



Oxley Creek Transformation Project

Graceville Riverside Parklands

Draft Precinct Plan

Community Engagement Summary Report

Background

In combination with a four-week online survey, Brisbane Sustainability Agency (formerly Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd) hosted a Community Ideas Day at Graceville Riverside Parklands (the parklands) on Saturday 30 November 2019 to allow the community to provide their feedback and ideas to help shape the future of the parklands.

Over 250 people attended the Community Ideas Day and 812 votes were cast in support of the various ideas that were suggested for the parklands. The online survey received an additional 120 feedback responses.

Ideas and feedback received from the community were used to help shape the development of the Graceville Riverside Parklands draft Precinct Plan (the draft precinct plan).

Community Engagement Summary

The draft precinct plan was released to the public on 9 November 2020 and was followed by a five-week community engagement program aimed at promoting awareness of the draft precinct plan and encouraging the community to have their say.

Community engagement activities included the following.

- Postcards mailed to 12,966 households across seven suburbs within proximity to the Oxley Creek Transformation study area.
- Poster displays at three libraries within proximity to the study area.
- Social media posts, e-newsletter messaging and website updates.
- Presentations/meetings with interested stakeholder groups including:
 - Brisbane Canoeing
 - Pamphlett-Tennyson Sea Scouts
 - Sailability Graceville
 - Benarrawa Community Development Association and Indigenous community members local to the Graceville area.



The key focus of the engagement program was to encourage the community to review the draft precinct plan online and provide their feedback through a series of targeted questions via the draft precinct plan online survey. The engagement program resulted in:

- five face-to-face engagement activities
- 773 online surveys received
- 28 submissions received
- 1,340 unique web page views.

Community Feedback

The following key themes were identified through the engagement program.

Community support

- Open greenspace: Improved picnic facilities and lawn space to support informal play, with a focus on accessibility for all.
- Access to The Greenway: A future 20-kilometre walking and cycling recreational trail along the Oxley Creek corridor.
- Water-based recreation: Improved opportunities for water-based activities access, catered for all levels of experience and abilities, including the provision for upgraded facilities for Brisbane Canoeing.
- River Viewing Terrace: A place to sit and enjoy the riverside location of the parklands.

Community concern

- The provision of a future overflow car park within Nadine Street Park, bounded by Graceville Avenue, Nadine Street and Verney Road East.
- Ensuring a balance between providing facilities within the parklands to service the needs of the community while retaining as much green open space as possible.
- The perception that the water within the creek and river at Graceville is not fit to support water-based activities, such as canoeing and kayaking.
- Ensuring any revegetation works within the parklands utilise native species, specifically, local native species.

Additional community suggestions

- The provision of a café/coffee shop within the parklands.
- The provision of a CityCat terminal within the parklands.
- Acknowledging First Nations history and culture through outcomes such as interpretive signage and park naming.
- Ensuring the facilities within the parklands are accessible to all.



Addressing Key Feedback

The key feedback themes of community concern with the draft precinct plan have been addressed as follows.

The provision of a future overflow car park within Nadine Street Park, bounded by Graceville Avenue, Nadine Street and Verney Road East.

Concerns were raised by the community that the proposed future overflow car park highlighted on the parklands Concept Plan, within Nadine Street Park, was not in keeping with the draft precinct plan's intent to reinforce and celebrate the parklands as a green open space.

Feedback focussed on concerns that the future overflow car park would be formalised with hardstand pavement and be in daily use. This was not the intent of the draft precinct plan proposal. The future overflow car park was ear marked as a location that could be used as a short-term, temporary, overflow car park for occasional community events that might occur within the parklands. The expectation was that Nadine Street Park might be used for overflow parking on occasion, on an 'as needs' basis, for potential future community events. No hardstand pavement or ongoing vehicle access was proposed.

It is also acknowledged that through their comments on the survey, the community has reinforced their preference to use active transport options to access the parklands, thereby further reducing the likelihood for the need for a short-term, temporary, overflow car park for community events and activities.

In light of the community's concerns, the future overflow car park has been removed from the Concept Plan.

The existing main car park within the parklands remains proposed for upgrade to improve the safety and efficiency of this asset. The existing car park located near the intersection of Verney Road East and Nadine Street will remain in its current state.

Ensuring a balance between providing facilities within the parklands to service the needs of the community while retaining as much green open space as possible.

Community feedback reinforced the need to retain as much open greenspace as possible within the parklands, as well as a preference to use active transport options to access the parklands for picnicking and play. To this end, the Junior Greenway looped scooter track has been reimagined as a series of short obstacle detour features that will be spaced out parallel to the existing pathways within the parklands. Each detour will feature one or more challenging obstacles for scooter users to negotiate. The space previously ear marked for the scooter track has been identified for picnicking and informal use.

