community representative and stakeholder groups through individual meetings.
- 89 people at one workshop where participants developed a draft vision for Haig Park in 2022.

What we heard

- **In general, the community agrees that improvements could be made to Haig Park in the future.**
People value and appreciate the park as a large green space close to Canberra's city centre. However, many people feel that the park needs to be improved to meet the needs of the changing urban area around it.
- **The degree of change the community wants to see in Haig Park varies across the community.**
We received suggestions for cafes, food vans and events in Haig Park, while others would like the park preserved as it is, with minor changes to lighting, pathways and maintenance. The community prefers the park to provide for a variety of different active and passive activities, rather than the whole park being designed for one purpose (i.e. not just 'activities').
- We received a number of comments about the differences in the park's character in different **geographical areas**. The length of the park, and its span across several suburbs, means that it serves different purposes and has a different feel in different areas. People felt that creating different 'zones' or 'sections' within the park was important, and that the masterplan should respect the current uses and character of the local area in any proposed changes to the park.
- The **trees** in Haig Park were regularly mentioned in comments and conversations with the community, both as an asset to the park and a barrier to its usability. Some people emphasised the value and importance of maintaining the trees, while others suggested removing sections of trees to allow for more natural light and activation.
- **Activities and amenities** were the most common topics mentioned. These included ideas such as increasing exercise opportunities in the park through pathways or gym equipment, or encouraging more people to visit the park through playgrounds, BBQ facilities, seating and rotundas.
- **Wildlife, indigenous plantings and biodiversity** are important to the community. People spoke to us about the birds and animals that live in the park, and the importance of looking at opportunities to enhance biodiversity through plantings and wetlands.



Engagement Purpose :

To involve 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. Phase 1 community engagement focused on understanding stakeholder and community views, issues and aspirations for the site.

Methods

YourSay online	30 January – 31 March 2017	642 comments received from 252 people.
Email, written and phone submissions	30 January – ongoing	36 email submissions received. 2 written submissions. 1 phone submission.
Drop-in sessions	Thursday 16 February 2017, 5-7pm	Attended by approximately 50 people.
	Friday 7 April 2017, 6-7.30pm	Part of the You Are Here Electric Avenues event, about 80 people participated in drop-in activities.
	Wednesday 8 March, 9.30-10.30pm	Fenner Hall drop-in discussions with approximately 25 students.
	Wednesday 14 March, 12-1pm	Workshop with ANU Students Association, attended by 9 students.
Stakeholder meetings	18 Jan – 31 March 2017	Presentation to North Canberra Community Council on Tuesday 21 February 2017, 7.30pm, attended by approximately 25 people. Individual meetings with key stakeholders including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turner Scout Hall• Turner Tennis Club• Turner Bowls Club• ANU Students Association• Fenner Hall (ANU)• Turner Residents Association• North Canberra Community Council• In the City Canberra

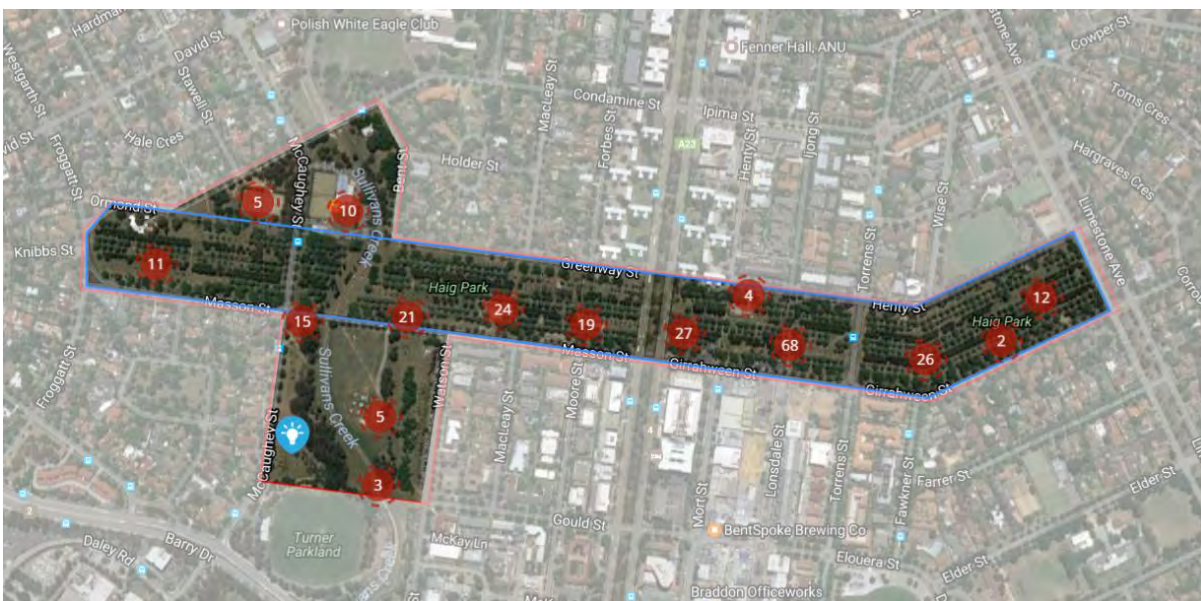
Workshop	15 March 2017, 6.30-8.30pm	Attended by 89 people.
Social media	Andrew Barr MLA Facebook page Post: 3 February 2017	46 comments , 13 shares and 58 likes.
	ACT Government Facebook page Post: 5 February 2017 and sponsored until 31 March 2017.	22,336 people reached through the sponsored post resulting in 1,173 post engagements (likes, shares, comments, clicks).
Communications	Onsite signs	Four signs erected on the construction fencing around Lonsdale Street pathway in Haig Park. Posters about the masterplan process distributed to Braddon businesses to display in window.
	Flyers	30 January 2017: Letter distributed to 5,500 residents surrounding Haig Park informing of the masterplan, opportunities to be involved and pathway upgrades in Braddon section. 2 March 2017: Postcard distributed to 5,500 residents surrounding Haig Park informing of the first community workshop.
	Email Updates	2 March 2017: Invitation to register for first community workshop. 17 March: Thank you for attending Haig Park community workshop. 28 March 2017: Workshop report summary. 4 April 2017: Update and invite to feedback on draft vision.
	Media release	Media release distributed on 30 January 2017 informing about the masterplan process and community engagement. This resulted in media coverage in The Canberra Times, ABC Online, ABC local radio and The RiotACT.

YourSay Online

The project website, YourSay, was launched on 30 January 2017 and invited people to provide what they valued about the park, what could be improved, and an idea for the future through a digital map.

Participants were asked to drop pins on the digital map. Input could be:

- something they liked
- improvements (things that need to be changed, fixed or built)
- future ideas (grand ideas, thoughts and visions for the future of the park)



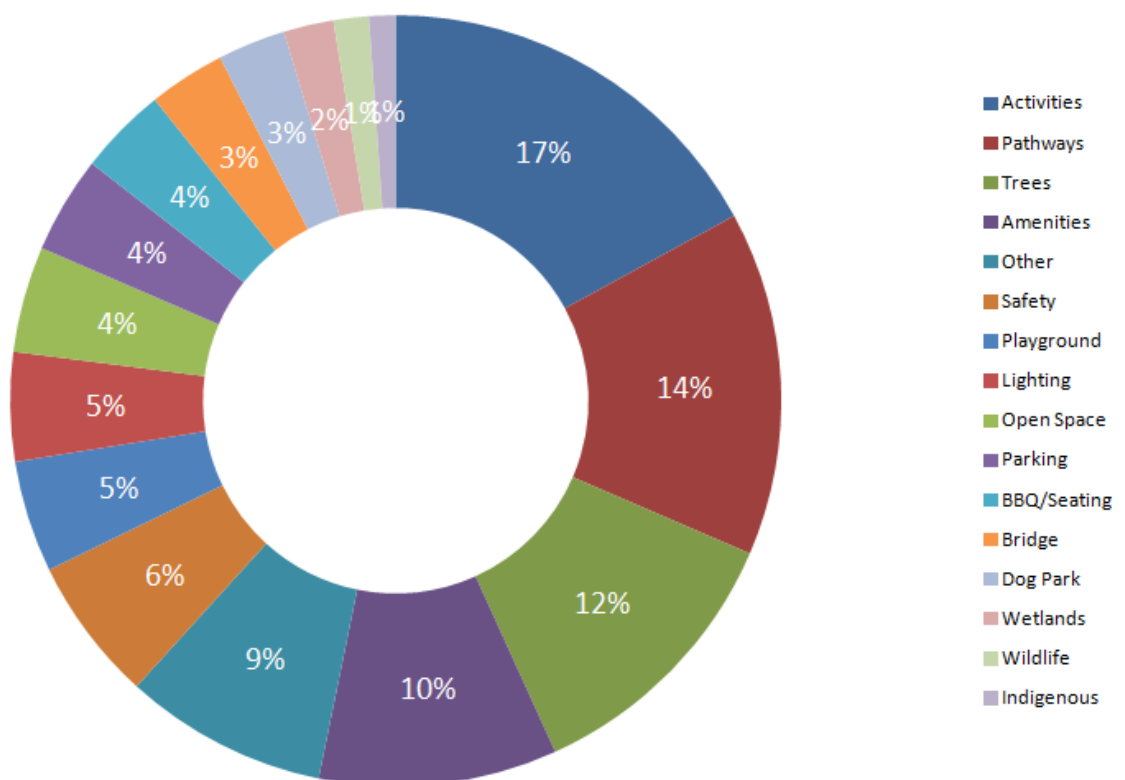
Participants could either add their own ideas, or start a discussion in response to comments left by others. 642 comments were received in total from 252 people, an average of 2.5 comments per person.

Online comments by theme

Comments were separated into 16 themes, noting that some comments crossed multiple themes. The graph below provides an overview of all comments received by theme, whether positive or negative.

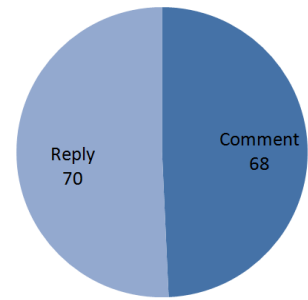
The following pages provide a summary of comments received on each theme. Not all comments are included in this document, but the comments included were selected because they were broadly representative of all feedback received for that particular theme. Some comments appear under more than one theme. For a full copy of all comments received please contact EDcommunity@act.gov.au.

Total comments by theme

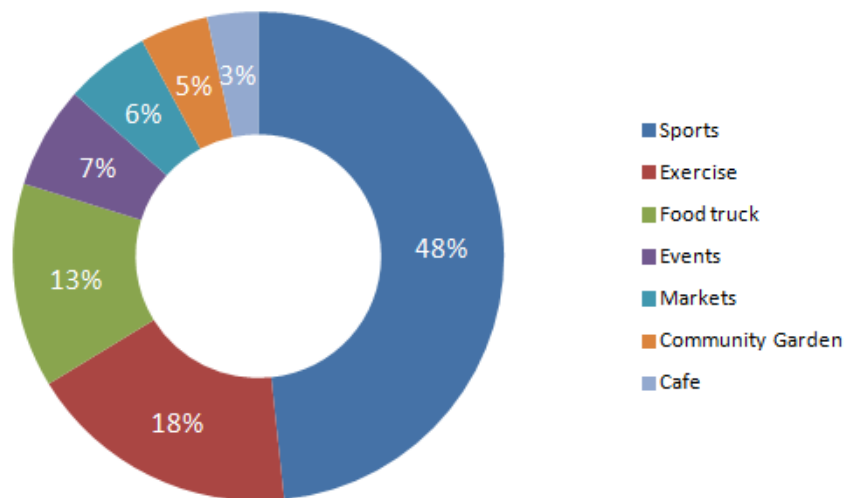


Theme:

Activities



There were 138 comments that mentioned different types of activities in the park, making this the most common conversation topic. Most of these could be categorised into the following sub-themes: cafe, sports, community garden, exercise, events, food trucks, markets.



Activities: Cafe :

Place for a cafe/coffee shop as a focal point

A cafe would be great here as it would create a feeling of passive surveillance, even restaurant would complement the activity of Lonsdale st. it would provide the opportunity for people watching.

What if we build a treehouse cafe here! It could be a new tourist hotspot!

Activities: Markets :

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.

Yes, an open space lawn here would be great. It would also be a fantastic place to host a local Christmas carol event each year, in which case a small stage/gazebo at the edge would be useful too.

Activities: Sports :

It would be good to have some type of sporting grounds, maybe a half basketball court

Keep as many trees as possible, they are great for a children's orienteering course. Ask Orienteering ACT how - low cost, low maintenance, all maps and courses accessible on-line.

I'd like to see more open spaces for cricket games, football, kite flying etc both sides of Northbourne. Deciduous trees in groves would be a great improvement, as would popup coffee shops.

Build a small football pitch or basketball arena in a cage. Bring youth and young people to hang out here. Can watch people play sport and could start some friendly competitions.

There are already basketball facilities nearby in Corroboree park. A fountain creates noise. Please don't build structures in the park.

A permanent kids' bike track similar to that made in Haig Park on the Kidscape day or at the North Ainslie School would be great for school kids & young families.

Build an asphalt-covered pump track (see velosolutions.com for examples). Such a track could be used by all ages on bikes, skateboards & scooters. Builds skills, fitness and is a world of fun to ride!

Mixed use sporting facilities ie. basketball, futsal, netball courts such as the ones in central Sydney parks.

Disc Golf Course. Pitch and Putt beginner friendly 9 basket course would be well suited to this underutilised park and is great for all ages. It would be a great lunch time activity for nearby workers.

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.

I'm in favour of an open-air basketball court in Haig Park because Corroboree Park basketball court is very dangerous and unusable, with loose asphalt, potholes, rocks, and leaves on the court.

Put some outdoor ping pong tables in. There is a great Australian company that builds them too. <http://popp.world/>

Activities: Community Garden :

Agree with adding a community garden, dog park, play spaces, BBQ area, sealing paths, improving lighting. But a footbridge from Lonsdale St. No.

Community vegetable garden, here or SOMEwhere. Maybe one each side of Northbourne.

Community gardens, community deciduous fruit and tree orchard or permanent location for Canberra City Farm...more easily accessible than the spot at Dairy Flat Road

I would like to see some space given over to a community allotment and garden. This could help transform and activate the park by creating an area that people can personally care for and enjoy.

Activities: Exercise :

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

Haig Park is a heritage park and part of its beauty are the trees. No playing fields, there are plenty in other areas, exercise areas and kids play can be incorporated in the existing framework.

Build running track with adequate lighting for day & night fitness. With the tram line & increased apartment buildings it will be perfect for city dwellers to use the park and keep active.

5km running track loop with lighting for Civic parkrun event
www.parkrun.com.au

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

There are so many other (beautiful) options for runners, why try to shoehorn a track into the narrow park? It's only a kilometre-and-a-half long!

A proper perimeter path for running, and a grassed area for reading or simply sitting. London is full of 'greens or fields' where apartment-dwellers can relax in open space, desperately needed here!

The park definitely needs more facilities to encourage exercise by all age groups. This could include a dedicated running track and park fitness equipment (like those in Crace, Kambah, etc).

Major City Parks always having a good running track area - Should build one - will attract people and could start social events e.g every Saturday running races! gets people out and about

Activities: Food Trucks :

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

I'd like to see more activation in the park, like a Brodburger-style food truck, more seating, lighting, music and events. Perhaps a weekly farmers market, a playground and activities for kids.

Relocate Lonsdale's Hamlet to Haig Park - opportunity to retain this cultural institution in a similar location.

Move food trucks to here and activate the middle of the park. Extend life on Lonsdale St into the park. Make it an entrance to Braddon.

Activities: Events :

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

Small built pavilion for live music. Could be booked by local bands or DJs to play open-air gigs on Friday and Saturday summer evenings.

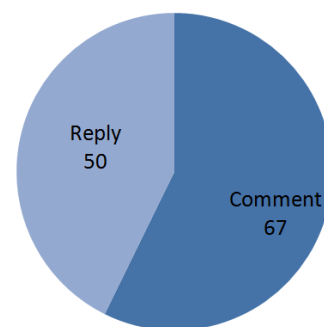
A small cafe pavilion or pavilions such as the ones at commonwealth place would be great to extend the cafe strip feel of Lonsdale Street while respecting the scale and character of the park.

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

Theme:

Pathways

There were 117 comments that mentioned pathways, both for pedestrians and cyclists.



A running/walking fitness path that would loop through the park from Limestone Av to Torrens St and back to Limestone Av.

It would be good to formalise the existing desire lines.

More accessible pathways

A bicycle path through the park - encourage cyclists and minimise accident risk on narrow parts of Girrawheen St.

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!

It would be great to see a network of paths which weave and allow many points of access into the path. As the site is flat different textures (gravels/steeping stones etc) could add visual interest.

It's clear from the worn path in the grass that runs down the middle of the park that runners/walkers like this route. Building a permanent path should be the top priority in the redevelopment

There were a number of comments about improvements to existing paths in or near the park, these are documented below.

Masson/Hackett Gardens pathway

The path through here needs to be maintained and safer in low light. It should connect to other footpaths when walking into the city. A pedestrian crossing on Masson St would help.

Masson/Moore Street intersection

This intersection (Haig Park-Moore St-Masson St) needs improving to make it safer to cross into the park. Lighting + extended kerb/smaller radius on Moore St corner to reduce the crossing width.



Sullivans Creek bike path

Connect the bike track coming out of ANU with the recently improved Turner Parkland bike track. Will reduce dangerous pedestrian, car and bike congestion around McCaugher/Masson Street roundabout.

Henty Street/Mort Street

Path/drainage improvements - quite a few sections of this path pond water whenever it rains. The pram crossing where it terminates at Henty St is especially bad.



Henty Street/Ijong Street

The crossover at the end of the pedestrian path is often blocked by cars, which makes navigating it with a pram very difficult. It needs an official "Keep Clear" marking.



Torrens Street

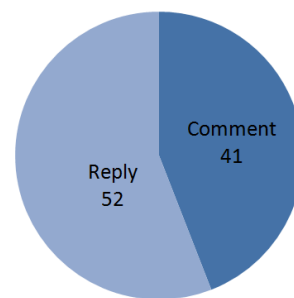
Zebra crossings. Zebra crossings here and at McCaughey St (plus an East-West path) would totally open up the potential of the park for exercise, walking, commuting, and events.

Girrahween intersection

The pathway across the park here needs to connect with the pathway on the opposite side of Girrahween St that comes out between numbers 40 and 42. This route is used by Ainslie School students.

Theme:

Trees



There were 95 comments about the trees in Haig Park. Comments ranged from the value and importance of maintaining the trees to suggestions about removing sections of trees to allow for more natural light and activation.

The current tree planting means the park is dark, scary and underused. Keep an element of the existing planting at the Limestone Avenue but make the rest of the park usable with more natives.

Leaving the green area untouched (from developments) is the main thing. If you destroy one of the few green areas in the Civic area that can be used for multiple recreation groups then it's a loss.

Remove most of the interior trees and replace with playing fields, exercise areas, built wetlands, children's play areas

Try to find a grass that can grow under the trees. At the moment the trees restrict the sunlight coming through, so what grass does grow is sparse and uninviting. More green grass would make it better.

Would be really nice to have some pockets of open areas or 'rooms' to break up the barrier of the grid of trees. You should feel hemmed-in in the city but be able to go to the park to enjoy open space

Keep as many trees as possible, they are great for a children's Orienteering course. Ask orienteering ACT how- low cost, low maintenance, all maps and courses accessible on-line.

Replace a number of the larger trees (the pines?) with lower shrubs to still provide protection from the winds but also more light. Incorporate a number of play areas, cycleways/running tracks etc

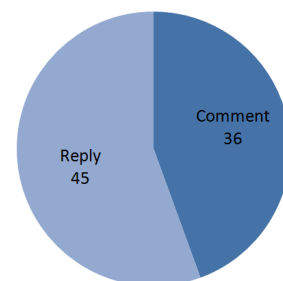
As the rows of trees of mixed species are heritage listed the significant species should be acknowledged when naming each apartment complex. Retain one healthy example from each species with signage.

The 15 to 25 year old radiata pines desperately need high pruning to 5 or 6 metres. The many dead branches are a public safety hazard. With pruning, the park would be more "open" and inviting.

