Caring for Country

Waverley Council respectfully acknowledges our Indigenous heritage and recognises the ongoing Aboriginal traditional custodianship of the land which forms our local government area.

The O’Donnell Street Reserve Consultation Report was prepared by Waverley Council in 2015.
Background
This Consultation report summarises feedback received from the draft O’Donnell Reserve and Play Space Upgrade community consultation, which was undertaken in June / July 2015 for a period of 3 weeks, closing 18th July.

The findings of the consultation will help guide the proposed upgrades to the reserve which are scheduled early next year.

O’Donnell Street Reserve
O’Donnell Reserve is located at the street closure of Frederick Street, Vicars Avenue and O’Donnell Street in North Bondi. The existing play space caters primarily to younger children with traditional play structures that are nearing the end of their useful lives. The play space includes an artificial grass ‘kick about’ space which is also used by parents and carers for informal picnics and socialising.

Relevance to Council’s Play Space Strategy
The Principles and Strategies relevant to O’Donnell Reserve include:

Develop this play space to:
• Include ‘Active and Free’ play spaces.
• Investigate opportunities to incorporate wheeled play such as paths for scooters or bicycles.
• Investigate places for informal ball games with consideration of actions as set out in Council’s Recreation Needs Study 2008.

Council’s Play Space Strategy identifies that play experiences in neighbouring play spaces should complement each other and offer a range of play types in any locality.

Project Planning and Consultation Process
To ensure upgrades meet community needs, community consultation was undertaken. The methodology for upgrading the Reserve and play space is set out below.

Project Planning
In February 2015, council officers undertook a site assessment of the entire Reserve to discuss the state of facilities and to identify opportunities for asset renewal and opportunities to improve the user experience in the Reserve. The play space upgrade has also been identified in Council’s Play Space Strategy as a high priority to be upgraded.

Consultation Process
Consultation was designed to canvas community responses to the draft O’Donnell Street Reserve Play Space Concept and to inform the ongoing upgrade process by gaining a better understanding of:

• how people get to the Reserve and how often they visit;
• how long they stay and what they do in the Reserve; and
• what they like about the Reserve and what they would like to see in the future.

A consultation survey based on these objectives was made available on the Waverley Council ‘have your say’ website and distributed on a flyer to approx. 1200 letterboxes within a 250m radius of the Reserve. Surveys were also distributed at the consultation day in the Reserve.

• A total of 88 people viewed the ‘Have your Say’ website and were made aware of the project proposals
• A total of 46 people were informed of the details of the project via the ‘Have your Say’ website
• A total of 40 responses were received, these made up of 10 online survey responses, 24 onsite surveys and 6 written email responses.

The consultation day was held in O’Donnell Street Reserve on a Saturday 4th July, 2015. On the day council officers staffed a station which included: A1 sign of Reserve upgrade concept, paper surveys and an opportunity for children to draw their favourite play space on paper. The consultation day was promoted on the Waverley Council ‘have your say’ website, at a Bondi precinct meeting and via the letterbox flyer drop. The consultation day was attended by approximately 40 members of the public.
Consultation Summary
In this section feedback, both written and verbal, is summarised into common themes. Each theme is accompanied by recommendations on how to incorporate the feedback into the upgrade works in the

Photo: Existing play equipment in O’Donnell Street Reserve, currently reaching the end of its useful life. The community have asked for similar types to be installed as part of new upgrade.
following section. A full table of written responses is located in Appendix F.

**Consultation Summary - Play Space Concept**
48% of respondents requested climbing structures or similar play elements to the existing structure.
28% of respondents requested artificial softfall surface to replace the mulch softfall surface.
23% of respondents were generally positive about the play space upgrade concept
13% of respondents suggested the use of natural colours rather than prominent bold colours
Additionally about 3 out of 40 people suggested either equipment for older kids, more swings, imaginary play, or nature play experiences.