The size of the Water Activity Hub rigging area has also been reduced to limit the amount of new hardstand.



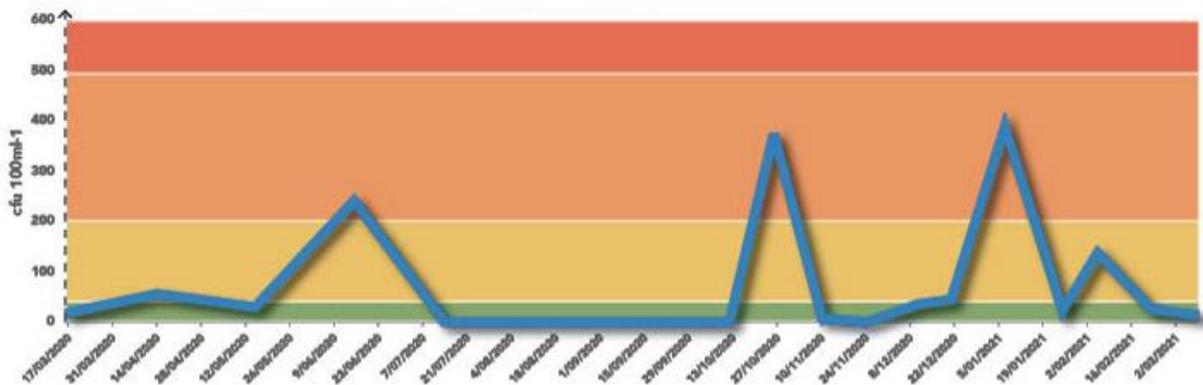
The additional hardstand paths proposed within the Concept Plan are proposed to remain to provide improved accessibility for all users of the parklands.

The perception that the water within the creek and river at Graceville is not fit to support water-based activities such as canoeing and kayaking.

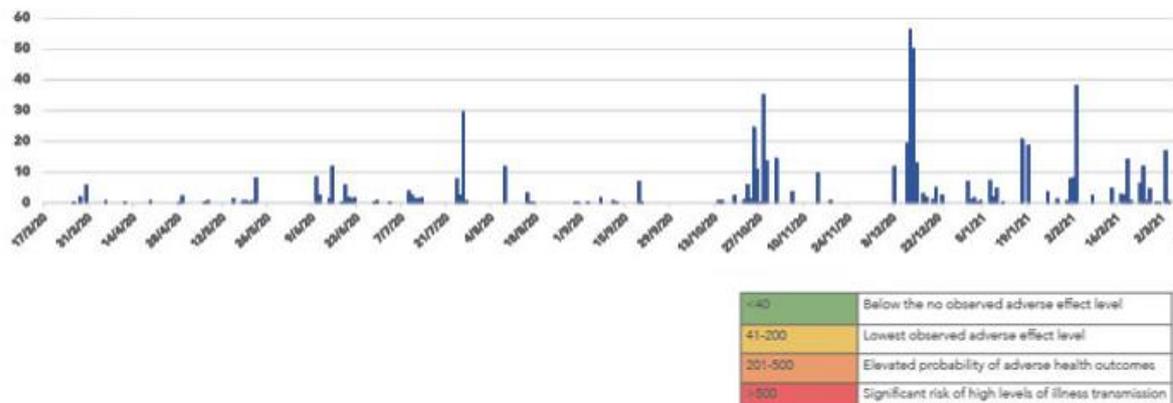
Since March 2020, Brisbane Sustainability Agency has been undertaking monthly water quality sampling of Oxley Creek, at the pontoon within the parklands, to gain a detailed understanding of both the base line, and fluctuations, in the creek water quality. This sampling has, to date, revealed that the quality of creek water at this location can safely support uses such as canoeing, kayaking and sailing through much of the year. Periods of time where the water quality is poor are typically aligned with significant rain and other similar types of weather events. The below two graphs demonstrate the correlation between water quality and rainfall events at the pontoon within the parklands.

Example of correlation between poor water quality and significant rain:

Bacteria Levels at Tennyson Pontoon, Graceville Avenue, Graceville
Sampling Period – 17 March 2020 to 8 March 2021



Corresponding Rainfall within Oxley Creek Corridor (measured at Archerfield Airport)
17 March 2020 to 8 March 2021





The water quality monitoring undertaken by Brisbane Sustainability Agency will be ongoing in this location and will be used in the future to provide more detailed and timely information to the community on the day-to-day ability of users to participate in activities on the water.