Theme:

Amenities :

There were 81 comments that mentioned amenities including signage, water stations, toilet facilities and built structures such as stages/rotunda.



A central feature such as a rotunda that is open but undercover and elevated. Similar to Edinburgh Gardens in Melbourne. I saw countless weddings/bday parties/picnics when I lived in the area.

Haig Park should have navigational signage throughout which shows different features in the park and different places walkable and cycleable from the park

It would be a shame to put in more BBQs. It is nice to have a major park with limited structures etc. The city lacks peaceful places for people to rest their minds and souls.

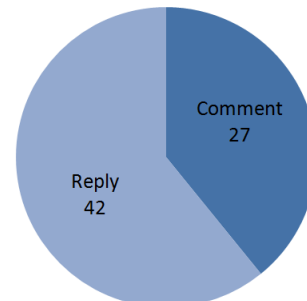
We need a water station, something designed especially for the park

Upgrade the toilet facilities to include a baby change table and a toddler toilet. There are no baby change tables in Lonsdale St so this would be handy for young families using the park or cafes.

Theme:

Other

There were 69 comments left on the digital map that didn't fall into any specific theme. These tended to be comments about the park name, government development of the park, or general comments about the process.



Rename the park. Haig is no person to be proud of as an Australian. A new name should either be an Indigenous word or honour an Australian.

The whole idea of this new master plan is to sell Haig Park. This consultation is a sham. There was a master plan. It became outmoded when the Government and its acolytes decided it was up for sale.

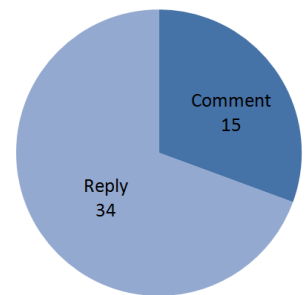
2 well known and easily verifiable UFO sites here and at the base of Mt Ainslie. They are registered on the Sagan-Assimov Inventory. Maybe they could be incorporated into the Centenary Trail?

Test out the master plan before implementing it via temporary installations/changes to gather feedback and see how it affects the rest of the park's use/feel.

Haig Park is prime for a development that includes high density housing and retention of some open space.

Theme: **Safety**

There were 49 comments on safety in the park, and suggestions on how to improve safety throughout the park and at particular locations.



Pine trees are too dense and reduce amenity and utility. Lack of infrastructure leaves the park under-utilised. Park aesthetics and attraction is very low due to current design & safety perceptions

We live in Froggatt St and like to walk through the park to the O'Connor Shops. However, the open drain means we can only cross over at the bridge. It looks and feels unsafe especially for children.

Women don't feel safe walking through here once it's dark (which is from 6pm during winter). More lighting and removal of many of the trees between Forbes and Macleay St paths would help.



Condamine Street

Lots of cars park here every weekday restricting access into Haig Park for cyclists and pedestrians - dangerous. Make the signs clearer. It seems to be a no stopping zone.

Masson Street/Hackett Gardens intersection

Traffic is also awful along Masson St at 8.30 am as people rat-run from Barry Drive. A crossing would be very good.



Masson/Macleay Street

Pedestrian crossing over Masson Street needed here - with bump and 20km/hr speed!



Girrahween Street

The speed limit on Girrahween St should be lowered to 50. This will make it safer for families to cross the road to and from the park.

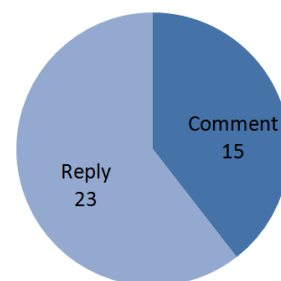
Girrahween/Lonsdale Street intersection

This area is hazardous to pedestrians, people with prams, mobility frames, bikes and wheelchairs. the ramp only provides a very small area to enter and exit. The angles of the ramp are dangerous.



Theme:

Play Equipment :



There were 38 comments about playgrounds and play equipment. Comments suggested incorporating play equipment into existing open spaces and in between trees, as well as looking at examples of nature play which integrate with the park environment. There were also suggestions for active play spaces such as mini BMX tracks, climbing sculptures and climbing trees.

A kids' playground, with shade, seating for parents, and a recycled rubber under the equipment. Locate just off the path near Lonsdale Street. Parents can grab a coffee and watch their kids play!

Get rid of the depot and put a playground, some exercise equipment or a dog park. Use the open space if you can't remove trees from the other areas.

There are multiple kids' playgrounds right nearby - McCaughy St, Henty St, Corroboree Park. Same goes for sports fields. 'wetlanding' Sullivans Ck would be nice but keep the trees!

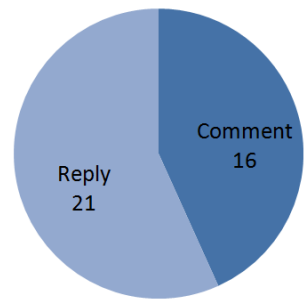
Perhaps we could consider a couple of fantastic climbing trees!

Make the park a destination for families. We love Lonsdale St food/coffee, but cafes aren't all kid-friendly. Unique playground, sculptures to climb, nice grass & picnic tables (eg. Commonwealth Park)

A children's adventure playground.

Theme:

Lighting



There were 27 comments that mentioned lighting in the park. Most of these were in reference to comments on other areas of improvement such as changing trees, improving pathways and safety. Creative tree lighting was also mentioned as a way to bring people to the area. It was also noted that lighting should be sensitive to the existing wildlife.

The path through here needs to be maintained and safer in low light. It should connect to other footpaths when walking into the city. A pedestrian crossing on Masson St would help.

Incorporating into Enlighten is a great idea, using temporary light structures and displays. Permanent lighting on the main walkways should be focussed on the ground to minimise impact on wildlife

Permanent tree lights like those in the city to make the park safer at night. Not restricted to this area. Can potentially be included in Enlighten.

Do not develop this great green space. It has immense value to the community *because* it is undeveloped. More lighting is an easy fix for those afraid of the dark.

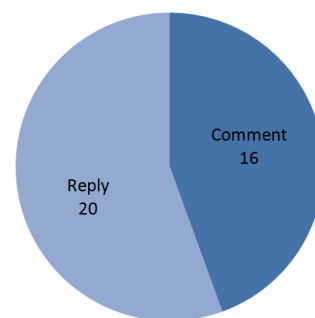
I used to walk through Haig Park every morning and evening when I worked in Braddon. Not scary at all. I think it only needs better lighting at night.

Safety is very important and I would like the lighting to be suitable for safe walking in the park but also sensitive to all the wild life that lives in the park. It is not only for human use.

Theme:

Open Space

There were 36 comments that mentioned creating open space in the park, either as valuing the existing open space or creating more open, irrigated grassed areas.



Remove the depot and reutilise the space to make entering the park more inviting.

I'd like to see more open spaces for cricket games, football, kite flying etc both sides of Northbourne. Deciduous trees in groves would be a great improvement, as would popup coffee shops.

Create large open spaces that invite people to sit and spend time in them. People would love to use this space for picnics or to kick a ball around.

Would be really nice to have some pockets of open areas or 'rooms' to break up the barrier of the grid of trees. You should feel hemmed-in in the city but be able to go to the park to enjoy open space

Well-kept lawn would be great in an open space here - as it stands, Haig Park is too uncomfortable to

Let's not forget the park was designed as a wind break, not public space. A diversity of spatial types or 'rooms' within the park (more or less open) would go a long way to breaking that barrier.

I like the open spaces of Haig Park. I walk regularly in the park and do not want to see it cluttered, especially with any kind of commercial venues.

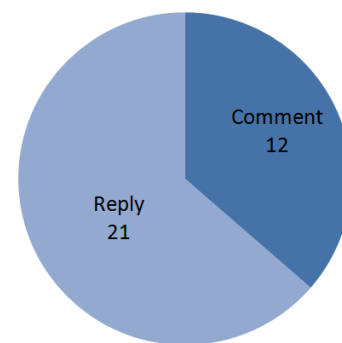
Keep the park as a park. Once lost, you will never get back open space like this.

Similar to Roma St Gardens, a series of water features/fountains with fish and landscaped.

Theme:

Parking

There were 33 comments about parking in and around Haig Park. Suggestions ranged from extending the car parking within Haig Park, removing the existing parking and considering how changing the park would impact on the parking needs of the community.



Needs way more parking, it is already very frustrating trying to find a car park in the area. Must not be paid parking after 6pm if businesses and customers are to benefit.

The owners and developers of Lonsdale and Mort Street properties have had ample opportunity to provide onsite parking for their patrons had they wanted. Inappropriate they now ask the public to provide.

Opposite of a big idea sorry. Braddon needs more parking, both short-term and long-term, but please don't use the park. And no I don't have any good ideas for where it should be :-{

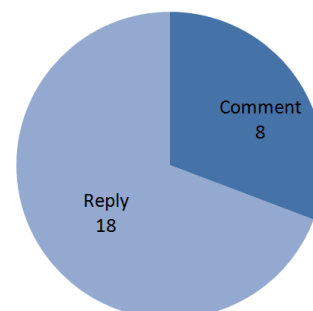
Remove the parking so the area can be used for something else interesting and fun. Braddon is accessible by transit, walking and cycling, it doesn't need lots of parking!

Extend out some of the parking areas to accompany the growth of the Braddon precinct.

Theme:

Bridges

There were 26 comments that mentioned bridges over Sullivans Creek and Northbourne Avenue.



A nice pedestrian bridge over Northbourne Ave. This would join the park together, making it a larger space for recreational users. It would also serve as a 'gateway' to Canberra's city centre.

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

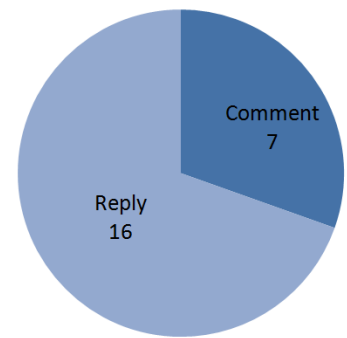
It would be great to return the drains to their natural form - an open/sandy based creek, which is a more natural feel. Please also add more bridges.

Another wetland as in Lyneham might be nice, or at least some decent footbridges to cross the drain. Must say I rather like poplars!

Theme:

Dog Parks

There were 12 comments that mentioned dog parks and off-leash dog walking areas.



A small dog park here would be great. There are lots of people in the area with dogs that would love an off-leash area for them to run. No trees would need to be removed.

Haig Park is already an off-leash dog area. Let's retain some large section for dogs and owners to get their exercise.

Enclosed small dog park for people living in the surrounding apartments.

A small off-leash dog park AND doggy bins.

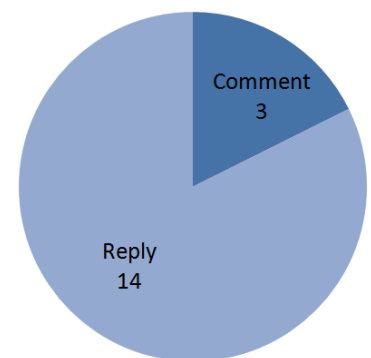
This part of the park is popular with dog walkers. It would be good to have a Yarralumla-style dog park (although not as big) here.

I am a regular user of Haig Park as an off-lead dog walking area, usually the section between Torrens St and Limestone Ave. I hope that this will still be possible under the new plan.

Theme:

Wetlands

There were 17 comments that mentioned wetlands or naturalisation of the Sullivans Creek corridor.



Rejuvenation of the creek corridor into a more natural setting and civic or even tourist destination rather than a concrete drain would be great, not to mention would help the health of our waterways.

Wetlands to encourage greater biodiversity; strong influence of local aboriginal cultures in design and layout of NATIVE trees and bush as well as urban farm - with learning and contemplation spaces

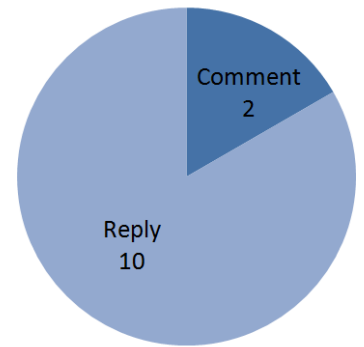
It would be great to return the drains to their natural form - an open/sandy based creek, which is a more natural feel. Please also add more bridges.

A 'Highline' like in New York, with lots of native plantings and wetlands.

Theme:

Wildlife

There were 12 comments that mentioned wildlife, particularly as an area of value to community.



I like the owl that is here, keep him here!

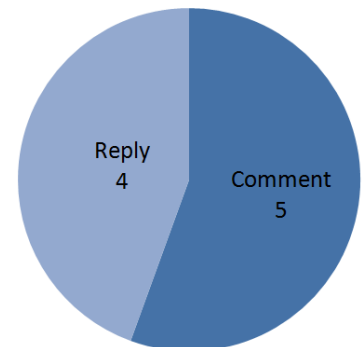
Safety is very important and I would like the lighting to be suitable for safe walking in the park but also sensitive to all the wild life that lives in the park. It is not only for human use.

Please consider how to maintain the Powerful Owl's habitat

Theme:

Indigenous

There were 5 comments about how indigenous culture could be incorporated into Haig Park.



Wetlands to encourage greater biodiversity; strong influence of local aboriginal cultures in design and layout of NATIVE trees and bush as well as urban farm - with learning and contemplation spaces

Canberra has been a 'meeting place' for 25000 years. It would be great to have Ngunnawal & other indigenous groups create a landscape/art interpretation - eg pieces by Jonathan Jones, Judy Watson.

Indigenous food and learning garden / space - let's celebrate our Ngunnawal history!

Use

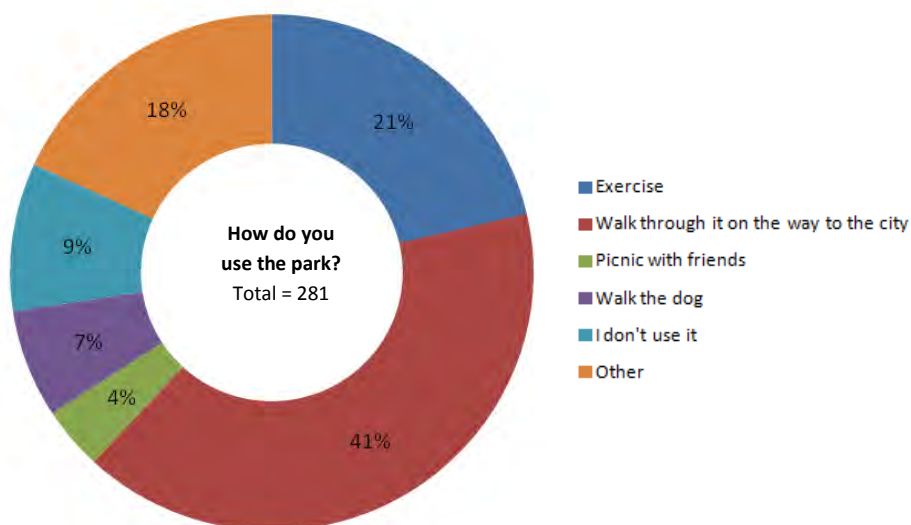
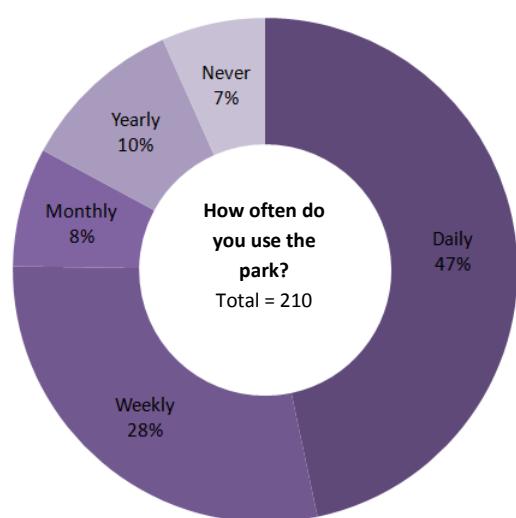
After leaving a comment, participants were invited to answer three questions about the park:

How often do you use the park?

How do you use the park?

Haig Park is heritage-listed for its rows of mixed tree species. What do you see as the heritage value of the park?

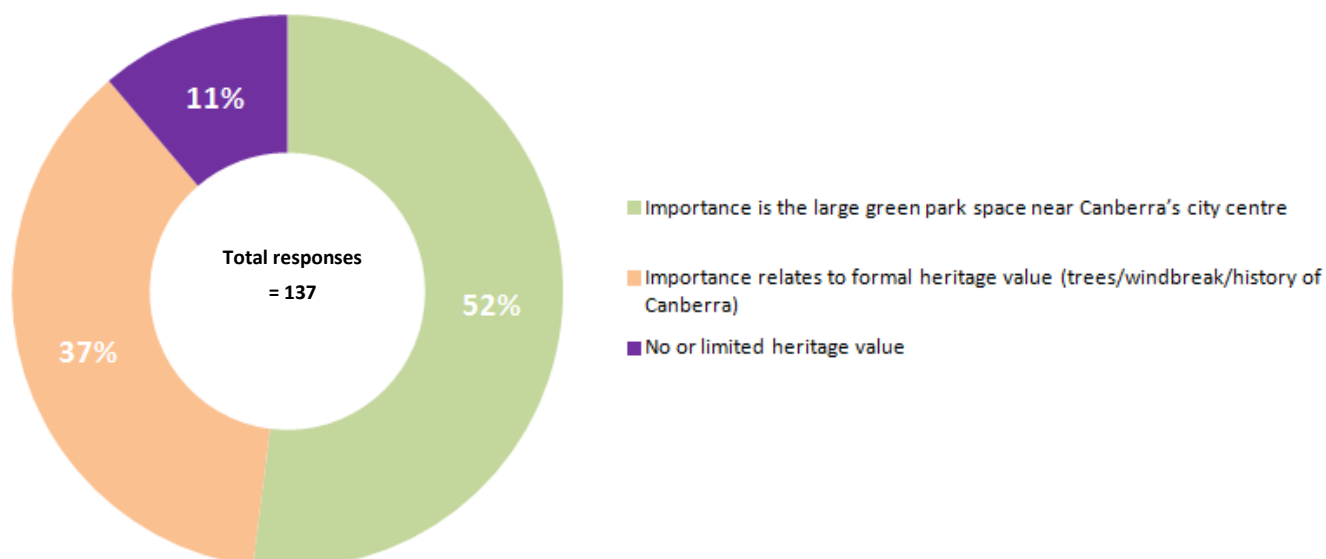
How would you describe Haig Park in one word?



Heritage Value

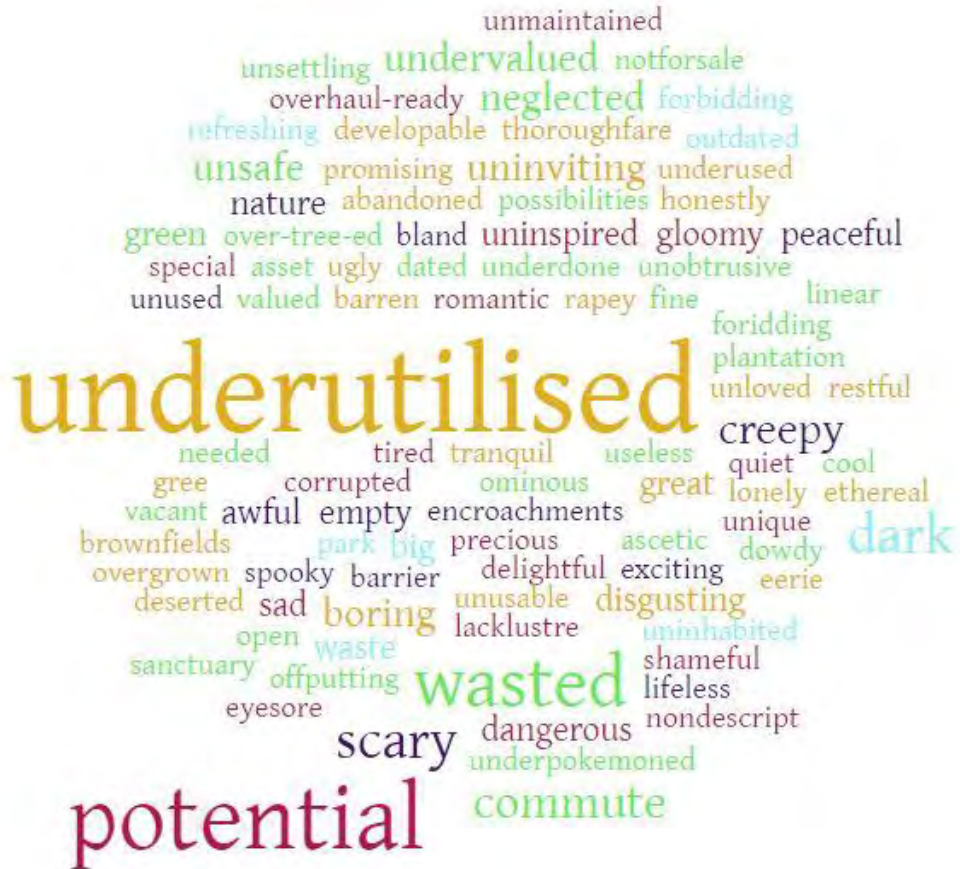
137 people gave a response on the heritage value of the park. Almost half of all responses mentioned the value of having a large green space in Canberra and close to the city centre. 20 per cent of people mentioned the park needs to be improved to make it a more usable, functionable space. Some comments also mentioned the importance of considering function over heritage value.