**Consultation Summary - Other Facilities**
48% of respondents requested fencing or low level barriers.
40% of respondents requested more shade from trees or structures
25% of respondents requested more benches and picnic tables
13% of respondents requested additional litter bins
Additionally 3 people requested bike racks, 2 people suggested an alternate name to the park, 2 people requested shelter from rain, 1 person requested that the proposed shade structure did not obstruct sunlight into their property.

Photo: Council staff and some of the local residents during the community consultation day.
Fig. 1 Play Space Concept Consultation Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climbing structure / replace existing structure</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softfall artificial softfall surface</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports upgrade and concept generally</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use natural features, not bright colours</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment for 8 - 12 years request</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable garden support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request more swings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests imaginary play, little shop, cubby house</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature play with trees</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 2 Other Suggestions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Facilities Requests</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fencing / barriers</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More shade from trees / structure</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More benches and picnic tables</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Bins</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests barrier to keep balls in mini sports court</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request bike racks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests to give the park alternate name</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests shelter from rain</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade structure may obscure view, and restrict sunlight to homes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fencing / barriers
- More shade from trees / structure
- More benches and picnic tables
- More Bins
- Requests barrier to keep balls in mini sports court
- Request bike racks
- Requests to give the park alternate name
- Requests shelter from rain
- Shade structure may obscure view, and restrict sunlight to homes
Drawings from Children on the consultation day requesting their favorite play pieces
Recommendations from Community Consultation

Improving safety
There was a strong view that new fencing or barriers to the roadway would improve safety, particularly to reduce the risk of children running out onto the roads and to prevent balls from rolling out. Some people suggested fencing extend around the perimeter of the play space, while others suggested low fencing, at critical locations.

Some people commented on the use of the reserve, particularly around the perimeter footpaths, by cyclists passing through the site. Although this posed little concern to residents on the day of the consultation, there were some suggestions on how to improve safety for children using the site, and reduce risk of conflict with cyclists.

Recommendations
Council investigate the use of low barrier fencing combined with native plantings to create physical barriers to ‘high risk’ edges of the play space, particularly adjacent to roads. New seating will be strategically located to maximise opportunity for carers to supervise children.

To reduce the conflict of cyclists and children, Council officers will investigate the use of line marking and graphic stencils to delineate the edges of the play space and to improve cyclist awareness of children playing.

Shade Structures and Shade Trees
The existing trees were widely recognised as a valuable part of the Reserve, a source of shade and a suitable place to play or relax. Verbal feedback generally supported proposed tree planting as a source of additional shade for the play area.

Increased shade cover over play equipment was a common request at the open day and in survey responses. Some people requested shade sails while others were more supportive of trees. Some residents were also concerned with the ‘look’ of the shade structures and noted their preference for less visually intrusive colours and styles of structures.

Recommendations
Undertake an assessment of existing trees onsite and investigate alternate plantings to maximise shade during summer. Ensure the new tree planting compliment the shade structure locations.

Ensure new tree planting does not obstruct overhead wires, resident’s views and solar radiation to homes.

Given the close proximity of residential properties and the small size of the reserve, Council will investigate the locations of multiple smaller single posted shade sails (rather than one large structure) to reduce the visual prominence of the shade structures, while also providing additional tree planting for shade. This will also reduce the issue of blocking sunlight to residential homes and allow a more attractive outlook both into and out of the reserve.

Photo: People playing in and passing through the reserve
**Playground Surfacing**
There was a large proportion of respondent’s that suggested the use of artificial softfall rather than mulch softfall.

**Recommendations**
Council investigate costs associated with installing artificial turf surfacing or natural coloured rubber softfall.

Acknowledgement of the need to balance colour for ‘play value’ versus reducing the impact of the built form in the park through the use of natural materials and natural colours.

