How have the multi-purpose courts and the lighting come about?

In October 2009, Council consulted the community regarding the development of a Master Plan and Plan of Management for Waverley Park, which were adopted by Council in 2012.

The consultation showed there was high demand for existing and additional sporting facilities in the Waverley community. This was also confirmed in the 2008 Recreation Needs Study.

The Waverley Park Plan of Management calls for the reinstallation of active recreation courts in the south western corner of the park, the upgrade of the bocce courts and the development of a Sports Lighting Plan for the park.

Council agreed at its meeting in August 2014 that three multi-purpose courts would be the best option to meet demand for these sporting facilities. The new courts will support existing facilities in the park, including the Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre, sports courts and the recently completed amenities building.

What sports will the multi-purpose courts be used for?

The current plans are to provide facilities for netball, basketball and tennis. They’ll be used for social and/or competitive sports, coaching and skill development and local school sports.

Where will the courts be located?

The popular bocce courts will be upgraded and three new multi-purpose sports courts will soon be constructed in the south western corner of Waverley Park, and we will be installing new sports lighting. This fact sheet provides more information.
The courts will be located in the south western corner of the park, next to the new amenities building.

What will they look like?

Detailed plans for the courts, including markings, fencing and the operational plans, are still being finalised. Final plans will be considered by Council in March 2015. An artist’s impression of the new multi-purpose sports courts and bocce court is provided on the first page of this fact sheet.

Works

What works will be involved in construction of the courts?

Construction of the courts will involve:

• Levelling of the surface and removal of one old multi-purpose court
• Laying of an acrylic-coated playing surface and acrylic linemarking
• Installing lights and fencing
• Installing three additional seats for spectators.

What other works will be carried out in the park?

• Ten new trees will be planted framing the bocce court and multi-purpose courts, and two existing trees in poor condition will be removed. The existing pergola will be relocated to provide shade until the trees mature.
• Up to nine additional parking spaces will be created along St Marys Avenue. Parking will be at a 90 degree angle and be installed on the eastern side of the street along the edge of the park.
• A draft Sports Lighting Plan has also been prepared for the park. This will provide improved lighting and enable the space to be used safely by all park users, particularly in the winter months. Installation of the low-impact lighting will commence in tandem with the construction of the new courts.

What will disruption be during the construction phase?

The existing multi-purpose courts and old trees will be removed, and the area cordoned off with fencing during construction.

Use of the courts

How will Council manage use of the facilities?

Bookings and equipment like nets and rings will be managed by staff at the Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre, along with the other community sports facilities at the park. It is expected Council will invite expressions of interest from sports clubs, schools and sports providers looking to utilise the facilities on a regular basis. The courts will also be available for bookings by community members for casual and social play.

What time will sport be allowed to run until?

Use and bookings of the courts will be consistent with other sports facilities in Waverley Park, and will be set when the fees and charges are submitted to Council for approval in June 2015.

It is expected that the courts will be available for booked activities from 7am until 9.30pm on weekdays and 9am until 7pm on weekends.

When will the courts be constructed?

The popular bocce courts will be reinstalled first, which is likely to commence in April 2015 and take approximately eight weeks to complete. Works will involve laying of the bocce court, and the installation of two new seats, two benches and a picnic table setting. Construction is expected to have minimal impact on the amenity of the park.

Construction of three multi-purpose sports courts is due to commence in June 2015 and is expected to be completed within three months. A final design plan will be considered by Council in March when a contractor will be approved to build the courts.

When will the courts be used?

The courts will be available for use during the week for training, coaching, school groups and casual bookings, in addition to organised/competitive
sporting activities.

**Will the courts be locked?**

Fencing around the courts has not been finalised. It is possible there will not be any locks on the fencing to ensure community access and preserve the look of the park. The style of fence that is being considered has low sides in the middle of the courts and higher sides at the ends so as to keep sporting balls within the confines of the courts, minimising the impact on the surrounding area.

Equipment, including the poles, nets and rings, will be stored securely when the courts have not been booked.

**How has the safety of park users and surrounding neighbours been addressed?**

By activating the area, it is believed anti-social behaviour will be minimised in this space. The adjoining amenities building has CCTV and a security system which will also help to manage the area.

**How will noise be minimised at night?**

The majority of the facilities at Waverley Park are used for training during the week, and the new multi-purpose courts will be used for similar purposes. The noise at night should therefore be minimal without spectators or match noise.

**How will traffic and parking be managed?**

Council commissioned a Waverley Park Traffic and Parking Study in 2009 and established a Waverley Park Traffic Management Plan in 2012 in response to the planned build of the Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre. These reports have been considered in planning for the multi-purpose courts and the draft lighting plan.

It is not anticipated that the works will significantly increase usage of the park, however the addition of parking along St Marys Avenue will help address any extra demand. Council will also continue to encourage minimal car trips for all park users of and encourage car pooling, walking and the use of public transport.

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**Lighting**

**Why do we need more sports lighting?**

There is a high demand for sporting facilities in Waverley, and there is currently no or inadequate lighting across all of the park’s sporting facilities - Waverley Oval, the playing fields and existing netball courts.

Improved sports lighting will enable optimised and safe use of the facilities and park, especially during winter. The new courts will also require adequate sports lighting.

**What style of lighting will be used?**

An expert lighting consultant has been engaged to prepare a sports lighting plan for the new courts and existing fields at Waverley Park. The plan will ensure any additional sports lighting meets sporting requirements while minimising impact on surrounding areas.

For the multi-purpose courts, ‘shoebox’ style lighting has been proposed, with a total of eight 9m light poles. This low-impact style directs lighting to a constrained area directly beneath the lighting fixture.

**Where will the additional lights be positioned at Waverley Park?**

There are currently two floodlights on Waverley Oval, and three floodlights stretched across Waverley playing fields two and three. These lights do not provide even coverage across all of the playing surfaces.

The proposed location of additional lights are marked out on the image overleaf, and include:
- two additional light poles on Waverley Oval (bringing the total to four 25m poles)
- four additional lights across Waverley playing fields two and three (totalling six 25m poles and one 18m pole)
- ten new 8m light poles on the existing netball courts
- eight new 9m light poles around the new multi-purpose sports courts.
What time will the lights be turned off?

Sports field lighting is currently permitted for training sessions until 9.30pm (with lights programmed to shut down shortly after) for weekdays. The same hours are expected for the new multi-purpose courts and any additional lighting on the existing netball courts.

Currently no evening training occurs on the playing fields during the weekend, so the lights are proposed to run on the new sports courts until 7pm on weekends.

How can I have my say on the draft lighting plan?

You can have your say on the draft lighting plan for Waverley Park by completing an online submission at haveyoursaywaverley.com.au, emailing waverleyparkpom@waverley.nsw.gov.au or coming along to our information session. Feedback closes at 5pm on Monday 2 March 2015.

More information

Come along to our Waverley Park information session to find out more and to have your say on the draft Sports Lighting Plan:

Waverley Park information session
Thursday 19 February 2015, 6-8pm
Club Room, Margaret Whitlam Recreation Centre
Waverley Park

Email waverleyparkpom@waverley.nsw.gov.au, visit waverley.nsw.gov.au/building/current_projects, or phone Tessa Pentony on 9369 8033 to find out more.