Stevenson Park Masterplan
Phase 1 - Engagement Snapshot
Council is committed to updating the recreation precinct masterplan and playground for Stevenson Park. To inform this process, we’ve reached out to park users (or park experts) for their feedback, experiences and ideas.

Throughout the first phase of engagement we had input from local sporting clubs, local residents, students and the broader community through the following activities:

- **Online Survey**: 80 surveys completed
- **Community Design Workshop**: Attended by over 50 people
- **Student Design Workshop**: Over 100 students participated
- **Online Mapping**: 369 unique visitors and 153 individual comments

The information in this brief report covers key insights from the range of activities in the first phase of engagement. A full report will be available at the end of phase two in early July 2018.

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**Masterplan development timeline**

- **Phase 1**
  - **Design development** (workshops, online mapping and survey)
    - 3 concept designs developed

- **Phase 2**
  - **Design deliberation** (park drop in session, online feedback)
    - Draft masterplan and playground concept developed

- **Phase 3**
  - **Public exhibition**
  - **Final Council endorsement**
## Online Survey

### 73% of participants live within 5km of the park

**What do people do at the park?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>play organised sport</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visit the playground</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play informal sport or exercise</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exercise/walk dog</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The top 3 things people love about the park

- Landscaping elements (trees)
- wide open space
- the sports grounds

### The top rated park features

- safety during the day
- trees

### The features participants rated as the worst

- tables and seating
- the playground

### Quotes

- **“Have watched the changes over the past 30 years, the growth of trees, the enjoyment on the playing fields. It is a happy place”**
- **“I like that it is a big open parkland but still has trees and sporting facilities”**
- **“The playground needs to be updated. The focus needs to be on older primary aged children. Let’s add some challenging equipment or something really special like a nature playground”**
Online Interactive Map

Over 150 comments were pinned to the map to mark people’s favourite places, great ideas and places they’d like to change.

Top themes and topics:

- parking
- shared pathways
- new sports infrastructure (including basketball/netball/cricket)
- maintenance/cleanliness/care for sport fields
- lighting
- sports club buildings/facilities (improvements)
- playground (improvements and relocation)

Some of the ideas posted:

Create an off lead dog area (maybe timed e.g. morning so it does not interfere with kids sporting activities).

“We need signage indicating the names of fields for all sports and activities”

“Install flying fox and other adventure style play equipment in the tree area for older kids”

“Upgrade the bubbler to one of those ‘stations’ which is a bubbler and water-bottle fill tap”

“We need signage indicating the names of fields for all sports and activities”
Community design workshop

Over 50 community members attended the design workshop. Participants were split into teams and given maps to create their own designs for the park.

Common elements featured in the designs:

- carparking - including disabled
- Pathways around precinct as well as linking sports fields
- Tree planting on Industrial Drive side for protection
- Dog off leash area
- clubrooms upgrades and potential colocation and multi-use facility
- more picnic tables, BBQs, water refill stations and signage throughout
- inclusion of cricket on the existing sportsgrounds
- adventure style playground in the tree area
- potential for renewable energy
- fenced dog area
- exercise equipment
- community garden.
Student workshop

Students were grouped into teams to explore the park, talk about what they love to do and build their own 3D model playground for Stevenson Park.

Top things the students like to do in parks

- flying foxes, ropes course and zip line
- shady areas
- trees, grass and flowers
- community gardens
- skate park, basketball and netball court
- parkour
- quiet spaces
- water bubblers
- bike paths
- fenced dog off leash areas
- slide, see saw, monkey bars and swings

The students got together to build their very own 3D playground models. Their models included:
### Emerging opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sportgrounds/Amenities</th>
<th>Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• improve quality of sport fields and resolve over use</td>
<td>• install new playground amongst the trees on the hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• consider impact of bringing additional sports onto existing facilities</td>
<td>• Adventure style with flying fox/zipline</td>
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<tr>
<td>• improve lighting for sports grounds and recreation areas</td>
<td>• Connect playground with footpaths, seats, shade and bubblers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• upgrade clubrooms/sheds and spectator seating</td>
<td>• parkour for older children</td>
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<tr>
<td>• co-location and upgrade of multi-purpose buildings</td>
<td>• cater for people looking for quiet areas by providing landscaping, relaxing spaces and community gardens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• improve picnic tables, BBQs, water refill stations, signage and other infrastructure.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aesthetics and Activities</th>
<th>Access and linkages</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• retain the wide open space, landscape elements and sportsgrounds at the park.</td>
<td>• shared path around the perimeter of the park and linking pathways within the park to provide access to sporting facilities.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| • consider new sporting infrastructure, including  
  • temporary cricket pitch  
  • basketball/netball half court/skate area | • provide on-street formalised parking and off-street parking solutions |
| • provide a fenced off leash area for dogs and their owners | • improved disability access and links. |
| • install additional trees and landscaping. | |

### There’s still time to have your say in Stevenson Park’s future

Draft concepts of the masterplan and new playground will be available for comment from 14 June until 2 July 2018 at newcastle.nsw.gov.au. We’ll also be at Stevenson Park on Saturday 16 June from 10.00am to 1.00pm, where you can view the plans and provide your feedback.

For more information call 4974 2000 or email engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au.