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Map of Broadbeach and Flinders Parks

Tuesday, 5 June 2012

1:7500



BROADBEACH AND FLINDERS PARKS — COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

BACKGROUND

Between 2008 and 2012, the City received a number of requests from residents about various aspects of Broadbeach and Flinders Parks. Cited issues related to: lighting, play equipment, shade, algae in the lakes, absence of bins, dead trees, reticulation, weed control, loose pavers, noise, and general landscaping issues.

A community consultation was conducted in 2012 to identify current community usage patterns for the two Parks and to set priority areas for future improvements. A survey was sent out to nearby residents and regular user groups to determine their views.

Location

Broadbeach Park and Flinders Park in Hillarys are linked Parks, bounded (in the main) by Broadbeach Boulevard, Flinders Avenue and Centennial Gardens. See Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Map showing location of Broadbeach Park and Flinders Park, Hillarys.



The Parks and the Flinders Park Community Centre are regularly used by a range of sporting and community groups, as well as by residents and visitors who enjoy the natural environment, and the range of active and passive recreation opportunities available.

Community Consultation Process

The City conducted a community consultation between 9 March and 2 April 2012. This included the distribution of hard-copy surveys to all residents living within 500 metres of Broadbeach and Flinders Parks (approximately 2,000 residents).

Surveys were also sent directly to all community stakeholders who currently utilise Flinders Park or Flinders Park Community Centre on a regular basis. For those stakeholders above who did not respond to the survey, attempts were made to contact them directly by telephone.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESULTS

Response Rate

Of the approximately 2,000 surveys sent out to residents living within 500 metres of Broadbeach and Flinders Parks, the City received 310 completed surveys. This approximates to a response rate of 15.5%, which is very high for this type of consultation and can be considered indicative of 'general community feeling'. However, it is likely that the survey respondents are chiefly made up of residents who use the Parks regularly, and hence it is reasonable to assume that the survey did not capture the views of those *not* currently using the Parks, or those who use the Parks infrequently.

Of those who responded to the survey, almost 60% were female. Additionally, over a quarter were between the ages of 50 – 59, over a quarter between the ages of 60 – 69 and almost 9% between the ages of 70 – 84. As can be seen in Table 1 below, this is somewhat of an over - representation for these age groups, based on the age demographics for the suburb of Hillarys. However, it should be noted that the City did request that only one survey per household be completed which may have contributed to a higher proportion of respondents in the aforementioned age brackets; although this would not account for such a low representation in the 25–34 age brackets.

Table 1. Survey respondents by age, compared to age demographics for Hillarys.

| Age group (service groupings) | Number of respondents | Percentage of respondents | Age demographics for Hillarys ¹ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Under 18 | 0 | 0.0 % | 28.5 % |
| 18 to 24 | 0 | 0.0 % | 9.2 % |
| 25 to 34 | 9 | 2.9 % | 8.0 % |
| 35 to 44 | 48 | 15.5 % | 16.7 % |
| 45 to 49 | 53 | 17.1 % | 9.4 % |
| 50 to 59 | 86 | 27.7 % | 17.3 % |
| 60 to 69 | 82 | 26.5 % | 7.5 % |
| 70 to 84 | 27 | 8.7 % | 4.7 % |
| 85+ | 1 | 0.3 % | 0.4 % |
| No response | 5 | 1.6 % | N/A |
| TOTAL | 310 | 100.0 % | 100.0 % |

¹ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, *Census of Population and Housing*, Australian Government, Canberra.

Park Usage

In order to determine community usage patterns across Broadbeach and Flinders Parks, residents were asked what type of activity they used the Parks for. As can be seen in Table 2, of those who responded to the survey, the most popular activities included walking for exercise (90.6%), dog walking (56.8%), running/jogging (45.8%), playground usage (51.6%) and cycling (41.6%). The most popular activity, walking for exercise, is reported to be undertaken on a daily basis by 68.5% of these respondents, and on a weekly basis by 21.0%². These results indicate that *passive park usage* is the most common type of usage amongst local residents and that the majority of local residents, who responded to this survey, access the parks on, at least, a weekly basis.