Note: some comments mentioned more than one topic, which has been captured in the graph below.



Describing the park

After submitting online feedback for the park, participants were asked to describe the park in one word. 176 people left a response to this question, below is a word cloud that represents what was said. The size of the words reflects the number of times that word was mentioned.



Email & written submissions

39 email, written and phone submissions were received from 30 January 2017 – 12 April 2017. Comments were separated into 16 themes, noting that some comments crossed multiple themes. Activities was again the most common theme followed by pathways. All submissions can be read in full in Appendix A.

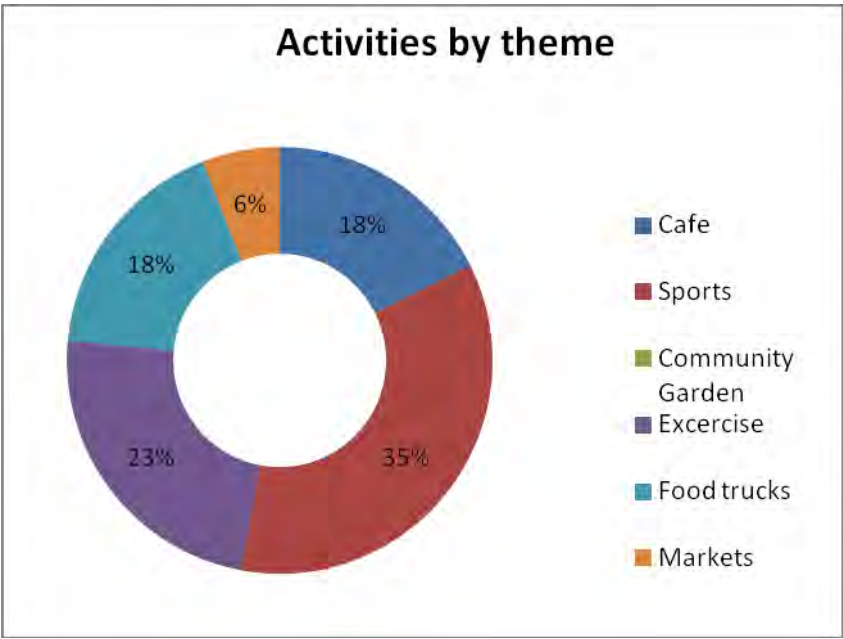
Written submissions by theme

The following section summarises comments on the dominant themes. Comments for each theme could be positive or negative (i.e. suggesting changes related to that theme, or stating support for or value of the current conditions of Haig Park).

Theme:

Activities

Activities were broken down into six subcategories. These are identified in the chart and descriptive quotes below.



"Pop-up cafe / coffee van designated spot to be considered - this would encourage the community use of the walking park, give it a focus and make it a destination."

"Of the expressed ideas, a permanent coffee shop would not be a good idea. A permanent structure would have the impacts expressed above, and there are plenty of them in the Braddon and O'Connor shopping precincts."

"Bike Polo: a space with a hard, not too rough surface that is enclosed all around with a fence."

"Concrete ping pong tables, a few of these scattered around the park would entice a lot of users into the area. They are relatively inexpensive and can be fairly vandal-proof as well..."

"We need a space where we can do mindful activities such as yoga and tai chi particularly before and after work."

Theme: :

Pathways

"Wide jogging path."

"I think the most logical place for the alignment of an east-west route is close to the southern boundary of the park."

"Link to Sullivans Creek, east-west Ainslie to O'Connor, second bridge over Sullivans Creek near the water tanks at Turner Bowling Club."

"Current linkages between schools don't link to schools, I.e Girrawheen Street to Ainslie Public school. The paths don't align with routes."

"East-west linkages for pedestrians and cyclists, that are well lit with clear lines of sight. This could link in with the bus stop on Torrens Street (with potential for a pedestrian crossing), linking in with upgrades of Northbourne Paving at intersection of Girrawheen / Masson Streets. Could include a generous formal path adjacent to the edge road, and a more natural central path, including water crossings at the Turner end."

Theme:

Trees

"A more diverse range of tree species is highly desirable."

"The planting of trees should be as close to the original concept of the park as possible. (We do not know whether Burley Griffin recommended particular species of trees for the park.). There needs to be a regular replacement of trees as the old ones die or become unsafe."

"The ground is covered in pine needles so it's not comfortable to just sit on the ground as it is prickly."

"There are trees in the park that need to be removed as they are dangerous in storms."

"Remove a number of trees to create some open spaces for kicking a soccer ball or picnics or quiet reading/relaxation, or for theatre e.g. Shakespeare in the Park."

"Utilise the layout of trees to advantage - make the park Canberra's premier walking park - accessible for all. More paths - many, many more required - up the park's entire length – criss- crossing - could have circuits with measured distances."

"I would like to see Haig Park opened up to the light – the days of large pine trees in public parks are over – why not keep the best of the big trees as features but remove the rest and replace with deciduous and flowering trees to create a more usable space."

"Haig Park is fine as is. Hands off the trees!"

"The ACT has an 'urban forest' policy. Haig Park is as much an 'urban forest' as you can get in an area of increased urban density."

"Add more intensive plantings (e.g. around the trees). Add name plates for trees."

Theme: :

Amenities

"There should be information panels in front of the trees to explain which tree is which and where it came from. And some more info about the bird life."

"Change table in public toilets."

"Rubbish bins."

"Water stations to be installed to invite water walkers & their canine companions to stay hydrated (its friendly and environmentally sound)."

"Proper dog facilities such as simple things like doggy bags and bins."

"Rotunda, a small concert stage for music on weekends, encourage live performances and musical soirees thereby making it an outdoor musical centrepiece within Canberra – sort of a more intimate and personal experience than the larger venue of Stage 88."

"Place a 'speakers corner' in a location in the park that is not close to residences, say corner Limestone Ave and Henty Street. It would need a small platform that could be used by speakers to proclaim ideas."

"An activity space for teens , Shakespeare in the Park, a hall/function room."

Theme:

BBQ/Seating

"Seating / resting spots should be incorporated along the paths [interesting local design could be fun, like the 3 Capes Walk in Tassie] - these could also include picnic tables /BBQ areas / shelter for locals to gather for a chat."

Theme:

Safety

"Apart from peak pedestrian commuting times in the morning and evening, it is rare to see another person in the Turner side of the park."

Theme:

Play equipment

"There would be great benefit in building a good-sized playground in the Braddon end of Haig Park."

Theme: :

Parking

"Remove all day parking, park and ride wouldn't be appropriate."

Theme:

Lighting

"More lighting required to ensure a feeling of security and safety - at least for the major thoroughfares."

Theme:

Bridge

"A wide overhead walkway bridge across Northbourne Avenue to link both sides of the park."

"More crossings required to traverse the open drains - these cut the park into small sections which inhibit long walks, (the drains are also ugly but I suppose they have to stay)."

Theme:

Open Space

"It is important that no new intrusions are constructed within the park, thus reducing the area of the park, integrity of the park."

"A clearing would allow people to throw a frisbee or kick a ball, it could include integration with a wider fitness trail, BBQ areas or passive seating areas for people to read or meet and talk."

"Creating small clearings to provide activity nodes (perhaps initially just one as a pilot), particularly near the end of Lonsdale Street (the Turner end already has open spaces along Sullivans Creek, and is not going through the same level of urban intensification as Braddon)."

Theme:

Dog Park

"I also like the idea of an enclosed dog off-leash area."

Theme:

Indigenous

"Plantings (indigenous species), a billabong with carvings/artworks depicting the story, or an Aboriginal dreaming story."

Theme:

Wetlands

"Enhancing the drainage system, naturalising drains, particularly along and adjacent to Sullivans Creek, for example could there be provision for a wetlands and associated native vegetation in the area behind the Turner Bowling Club, with recreation areas nearby e.g. irrigated grass (from the ponds) for family picnics and passive seating areas."

Theme:

Wildlife

"Potential to look at opportunities for a biodiversity linkage between Mount Ainslie / Corroboree Park through to Black Mountain. Some native trees and shrubs providing cover and a connection for small birds and other animals - perhaps in clumps in locations along the length of the park (noting any possible security and fire hazard issues) – or key interventions such as the Sullivans Creek Corridor."

Other comments

"Art gallery, sculptures, fountains, underground car park, maintenance and name changes."

Drop-in sessions

Thursday 16 February, 5-7pm

Lonsdale Street intersection with Haig Park

- Approximately 50 people attended the drop-in session. Most were passing through the park.
- Most people we spoke to lived in the local area surrounding the park.
- Comments have been grouped in the same themes as above

Feedback and Ideas

Pathways	Amenities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to formalise diagonal pathways, based on how people already cut through the park • Designated walk and cycle paths • People want to walk through the whole park rather than just walk in one particular area • Encourage movement through the park • See Adelaide bike tracks next to light rail as an example for Northbourne Avenue • Need bike path and space to cross Torrens St which is safe • Path through middle to connect with light rail • Proper bike path 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More seating • Different grass • More amenities to bring in more people • Planned rather than scattered seats • Bins • Water tanks to irrigate grass • Dog poo bag dispenser
Activity Spaces	Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated dense 'tree' areas, as well as open space areas • Knock down the depot • Scooter track for little kids and bike tracks for older kids • Where there are gaps in trees put play equipment • Locate adult exercise equipment and kid equipment near each other • Open areas for sports and spot for eating. • Greenery of the park is great, it's a beautiful space • Cricket pitch, socialising area • Wifi spot • Clear area for group exercise which could be booked • Skate park for kids • Mini half-size ovals • Exercise use - equipment or space with irrigated grass or paved surface • Greener softer grass • Access to spaces with park • Kids' playground • Create a reason to use the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighter lights • Security cameras, even if they are fake • Patrols by police • Safety is important
Trees	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs explaining the reason for the tree heritage • Retain the trees • Remove trees in middle • Replace with deciduous trees • Different plants, with some colour • Not many birds or animals or understory activity (wetlands options?) • More native trees • Signs on trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put an underground carpark underneath the park in the Braddon area or underneath depot

Wednesday 8 March, 9 - 10pm

Drop-in consultation at Fenner Hall

Members of the project team hosted a drop-in session at Fenner Hall during its regular 'tea night' from 9-10pm. Approximately 25 students provided feedback or ideas for the park.

No students that we spoke to used the park for recreation; it was used solely as a thoroughfare to and from the city. Students focused their feedback on the Braddon section of the park.

Female students raised lighting and safety as a concern. They avoided use of the park at night and walked up Northbourne Avenue instead.

Other ideas included:

- Exercise equipment e.g. monkey bars, dip bars, exercise circuit (raised by almost every student)
- Heritage walk to showcase the heritage of the park and Canberra
- Formalising pathways, especially the diagonal ones through the Braddon area
- Play equipment
- Native trees
- Space for Frisbee or Frisbee golf
- Covered spaces eg. gazebo
- BBQs
- Clear/ opened spaces
- More bins
- Irrigated lawn
- Better lighting
- More park benches and tables

You Are Here Electric Avenues Event

The community engagement team held a drop-in session at the event, where attendees could speak to staff about the Haig Park masterplan process and provide feedback on the draft vision.

-
- A word cloud of adjectives describing a dark, creepy, and boring environment. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'Dark' and 'Boring' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'Creepy', 'Unwelcoming', 'Scary', 'Bleak', 'Unusable', 'Straight-lined', 'Underutilised', 'Dense', 'Dero', 'Just-for-passing-through', 'Scary-after-dark', 'Constructed', 'Atrocious', 'Uniform', and 'Rapey'. The colors of the words range from dark brown to light beige.

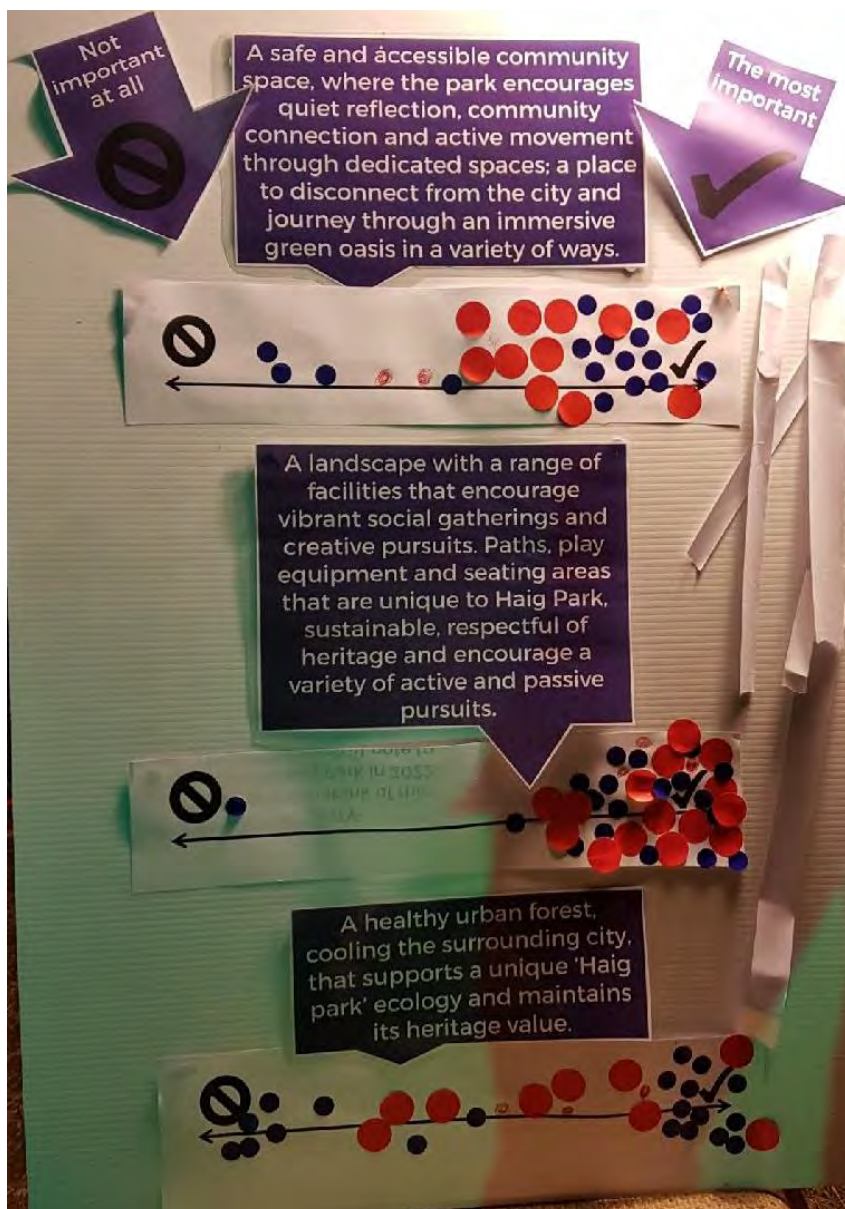
- [illegible]

3. Rate Haig Park 'important to consider' statements from 'not important at all' to 'most important' (stickers and statements on corflute)

Participants were invited to rank the importance of the following ideas:

1. A safe and accessible community space, where the park encourages quiet reflection, community connection and active movement through dedicated spaces: a place to disconnect from the city and journey through an immersive green oasis in a variety of ways.
2. A landscape with a range of facilities that encourage vibrant social gatherings and creative pursuits. Paths, play equipment and seating areas that are unique to Haig Park, sustainable, respectful of heritage and encourage a variety of active and passive pursuits.
3. A healthy urban forest, cooling the surrounding city that supports a unique 'Haig Park' ecology and maintains its heritage value.

Most people thought statement two was the most important statement. Statement three had a mixed response, ranging from not important at all to the most important. Statement two also had mixed responses, ranging from moderately unimportant to most important.



4. Vision - tell us what's good and what's missing from this vision

Haig Park is a vibrant and inclusive urban park that provides a series of spaces for passive and active enjoyment, and opportunities to connect to the heritage of the park. Used by the whole community, it is a place for social and cultural exchange.

- In the future – a beautiful cool area that welcomes, zoned areas to allow activity, safely!
- Rapey, scary, dark, barrier
- I really like running through the avenue of trees
- Give us swings and light
- Open up sections in park, but leave dense around Northbourne
- I think some heavily wooded areas need to remain, but not through the park
- A place for beers in the sun
- Give us a food van park like hamlet
- Haig Park should be more likely Edinburgh Gardens in Melbourne

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

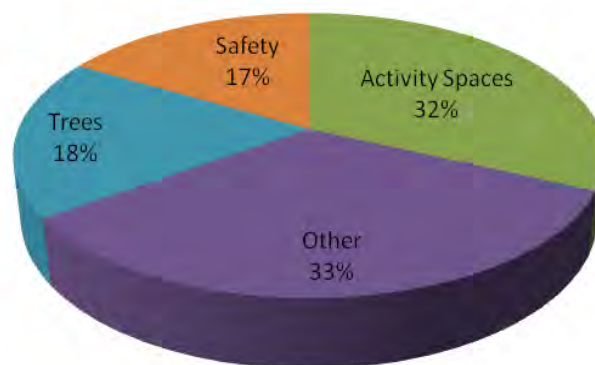
- More native trees and grass
- Playground, a fountain in the middle of a forest
- Keep the trees, more trees from all Australia
- I would like children's playgrounds
- Should take cues from Edinburgh gardens in Victoria
- Get rid of the pine trees please
- Bring multicultural festival here
- Power outlet spots
- Lighting up into the trees
- Great future for social gatherings, building friendships, lovely!
- Lights at night to brighten up place
- Lonsdale St end is fun
- The heritage is unimportant. The open space stays, why do the trees have to
- Scary since 1985

Facebook feedback

The project team promoted the opportunity to contribute to discussion and influence the Haig Park Masterplan online through social media site Facebook. The Chief Minister's official Facebook page (3 February 2017) and the official ACT Government account (5 February 2017 and sponsored post) were used to prompt discussion.

Comments contributed on each Facebook post were recorded and summarised collectively into categories, which reflect those on the YourSay page. The overall feedback was that the community wants positive change for the park, so it can become a mixed-use area for all to enjoy safely. This change would not involve drastic alteration to the trees or wildlife. All facebook comments can be read in full in Appendix C.

Most Popular Topics Raised



Trees

- Planting of trees can be uninviting and doesn't allow for activity
- Some specific types of trees an issue
- Keep the natural feel of the park

Safety

- The park must be safe for people to use
- Changes such as lighting, removal or repositioning of trees
- Negative descriptive names of the park

'Other'

- No development, such as apartments
- Underutilised
- Small changes that will benefit a range of community needs

Activity Spaces

- Positive ideas around mixed-use spaces
- Exercise and play equipment

Workshop

A community workshop was held on 15 March 2017, 6.30-8.30pm and attended by 89 people. The Workshop Summary Report contains the outcomes of this event and is available at www.yoursay.act.gov.au/haigpark under 'Key Documents'.

Appendix A

Email and written submissions

Full versions of all written submissions received between 30 January 2017 – 12 April 2017 are recorded below.