**Next Steps**
Waverley Council wish to thank all the community members who made contributions throughout the consultation process. The draft O’Donnell Reserve Play Space Concept will now be modified, in light of the community feedback received. The modified plans will be displayed on the Waverley Council website, along with this consultation summary report. A detailed design will then be prepared, followed by construction of the play space (currently scheduled for early 2016 to avoid any construction works over the school holiday period). The detailed design and tendering process will include:

- Underground services search and coordination
- Shade sail design and shade study
- Play Equipment selection and procurement
- Prepare Tender documents
- Tender process & tender review
- Report to Council on Tender Selection
- Finalise contracts
- Begin Construction

For More information on the project please contact Council’s Senior Landscape Architect on scott.spiers@waverley.nsw.gov.au or 8306 8671

Drawings from Children on the consultation day requesting their favorite play pieces
Drawings from Children on the consultation day requesting their favorite play pieces
Appendix A

Online Survey Results

**Frequency of Visit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How often do you visit O'Donnell Street Reserve?</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Duration of Visit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How long do you spend in O'Donnell Street Reserve?</th>
<th>10 minutes</th>
<th>30 minutes</th>
<th>1 hour</th>
<th>2 or more hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Getting to the Reserve**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do you access O'Donnell Street Reserve?</th>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Bike</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What do users do in the Reserve?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you do in O'Donnell Street Reserve?</th>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Ball games</th>
<th>Play</th>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Relax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B
Draft Play Space Concept

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
O’DONNELL STREET RESERVE PLAY SPACE

Draft Play Space Concept
Waverley Council’s Play Space Strategy identifies O’Donnell Street Reserve playground to be upgraded as a pocket play space to cater for toddlers and junior children and to investigate opportunities for wheeled play such as paths for scooters.

- Improved barrier to road with planting and garden barrier to stop balls.
- New bubbler
- Provide barriers to keep balls in the kick about area.
- Planting barrier with integrated kids seating blocks
- Combination of compacted gravel, planting, and rubber softfall to play area
- Playful decorative coloured timber posts allow permeability for children through the playground while protecting the planting beds from balls.
- Raised vegetable planters for community gardening
- Rockers for toddler play
- Realign the concrete path through the play space to slow cyclists and reduce conflict of cyclists and children
- Spinner
- Bench seating for individuals and groups
- Table seat for informal picnics, baby change table and socialising
- Improved safety barrier to play space including garden barrier fence and planting
- Investigation of rear to kerb parking with stops to improve safety for children to play area
- Basket swing and swings for toddlers
- Slide
- Shade sails over playground
- New shade tree planting and grassed area for toddlers and picnicing

To comment on the draft concept plan:
or contact Council’s Senior Landscape Architect on 8306 3671 or email scott.spiers@waverley.nsw.gov.au
Appendix C
Consultation notification flyer (page 1)

O’Donnell Street Reserve
Play Space Consultation

Saturday 4 July
10am - 12pm

O’Donnell Street Play Space
(Junction of O’Donnell St,
Frederick St and Vicars Ave)

You are also able to comment on the concept plan:

1. Online at haveyoursaywaverley.com.au/ODonnellStreetReserve

2. In writing to the attention of Scott Spiers, PO Box 9, Bondi Junction 1355

3. By email to scott.spiers@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Submissions close on Saturday 18 July. After submissions close, your feedback will help us finalise the plans for the play space. We will let you know what the final design is by the end of September 2015.

For more information please contact Scott Spiers on 8306 3671 or email scott.spiers@waverley.nsw.gov.au
O’Donnell Street Reserve
Play Space Consultation

Dear Resident,
Council was recently successful in obtaining a grant of $30,000 from the NSW Government to improve shade and landscaping at O’Donnell Street Reserve.

These improvements will coincide with an upgrade to the existing play space in time for summer this year.

We have prepared a concept plan, which is based on actions from Council’s Play Space Strategy and proposes the following:

- new play equipment suitable for a range of ages up to 6 years
- new seating
- a bubblers
- new plantings
- new soft fall surfacing
- a new shade structure.
- retain the mini sports court

Please come along to share your ideas and comment on draft concept plans for the playground

Saturday 4 July from 10am - 12pm
O’Donnell Street Play Space

Please see the other side of this flyer for more information on how you can.