Table 2. Survey responses to the question “How do you currently use the facilities at Broadbeach and Flinders Parks?”

| Usage type | Number of respondents | Percentage of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Walking for exercise | 281 | 90.6 % |
| Dog walking | 176 | 56.8 % |
| Playgrounds usage | 160 | 51.6 % |
| Running/jogging | 142 | 45.8 % |
| Cycling | 129 | 41.6 % |
| Other | 104 | 33.5 % |
| Picnicking/BBQs | 85 | 27.4 % |
| One-off social events at the Flinders Park Community Centre | 83 | 26.8 % |
| Attending club/group meetings at Flinders Park Community Centre | 44 | 14.2 % |
| Flinders Park Community Centre-based activities | 32 | 10.3 % |
| Participation in organised sport on Flinders Park oval | 28 | 9.0 % |
| Child attending Hillarys Community Kindergarten | 10 | 3.2 % |

Identified Areas for Improvement

With the purpose of determining priority areas for infrastructure development within Broadbeach and Flinders Parks, the City identified potential areas for improvement on a map provided with the survey. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for improvements to the following infrastructure:

- Pathways — condition of established paths.
- Pathways — lack of established paths in Broadbeach Park.
- Pathways — lack of connecting pathways between Flinders Park and Broadbeach Park.

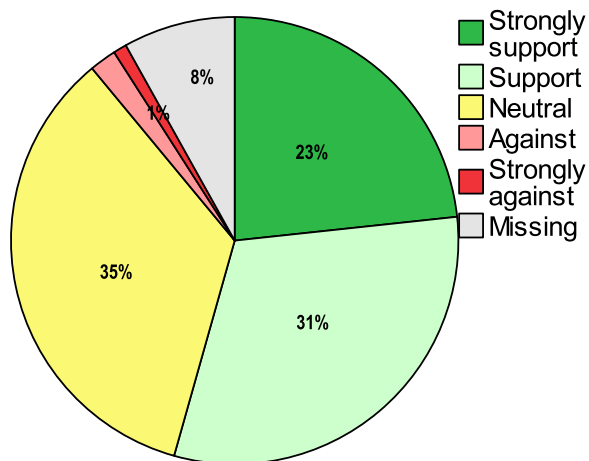
² Refers to the proportion of respondents who answered this question.

- Playgrounds — adequacy of shade, location and equipment condition.
- Picnic shelter and barbeque area — adequacy of paving, seating and shade to meet needs.
- Lighting — condition of existing lighting.
- Landscaping — addition of shade trees (without compromising lake views).

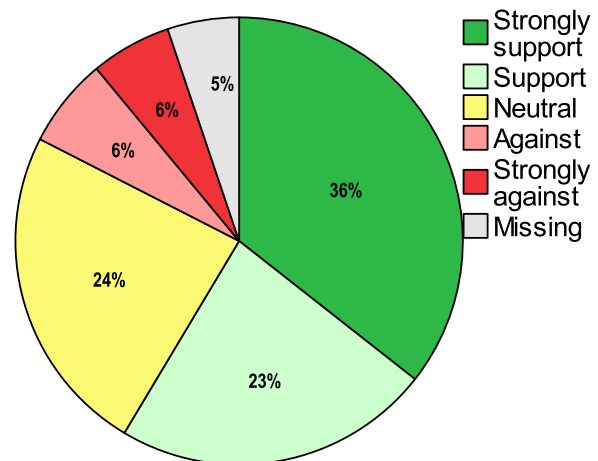
As can be seen in Figure 2 below, for all seven suggested areas for improvement, the majority of those who responded to the survey either 'strongly supported' or 'supported' the proposals (over 50% in all cases). Very few respondents were 'against' or 'strongly against' any of the suggested areas for improvement. These results indicate that local residents are supportive of the City making improvements to the infrastructure identified.