To increase the aesthetic value of Haig Park and increase use of the park, I suggest the following changes:

1. A more diverse range of tree species is highly desirable. Species could be based on the successful street tree plantings throughout Canberra. A representation of the diverse range of native and introduced species used in street trees in Canberra would increase interest and amenity, and provide an opportunity to link the park to our experience of living in Canberra. The trees could be mapped/labelled with the corresponding Canberra streets as the foundation for an interpretive story about where the species is naturally from and the social history of streets in Canberra. Particular mention of the importance of the Limestone Avenue route as a pathway for Aboriginal people and early settlers in the region can also be part of the story at the western end of the park.
2. A growers market, perhaps adjacent to Limestone Avenue, could be established. The feel and concept of the Tuesday afternoon growers market at Moruya could be the model for this market. A successful part of the design of the space at Moruya is planting an appropriate deciduous tree species that provides spreading shade in summer and sunlight in winter. Other than planting and pathways, minimum infrastructure is required. It could be open in the afternoon from 4pm to 6pm on one or two weekdays. This timing would minimise conflict with existing weekend markets and would take advantage of the space, including parking, around the nearby Merici College. It would draw on the high volume of afternoon traffic going to North Canberra on Limestone Ave as well as service the immediate suburbs with seasonal food. It would complement Braddon as a place for interesting food and produce.
3. A wide overhead walkway bridge across Northbourne Avenue to link both sides of the park. A distinctive design would make it a defining feature when entering/leaving the city area. The walkway(s) between Sydney City and Darling Harbour could be the general concept in terms of width and access. This would provide a unique vista of the newly developed light rail system through to City Hill to the south. The base of the walkway on either side would provide an opportunity for a cafe or two, and the following suggested art-space development.
4. On one side of the walkway bridge there would be an opportunity to establish a new contemporary art gallery, with MONA Hobart or PICA Perth in mind. The eastern side of Northbourne Ave (between Greenway St and Masson St) would be an interesting location for a modest size development perhaps with an 'underground' feel nestled at the foot of the walkway. It would be well serviced by the light rail system.
5. At the Turner/east end (east of McCaughey St) facilitate the outdoor gaming part role of the park. This is a relatively low traffic area on weekends and is already used by some low impact gaming groups. This could be probably be enhanced with consultation and installation of minor facilities.

These ideas are based on the belief that the park in its current form is not particularly relevant to contemporary Canberra. The original need for the park to act as a windbreak for the city is no longer valid and, in any case, can be achieved with a more diverse range of species. Otherwise, being within the pines feels cold, windy and shady in winter, and dry and unwelcoming in summer. The overwhelming smell and cold sound of the wind in the pines are also unwelcoming and add to the un-Australian/Canberran and monocultural feel of the park. The park could now reflect a more diverse and contemporary vision.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input.

this is the link of the organisation I am planning to have discussions with next week in Los Angeles.

<http://shanesinspiration.org/>

I live very nearby as a local resident.

1. I would like to have a wide path right around the park so I can go for a safe and enjoyable jog/walk similar to around the lake, the tan in central Melbourne and many other successful pathways. We most often make paths too narrowly so suggest you double the width of the paths.

The shared space should not be for lycra clad fast bikes but more for the rest of the community – parents with toddlers, people, strolling or gently jogging i.e. a communal space.

2. The landscape needs to be varied to allow for a much more diverse landscape and where smaller plants can grow beneath. Keep some of the heritage but start planting some Indigenous species that will adapt to a warming environment with climate change. A water feature such as in Central Park NY can make a major difference.

3. We need a space where we can do mindful activities such as yoga and tai chi particularly before and after work. A place to quietly unwind.

Lonsdale and Mort Sts are wall to wall of cafes and restaurants so not convinced we need more in the park except maybe low impacts popup for coffee/snacks.

4. Lighting is critical for safety but done in a not intrusive way. There are many examples of the around the world that do this well so please look at leading practice here.

5. Linking the walk in the park to the Sullivans creek network would be a wonderful extension to the whole system.

I've just had a bit of a look at the 'plan'. I couldn't understand how to work it (the site with the map) but anyhow there didn't seem to be anywhere I could write what I wanted to say - so here it is:

I would really like a safe cycle route from Ainslie to O'Connor or the University - going through Haig Park would be a good way to do it - the main new thing required, which might be difficult, is a good crossing for Northbourne. At present I sometimes drive to O'Connor because I don't feel safe riding my bike across the Braddon - Northbourne area - a bike path through Haig Park would be wonderful.

At present I use the park primarily as a pleasant walking route between Braddon/Turner and Ainslie. I don't feel unsafe there, though don't walk through there at night. However even if it were lit at night I probably still wouldn't walk through there - I sometimes feel safer in unlit areas since I can see around me quite well in the dark and I'm not all lit up for someone who may wish to annoy me in some way. Once one is in a lit area it is impossible to see beyond the pool of light - anyone could be lurking beyond the light pool. Lighting a park to the point where the whole thing is brightly lit would not make it appealing to me either.

We're a small club of bike polo players who are interested in any project that might be looking to upgrade the ACT's outdoor sports facilities. You see, we have a very simple need for our sport - a space with a hard, not too rough surface that is enclosed all around with a fence. Ideally it would be 40m x 20m but the dimensions of single outdoor basketball courts are good too. Basically, we don't need a purpose-built facility as our needs can be accommodated in a mixed use outdoor facility if designed correctly.

We have seen the page on the Haig Park masterplanning process and we wanted to offer an idea based on facilities built in Melbourne and Perth.

Neill Street Reserve is a redeveloped park in inner city Melbourne where they have built an outdoor basketball court that also accommodates bike polo and skateboarders. You can see it here:

<http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Placestogo/ParksandGardens/AllParksandGardens/Pages/10294.aspx>

The Bayswater Bowling Club in Perth converted one of their bowling greens into a concrete surface suitable for roller hockey and bike polo (a photo of the roller hockey can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBBRC/photos/a.788098004596722.1073741829.788038194602703/1291217114284806/?type=3&theater> and a photo of bike polo is below).



We think that Haig Park - particularly over in Turner near the existing bowls club, or anywhere in the park really - would be suitable for a similar facility. Built well, it could accommodate a number of sports. Bike Polo (which I represent) would play there at least twice a week if not more often depending on our ability to recruit more players. Certainly our ability to recruit players will be helped by having access to a suitable playing surface. We also have at least one tournament a year which attracts players from around the country and around the world (last year's tournament had players from Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle, France, Canada and Poland). We would be willing to do even more with access to a quality facility.

Why can't we just make a submission about Haig Park?

It looks like the website is about anything other than community consultation.

As in - even the DV348 abomination lets you make a submission.

We are unable to attend the consultations for the Haig Park rejuvenation, but we live in the area and would like to provide comments.

Haig Park is large and typically unused, while also being in an area with high density housing and lots of young people and children living in the area.

There is currently almost no amenities in the park to attract people or to engage people in community activities in the park. There is also few decent sized play grounds in the Braddon area – an area of medium to high density housing (rendering good outdoor play facilities even more important than areas dominated by houses with their own backyard play spaces). There would be great benefit in building a good sized playground in the Braddon end of Haig Park. Also, there would be benefit in a cycle path joining O'Connor and Ainslie, and sporting facilities in the park.

1. Haig Park is of considerable historical and cultural importance in Canberra, and should be maintained as close as possible to Burley Griffin's concept of the park. It should not be manicured, as in a formal garden.
2. Over the years, there have been various 'intrusions' into the park (such as Turner preschool, Turner tennis courts, the Scout Hut, and various car parks). It is important that no new intrusions are constructed within the park, thus reducing the area of the park.
3. The planting of trees should be as close to the original concept of the park as possible. (We do not know whether Burley Griffin recommended particular species of trees for the Park.). There needs to be a regular replacement of trees as the old ones die or become unsafe.
4. The upgrade of cycle paths is welcome, as is improved lighting along the cycle paths (hopefully the design of the lamp posts will be sympathetic to the environment).
5. The large areas of grass are one of the major features of the Park. These should be maintained; such grasslands should be mowed on a regular basis during the summer months.
6. The park must be 'dog-friendly' (i.e. dogs can be walked off-lead in the park at all times). We recommend that there are rubbish-bins for placing dog-poo (in plastic bags) at selected locations in the park. All the dog-owners we know are meticulous in removing dog-poo, hence keeping the park clean for other users.
7. We appreciate the necessity for pruning trees in the interest of safety and visibility. We assume this means lower branches. However, the comment on page 1 of "Our Canberra" Haig Park Safety Improvements" makes the comment about tree canopies (your wording) being trimmed. We assume this is in error because the canopy is the top of the tree; this part of the tree needs to grow naturally and should not be trimmed in any way.
8. The small drainage line at the eastern end of the Braddon section (which enters into Sullivan's Creek upstream from the Masson Street bridge) was cleared and remodelled a few years ago. However, the water quickly becomes stagnant and smelly when there is no rain. Regular clearance of the drain is advisable. Preferably the grassy sides of the drain should be maintained as a natural habitat for insects and other small creatures.
9. Useful additions include some more park benches in suitable areas, and a small walking bridge (for walkers and dogs) across Sullivan's Creek just to the south /south-east of the two large water tanks at the Turner Bowling Club. This would eliminate the necessity to go onto the Masson Street bridge over Sullivan's creek.

If you wish to discuss these comments with us, please contact us by email or on our home telephone number (see automatic signature below). We regard Haig Park as a great social amenity for those of us who live in this part of Canberra.

I have lived on Henty street in one of the houses for over 12 years. Haig park hasn't been a comfortable park to visit as it had a few bench seats which were not maintained and last time I went there to sit which was over a year ago hundreds of beer bottle tops were all around the bench seats which had been there for so long they had worked their way into the soil, and there were 2 cotton buds with dots of blood on them used after people had taken drugs and orange syringe lids. The ground is covered in pine needles so it's not comfortable to just sit on the ground as it is prickly. I see people sitting in there occasionally. It seemed to me like a wasted opportunity for a nice public area.

A lot more bench seats, and BBQs would make it inviting. Sculptures, play equipment for kids and some fountains would make it inviting, because in the last 12 years I haven't went there much except for to walk through to go to Civic.

I used to live in Sydney and I really liked spending time in Hyde Park. It has nice soft grass to sit on and park benches and fountains. There's even sitting space on the side of the fountains.

Because of all the pine needles it's not comfortable to lie on the grass so more park benches and sitting places are needed. There should be information panels in front of the trees to explain which tree is which and where it came from. And some more info about the bird life, example " gang gang cockatoos like to eat the pine cones in these trees " or some such thing, like they have in the botanic gardens, they have games for the kids like " guess which animal or bird lives in this tree" the panels would have to be made more sturdy than the ones in the botanical gardens because unlike the botanic gardens the place doesn't get locked up at 5 pm so could be vandalised. There is a small info panel near the path but if there were info panels in front of the trees it would be great. That would create a lot more interest as people would walk around reading the panels and therefore enjoy going into the park, and learn something and the same time. Now when you walk through it's just a massive big row of trees and a few park benches, it's useful thing is that there is a path to use while walking to Civic. When i look up there there's nothing inviting about going in there. I see a row of trees, spikey uncomfortable ground and no park benches, (there is one further up but from the path I can't see it) So I read that the path is going to be upgraded. That's good but there needs to be things in the park to interest people otherwise it's still just going to be a track to walk from Henty street to Mort street.

But if there were BBQs, bench seats kids play equipment fountains sculptures plaques to read in front of the trees it would be a nice place to spend time

Please note the input below provided at the public meeting.

- Prune up the radiata pine 6-9m to remove safety hazard and improve amenity
- access recycled water from Purple pipe line (recycled sewerage) or water from Sullivan's Creek to irrigate geometric circles strategically located throughout the park by cutting cookie type circles out of trees and irrigating green turfed areas via central sprinklers. The aim is to activate nodes throughout the park.

Parking

Remove all day parking, park and ride wouldn't be appropriate.

Short term 2-3 hours

Current linkages between schools don't link to schools, i.e. Girraween street to Ainslie Public school. The paths don't align with routes.

Access should be away from busy roads and consider safe access by schools.

Public toilets in Lonsdale St need change tables.

Public developers need to include change tables in public and toilets

More seats and bins

Underground car park

I live in a townhouse at Moore Street Turner, which is about 30 metres from Masson Street and Haig Park. I have previously written to the Chief Minister and to Shane Rattenbury about issues relating to Haig Park and also about parking issues in Moore Street now that the population has nearly doubled with 5 new apartment blocks being built in Moore street between Gould and Masson Streets.

I have found Haig Park on both sides to be very unfriendly, scary at night. There are trees in the park that need to be removed as they are dangerous in storms, with a number of branches coming down and the park is a significant fire risk.

It is now a massively under-utilised resource for a modern city.

I understand that the initial focus of the Haig Park upgrade is the other side of Northbourne avenue but I hope that the whole park area will be considered along with the vacant government land opposite Watson Street and the sports park on Masson Street which has very little usage for athletics. The Masson street side the park also has a number of open drains some clogged with weeds and rubbish at the end of it past Watson Street.

Given the increased urban density and increase in population in the Turner/O'Connor, Lyneham, Braddon & Dickson areas, it is great that the government is planning for what Haig Park should provide to suit the changing community needs now and into the future. This will also be impacted by improved travel via the new light rail system and the wonderful new free civic bus service.

I am not sure of the real heritage significance of the park, other than it's been there for a long time. Are there any trees, plants or drainage configurations of significant heritage or ecological value?

Changes to Haig Park I would like to see, to provide accessible amenities for people include:

- A large children's playground - something like the "Boundless" one near Kings Avenue or
- An activity space for teens
- some outdoor gym equipment(like they have in Crace) and a walking path around or through the length of the park along Masson/Girrawheen streets.
- remove a number of trees to create some open spaces for kicking a soccer ball or picnics or quiet reading/relaxation or for theatre e.g. Shakespeare in the Park
- public toilets
- more barbecues and picnic tables
- a small concert stage for music on weekends
- art installations
- some flower/shrub gardens including overflow for Floriade.
- A Friends of Haig Park association could be considered to help with ongoing maintenance
- Further renovation of the Sullivan's creek drains etc along the lines undertaken in O'Connor/Lyneham and at the ANU, to provide water supply to park plantings and perhaps a natural pond for wild birds.

I know this will cost a lot of \$\$\$\$ but I believe that if Haig Park is turned into a really wonderful inner-city

park space, the people will use it and it will promote healthier and happier local community and individual lives.

PARKING

There remains the difficult issue of providing adequate visitor parking in the streets on both sides of the park and in the streets that run up to the park including where I live on Moore Street.

As mentioned above I have previously written to the act governments about serious parking problems in Moore street. In the last 2 years the resident population has doubled in the section between Gould and Masson streets due to completion of several new apartment blocks. Another townhouse complex will be completed shortly and there is one old ACT property left for further high density construction.

Currently Parking is 2 hourly Mon-Thurs from 8.30 to 5.30 then No parking on Fridays for Bin collections , all day parking is permitted on weekends . During the week this section of the street is filled with large gardening and tradesmen' trucks and trailers, furniture removal vans (due to high number of apartment rental properties) , and car parking - some for visitors but others are using the street for short trips into Braddon or Civic. This does not include the large trucks and machines currently used for building the lasted resident complex 2 doors down from my townhouse.

I have occasions where I cannot get out of my townhouse complex because a car is blocking my driveway. Due to the significantly increased number of residents it is almost impossible for visitors to park in the street after hours and on weekends. I have family living in Sydney who come to stay with us regularly and they cannot park their car on the street over the weekend. There are similar parking issues in Turner and Braddon. More cars are also parking in the off street 3 hour parking areas on Haig Park; and we recently were contacted over Christmas by ACT Government team looking after increasing cycleways in the area - seeking agreement (consulting about) removal of several parking spaces on Masson Street to make room for another cycle path along the street. This team apparently does not liaise with other parts of TAMS re overall parking needs and there appears to be no overall parking plan for the area.

Parking needs in the wider area should be taken into consideration in planning the future of Haig Park. I believe the time has come to introduce an intercity parking system to allow genuine guest parking for residents - along the models used in Sydney and Melbourne. (e.g. No parking without a Resident's Guest Parking Voucher on the car dashboard.) I don't mind paying for guest parking vouchers. the critical thing is for residents to have the ability for their family and friends to visit with them from time to time. Some of the visitors are seniors or disabled.

There is a beta version of a mapping tool that identifies where the Main and Local Community Routes should be in Canberra.

The Map picks up on lots of existing routes and seeks to fill in the gaps to create an ultimate network.

<http://activeinfrastructure.net.au/practitioner-tool/index.php>

The alignments on the map are indicative but some thought has gone into them.

I think the most logical place for the alignment of an east-west route is close to the southern boundary of the park because:

- It gets surveillance from the nearby road.
- It will line up with the lights to get you across Northbourne Avenue
- It will leave the centre of the park for other uses (whatever they may be).

It would need to go on the park side of the existing car parking to avoid unnecessary interaction with cars.

I didn't make it to the workshop on 15 March but I agree with suggested plans to make it more usable and safe for families.

My suggestion is that we change the name from Haig Park to Monash Park in memory of Sir John Monash. Haig was incompetent and responsible for the deaths of many Australian soldiers. He used men as cannon fodder and was known as The Butcher. Monash, on the other hand, was strategic and clever and he valued the life of Australian men. We don't need a beautiful park named for a hopeless British General. Lets change the name to honour one of our own?

Walking / wandering / thinking park - utilise the layout of trees to advantage - make the park Canberra's premier walking park - accessible for all.

More paths - many, many more required - up the parks entire length - criss crossing - could have circuits with measured distances

Paths with a variety of surfaces - at least one circuit should be hard surface for elderly / wheelchair / baby pram / kids trikes / etc

Seating / resting spots should be incorporated along the paths [interesting local design could be fun, like the 3 Capes Walk in Tassie - these could also include picnic tables /BBQ areas / shelter for locals to gather for a chat

More crossings required to traverse the open drains - these cut the park into small sections which inhibit long walks, (the drains are also ugly but I suppose they have to stay)

More lighting required so ensure a feeling of security safety - at least for the major thoroughfares

Water stations to be installed to invite water walkers & their canine companions to stay hydrated (its friendly and environmentally sound)

Toilet block could be considered at either end of the park

Pop-up cafe / coffee van designated spot to be considered - this would encourage the community use of the walking park, give it a focus and make it a destination.

Thank you for an enjoyable and informative evening at last week's Haig Park workshop at Merici.

One thought my partner and I had after the meeting was the possibility of incorporating a rotunda/bandstand in the park – perhaps along the lines of the famous bandstand in Regent's Park, London. The idea being to encourage live performances and musical soirees thereby making it an outdoor musical centrepiece within Canberra – sort of a more intimate and personal experience than the larger venue of Stage 88. A series of summer evening concerts whilst people picnic nearby would make for a memorable occasion.

Briefly, I am a resident of Turner with a young family, concerned that the Turner side of Haig Park on Northbourne Ave is currently being overlooked in the planning process.

For example:

- Turner side of the park has not been included in the lighting and footpath upgrades that are about to take place.

- Turner side has been incorrectly characterised as mainly used for "dog walking" in the first official master plan brochure.

- Turner side doesn't even appear on the graphic of the Haig Park workshop brochure!

We know that many people (Turner residents, ANU students, commuters that park in Turner) use the Turner side of Haig Park as a pedestrian route to the city. With the regeneration of Turner, the building of new apartments and townhouses and the construction of the Mantra hotel complex on cnr Macarthur and Northbourne Ave - this figure will only rise.

Turner residents also want a safe and inviting route to the city.

As we lose backyards, Turner residents want a park that is able to be enjoyed by our children and families. Currently the Turner side of Haig park feels unsafe, un-inviting and is largely under used. Apart from peak pedestrian commuting times in the morning and evening, it is rare to see another person in the Turner side of the park.

In the 2.5 years we've lived in Turner, we have never taken our children to Haig Park, and I have never witnessed a family enjoying the park.

It would be great to see Haig Park turned into a green oasis for all Canberrans, and both Braddon AND Turner residents and families.

Cities are constantly evolving to suit the needs of current and future residents. Haig Park's function as a

windbreak is no longer necessary for our city. In the time of densification, and increasing rise of lifestyle related health problems (chronic diseases), such a significant green, and potentially health-promoting, asset for the city must be utilised in a better way.

