

A scenic view of Callan Park waterfront. In the foreground, a dark blue semi-transparent box contains the title. Below the box, a concrete path leads down to the water. The middle ground shows a grassy area with people walking and sitting. In the background, there are trees and a building. The sky is clear and blue.

Waterfront Revitalisation in Callan Park

On 10 August 2021, Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) held a community webinar about the Waterfront Revitalisation in Callan Park. A short community survey was available for webinar participants to complete after the webinar. A total of 193 respondents completed the survey.

What you told us

You told us you value and want to protect the following parts of Sydney's parklands, for this generation and the next:

Preserving and support biodiversity in our parklands

Trees and shade to provide cooling and comfort

Recognising and retaining the history and heritage of the Parks and acknowledging First Nations connection and sites.

Large and natural open green spaces with diverse landscapes and trees, that are free and accessible for everyone to enjoy

Parklands unique and central location, particularly providing a backyard for increasing high-density communities.

Retaining the natural beauty and topography of parklands and not overdeveloping them.

Maintenance and upkeep of parklands.

Spaces that support passive and active recreation such as relaxing and connecting with nature, picnics, walking, jogging and cycling, formal sports, and dog walking.

Retaining parklands as public and accessible assets for the community.



You told us the GSP can best meet the needs of our diverse communities by:



Actively engaging and consulting with community to ensure their needs, interests and desires are met.



Ensure parklands are easy to access, safe to use and welcoming for all users. Keeping open spaces natural, unstructured and well maintained.



Providing a diversity of spaces including areas for quiet relaxation, family friendly spaces for picnics and BBQs, areas for walking, jogging and cycling, and areas for dogs and their owners.



Recognising the history and heritage of Callan Park including First Nations people as the traditional owners of the land and their culture, the important history of Callan Park as a psychiatric facility and the heritage buildings within the park.



Providing ways community can be involved in the management of our parks



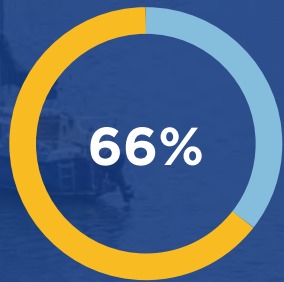
Providing a range of facilities to support recreation such as cycling paths, natural walking tracks, footpaths, sport fields and equipment, exercise equipment, as well as accessible amenities including toilets and bins.



Retaining parks as public assets for the community to access.

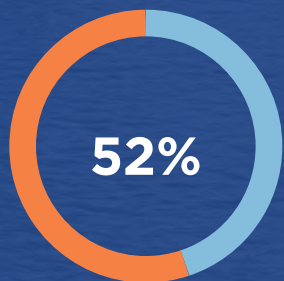
We asked you what activities you would like to see at Callan Park.

The top five responses include:



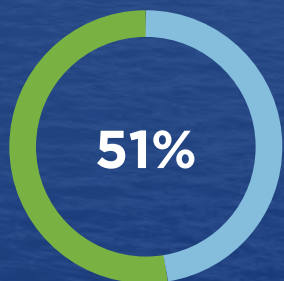
66%

Bush regeneration activities



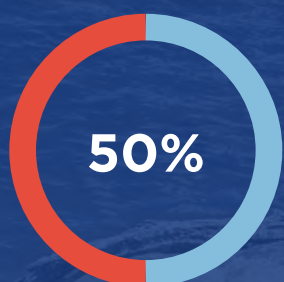
52%

Open house events showcasing restored heritage buildings



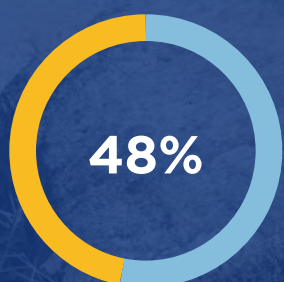
51%

Exhibitions in the Summerhouse



50%

Community festivals



48%

Music concerts

“Making sure Callan Park remains a place accessible for everyone as it is now including dog walkers’, and retaining the beautiful trees. This is important for physical and mental health as it was originally designed for. We don’t need a theme park.”

“I wouldn’t like to see the space get taken over by events. I feel passive recreation is the most organic use of the space without the need to artificially increase the number of people coming to the park.”

