

September 2020

Parks for People program

This document answers frequently asked questions about the Parks for People program.

What is the Parks for People program?

On 3 February 2019, the NSW Premier announced the \$150-million Strategic Open Space program to secure and improve green space across Greater Sydney. The Parks for People program is the initial \$50 million that is being spent across Greater Sydney, working closely with local councils, to build new parks and upgrade existing ones across Sydney. The new parks will be designed by putting people at the heart of planning; there are no blueprints or existing designs for what the parks will be like and the community is invited to participate in the consultation process.

How does it relate to the Premier's Priorities?

The Premier's Priorities represent the NSW Government's commitment to enhance the quality of life of the people of NSW. The Parks for People program will contribute to the delivery of [two Premier's Priorities](#)¹, helping to increase the number of homes in urban areas that are within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public spaces.

Which parks are part of the program?

The Parks for People program will see the delivery of eight parks across Sydney:

Location	Council
Allawah	Georges River Council
Appin	Wollondilly Shire Council
Carramar	Fairfield City Council
Ermington	Parramatta City Council
Frenchs Forest	Northern Beaches Council
Leppington	Liverpool City Council
Tench Reserve	Penrith City Council
The Hills (To be confirmed)	Hills Shire Council

For more information about the parks visit the [Parks for People webpage](#).²

¹ <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities>

² <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Open-space-and-parklands/Parks-for-People#:~:text=On%203%20February%202019%2C%20the,better%20access%20to%20open%20space>

Is the program being delivered in partnership with councils?

This program is being delivered in a unique partnership between the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and local councils. The department's Open Space team will lead and manage the co-design and development of eight parks tailored to the community's needs and the unique features of the place.

Upon completion of the Parks for People program, the department will transfer the ownership of each park over to council.

How will the community benefit from this program?

The Parks for People program will benefit different communities in different ways, depending on the unique characteristics of the site, but it will ultimately aim to create holistic benefits, including:

- **Health and lifestyle:** encouraging healthy living and respite for mental wellbeing
- **Environment and biodiversity:** supporting and enhancing the local ecosystem
- **Natural heritage:** preserving the unique landscape
- **Local character:** improved aesthetics, connectivity and liveability
- **Activation and programme:** a space for community gathering and celebration.

How is this park delivering design excellence?

The values and aspirations of the community will inform the work of some of Australia's best designers, architects and scientists in bringing the new and upgraded parks to life. Achieving design excellence is about creating parks that are sensitive to the unique landscape and ecology of the site and showcase the local character and sense of place.

The design process for Parks for People will focus on:

- design by local communities, for local communities
- preservation and enhancement of the natural landscape
- showcasing innovation in landscape architecture.

The designers, together with the University of New South Wales and industry experts, will research and deliver design excellence, that in turn creates environmental, social, economic, and sustainability benefits.

How long will it take to build?

Although circumstances can arise that impact the exact time frames, we are aiming for the following schedule:

- concept design to start in mid-2020
- construction to start in early 2021
- park to be complete by late 2021.

What kind of construction will take place? And how will this affect residents?

What works will need to take place, and how we mitigate any effects on residents, is something that will be considered once we have a concept design. At this stage, we're asking for community to get involved and tell us what you want to see, before our designers put pen to paper.

Once a concept plan has been developed, and we understand possible works, we will give you more notice about an opportunity to get in touch, provide feedback, and gain more clarity on what works will take place on the site.

Will the parks incorporate social distancing measures because of COVID-19?

COVID-19 has emphasised the value and need for well-designed open space, with many existing parks filled with people exercising, walking their dogs and spending time outdoors. The Parks for People program will provide more open space for communities to safely experience the outdoors in the future, and the commitment to design excellence means creating a space that can adapt to a changing community dynamic, whether that be in response to social distancing, or future opportunities and challenges.

How can I get involved?

Understanding what the community cares about—what their values are—is the starting point for developing a park that feels welcoming and inclusive to the diverse range of users.

There are three main opportunities for the community to be involved:

1. **Engaging with ideas**—community values and ideas will be used to develop and inform the park design.
2. **Consultation on the concept design**—community feedback will be considered in the finalisation of the park design.
3. **Sharing the final design** as informed by the community and the technical studies undertaken.

You can have your say on one of the parks in the Parks for People program by visiting our website at planning.nsw.gov.au/parksforpeople

How can I stay up to date?

- Visit our website: planning.nsw.gov.au/parksforpeople
- Email us at openspace@planning.nsw.gov.au
- Call us at 1300 605 695

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