We understand the heritage significance of the Haig Park and feel the sections away from Northbourne Ave on both Braddon and Turner sides, would be suitable for "heritage zones".

I am pleased to hear the ACT Government has finally begun a process to regenerate Haig Park.

It has been eyesore and hazardous environment for generations.

There's a great opportunity for the park to add more value to the lives of adjoining communities.

Suggest you take a look at the Helsinki Esplanade for some inspiration for some of the more urban park blocks.

I'm glad to hear Haig Park will be upgraded - one of the things in need of change is the name. Field Marshal Haig represents the very worst about Australia's relationship with Britain. He should not continue to be memorialised in such a central part of our capital. There are many Australian and British historical figures who would be more appropriate, such as Sir John Monash.

I understand a change has previously been considered and rejected by the Place Names Committee (<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/push-to-remove-douglas-haigs-name-from-park-20140810-102j2t.html>). Now might be a good time to seek the public's views on the name.

Hi....One of the things I've seen in lots of places around the world are concrete ping pong tables, a few of these scattered around the park would entice a lot of users into the area. They are relatively inexpensive and can be fairly vandal-proof as well....

First, parking. While I have no difficulties with parking for reasonable park-related activities, I would object to parking facilities which were routinely used (whether intended or not) by Lonsdale Street workers/customers, Civic workers, unit residents with inadequate car spaces, university students (western end) etc. There are already about 8 parking areas cut into the core of Haig Park and parking pressure in nearby streets.

Secondly, integrity of the Park. The acceptance of 'zoning' within the Park, the idea of replanting some areas with native or deciduous plants, of wetlands, tree house cafe, leash free area for dogs (presumably fenced) etc etc could easily result in a mish mash, trying to please the most interests, at the expense of the integrity (and heritage value?) of the Park.

Thirdly, money. Any plan has to be realistic as to capital cost and ongoing maintenance expense, in the light of competing priorities in the ACT budget (and the size of Canberra parklands). The Park has lacked routine attention (eg lopping where appropriate, consistent replacing deceased trees, cleaning out the drain), for years.

Place a 'speakers corner' in a location in the park that is not close to residences, say corner Limestone Ave and Henty Street. It would need a small platform that could be used by speakers to proclaim ideas. There used to be one in Albert Park, London and in Domain park, Sydney.

Hi there- I would like to see Haig Park opened up to the light – the days of large pine trees in public parks are over – why not keep the best of the big trees as features but remove the rest and replace with deciduous and flowering trees to create a more usable space.

Paths for walking, bar-b-q areas and play facilities (not too many as this is mainly a young adults zone).

But PLEASE get rid of most of the pine trees. I think the same for Capitol Hill – they are outdated, unattractive and no-one likes to use areas around them.

I suggested additional parking along Girrahween Street, additional spaces for food vans and seating in the park. I was told the territory government believes the National Capital Authority would not support food vans after Westside Village. In case they haven't noticed but the Mandalay Bus has been there for decades. Just replicate that car park along Girrahween Street between Northbourne Avenue and Torrens Street. The trees could be relocated within the park replace the trees that have died. Costs could be recovered from rent on food van sites.

Haig Park was originally planted as a wind break for Canberra's then northern suburbs to catch the dust storms. It is never going to be an open parkland due to heritage listing. Therefore in my opinion the best use of this section would be a shaded picnic area with food options. I also like the idea of an enclosed dog off leash area.

I am a social worker who retired a year ago. I joined Rotary last year because I want to continue contributing to community. I have been thinking of a project that I could engage in as a Rotarian, and had the idea of a park being created within Haig Park, Braddon. I received your flyer on plans for Haig Park in my letter box this week (my idea was not so original!). You have asked for ideas.....

A significant proportion of the population in the surrounding area reside in apartments. These numbers will increase with the housing redevelopment that is currently underway along Northbourne Avenue in Braddon and Turner. This renewal will bring new families into the area because construction will include 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments. Currently there is a predominance of one bedroom apartments.

Also, I am aware, through my volunteering, that there are a number of senior citizens living in public housing in the Braddon area, whom have reported feeling lonely and having limited opportunities for social contact.

Research studies have shown that social engagement, physical activity, or simply communing with nature is important to our mental health and wellbeing. A well designed park would provide these opportunities.

Haig Park, as it is, is more a green belt where, as your flyer states, people either walk there dogs or simply walk through to get where they are going and is not a destination in itself.

My vision is that a Park be created that would be a place for people of all ages to come and could be a 'meeting place'. I believe that the name Canberra (from Koyanberra) means Meeting place. It could have a

theme, for example Waltzing Matilda with a billabong with carvings/artworks depicting the story, or an Aboriginal dreaming story.

Another idea; creating an exercise track for walkers/joggers with stations for specific exercises. Or sealed path for mother's walking with prams. Or children's adventure playground

I look forward to seeing the eventual design that is created,

Haig Park Masterplan suggestions: make it similar to Corroboree Park, Ainslie - some nice flora groupings, barbecue area, some play equipment for the kids, a hall/function room, a basketball/tennis court and perhaps even a coffee shop. Corroboree Park is one of the more interesting parks in Canberra, which could easily serve as the model for Haig Park.

Haig Park is fine as is. Hands off the trees!

I was unable to attend the workshop in mid March but here are my thoughts on Haig Park.

The park lacks an identity and appears neglected by the ACT Gov and relevant Federal/ heritage body. This leads to it being used in ways that are not inclusive. For example, there are a few tables and benches around the Mandalay bus. But the park is never cleaned very well. So subsequently, the area immediately around these tables and benches is quite literally covered in cigarette butts and beer bottle tops. This is off-putting for many people. A young family is not going to use such a facility nor a couple enjoying a picnic.

Another example is the high rate of dumping that occurs around the park. I have reported three stolen cars that have been left in the car parks along Henty St near Limestone. The people who steal these cars feel that they can dump the cars in Haig Park as the park is not really used by many people and therefore they are unlikely to be seen dumping the cars. A lot of household rubbish is also left around the few bins within the park including old fire extinguishers and old IT equipment. This rubbish is off-putting to people and they are unlikely to use the park to its full potential.

Another example of how the park lacks an identity is seen in the way that the open spaces are not given a purpose. For example, there are very few defined paths within the park and a total lack of paths that go from Northbourne to Limestone. This results in people creating their own 'goat-tracks.' On one of these goat-track paths near Girrawheen St I saw someone with a shovel building up a small bike ramp for their BMX. People feel that they can do whatever they want in the park but they wouldn't do this if the park had defined areas

such as an area for BBQs and picnics, defined playground areas, proper paths for both cyclists and walkers, proper dog facilities such as simple things like doggy bags and bins.

Unless you design the park to have a purpose and an identity it will be used by people in ways that are not inclusive and which are not safe. I walk my dog through the park most days and I have been yelled at several times by a particularly large man with three incredibly big dogs. In yelling at me he has said that I should get out of the park as his dogs are aggressive and will attack my dog. I obviously have a right to use the park but because the park is often empty, people assert their claim over the park in ways that disclude others. If more people used the park and set areas had a set purpose, it is less likely that these sorts of individuals would feel that they can assert their claim over the park.

This point about safety is particularly important as the park is located right next to Lonsdale St and has enormous potential to be really well utilized by the many people who live in the apartment buildings immediately near the park.

I hope you take this feedback on board.

It is necessary to question the primary function of the whole Park being for Heritage conservation.

The Park originally served as a windbreak when there was no further development to the north, this situation has changed yet and the current landscape of the Park resembles an industrial forestry plantation. One of the participants in the community workshop asked “ Do you think the people who planted the trees were thinking that every tree should be kept just the way it was?”

While the park is a valuable buffer zone and green space it provides limited value for human recreation or biodiversity. The Park is seen by many as feeling unsafe.

This does not mean allowing more car parking within the Park as is sometimes suggested, it should be entirely retained as a park.

Some ideas for improving it as a park are included below:

- East West linkages for pedestrians and cyclists, that are well lit with clear lines of sight. This could link in with the bus stop on Torrens street (with potential for a pedestrian crossing), linking in with upgrades of Northbourne Paving at intersection of Girraween / Masson Streets. Could include a generous formal; path adjacent to the edge road, and a more natural central path, including water crossings at the Turner end.
- Working with the desire lines. Observing where people choose to walk and ride and upgrade these with minimal intervention eg crushed gravel to raise above surrounding grass and working with drainage. This could be similar in style to the work that Makin Tracks have done for TAMS in the arboretum and the Centennial Trail (low controversy, low cost, low impact but an immediate improvement that could engage the community)
- Creating small clearings to provide activity nodes (perhaps initially just one as a pilot), particularly near the end of Lonsdale street (the Turner end already has open spaces along Sullivans Creek, and is not going through the same level of urban intensification as Braddon). A clearing would allow people to throw a Frisbee or kick a ball, it could include integration with a wider fitness trail, BBQ areas or passive seating areas for people to read or meet and talk. it would allow winter sun on to the ground and should be supported by

an irrigation system to maintain healthy and attractive grass cover. Look at the Crace and Franklin CRIPs as examples.

- Enhancing the drainage system, naturalising drains, particularly along and adjacent to Sullivans creek, for example could there be provision for a wetlands and associated native vegetation in the area behind the Turner Bowling club, with recreation areas nearby eg irrigated grass (from the ponds) for family picnics and passive seating areas. The Dickson Wetlands for example have become a major attraction and meeting place for the community, linked with the recreation movement corridor that follows Sullivans Creek.
- Potential to look at opportunities for a Biodiversity linkage between Mount Ainslie / Corroboree Park through to Black Mountain. Some native trees and shrubs providing cover and a connection for small birds and other animals - perhaps in clumps in locations along the length of the park (noting any possible security and fire hazard issues) – or key interventions such as the Sullivans Creek Corridor.

The majority of the Park could still be maintained for its heritage values, but with some strategic interventions recognising the district character of different parts of the park. The eastern end, between Torrens Street and Limestone could be highlighted as an area that is most intact according to the original plan, the Lonsdale St area could include higher level of activation to serve its neighbouring urban area and the Turner end could really capitalise on the drainage system.

It would be important to outline a visionary Master Plan but to identify low cost and more immediate works, such as upgrading of selected desire lines, strategic seating, commence the east west path eg in the two sections of the park adjacent to light rail.

I wish to make a brief contribution on the redevelopment of Haig Park.

I apologise for sending an email, but for some reason or other I couldn't get the capacity to provide comment on the website to work.

My brief observations are:

1. Haig Park is heritage registered. It was a windbreak, and so is planted in the fashion it is. If heritage listing is meant, it needs to be honoured (or revoked).
2. The ACT has an 'urban forest' policy. Haig Park is as much an 'urban forest' as you can get in an area of increased urban density.
3. Haig Park 'announces' to travellers (particularly those driving from Sydney and Melbourne) they've 'arrived' at the Canberra CBD. That is a value worth considering.
4. The Girrawheen Street facing element of Haig Park is (however long it is) very narrow – really only two suburban blocks wide. An over-removal of trees wouldn't make it much of a park at all – you would almost have a continuum of suburbia (because the other side of the street is so easy to see).
5. Because of this thinness, the buildings on the Park (the works depot off Henty Street, the scout hall off Masson Street and the early learning centre off Ormond Street) have significant impact on the park – further permanent building will have measurable impact.
6. Of the expressed ideas, a permanent coffee shop would not be a good idea. A permanent structure would have the impacts expressed above, and there are plenty of them in the Braddon and O'Connor shopping precincts. A clear business case would need to be presented to suggest that such a permanent feature would lead to increased patronage.
7. The currently proposed government upgrades are appropriate (perhaps barbecues could be added). If there are any further changes to be made (including for instance a 'dog off leash area on the eastern side of

Northbourne Avenue) it probably would be sensible to make them in those parts of the park that are already alienated (and on the eastern side, as part of a continuum of the Braddon entertainment precinct). That would mean developments on the western side near to the scout hall and the early learning centre and on the eastern side between Northbourne Avenue and Torrens Street.

8. The amenity of a park is already factored into the value of surrounding properties. It is difficult to see how any of the currently proposed ideas would add any additional value and so there is no case for charging some form of 'betterment' levy for immediately abutting residential premises. Accordingly, the funding source for any further enhancements would come from the general parks budget and so would be funded at a time that Haig Park had relative priority over other parkland investments around the city when allocating capital expenditures in a relevant Budget.

Good luck with balancing the relevant interests.

I've read with interest the ACT government's initiative to redevelop urban spaces and alternate use.

On a recent trip to USA and Dallas, I visited Klyde Warren park – which has multiple uses as a playing fields, children's fountains and games, venue for restaurants and events, and was surrounded by food trucks.

I think this is a useful model to look at for redeveloping Haig park at the top of Lonsdale and Mort Streets.

On that, what is the current regulations around operation of food trucks in ACT? I note that a couple of years ago Brodburger was moved on to the Kingston development with a permanent / fixed building, whilst the Lonsdale Street Hamlet is immobile.

I have lived near Haig Park for over 30 years. Over that time the management and maintenance of the trees has declined.

I walk in the Park on average 5 to 7 times per week.

Some years ago we (my husband and I) went to meetings that were held to discuss community ideas. Nothing has resulted from those meetings and despite signing up to be kept informed we were not contacted.

It seems considerable funds are wasted on consultants but no action is taken. The same happened when there were community concerns regarding the traffic at the Knibbs/ Froggart Street end of Haig Park.

The small amount of green space that is available needs to be maintain especially in light of increasing accommodation density.

The pressures for erosion of this space are great. For instance increased buildings for Child Care and parking.

It seems the current review is commercially driven. We do not need further Cafes, bars and coffee shops to increase the fragmentation of green space nor increasing parking on it at a time one should look to the encouragement of Public Transport such as Light Rail. Even if people are not physically in Haig Park it can be appreciated by passing by. Given the increasing high winds the chances of "tree failure" are great. Further construction in the park would mean justification would be found to cut the trees for safety reasons

Water management similar to the ponds near the Conner shops at the western end would be of benefit.

Please conserve the Park and look after the trees rather than handing it over to vested interests for fragmentation.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide comment on Haig Park's future.

We very much welcome the ACT Government's initiative to develop a master plan for Haig Park. First, because it is an underdeveloped gem on the very edge of the CBD (as acknowledged by the Government). Secondly, to maximise the Park's potential, a long-term (master) plan is needed to ensure appropriate levels of funding over a number of financial years. A half-baked under-resourced plan would be a great shame.

Principles

We believe the Master Plan should be guided by some key principles, including:

- environmental protection;
- heritage commitment;
- accessibility;
- maximise a welcoming environment;
- provide for recreational pursuits; and
- financial considerations.

Considerations

We believe the Park is currently not much more than a wind-break (as originally conceived). It is unwelcoming, unsafe at night and lacks integration being cut, as it is, by three busy roads. We believe consideration should be given to the following:

1. A well-maintained, well-lit, wide path that bisects the Park lengthways. This would help to integrate the Park and promote east/west pedestrian mobility.
2. In an ideal world, an underpasses should connect the Park either side of Northbourne Avenue. This is obviously a costly initiative but could be considered in developing the light rail. If not financially feasible in the short-term, it should be considered in later years. Such an initiative would play a major role in integrating the Park.
3. Defined areas in parts of the Park on either side of Northbourne Avenue should be more intensively planted - i.e. shrubs that are compatible with the tree types (eg, azaleas, rhododendrons, etc). These areas should also have properly cultivated lawn areas. Plantings should be well planned to take advantage of the vistas through the Park. (If you look at any Park in cities around the world that are as close as Haig Park is to the CBD, you'll note selected areas of intensive planting - eg Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens in London, Fitzroy Gardens in Melbourne, Hyde Park in Sydney, and the CBD park in Berlin.)
4. There should be provision for entertainment - bandstand, small stage - some very selective clearings might be necessary.
5. A kiosk/cafe facility at one of the more intensively planted areas should be considered to encourage visitors.
6. There should be name plates for each genus of tree. Not all trees need to be labelled, but all genres should be named.

The current usage of Haig Park is as a pedestrian route into Braddon and Civic and a space where some people hang out – as a pedestrian within this park on a twice daily basis I would suggest that these people are under the influence of drugs and alcohol and not using the space productively. The park lends itself to opportunistic crime and has the perception of being unsafe and I would also suggest that police records and anecdotal evidence would indicate that it is actually an unsafe space.

Crime prevention through environmental design and other place management strategies provide many concepts that can be utilised in this park, some of these are listed below:

- Maximise the effort required to commit a crime.
- Minimise excuse making opportunities (removing conditions that encourage/facilitate rationalisation of inappropriate behaviour).
- Encourage the legitimate use by lots of people
- Allow others outside the park to see what is happening
- Avoid “hidden” places, and encourage those “seeing something happening” to care and to act?
- Attract lots of people from the community through place making strategies like markets or fairs.
- Encourage pedestrian movement between uses.
- Provide a variety of gathering places within the park for stopping, sitting, resting, looking and interacting to encourage community ownership and the creation of shared social capital.

Some ideas that would ensure the concepts above might be:

- Large open spaces of multiple use
- Open grassed areas for multiple use
- A sensory garden
- A half basketball court
- Cricket pitch

- BBQ and picnic area – although this alone without a multi-feature approach would not be positive.
- Artwork
- Exercise equipment
- Space for licensed food/coffee van during special events
- Neighbourhood fun days – sponsored by business – currently there is no space to do this.
- Public art program
- Play equipment
- Dogs off lead area
- A small amphitheater
- Upgrade of pedestrian routes
- Lighting along significant pedestrian routes – this needs to be high level lighting
- Ideas that extend Lonsdale street and Mort streets into the park
- Significant pruning of trees
- Different trees/multiple varieties
- There are a series of natural paths that have developed by people walking – these could be paved with artwork – artwork could be done in partnership with the community and possibly the disabled people who work in the park.

I would like to propose that the planned improvements to Corroborree Park and/or Haig Park incorporate a good quality, uninterrupted, double wide path around or near the perimeter. This would not affect the existing character of the park but would have the potential to increase park usage, give all ages an incentive for safe and effective physical exercise and generate social capital in the neighbourhood while requiring little or no ongoing maintenance. Such an addition would be in complete agreement with this statement from the ACT Government Information Paper (2016) **Incorporating active living principles into the Territory Plan : draft variation number 348 : "All public spaces and places should be designed to allow easy access and use by all people, regardless of age, culture, ability or income. The aim is for people to feel connected to, and part of, a community. Engendering a sense of belonging can positively benefit an individual's mental health and wellbeing. The considerations of the qualities that make a space more inclusive and child-friendly or age-friendly are also important factors when considering, designing and implementing environments for all."**

I am a long-time (35 years) resident of the ACT and was a regular user of Coorroboree Park when my children were young. More recently I have seen many benefits generated by a walking path located in Jackadder Reserve in Woodlands WA, one of the parks maintained by the City of Stirling. I visit family in the vicinity there at least once a year and always make daily use of the walking path around the lake in that park and I believe that a similar path would greatly improve the amenity of our local park.

Demographics of potential user groups

A suitable perimeter path would greatly improve the amenity of the park for demographics other than the young children currently served by the new play equipment. The rest of this attractive park offers essentially unstructured spaces and it is very little used despite the increasing density of housing in the surrounding areas. In contrast, the walking path in the Jackadder Reserve is in constant use by people from many different demographics who walk, cycle or run either sections or complete circuits; they include the following:

- young mothers pushing prams while walking for exercise (often accompanied by littlies on trikes or bikes),
- schoolchildren on their bikes or skateboards riding a few laps in safety on their way home from school,
- owners with small dogs on a leash including quite a few elderly people,
- an older woman who brings her very disabled middle-aged daughter for a walk there every day,
- young people doing laps for training or fitness,
- recreational walkers and locals strolling around the lake,
- retirees like me who undertake daily brisk walking but need a level surface to minimise the risk of falls.

Area characteristics

Projections are for steady growth in the suburb of Ainslie and greater rate of increase in the adjoining suburb of Braddon, already evident in the many higher density dwellings there. The median age in Ainslie is projected to rise to 41 years as well (from a 2007 base of 37 years). The proportion of Ainslie residents aged 65 years and over is projected to rise from 13.0 per cent (2007) to 19.0 per cent (2019). Braddon is projected to continue to have a young population, having the seventh

lowest median age in the ACT (source: Chief Minister's Department (2009): ACT population projections for suburbs and districts 2007 TO 2019). Yet the outdoor space in the parks as currently constituted does not address the needs of either of these groups. Apart from the tennis courts (which are not really a part of the park for general use) there is nothing offered to improve the amenity of the park for the adult population who constitute the majority of residents of the surrounding area. In particular the local footpaths are hazardous to older walkers.