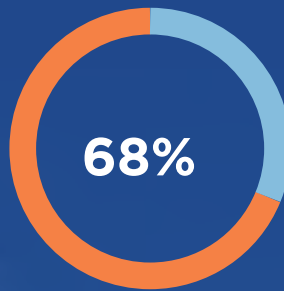
“The longer term aim should be to restore the heritage buildings to appropriate uses such as art gallery, museum, orchestral and other musical events for public performances, and explanations of the colonial history of the buildings and park.”

“Annual public meeting on site to allow users, visitors, residents to stay involved with the park, its progress and to allow for the protection and non commercialisation of the parklands. This annual meeting to inform and update the community on the mental health and education facilities on the parklands.”

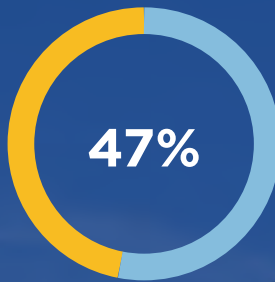
“Gainful usage of the buildings that does not impinge on the off-leash use of the general area.”

We asked you how you would like to have Callan Park's heritage acknowledged.

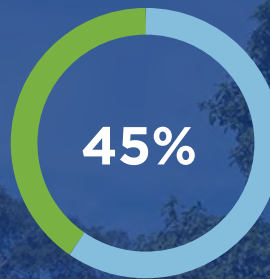
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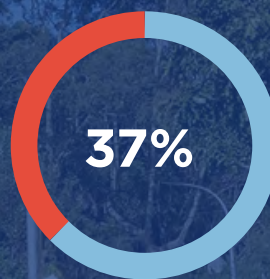
Physical interpretation - eg. signage or materials



Place-naming



Public art



Tours



Events such as open days

"Allow us some space and freedom, don't overdo it! The beauty of this place is that it looks council free and community owned."

"Good restoration and maintenance of all heritage buildings"

"Keep as mature and reserved as possible"

"Competitions of photographic and Art exhibitions inside cottages showcasing historical photos museum and mental health education."

"Writer and artists in residence - citing Abbotsford Convent."

We asked you how you would like to use the new Callan Park Waterfront facilities and if there were other facilities you would like to see in Callan Park.

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You told us you would like:



Passive recreation spaces for walking, picnics and BBQs, gatherings with friends and family, relaxing and enjoying nature.



Separated and wider pathways for different user groups such as walkers and cyclists.



Dog walking, dog off-leash areas and access to the beach for dogs, as well as amenities including dog dispenser bags, bins, water taps and bowls for dogs, and a dog friendly café.



Retaining open, green and natural landscapes in Callan Park to support biodiversity and natural habitats.



Areas for exercise and active recreation including sports, walking, jogging, cycling, and swimming.



Play spaces and facilities for children and young people, including skatepark and pump tracks.



Amenities including bubblers or water fountains; seating and tables; accessible toilets; bins for general waste and recycling; and increased lighting at night.



Aquatic facilities and amenities such as kayak and paddle board hires, launch jetty, storage, board walks.



Cafe, kiosk or restaurant.



Community activities such as artistic workshops, native walks, yoga classes.



More trees and shade for cooling and comfort.



Accessibility for everyone of all ages and abilities.



Recognition of the history and heritage of Callan Park, both Aboriginal heritage and sites as well as its historic use as a psychiatric site.

You told us your top 10 priorities for Callan Park Waterfront are:

Bushland and biodiversity protection

Walking paths

Off-leash dog areas

Aboriginal Cultural interpretation

Accessible for all abilities

Tree planting and maintenance

Cleaning/ litter removal

Gardens and flowers, and

Benches/ tables

Heritage conservation and interpretation.

"I would love for the park to be designed to use several native plants in a way that replicates natural environments. Utilising native grasses, shrubs and trees so it becomes a tranquil space for people to relax, enjoy picnics or explore as a mini bush walk."

"I think the new toilet block is a great idea and I understand the aesthetic need to tuck it away, but as a female walking in the early evening when it's dark sometimes, it would need to feel like an open, well-lit and safe space to be able to use, not too tucked away please."

"Maybe a *small* cafe/ ice cream stall might be good? But it's important that it doesn't take over the park."

"Water for dogs as well as humans /water fountains."

"To bring my kids and picnic, cycle through, walk my dog and go for a walk with friends"

"For passive recreation, picnics, informal gatherings with friends and family."

"I live nearby and exercise here regularly-walking to dogs, cycling and running. I would love a small cafe with all outdoor dining or just on the grass."