Ensuring revegetation works within the parklands utilise native and local native species.

The draft precinct plan proposed increasing the width of riparian vegetation through weed management and new plantings, encouraging natural regeneration of the original ecosystems to increase habitat for wildlife. General park improvements also proposed to explore the opportunity to increase the amount of native tree shade cover.

Regeneration initiatives using local native plants will be undertaken where the environmental conditions are able to support their use. In some situations, within the Oxley Creek corridor, the environmental conditions have been altered so significantly that alternate native plants may need to be used in order to achieve outcomes such as creek bank stabilisation and shading out of weeds. In some locations the use of alternative native plant types will also support increased biodiversity, which is an important outcome given the limited amount of greenspace available within the Oxley Creek corridor.

The provision of a café within the parklands.

A small number of survey respondents requested the provision of a permanent café/coffee shop within the parklands.

Provision of a permanent café/coffee shop within the parklands was considered to be at odds with maintaining a good balance between improving usability for the community and retaining unprogrammed, open greenspace. This suggestion has therefore not been included within the final precinct plan. However, an opportunity does exist to provide power and water at the Viewing Terrace for a temporary food truck or a coffee cart to operate at certain times, subject to review and approval from Brisbane City Council (Council).

The provision of a CityCat terminal within the parklands.

Council has previously undertaken significant investigations into extending CityCat services upstream beyond the University of Queensland (UQ). These investigations found it was not feasible to extend services beyond UQ because of the potential riverbank erosion impact of CityCat operations owing to the absence of riverbank protection, such as rock revetment walls, upstream beyond Dutton Park.

Ensuring the facilities within the parklands are accessible to all.

Inclusive access has been a key consideration in the provision of new facilities and infrastructure within the parklands, including accessible water activity facilities and picnic areas. Specific provisions to enable inclusive access across the parklands will be resolved as part of the delivery of each component of the Concept Plan.



Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

In addition to the key themes identified through the online survey, a number of additional themes were generated from targeted consultation with the five (previously identified) interested stakeholder groups.

Concerns with the size and extent of the proposed Water Activity Hub building and rigging area.

The lower-ground floor storage areas of the proposed Water Activity Hub building are presently sized to accommodate the two clubs, Brisbane Canoeing and Sailability Graceville, who currently store their equipment within the parklands. Provision of these new equipment storage areas would have the following positive effects.

- The five Brisbane Canoeing shipping containers currently sited within the parklands could be removed, freeing up open greenspace and improving park aesthetics.
- The location of the storage areas below the level of the main parkland would minimise the visual impact of the storage infrastructure on the remainder of the parklands as well as retaining and improving available views out to the Brisbane River and Oxley Creek from the parklands.
- The provision of the new storage areas would provide the future occupants with additional storage space, allowing them to improve their service offerings to the community through the storage of additional watercraft and associated equipment.
- In the case of Brisbane Canoeing, a larger storage area would allow the club to offer more members the ability to store their watercraft onsite. This would result in less general vehicle movements within the rigging area and greater opportunities for members to use active transport options to access their watercraft at the Water Activity Hub.

The size of the rigging area shown on the final Concept Plan has been reduced to minimise the amount of hardstand within the parklands.

Further stakeholder consultation and planning for the Water Activity Hub building will be required to determine the final size of the facility and the mix of occupants.

Concern about people fishing from the upgraded pontoon with the suggestion that a dedicated fishing platform be provided or the old pontoon be left in place to support this use.

Concerns were raised that people will see the upgraded pontoon as an attractive location for fishing. Fishing from watercraft access pontoons is problematic and potentially dangerous as watercraft users can become tangled in fishing lines. There are also often safety issues with rubbish, such as bait, line and hooks, being left behind on the pontoon surface.

The opportunity for a separate fishing pontoon was investigated. However, the provision of a second new pontoon within the parklands is cost prohibitive. While retention and use of the existing pontoon for fishing would perpetuate the costly requirement of periodic desilting maintenance.



Regulatory signage is proposed to be provided to discourage the prohibited activity of fishing on the new pontoon.

Concern that the existing canoe sculpture, used as part of Survival Day ceremonies and local First Nations history walks, would be adversely impacted by the parklands upgrade.

Brisbane Sustainability Agency acknowledges that the canoe sculpture, and its immediate surrounding space, is generally a quiet area for reflection, particularly during Survival Day commemorations.

The intention of the parklands upgrade will be to remove the existing barbecues and picnic tables that are located in proximity to the canoe sculpture to reinforce its setting as one of quiet reflection. The new path in this area shown on the Concept Plan is proposed to be located a respectful distance away from the sculpture but also to provide all abilities access to the location.