I suggest that the medium-density housing in the surrounding area would have many young people of the demographic which participates in fitness training and a path for circuit training and

some fitness equipment might well enjoy a higher degree of use than the existing play equipment does. There are certainly many young people out using other suitable Canberra paths for fitness training before and after work, e.g. around Commonwealth Park or the Kingston foreshore. There is fitness and strength training equipment stationed around the Jackadder Lake path and it is also in constant use by both younger people and notably also by older people. Vandalism of the equipment does not seem to be a problem in my observation.

Benefits: social capital and equity

In addition to the physical amenity, I have been impressed also by the incidental social capital the Jackadder Reserve path generates and I believe that a path here could yield the same benefits. In Jackadder Reserve I have repeatedly seen young mothers and parents walking together, older people start talking with each other about their dogs, the carer and her disabled daughter get some social contact as people say hello, walkers often nodding as they pass one another. People from very different ethnic, age and socioeconomic groups all use the path, generally acknowledging one another with a smile. That path is wide enough and long enough to accommodate shared use with no problems. Additionally, having the path there provides a specific reason to go to the park rather than just to wander around and it motivates a higher level of **physical activity while there. I'm sure it increases park usage** – it is certainly in contrast to both Corroboree Park and Haig Park whose potentially pleasant environments are completely empty for the vast majority of the time. It is very noticeable that despite the improvements to Corroboree **Park's play equipment, it is very little** used and that the adults are invariably inactive and isolated, generally sitting on the benches checking their mobile phones.

I believe that expenditure on a walking path it would be equitable as it would address the needs and preferences of other age groups in addition to young children. At present I have to use my car to drive to sections of the cycle/walking paths around Lake Burley Griffin or Ginninderra Lake in order to access a safe surface to undertake brisk walks of 7-10 kms for exercise and pleasure. A suitable local walking path would increase equity in that people who do not have access to a car or who no longer drive could still enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of regular safe walking or cycling in the outdoors.

Benefits: health and psychological benefits of outdoor exercise

Engagement in physical activity offers proven health and psychological benefits to individuals and **encouraging participation is key to achieving the ACT government's objectives in promoting good** health and wellbeing. Walking in particular is an activity which is free and realistic for those who are exercise-averse. Yet for the ageing population of the area in particular (including myself) the existing footpaths in the area are unsuitable, hazardous walking surfaces and a real disincentive to physical exercise: they do not make for an enjoyable walk.

Hazards of existing local footpaths for walking and exercise

I have twice fallen while out walking on local paths due to tripping on uneven surfaces caused by the roots of adjoining trees and hedges, in one case sustaining a fracture; I have friends who have similarly fallen. The paths are frequently too narrow even for one person due to hedges and shrubs spreading onto the path and generally cannot accommodate two people passing or walking abreast. Where sections of the paths have subsided they fill with mud and are slippery for over a week after rain. Frequent stopping for driveways and intersections breaks up the pace and rhythm of a brisk walk. While there has been some replacement of footpaths with improved wider sections, these are not extensive enough or continuous enough to encourage walking a good distance. Like several people I know, I now avoid using my neighbourhood footpaths and It would be great to be able to walk to the nearby park and complete laps of a path there.

I have attached an image of the path around Jackadder Lake to give you an idea of what I'm proposing. I'm quite sure that the City of Stirling would share the specs of the path with you.

I look forward to feedback on the acceptability of my proposal and if possible an estimate of the **likely timeline for implementation if approved.**

20 March 2017

Haig Park MasterPlan Submission
Community Engagement Team
Economic Development Directorate
ACT Government

Email: EDcommunity@act.gov.au

Re: Haig Park Master Plan Submission

I am writing to lend my support to a new master plan for Haig Park. It is a great disappointment that the Draft Master Plan submitted by Eric Martin & Associates in 2012 was never adopted by the ACT Government. It is vital that Haig Park receives a plan to maintain and preserve this important historical and environmentally significant green space for future generations. Any new plan's overarching focus should be to uphold the Park's heritage listing and implement improvement in the health of the trees.

Haig Park provides a strong visual link between the natural environment of Mt Ainslie and Black Mountain; its rows of exotic species a living, breathing and cooling environment in the heart of the city. Its linear design makes it an easily accessible area for many people living and working nearby and as densification along Northbourne Avenue continues it is critical that this valuable green space be kept intact and free of built structures.

My family and I have lived in Canberra for 12 years, all of them in the suburb of Turner. One of the major attractions of moving to Canberra was the city's reputation as a garden city and the easy access to open, green spaces. Over the years my children have played in Haig Park with their friends and my husband and I regularly walk and run through the park. It is a place to meet other residents who are also out exercising or walking their dogs. Whenever interstate friends first see Haig Park they are astounded at the beauty of this Park so close to the city.

The western section of Haig Park has in recent years seen some replanting and pruning (lifting of branches). This has made a dramatic difference to the area and revitalised the look of the Park.

As a resident of Turner I would like to see additional funding provided for the western section of the park. This would include:

- continued replacement of aging trees, section by section;
- upgrades to paths, in particular the heavily used north- south path that crosses the open drain from Ormond Street to Masson Street;
- a better solution to the open drain running east-west that is weed infested;
- kerbing and guttering;

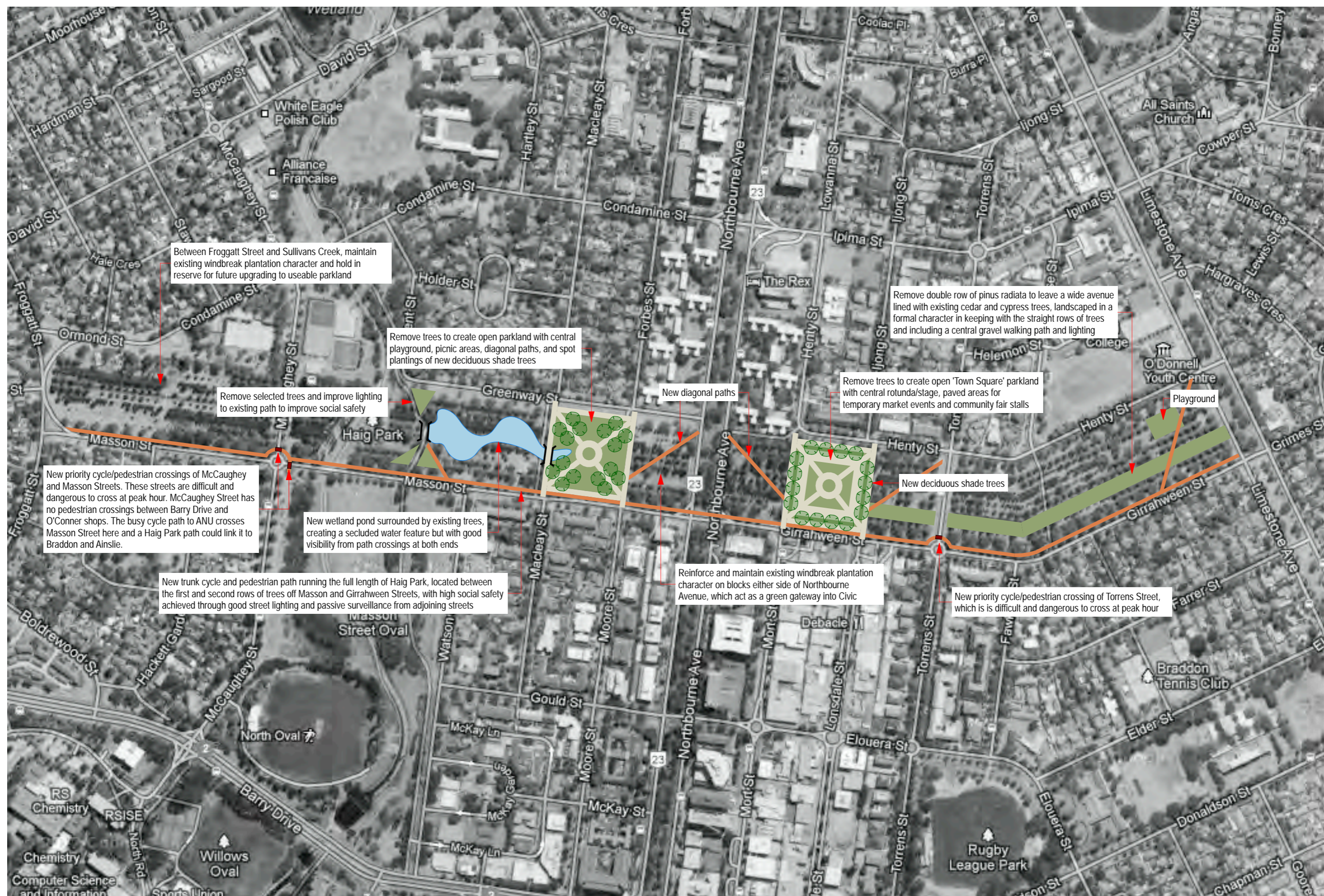
-
- BBQ with tables & seating in the existing open space between the Tree House Childcare Centre and the Turner Tennis Club; and
 - retention of the original rows of trees.

There has been much discussion about the negative aspects of the trees, in particular, safety in the Park. It must be remembered that all spaces everywhere are potentially unsafe. However, pathways through the Park should be upgraded and lighting improved but only in areas with high foot traffic. It is noted that this is already occurring in the Park opposite Lonsdale Street, Braddon.

An east-west bike path situated along the edge of the Park would be a sensible improvement so cyclists would not have to negotiate the heavy peak hour traffic along Masson Street and Girrahween Street.

Overall I believe a Master Plan for Haig Park needs to have the aim of retaining and reinforcing the landscape character of the Park in order to protect its heritage value. Where appropriate paths and spaces should be upgraded to improve usage of the Park. If additional areas for high scale activities are required, the Government should look at upgrading Turner Parklands. This area adjacent to Sullivan's Creek is a badly degraded area with large open spaces perfectly suited to sporting activities, events, family picnics, community gardens and the like. Haig Park should remain as an urban forest in a city that is fast losing its character as a garden city.

Yours faithfully,



Suggestions to Haig Park Master Plan 2017 Public Consultation

City Activation Team
Your Say – ACT Government

Transforming Haig Park - from a windbreak to a 21st century urban park



Cedrus deodara, an evergreen conifer, casts dense shade in Haig Park, Turner. Image: Edwina Robinson

A new vision

Almost one hundred years on, the new vision for Haig Park needs to consider its future role as a contemporary park in close proximity to the urban renewal areas of Braddon and Turner.

Haig Park was originally designed as a windbreak to protect the newly formed Canberra from wind and dust. Walter Burley Griffin designed the city for a population of 75,000. At the 2011 census, the population had reached over 350,000 and continues to grow steadily.

Since the 1920's Haig Park has remained relatively intact whilst the city and its inhabitants have evolved.

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This Office is independent of, but funded by, the ACT Government.



Our submission, endorsed by the Heart Foundation, supports keeping part of the historic windbreak intact while allowing a rationalisation of the park in key areas to allow for increased public use and improved safety and solar access in winter. The opportunity exists to create a series of precincts of different character and activity level that reflect the needs of local inhabitants and the heritage values of the site.

The Master Plan needs to respond to climate change, the need for urban habitat, changing demographics, an increase in medium density housing and urban forest management issues. It also must provide a range of recreational and play opportunities for children and adults to help reduce the incidence of obesity in our community.

Two of the current key issues with Haig Park are that it is perceived as unsafe by the community and is used as a thoroughfare rather than a destination.

Community consultation

We commend the ACT Government's community engagement process that has gathered views on the future use of the park from a wide range of participants. And we recognize that the community's views are diverse from those who think that Haig Park shouldn't be touched to those who imagine a vibrant place with pop-ups bustling. Two of our staff members attended the public community consultation workshop on 15 March 2017. The event was very professional and inclusive. Successful aspects of the event included:

- starting with a walk in Haig Park to visit key parts and remind everyone of the area,
- providing the opportunity for people to be creative by choosing an image that resonated with them,
- allowing everyone to have their say but in small groups so that potential conflict due to diverse views was kept in check, and
- sending through a summary of the community feedback following the consultation to allow people to check their views have been incorporated and will contribute towards the design of the draft Master Plan.

The office undertook consultation on Haig Park with our Young Professionals Reference Group on location on 1 March 2017. Key issues discussed during this consultation have been included in this submission and we thank them for their valuable contribution.



Young professionals discuss Haig Park. Image: Serena Farrelly

Key challenges

Key challenges to be addressed in the future Master Plan include:

1. adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts – the ACT will need to generate and support its parks and urban forest in a hotter, drier, climate
2. incorporating both structured and unstructured play opportunities for children
3. incorporating recreational opportunities for young people and adults
4. linking the park to commercial, residential and ecological areas.

Adequate funding and economic and environmental co-benefits

Given the proximity of the park to urban renewal projects this represents the opportunity to show leadership to create a great 21st century park.

Not only should the design and construction of the park be generously funded, it is vital to ensure adequate ongoing funding is available to maintain the park to a high quality into the future. Ageing trees and climate change present as emerging, ongoing, and urgent challenges.

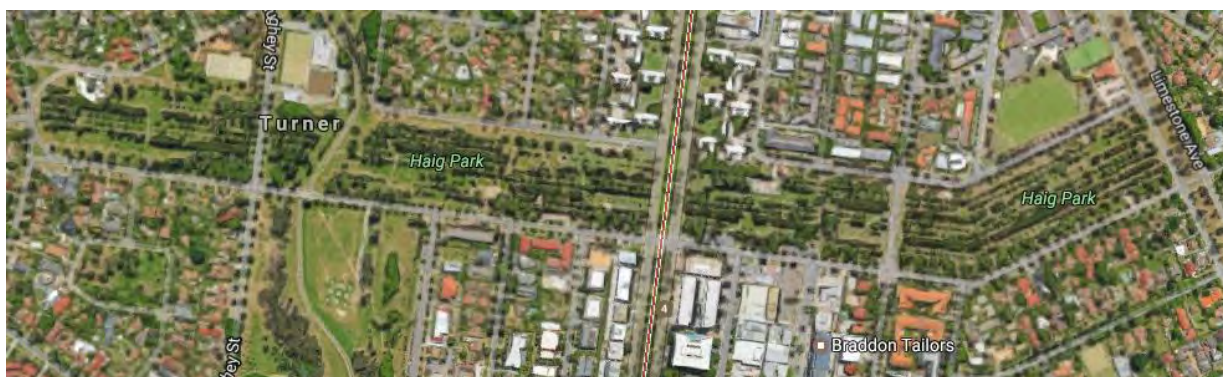
One of the co-benefits of quality open space is that it improves health outcomes and reduces health costs.

In the USA, a study of 11 cities and counties found green infrastructure produces health care savings ranging from US\$4,300,000 to US\$90,200,000 per year.¹ Work in the Netherlands suggests that if green spaces were increased by 10%, national health care savings would be in the order of €65Million.² The United Kingdom has also assessed the value of green space in reducing sedentary behaviour – a mere 1% decrease in sedentary behaviour would provide a total economic value of £2billion per annum.³

Haig Park in the 1920s – a windbreak for the new city of Canberra

Haig Park was designed by Thomas Weston as a windbreak and dust suppressant for Canberra in the early 1920's.

The 19 hectare park stretches for 1.7 kilometres from Limestone Avenue, Braddon to the east and terminates at Frogatt Street, Turner in the west. Although considered cartographically as one space, it consists of five separate areas (although of a similar character) divided by roads.



Haig Park stretches from Limestone Ave, Braddon to Frogatt St, Turner. Image: Google maps

In its current form, Haig Park is predominantly a tree plantation, with 14 rows of evenly spaced deciduous and evergreen trees. It includes the following species most of which are relatively hardy in the current Canberra climate. It is not clear how they will fare in a hotter drier climate which is given to extremes.

Native species (evergreen)	
<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i>	Argylle Apple
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
Exotic species – Conifers (evergreen)	
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata or Monterey Pine
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Roman Cypress
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar
Exotic species – Deciduous	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	Arizona Ash
<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert Ash

Tree composition, Haig Park. Extract from the ACT Heritage Register.

KEY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Design for climate change adaptation and mitigation



Dry woodland on Bruce Ridge. Image: Edwina Robinson

The ACT's climate is changing rapidly. In 2016, the ACT experienced:

- **above average temperatures extending into February, March and April with 6 days above 35 degrees.⁴**
- **the wettest January, with almost twice the average rainfall.**

And in 2017, the ACT was exposed to the hottest summer on record.

In 2014, Norman et al. found the 'majority of Canberrans support[ed] action on climate change, including adaptation'.⁵ It is clear that there is support for appropriately modifying existing spaces to increase their resilience to climate change.

Urban forests, like Haig Park are recognized as:

*"the 'engine room' for urban ecosystems. The urban forest takes in water, nutrients and carbon dioxide and processes them through photosynthesis and transpiration, transforming them into the valuable environmental outputs of clean air, oxygen, shade and habitat."*⁶

Their continued effective presence in the urban landscape is essential.

Hotter, drier summers will have a significant impact on active living. Hot weather will be a significant barrier to people exercising and will also impact on people's health.

Shade trees can reduce the local micro-climate in summer by *at least* 2 degrees Celsius (some estimates in some settings raise this figure considerably). Research undertaken by Melbourne City Council has found that the average temperature in Melbourne's CBD is up to 4 degrees

higher than the surrounding suburbs and during the evenings, this difference can be as high as 12 degrees.⁷ Director of CSIRO Land and Water, Paul Hardisty, has said climate change is already affecting our daily lives and we need to increase green coverage such as tree canopies, gardens, parklands and green roofs to mitigate summer heat stress and mortality rate.⁸

The park's vegetation (including its ageing forest) need to be able to cope with increased extreme weather events, including heat waves and severe storms. Consideration should be given to whether parts of the park should be irrigated in the future and from what source.

The current form of the park plays an important role in mitigating the Urban Heat Island Effect (UHI). **This role should be enhanced.**

In order **to address the challenges of climate change**, the following should be considered in preparing a Master Plan for Haig Park.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a tree strategy to manage the urban forest (including senescing trees). The Strategy should operate from 2017-2037.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate a greater variety of tree species to allow for unpredictability in trees coping with climate changes and to increase biodiversity – Refer to the City of Melbourne 2020 Vision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include trees like <i>Casuarina</i> to provide a food source for the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo and provide artificial hollows for roosting and nesting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate a range of structural vegetation categories (shrubs, grasses, groundcovers, climbers) to provide increased terrestrial urban habitat and link to the extent that this is possible Box-Gum Woodland communities on O'Connor Ridge and Mount Ainslie.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) measures to allow Haig Park to act as a sponge, slowing and absorbing urban stormwater and nutrients (see section below). Due to the extent of the canopy and existing root systems, space is limited in many parts of the park, however, existing drains and swales could be converted to rain gardens. Plant with appropriate locally occurring aquatic plant material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit Sullivans Creek (currently a concrete stormwater drain) in Turner to include a 'naturalised creek' and retain the existing concrete channel as a bypass structure for large storm events. Plant with appropriate locally occurring aquatic plant material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for future irrigation requirements (given increased hot weather) and include storage capacity as part of the WSUD system.

Water sensitive urban design opportunities for Haig Park



Sullivans Creek cuts through Haig Park in Turner. There is space in this section of the park to create an offline creek channel that improves downstream water quality and provides 'nature' based recreation opportunities in areas close to the city. Image: Edwina Robinson

The 2000 Sullivans Creek Catchment Management Plan identified the need to include retrofitted wetlands into the catchment to help improve the downstream water quality of Lake Burley Griffin and the Murrumbidgee River. Three wetlands were identified within Haig Park.

Wetlands and other WSUD measures like rain gardens and creek restoration can play a role in improving the quality of urban stormwater by filtering nutrients and sediment from stormwater. They also slow down the water runoff which will increase safety in urban environments, especially with future predictions of storm intensity increasing.