For more information please contact Scott Spiers on 8306 3671 or email scott.spiers@waverley.nsw.gov.au
Appendix D

Site Notification Signage

On Saturday 4 July, Council Officers will be at O’Donnell Street Reserve from 10am - 12pm to talk through the plans for the play space and to answer any of your questions. From Saturday 20 June until Saturday 18 July, the community can comment on the plans for the play space.

www.haveyoursaywaverley.com.au/ODonnelstreetreserve

You can have your say in writing to the attention of Scatt Spath, PO Box 9, Bondi Junction 1355, by email to scott-spath@waverley.nsw.gov.au, or on the web address listed above. After submissions close, feedback will help us finalise the plans for this year.

16 | O’Donnell Street Reserve Consultation Report
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>What do you like about the draft O'Donnell Street Play Space concept?</th>
<th>What do you dislike about the draft O'Donnell Street Play Space concept?</th>
<th>In the future, what would you like to see in O'Donnell Street Reserve?</th>
<th>What is your age range?</th>
<th>If you visit with children, how many and how old are they?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>Ball games, Play</td>
<td>Up to age 8; good, but not higher than this please.</td>
<td>Make it clear that a flat patch will be kept for kids kicking around a soccer ball. This is a key feature.</td>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>Two of my own, with an additional two when playdates are at ours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Community garden beds. These are a terrible idea. People lose interest, they are not maintained and get overgrown and end up full of dog poop. Yuck. Just like the one next to the Police Station at Rose Bay. Play equipment seems to be more for babies and toddlers. I have an 8 year old boy, most of the playgrounds in Bondi leave little scope or challenges for 8-12 year old boys. The current wooden structure should stay. At least. This is good for older boys and girls to climb over.</td>
<td>Basketball Hoop; Innovative landscaping and play equipment; Picnic tables x2, some benches, plus grass areas to lay down a picnic rug or simply sit on the grass. Play equipment for teenagers too. Flat area to kick around a soccer ball. Through every pathway from all directions for kids to walk, as playgrounds can work &quot;through&quot; areas but kids on bikes will go from the street from all directions, and need to do so safely. Safety for all.</td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>2 or 3 8 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>2 or more hours</td>
<td>Walk, Ball games, Play</td>
<td>Relax</td>
<td>Leo luxe. We will be able to use it by all kids big and small. The kids already have a great time playing in the park. The new layout looks fantastic.</td>
<td>Plenty of shade for hot summer days. Arbor: Privacy for families and friends to gather</td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>The playground is within walking distance to my apartment.</td>
<td>Secure fencing, better climbing areas and slides, rock climbing features and slides. I really like the little grass field where we can play soccer too!</td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>(at the moment) . 2.5 years old.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>I can see you are adding softfall flooring no paper bark which is a hazard to my small child.</td>
<td>Of the soft fall to happen a light colour as dark colours attract heat and burn children's feet in summer when playing</td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>12 months 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>The new playground and shade needs more equipment - slides, spinner, rockers and swings aren't enough. Maybe some type of open cubby house with steering wheel etc.</td>
<td>Softfall surface and shading.</td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>1 child who is 16 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Ball games, Play, Relax</td>
<td>Softfall surface and shading.</td>
<td>Good climbing equipment, a fire pole, swings for both younger and older children and fencing barriers between street and park.</td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>Two children; ages 3 and 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Walk, Ball games, Play, Exercise, Relax</td>
<td>1. Bondi kids can't climb! There are few, if any, playgrounds in Bondi that have good climbing apparatus. I urge council to look at the playground at Kirribilli under the bridge. We have to drive our children ages 4 and 5 to Kirribilli to develop their climbing skills on their excellent climbing playground. Would also love to see a good two child too see in the proposed new equipment. 2. New softfall surface. Will be great to get rid of the mulch which gets into shoes and children dislike. 3. New shade structure. It gets extremely hot in summer and have to avoid the park around midday.</td>
<td>1. Basketball Hoop; Innovative landscaping; and play equipment. Take a look at <a href="http://flavorwire.com/284670/15-amazing-playgrounds-from-all-over-the-world/15">http://flavorwire.com/284670/15-amazing-playgrounds-from-all-over-the-world/15</a> and others.</td>
<td>A fence.</td>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>Two children aged 3 and 5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>