Figure 2. Survey responses to the question "Please identify the extent to which you support or do not support the suggested areas for improvement."

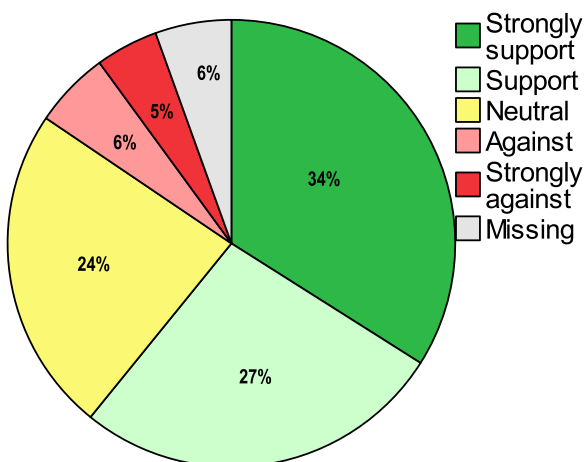
Pathways — condition of established paths:



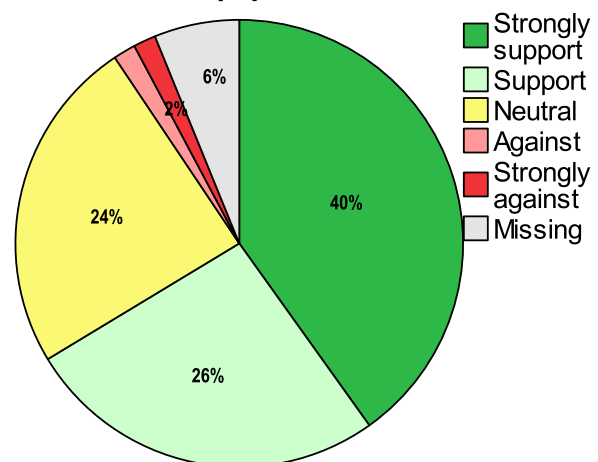
Pathways — lack of established paths in Broadbeach Park:



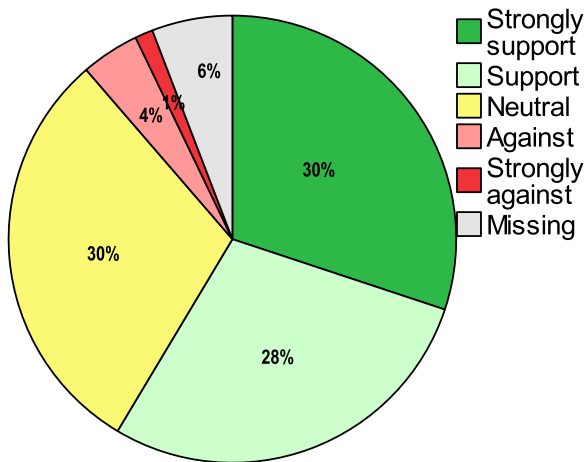
Pathways — lack of connecting pathways between Flinders Park and Broadbeach Park:



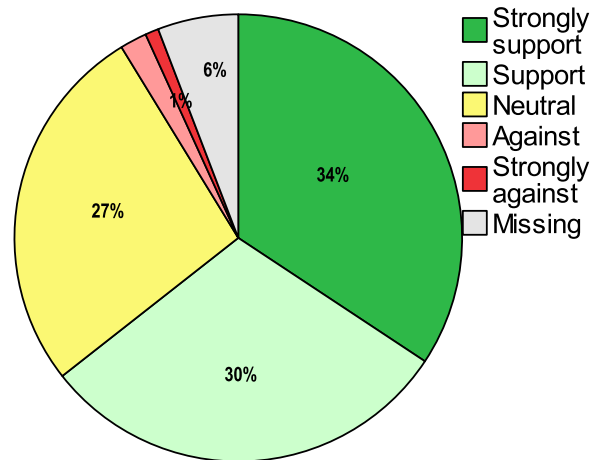
Playgrounds — adequacy of shade, location and equipment condition:



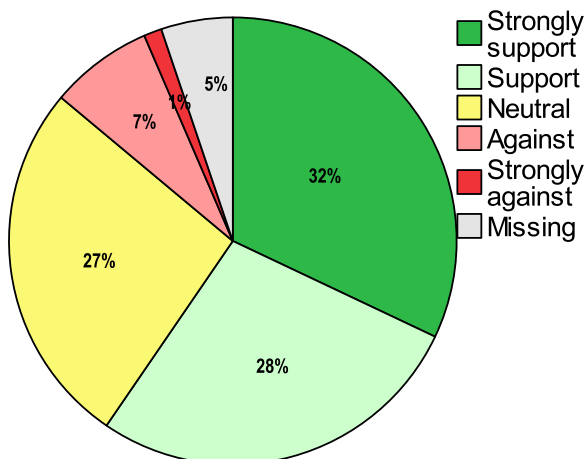
Picnic shelter and barbeque area — adequacy of paving, seating and shade to meet needs:



Lighting — condition of existing lighting



Landscaping — addition of shade trees: (without compromising lake views).



Other Suggested Areas for Improvement

In addition to the above areas for improvement identified by the City, residents were asked whether they had any other comments regarding improvements. Over 65% of survey respondents provided a response to this question. Suggestions and commentary were varied, with the majority using this question to further clarify their level of support for the infrastructure areas identified for improvement by the City. For example, play equipment was an important issue for many residents, with 8.1% of respondents commenting that they would like existing play equipment upgraded, 6.8% of respondents commenting that they would like *additional* play equipment infrastructure (of varying kinds) and 5.2% of respondents commenting that they would like fencing around playgrounds to prevent dogs from entering. Another important issue identified was pathways, with 15.8% of respondents indicating their desire for additional pathways (in various locations). Furthermore, 12.3% of respondents indicated their desire for additional seating/benches in the parks and 7.1% of respondents suggesting enhanced fitness opportunities in the form of permanent fitness equipment.

Further to issues relating to infrastructure, several management issues were also identified in this question. Specifically, 13.9% of respondents expressed that they would like the City to better address dog management issues in the two Parks (ie: relating to dog excrement, nuisance dogs, dangerous dogs etc.). Also, 8.7% of respondents requested the City better manage algae problems and debris in the lake and 7.1% of respondents requested the City increase security around the parks to address anti-social behaviour.

Direct Consultation with Stakeholders

As noted above, as well as the survey to residents, the City directly consulted with all community stakeholders who currently utilise Flinders Park or Flinders Park Community Centre on a regular basis, including:

- Anoint the World Ministries
- Cake Decorators Association of Western Australia — Northshore Branch
- Flinders Park Community Church
- Joondalup Districts Cricket Club Inc.
- Kallaroo Embroidery Group
- Kira Inc.
- National Seniors Australia Hillarys and Districts Branch Inc.
- North Coast Triathlon Club Inc.
- Ocean Ridge Senior Cricket Club Inc.
- Pilates Karrinyup
- Probus Club of Whitfords W.A. Inc.
- Shamrock Rovers Soccer Club Inc.
- Zen Personal Training

Comments from these groups were, in the main, extremely positive. Notwithstanding, one common issue that was identified was the need for additional parking near Flinders Park Community Centre, as this is utilised by groups using both the Centre and Flinders Park itself, and can become quite congested. Another common issue, specifically for groups using Flinders Park, was a desire for upgraded floodlighting to better facilitate night training. Overall however, current user groups were very happy with the facilities.