Extract from 2000 Sullivans Creek Catchment Management Plan which identified a series of wetlands within Haig Park to deal with improving urban stormwater quality. Source: ACT Government

Wetlands tend to take up significant land area, however smaller infrastructure interventions, like rain gardens would require less space and would provide a number of other benefits such as provision of aquatic habitat, and opportunities for play and cooling local temperatures.

Adjacent to the Sullivans Creek channel between Greenway and Masson Streets, Turner there is the opportunity to create an offline creek channel to filter stormwater and provide a 'nature experience' for nearby residents.

Studies have shown that the inclusion of WSUD measures along with vegetation play a key role in reducing urban temperatures and can improve property values.



*This drain at Bankstown Showground Sydney was converted to a 'naturalised' creek.
Image: Edwina Robinson*

The introduction of water features within the park will likely increase visitation to the park and create focused destinations that will serve to improve safety.

2. Design play opportunities for children, both structured and unstructured



Governments have a role to play in ensuring that urban spaces provide interesting and challenging play spaces, both structured and informal.

Associate Professor Paul Tranter, UNSW indicates children need to take risks during play in order to develop.

Given the length of Haig Park, at 1.7km the opportunity exists to provide a range of play spaces of different character.

FACT: 1 in 4 Australian children are overweight or obese

FACT: 2 out of 3 Australian children are in the lowest fitness categories

Children enjoying water play at the Ian Potter Foundation garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Image: Flickr (Steel Wool)

To ensure accessibility is considered and ensured, and play opportunities are provided for children and also for others dealing with physical challenges, the following should be considered in preparing a Master Plan for Haig Park.

• Involve children in the co-design of play spaces in Haig Park.
• Improve overall park safety.
• Provide safe pedestrian connections for kids so they can safely navigate into the park from the surrounding urban areas.
• Provide suitable solar access during winter (the use of existing evergreen conifers in the original planting means many spaces are heavily shaded in winter when sun is desirable).
• Provide a variety of play spaces that allow for structured and unstructured play (like the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne).
• Incorporate play opportunities in WSUD features.

Jodie Griffiths-Cook, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, has provided the following additional comments and authorised inclusion in this submission –

The 'reimagining' of Haig Park brings with it a unique opportunity to take a historic park and re-shape it for contemporary living. It is also an opportunity to use the knowledge we have about societal challenges to inform design and transform the current utilisation of this area.

Accessibility and safety are key features that will support improved useability. So too will having a breadth of activity options that engage community members of all ages, abilities and interests.

I strongly support the maintenance, further development and incorporation of the natural environment as a means by which to promote environmental responsibility, amenability (eg. shade cover to mitigate heat), and activity/play spaces that both engage and educate.

The significant landmass that constitutes Haig Park ensures an abundance of space within which to incorporate a broad range of independent activity spaces that encourage creativity, fitness, exploration, tactile/sensory engagement, and no end of fun. Further, alongside the physical 'reimagining' of Haig Park exists the opportunity to devise means of engagement that align the use of technology with the use of the natural environment (eg. 'geo-caching' or 'way-finding' apps that take people through the park by using coordinates and/or challenge scenarios that people need to solve to obtain their next clue).

Finally, I wholeheartedly agree that children and young people need to be engaged early in the design process for Haig Park... their thoughts and perspectives will ensure that children, young people and families alike obtain maximum benefit from all that a re-designed Haig Park has to offer.

3. Design for active and passive recreation for young people and adults



Workers exercise in summer under shade trees. Image: Edwina Robinson

FACT: 64% of ACT adults are overweight or obese

In order to provide a **range of recreational opportunities for young people and adults**, the following should be considered in preparing a Master Plan for Haig Park which should include the matters raised above and also address the following.

• Provide a range of recreational options for adults, both active and passive.
• Active recreational/fitness experiences including exercise stations for all users and specifically older users.
• Provide a positive active travel experience through the park.
• Provide areas for relaxation and contemplation.
• Provide areas for events, including areas for picnics & BBQ's.

Co-Benefits of walkability

At present pedestrian connections to Haig Park are limited – there is a lack of pedestrian crossings and the park is considered 'unsafe'. Creating walkable parks and neighbourhoods has a range of health co-benefits including

- reduced obesity
- improved birth outcomes⁹
- safety,¹⁰
- intergenerational links,
- improved mental health outcomes.¹¹

There is even support for the proposition that green space will positively impact children struggling with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.¹²

Providing links within and around the park will facilitate recreation, and safety through passive surveillance (per Jane Jacobs).

4. Linking the park to commercial, residential and ecological areas

Much of Haig Park is surrounded by multi-unit developments.

Development will continue. Many new units lack outdoor spaces suitable for activity. Redevelopment of the park provides the opportunity to provide these residents with outdoor activities in close proximity to their homes.

The opportunity exists to extend the vibrant commercial activity of Lonsdale Street into the park.

One of the key qualities of 'green cities' is the creation of connectivity between green spaces.

There is potential to connect Haig Park to Canberra Nature Park and enhance our cities urban habitat.

The following should be considered in preparing a Master Plan for Haig Park:

- | |
|---|
| • Strengthening connections both physically and visually from surrounding areas, in particular, the commercial and residential hub of Lonsdale St, Braddon. |
| • Consider extending the axis of Lonsdale St Braddon into the park and giving pedestrians right of way. Include gathering spaces and provide amenities like coffee vans and pop-up cafes/takeaways. This will help activate the space and provide passive surveillance. |
| • Examine opportunities to link the park to medium density residential areas that lack their own green spaces and playgrounds. |
| • Examine how landscape connectivity into Haig Park can be extended from nearby Box-Gum Woodlands to provide migration and habitat for plants and animals. |
| • Blend the park with local commercial areas with separate bike paths, raised crossings across major arterials and shared zones in local hubs like Braddon. |



Mobile caravans can provide facilities in Haig Park. Image: Oliver Brown.

We look forward to seeing a Master Plan that addresses the challenges of a hotter, drier, climate, embraces water sensitive urban design and creates a 'safe' Haig Park that provides the community with diverse options for activity and relaxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Haig Park Master Plan.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kate Auty
Commissioner for Sustainability
and the Environment

21 March 2017

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7 April 2017

Haig Park Masterplan Submission
Community Engagement Team
Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

SUBMISSION TO HAIG PARK MASTER PLAN 2017 CONSULTATION

Introduction and Rationale

Haig Park is an important opportunity for a much-needed east-west cycle path connection linking Turner, O'Connor, Lyneham and the ANU to Braddon, Ainslie and Dickson. The current *Haig Park Master Plan* proposes some new east-west paths along parts of the southern boundary of Haig Park parallel to Masson and Girrahween Streets, but they are indirect and surfaced only with gravel, primarily for recreational pedestrian use. The master plan notes the, "*significant linkage potential of ... Haig Park as a key east-west link*", yet fails to follow through with recommendations for any such link, showing only winding and discontinuous gravel walking tracks along parts of the southern edge. In any case, even these limited paths have never been built.

There are currently no off-road cycling connections from the nearby Sullivans Creek trunk path to the busy Braddon commercial area at Lonsdale and Mort Streets. Also, Braddon and Ainslie are currently very poorly served with safe cycling infrastructure suitable for all users, and this is the opportunity to link these suburbs into the off-road network. Such a link would be particularly useful to ANU students living in Ainslie and Braddon, and on Northbourne Avenue, who currently have no direct, safe cycle route to the ANU. A Haig Park path would also give school students from Braddon and Ainslie a safe route to Lyneham High School, Turner Primary, and other facilities to the west of Northbourne Avenue.

Using Haig Park for a New East-West Active Travel Link

Pedal Power ACT has previously advocated a new trunk shared path be built the full length of Haig Park, with good connections to Mort and Lonsdale Streets. This shared path would link many north-south cycle routes, namely the existing trunk path to the ANU which runs parallel to McCaughey Street, the Sullivans Creek trunk path, the Northbourne Avenue on-road cycle lanes, the newly widened Northbourne Avenue footpaths, and the two Active Travel cycle priority routes currently proposed by TCCS along Moore-Forbes Streets and



More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community



*Cycling Advocacy
Recreational Rides
Five Peaks Challenge*

*Centenary Trail Blaze
Fitz's Challenge
Amy's Big Canberra Bike Ride*

*Ride to Work
Ride or Walk to School
Ride Safe to School Day*

*Cycle Facilities Rating
New Horizons
Bicycle Maintenance*

Mort-Henty-Lowanna Streets. Linking these many north-south routes together in the east-west direction via Haig Park would be an important step towards creating the truly interconnected network of cycle routes that is necessary to make cycling a viable transport option for shorter trips and encourage more of the population to take up cycling.

Light Rail Connectivity

The ability for users to combine these routes will also greatly improve cycle access to the Elouera Street light rail stop for residents living to the east and west and expand the light rail catchment area accordingly.

Route Location

The value of such a connection has been recognised by TCCS in its Active Travel Infrastructure Practitioner Tool, which shows a Main Community Route along much of the length of Haig Park, and a Local Community Route continuing eastward into Ainslie.



*Extract from TCCS Active Travel Infrastructure Practitioner Tool – Accessed March 2017
(Blue lines are Main Community Routes, Pink Lines are Local Community Routes)*

The tool is not specific about the physical form these routes are to take, but Pedal Power ACT favours a trunk off-road shared path at least 3 metres wide, or better still a dedicated off-road cycle path with pedestrian footpath alongside to minimise conflict between users in what is bound to become an increasingly busy area. The optimum location for such a path would be between the first and second rows of trees adjacent to Masson and Girrahween Streets, as this location will provide better legibility of the network (by making it visible from

surrounding streets), offers the easiest connections into the Braddon commercial area, and achieves the best social safety outcomes.

Social Safety

The importance of social safety in the design of active travel infrastructure in Haig Park cannot be emphasised enough. The park is generally perceived to be dark and dangerous, especially at night, and whether or not backed up by actual crime statistics has acquired the nickname 'Rape Park' amongst locals. This reputation makes Haig Park a significant barrier to active travel from areas to the north into Civic and Braddon. It is essential to the success of any new paths in promoting active travel along or across the park, that they be located where users can benefit from passive surveillance from adjacent streets, and that street lighting is greatly improved. In plans provided recently to Pedal Power ACT for comment on the design of two new widened pathways across Haig Park in line with Mort and Lonsdale Streets, a 'future 3-metre shared path link' is indicated, however it is located between the 2nd and 3rd rows of trees off Girrahween Street, a little too far into the park for effective passive surveillance. While there is a need to swing the path around the existing carparks in the park, the rest of the route should be closer to the streets wherever possible.

A more informal east-west gravel path for pedestrians could still be incorporated in the plan a little deeper into the park for daytime use, as pedestrians could still use the shared path and benefit from street lighting along Masson and Girrahween Streets at night.

Design of the Route

Pedal Power ACT favours a consistent design for the path along its entire length, from Limestone Avenue in the east to Froggatt Street in the west. At the eastern end, it is important for legibility that the path is seen to be continuous and that its entrance be easily identifiable from Limestone Avenue. In the west, continuing the path to Froggatt Street links it to a network of quiet suburban streets that are suitable for cycling, radiating out into the residential areas of western Turner.

Safe Crossings of McCaughey, Masson and Torrens Streets

The western extension is an opportunity to provide a safe crossing of McCaughey Street for both walking and cycling. There are no pedestrian crossings of McCaughey Street between O'Conner shops and Barry Drive and the street is virtually un-crossable in peak hour, making it a major deterrent to active travel for residents living to the west. The dangerous crossing of the ANU trunk path over Masson Street at the McCaughey Street roundabout needs to be addressed at the same time. Fitting zebra crossings on raised tables across both streets, set further back from the roundabout, is the suggested solution. A similar problem exists for people trying to cross Torrens Street in peak hour, and the same treatment is therefore suggested for the roundabout at the intersection of Torrens and Girrahween Streets.

Diagonal Path Connections

Several well-worn dirt tracks show the demand for diagonal crossings of Haig Park. No matter what treatment is applied to the park, people will continue to walk and cycle on these routes, so they should be formalised by the construction of proper secondary shared paths with adequate lighting. These need to be at least 2 metres wide to allow bicycles to pass pedestrians without conflict, with 2.5 metres preferred for busier ones.

Conclusion

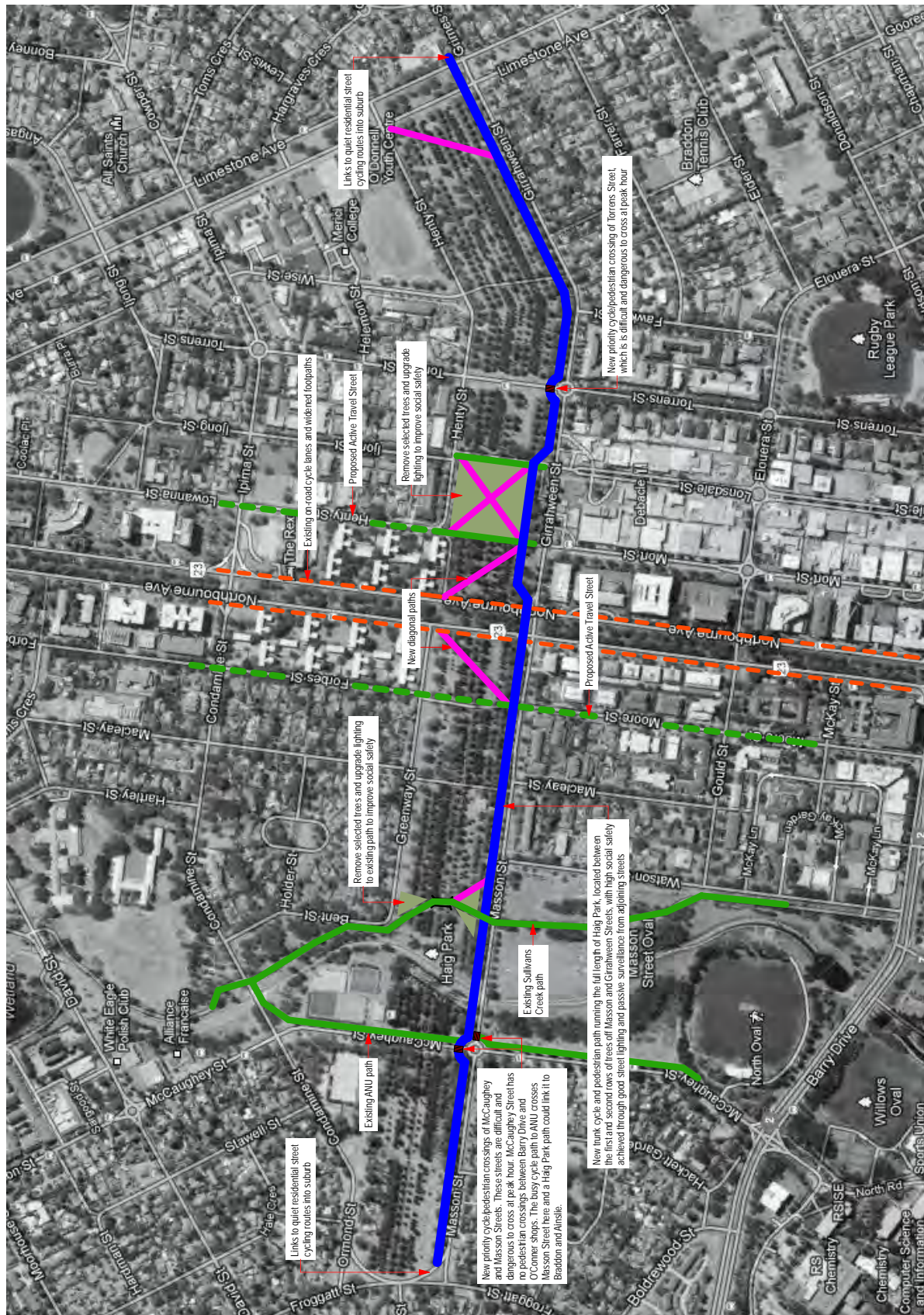
The need for a cross-town cycling link in a central location will only become stronger as redevelopment of the Northbourne Avenue corridor and of Lonsdale and Mort Streets gathers pace and attracts people to cycle or walk from nearby suburbs, which are themselves being redeveloped to house greater populations. Haig Park presents a perfect opportunity to provide this link.

Yours sincerely

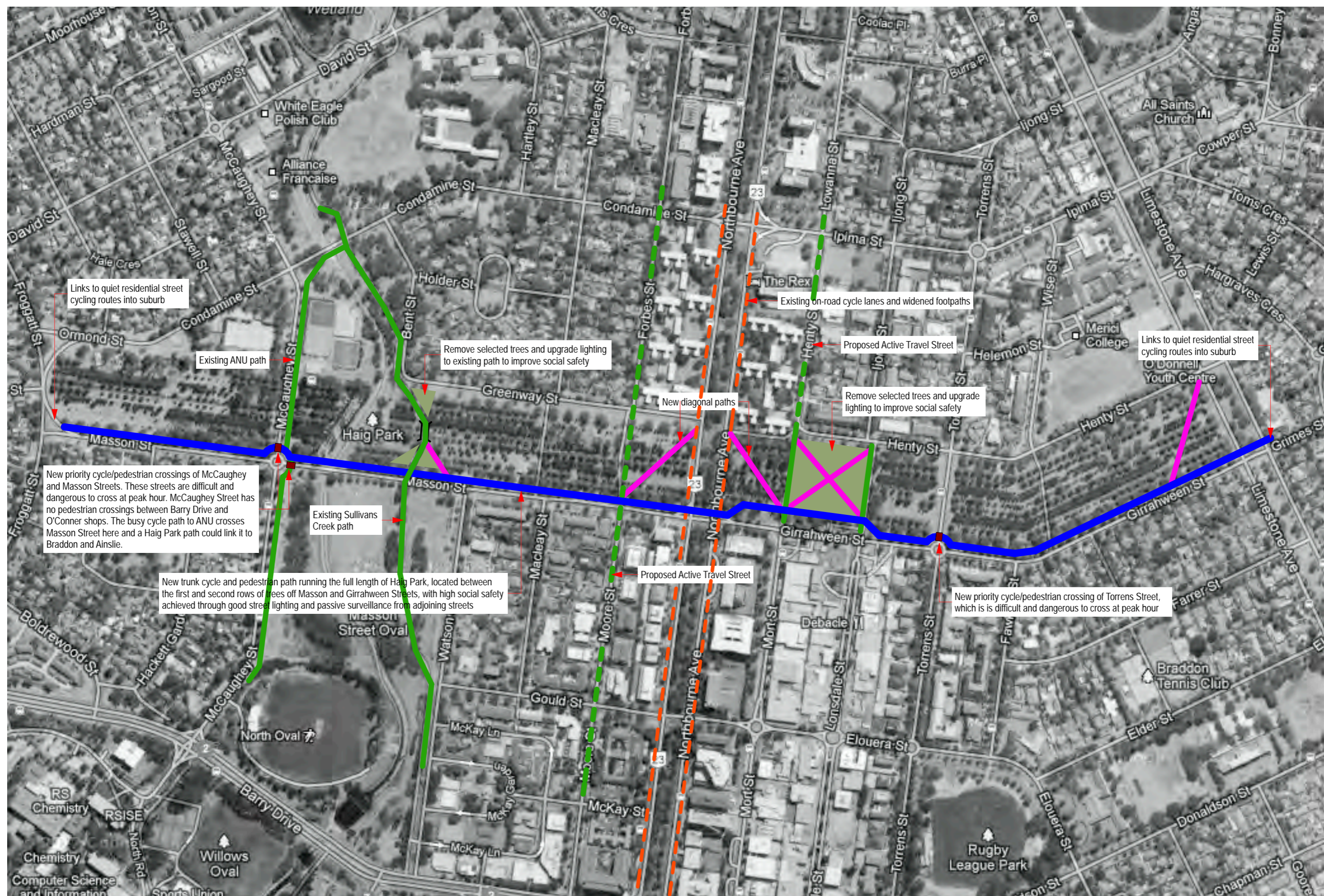
A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'RL' followed by a long horizontal line.

Rachel Lynskey
External Services Officer, Pedal Power ACT

APPENDIX A - Plan of Pedal Power ACT proposal for an east-west cycle and pedestrian path via Haig Park:



*Plan of Pedal Power ACT proposal for an east-west cycle and pedestrian path via Haig Park
(Blue line is the primary route, pink lines are secondary paths, existing routes as noted)*



Pedal Power ACT - suggestions to Haig Park Master Plan 2017 Public Consultation

Appendix B

Stakeholder Meetings :

Members of the ACT Government project team met individually with key stakeholders at the beginning of the project to discuss the project and their ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Meetings were held with:

- Turner Scout Hall
- Turner Tennis Club
- Turner Bowls Club
- ANU Students Association
- Fenner Hall (ANU)
- Turner Residents Association
- North Canberra Community Council
- In the City Canberra.

The project team also presented to the North Canberra Community Council on Tuesday 21 February 2017.

Below is a summary of minutes of the meetings.

Meeting with Turner Residents Association & North Canberra Community Council

Thursday 2 February, 6-8pm, Turner end of Haig Park

Summary of feedback

1. Residents value the heritage of the park, the trees and large open green space.

- It is used for dog walking, running, exercising, tai chi, medieval battle sports, water gun sport groups.
- Haig Park is seen as one of two green spines running through this centre area of Canberra. Haig runs east to west and the Turner Parklands/Sullivans Creek track runs north-south. These two parks should be looked at cohesively as part of the masterplan process. A draft design was completed for Turner Parklands as part of the Bus Layover Territory Plan Variation.
- The heritage of Haig Park is very important and valued by Turner residents.

2. Focus on Turner

- The Turner end of Haig Park has just as high usage as the Braddon end, and residents feel the Turner section is not given enough attention and investment.
- The number of people observed using the park should not determine what improvements are made to the park. It should also be appreciated for its intrinsic value. People do not need to visit the park to appreciate the aesthetic value of the park and the positive benefits (eg mental health) of having green space in an otherwise residential area.

- An example of this is the recent footpath widening and lighting investment in the Braddon end. The Turner end lacks proper concrete paths and lighting (see photos below).
- The area of Turner from Northbourne Ave to Watson Street, Masson Street to Barry Drive is growly increasingly dense due to knockdowns of single dwellings and rebuilding of multiple dwellings. The Turner end of Haig Park needs to provide for these residents.
- As part of the masterplan process, residents would like to see improvements identified in the Turner end and budget allocated to deliver these.

3. Maintenance

- Maintenance in the park needs to be improved to make it more inviting and usable.
- Trees could be trimmed to at least two metres above the ground. This will also allow for mowers to get under and around trees.
- The narrow drain that runs east to west through the park is overgrown with weeds and small tree saplings.
- The smell from the open drains is unpleasant as the water stagnates and there is rotting vegetation. The open drain also attracts snakes and is a safety hazard, particularly for children.

4. Suggested improvements

- The small drain running through the park is unpleasant, overgrown and divides the park. Currently, pedestrians need to access other areas of the park via the road bridge. Can the drain be covered over / turned into wetlands.
- Suggest a bridge be put over the Sullivans Creek drain.
- See also Barry Drive treatment above gross pollutant trap for example of what can be done.
- East/west bike path.
- Kerb the edge of the park along Masson Street between McCaughey and Froggatt Street.
- Look at use and design of car parks. People don't use the carparks to visit the park. Car parking is limited to 2 hours but people park there all day.
- Current car parking is over the root zone of surrounding trees. Look at incorporating the two green traffic islands, at the intersection of Froggatt, Masson and Ormond streets, into the park and turning into T-intersections. This would reduce the speed and rat-running that currently occurs.
- Having dogs off-leash in the park can impact on other users.

Meeting with Turner Tennis Club

Wednesday 18 January, 6-6.50pm, Turner Tennis Club

Feedback, ideas and concerns

- 2012 draft Haig Park masterplan recommended changes to the Turner Tennis Club car park and adjacent play equipment - “Rationalise car parks by number and design to meet tennis club, playground and park user demand in less area by formalising set out, implement time limits to limit all day parking.” The Tennis Club would like to know if this area will still be included in the current masterplan and if not, what opportunities exist to look at upgrading their adjacent car park? (Page 26 of 2012 masterplan for details)
- The scope of this masterplan (2017) does not include the tennis club, but will look at it as an ‘area of influence’.
- Tennis Club carpark is currently used by office workers for long-term parking. Is it possible to change to time limited parking, approx 4 hours (to allow for tennis comp games).
- There are two hitting walls located to the west of the club, maintained mostly by the Turner Residents Association. There is potential to encourage more use of these assets and build this area into a more usable space that connects with the park.

Vision for Haig Park

- Would like to see the club integrated with the park, to encourage park users to utilise the tennis courts and vice versa.
- Improved signage throughout the park to direct people to surrounding facilities including tennis club, bowls club, etc.
- Possibility for community gardens or gathering spaces in the Turner area adjacent to the tennis club/childcare centre.

Meeting with Turner Bowls Club, The RUC

Wednesday 1 February, 10-11am, Turner Bowls Club

Feedback, ideas and concerns

- The area of Haig Park adjacent to the club is divided by Sullivans Creek, McCaughey Street and a small water drain that runs east to west through the park in this section. This makes the space very unusable and they very rarely see anyone using this area of the park.
- The trees and grass in the park provide a cool shady environment in the hotter months (however undiscovered!).
- The pine bollards are located within the park rather than the edge of the park, and previous discussions between the Turner Residents Association and the ACT Government resolved to move the northern section of the bollards.
- The trees are also not trimmed in this area of the park.
- The RUC mows the area of the park boundary and Sullivans Creek area.

Ideas

- Trim lowest branches to allow mowing and pedestrian access.
- Basic mountain bike track (single/pump track) for learners and especially visitors to Canberra to try mountain biking. There is potential for this to be located in the area adjacent to the bowls club and supported through a partnership with the club – they could rent out bikes, support the maintenance of the track.
- The existing cycle path on Sullivans Creek and McCaughey Street runs all the way to Bruce Ridge, which is a formal and more advanced mountain bike track. Having a practice version in the park would be a good way to get people interested, and then they could return to Canberra for longer and safely ride up to the larger track in Bruce Ridge, or transition into the more advanced tracks at Mt Stromlo, Kowen, Majura, Centennial Trail, etc.
- Could there be a footbridge across the Sullivans Creek drain to allow contiguous pedestrian access to the whole park.
- Have sites throughout the park that would be suitable for food trucks – look at whether they need power, water, etc. Potentially chat to people who organised Commonwealth Park food truck event?
- Events like Womadelaide or the multicultural festival in the park.
- Would support a bike path in the park from east (Limestone Ave) to west (Froggatt St) to allow bike and pedestrian access across the top of Civic, providing a safe link between the suburbs and Civic/ANU/light rail stations.

Meeting with Fenner Hall

Thursday 19 January, 11am-12pm, Fenner Hall

Feedback, ideas and concerns

- Fenner Hall has approximately 500 students, 70% from interstate and 30% international.
- Students refer to the park as 'Rape Park' and use it only as a transit destination.
- Fenner Hall staff advises students to use Northbourne Avenue or a taxi when coming home from Braddon/city at night.
- Students use the internal Fenner Hall Facebook page to communicate to others when they have felt unsafe in the park (eg. someone followed me/ drunk people) and recommend others avoid the area.
- Students are more likely to use the small park opposite the Bottlemart Express Supermarket for fitness, picnics, bootcamps etc. This is because it feels safer, is closer to the hall and more suitable for these activities due to mown, flat grass area.
- Fenner Hall students see themselves as a part of the Braddon community, as opposed to the ANU community. Over the past five years this connection has grown - students regularly visit Braddon, get discounts at shops in the area.
- There is a large student population in the Braddon area between Limestone Avenue and Northbourne Avenue. When students move out of Fenner Hall they often will move into that Braddon area, particularly since the housing in this area has become more affordable.
- Suggested ideas to increase student usage of Haig Park are a fitness track, irrigated grass area (for bootcamps etc), and nicer street furniture to encourage people to stay in the space.

Meeting with Turner Scout Hall users

Monday 6 February 2017, 1.30-2.30pm, Turner Scout Hall

Feedback, issues and ideas

- The Turner Scout Hall is a well-used community facility, and is home to two scout groups and many community groups.
- The Turner Scout hall was established about 90 years ago and the building is owned by the ACT Scouting Association.
- The preschool has been running for 8 years and is run by the Spielwelt German Parents Association.
- The ACT Government and Spielwelt German Parents Association have spent thousands of dollars and many hours of labour to bring the hall up to ACT Children's Services venue standards. Such venues are scarce in the ACT, and so during the day the hall is used 5 days a week by children aged 0 to 5 years and their families, in a playgroup and a preschool. Between 20 and 30 families visit the hall each day, and similar numbers in the evenings.
- Scout groups meet on Monday and Tuesday evenings. They often use the park space surrounding the scout hall for activities and games. Security lighting was installed on the back and side of the building a few years ago to light up the area surrounding the building and slightly into the park.
- Occasionally there have been issues with people hanging around the nearby drain and drug equipment found in the drain.

- If playground equipment (suitable for children 1-10 years old) was located in the Turner side of the park (between Northbourne Ave and McCaughey St) it would be used by the playgroup, preschool and scout groups regularly. Any equipment in the Braddon section wouldn't be used by the preschool/playgroups as they can't cross Northbourne Ave (due to Children's Services regulations).
- Minor maintenance to the car park in front of the Scout Hall would be very beneficial:
 - Removing the concrete/brick stack on the right-hand side of the car park that blocks a car space.
 - There are two gates to enter the park, one near the scout hall and one on the right-hand side of the car park. The entrance near the hall is not used often by park rangers as it is difficult to access the park. If this was removed it would provide an additional parking space.

Appendix C Facebook Comments

The following comments were taken directly from each Facebook post and compiled into categories. Note: some elements of particularly long comments that could be placed in various categories have been allocated a category based on their overall theme.

Other	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking is an issue that needs to be addressed. - Better grass should be used in the park and the land needs to be levelled. - It's really just a place that people walk through to and from the city. - The area of the park in Braddon around Lonsdale Street is so underutilised. - No more apartments - Let's start with removing Douglas Haig name from the park name. - DOG PARK - Plant an edible "forest" in part. Or one at each of O'Connor and Ainslie ends! - Leave it as it is. Maybe some lights. - Burn it to the ground and start again. - Needs more apartments. - Man made beach. - Fairy lighting and pathways that boardwalk style pathways that run the full length of the park. The park is too broken up, it doesn't have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Stabby park" / "needle stick park" / "rape park". - It's an interesting question ... I have never been able to put my finger on why it is uninviting ... it's just something ... as a Braddon resident it just feels foreboding ... I love community consultation but I sense that we need experts to tell us what to do - Shakespeare! - Making sure the ACT government does not build something on it. - Haig Park suffers mostly because there's nothing in it. There's no play equipment, no art, and there's no reason to be *at* it, only passing through it (on the edges, where Northbourne is). The trees are nice, but you can't kick a footy or throw a frisby in there. And this is compounded at night when the trees make it so dark, even when the moon is out. The trees make the grass really sparse too, so there's nowhere the kids can run around without treading on stones and dirt. Significant redevelopment of the area, particularly on the northern side of the park will help usage, as more people will traverse it to get to the city (and suddenly realise it's there too!). - It shouldn't have to be used to be kept. - A Tent city in it on a Saturday, and used as a new home for temporary events like the night markets.

<p>a sense of a central place such as Central Park etc. I really like the idea of the highline that someone suggested to create a tree walk! Food vans, places to play, perhaps some tree opening to give more light to the centre of the park and allow grass to grow. Something to rejuvenate the horrible storm water drains. Amphitheatre, play equipment, Pop up market venue. Concerts and festivals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number 1 = more parking close to the park. Number 2 = get rid of paid parking in the vicinity of the park. - You could do a lot worse than turn the entire thing into a car park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's historical presence must be preserved. Just a beautiful space that should be accessible from all areas including Civic. A real need for a walking bridge over water drain so walkers don't have to walk on tiny path next to road to continue walk uninterrupted in amongst trees Black Mountain end. Also a footbridge into Braddon and over Northbourne Avenue linking the two segments. Lighting yes! Limit car park and other extraneous work buildings that are unnecessarily cluttering a should be and is beautiful green space. I love its initial purpose so that could be better appreciated in even small ways. This space belongs to all Canberrans and must be appreciated as such by them and enjoyed too by visitors. It is so necessary that parkland around and near high rise offices apartments provide a clearer air alternative trees sitting places evening and daytime strolls where birds can be seen and heard in a rapidly developing concrete city centre. This like other green spaces Glebe Park Commonwealth Park need for Canberra to be as ever loved and historical in time as Central and Hyde Park!
Activity Spaces	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The park at the end of Lonsdale St has been talked about for a long time by BMXers as the ultimate place to have a bowl set up, similar to the one in Fitzroy, VIC (just a little deeper). We'd love to see BMX pump track or something similar too, that would be a multiple cycle use facility. (25 likes) - Demolish Northbourne flats to start with. Let Mort and Lonsdale flow better into the park with pop up markets and vendors Friday, Saturday Sunday. (5 likes) - Something like this would be unreal. I was there just after Christmas and it was one of the best playgrounds I have ever been too. There was plenty of parking and best of all it was free. (3 likes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soccer field, use the trees to make stadium seating - Disc golf - BMX pump track - Bring people. Build decent play grounds. There were awesome play grounds at black mountain peninsula and Western park in particular when I was growing up in Canberra. All sanitized and replaced with the most uninspiring equipment that no one can fall from (or enjoy playing on). No wonder kids would rather play inside! Bring back the adventure and the joy! - Running track exercise machines, make it useful

<p>http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/.../adven.../Pages/default.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The area of the park in Braddon around Lonsdale Street is so underutilised. It really is just something people walk through to and from the city. It is dark and unsafe at night. I'd love to see some trees removed, a basketball court put in, some land leveled and better grass installed for picnics and kicking the footy and then maybe a water feature and proper running track with work out stations around it. - Move the food vans from hamlet there. It will keep the culture that hamlet created alive and will make the park a safer place at night. - Great place for nerf wars by day and laser tag at night - Exercise track and a playground. - Some mixed-use courts like those at Neill St Reserve in Melbourne that accommodate many sports, including bike polo, would be fantastic <p>http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/.../All.../Pages/10294.aspx And you could minimise the impact on the rest of the park by locating them near the Turner Bowls Club. In fact, the Bayswater Bowls and Recreation Club in Perth has included a bike polo / roller hockey court on their grounds. (19 likes, comments: this is an excellent idea!)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mixed use outdoor recreation area - BBQ's exercise, dog park. Might even be good to have a cafe. - Hi Andrew, outdoor theatre, movies or performance, an enclosed dog exercise area for urban pup's, sculptures, art light shows, a community garden (a new one), outdoor food festival. - Food vans! and done properly! - Open air live productions....and accessible of course! - Kids bike park and skate park - Children's play equipment suitable for children of all ages and all different needs - Space for community garden? Or a showpiece or maybe some pop up weekend markets - It's a key area and would benefit from being a mixed use area. The space is ample enough to look at exercise, BBQ areas, outdoor concert space and generally seeing it as a space that incorporates the foliage in to the ascetic: lending to a more family friendly all year round space. Suggest looking at urban renewal models in comparable cities to see how they've revitalised.
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There needs to be a space that is just trees and flat grass. With the demise of the backyard, and the increase in apartment living, there have to be spaces where people can just kick a ball, run around, sit under a tree, etc, etc. Haig Park can be that place, no need for massive redevelopment, or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove some of the trees to make it easier to see through and safer to walk through, and re-name it - Haig was an out of his depth WW1 general who contributed to the deaths of thousands of allied troops (2 likes)

<p>artistic spaces, or formal play areas. Plain and simple - trees and grass. (18 likes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honestly I love trees, but there are far too many and it makes for not many open places, also they are all planted in straight formal lines which just doesn't feel natural, also the species selected are not your typical park type trees (3 likes) <p><u>Discussion comments in response:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The trees were planted to block the wind. There are several spots like it in Canberra. Take away the wind breaks and things will get very unpleasant - Yes, but that was before the rest of the city was built. A good study could show whether all the buildings have changed the need for the windbreak or not. I'd love to see the trees gradually changed to ones that are more park-friendly than the evergreens. - I don't know Anne, since you left Canberra there have been increasingly strong wind weather events. Buildings don't seem to be having much of an impact. I like the big evergreens - they are skin cancer preventers! - ha ha, fair enough although i only left 3 months ago! I find the evergreens dark and oppressive and the needles under the trees aren't nice to sit or play on. Trimming the lower branches more to open up the space a bit more might help. Still prefer deciduous or gum trees in a park. - I played on them growing up in Canberra, loved it. Can't please everyone I suppose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark, forbidding, beyond uninviting. Especially for women. I don't know what the heritage arguments are, but those damn dark boring rows of trees are SO past their use-by date. Strategically keep some and cull the rest to make open green spaces! - How about replanting with deciduous trees so that it's usable all year round? - The key problem is the type of tree- pines create monocultures, so very little else will grow there. More deciduous trees would allow for gardens and create a year round useable space. Not even birds like nesting in pines, hence the creepy silence of the park. I'm a 6 foot plus guy and even I avoid it like the plague - Less gum trees and more outdoor fitness equipment for calisthenics workouts
<p style="text-align: center;">Safety</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove trees for safety - Dark and unsafe at night - Better lighting, especially at night. It often feels like a death-trap walking home through there after work. - Heavily armed, regular police patrols, just like what they have at parliament. Those junkies are rather scary... - Women avoid the area, especially after dark. - A daily clean up of used syringes would be nice. And all the children's parks in the city area too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavily armed police patrols looking for junkies. - Haig Park is the pits. People are afraid to walk through there so the heritage value of the trees is zero. It has to be safe for people to use... - A lot of people I know don't even realise it has a proper name, and just refer to it as "rape park". It has virtually no amenity, so I think you need to really go back to basics in considering what a space of that size and in that location could be used for, and the plan should include the potential for removal and replanting of trees or other vegetation. Some kind of water feature is probably a good idea. - No more "creepy park"!!
Lighting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better lighting - Lights. Most women I know completely avoid it after dark. - More lighting (20 likes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How about some lighting at the very least, that'd be a good start. Safety is paramount to activate this area, only then people will think of using this space. - Definitely needs to be well lit, it's too dangerous to walk through the park at night.
Amenities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement in rubbish disposal - Fence for inner city puppies - Walking and bike tracks, bbq areas and more trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seating for lunchtime walk+picnickers - tables and maybe some gas bbqs? - It has virtually no amenity, so I think you need to really go back to basics in considering what a space of that size and in that location could be used for - A few shelters and benches would make a big difference. And yes, add a few deciduous trees. But don't ruin the wild nature of it!

Pathways	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When I walk to my friends place at night I would like the path to be more fun and interactive. (4 likes) - A meandering cycle path for the full length down the southern side returning along the north side to complete a loop. Happy for the understorey of the trees to be raised slightly to allow better visibility, but there should be no wholesale clearing of trees to create open areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some fixed path ways with lightning, maybe boardwalk style with seating areas and garden beds.
Open Space	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convert parts of it, either side of Northbourne Ave, into a proper lawned park where people can meet, socialize, picnic and play. Sadly lacking in so many parts of Canberra. Also put in a proper fitness track. No more apartments!!!! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make it open for a dog park!
General Feedback	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I really like it. It feels primeval, not artificial like so many other gardens, even with the trees in rows. I really think it's important to get away from the artificiality of the city to escape for a bit, and the 'garden/playground' model just feels artificial too. - At what cost? Making cuts to the Health Department and the sub-Departments/ Clinics within? Please clarify why Health Departments are being made to make multimillion dollar savings when a park can have renovation works. Pretty sure those trees aren't going to die from missing out a bit longer, as opposed to patient care and staffing needs in Health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haig Park and Telopea Park were designed by Walter Burley Griffin and planted initially in the early 1920s by Thomas Weston as windbreaks and firebreaks to protect Civic in case of bushfires. Weston planted Haig Park in the Italian style and Telopea Park in the Japanese style. Aside from improving the walking tracks along its length, I suggest you leave Haig Park alone, Andrew, and don't degrade the primary function for which it was designed. - Andrew have you ever been to Haig park? Especially after dark? I felt safer in Tijuana. Going to take more than a few swings and sand pits to bring back people.