

Community Engagement Consultation Report

Project title: Tygum Park Draft Master Plan
Consultation ended: 8 April 2009 (second phase: 24 April 2009)
Duration: 4- 6 weeks

Scope of the Project (summary):

To upgrade Tygum Park so that it becomes a focus for recreation for Waterford West residents, and to improve the environment through the treatment of stormwater and rehabilitation of key vegetation areas.

Community engagement program

1. Purpose

To give community members, park users, and residents, particularly those who border the lagoon, the opportunity to have input into the Tygum Park up-grade and the Draft Master Plan.

2. Format

Following the endorsement of the Tygum Park Draft Master Plan by Council, strategic interest groups and residents were identified and contacted about the plan.

The consultation included:

- Visit to the property owner affected by the proposed land swap
- Lagoon residents - special meeting held in Tygum Park (approx 17 attended)
- Marine modellers - meeting held in Tygum Park (approx 20 attended)
- Draft Master Plan display and public discussion, Waterford Plaza (approx 75 attended)
- Visit to the property owner affected by the culvert
- Public interaction through Council's web site - 'have your say' (201 visits, 72 brochure views), and independent web site 'bang the table' (121 visitors and 603 page views).

All residents whose property bordered the lagoon, and who would be directly affected by the relocation of existing fences were sent a draft master plan brochure, feedback form and a letter inviting them to a park meeting with Cr Able and Council staff (Daniel Crowle, Parks Planning Officer -Projects and Elspeth McEachern, Community Engagement Coordinator). Prior to the meeting residents were telephoned and those who were unable to attend the park meeting gave their feedback to staff. Residents were also invited to the Waterford Plaza public meeting.

An on-site meeting at Tygum Park between Logan City Marine Modellers Inc, Cr Able and Council staff (listed above) gave club members the opportunity to share their ideas and discuss their requirements for maintaining and improving the level of club activity.

Advertising, media release, posters, phone calls and emails (retirement home and schools) promoted a public meeting at Waterford Plaza. In attendance were Cr Able and Council staff (Daniel Crowle, Parks Planning Officer -Projects and Elspeth McEachern, Community Engagement Coordinator) who gathered community input at the information display.

Additional community feedback was obtained via the phone (courtesy meeting reminder phone calls); email, returned feedback forms, 'bang the table' website, and the Council's website 'have your say'.

3. Outcomes

Environment

- Poor quality water within the lagoon is a major concern for residents.
- Residents say there is a problem with blue-green algae, eels and carp (some say they have seen members of the public put carp into the lagoon to breed).
- Most residents would like to see wildlife return to the park (there are now less birds migrating to the lagoon, and fewer frogs and turtles).
- One resident suggested deepening the lagoon (as did the marine modellers in areas near the proposed pontoon) and adding more islands to act as a wind break (this idea is not endorsed by marine modellers).
- Some residents were concerned that engineering works on Kingston Road will cause house cracking and that the culvert works may cause erosion.

Flooding

- All residents who have property bordering the lagoon are concerned with flooding.
- There is also a concern that swamp areas cause mosquitos infestation and that there is a 'boggy area' behind River Glen Haven.
- Some residents believe that the overflow pipe is too high (ie the ground floods before water is taken away by the overflow).
- All neighbouring residents believe the lagoon overflow (culvert) should take priority.
- Park users and residents suggested that a weir (at the culvert or before the bridge) could control the water level and the movement of carp from the lagoon into Logan River.

Security and safety

- There was a strong feeling from some residents that a pathway around the lake will encourage thieves and limit privacy. Following further consultation, however, the same residents said they would be happy with the path if it is located well away from their fence line (at the waters edge) and that the space between the path and their property remain a wildlife reserve area (with a firebreak near their property).
- Some residents believed that the pathway should be lit for safety reasons (eg solar lights). The Marine Modellers request lighting around their allocated area and pontoon for night events.
- Residents raised safety concerns about the height of the grass at the bridge as it restricts vision (eg approaching person or vehicle on the road).
- Residents prefer a 2 meter high mesh fence and one resident prefers a 2m pool fence.
- Some residents prefer park access via their own gate. This request was highly supported by the owner of Waterford Plaza.
- One resident raised the issue of snakes and is concerned that they could relocate to the activity areas if the long grass is removed, while another resident was concerned that bull sharks could enter the lagoon from the Logan River.

Anti-social behaviour

- Residents bordering the lagoon are concerned with the general "night use" of the park (allegedly 20-30 children sleep in the park). One resident suggested that a curfew could be introduced to stop the noise on weekends.
- Residents are concerned for their safety as they say fire arms are being used to shoot across lagoon.
- Other anti-social behaviour reported include; burnouts on the road access into the park, trail bikes roar around park, noisy remote control speed boats are used by the general public, and ill-treatment of wildlife. (It is suggested more signs are needed about the use of powerboats in the park).
- One resident was not in favour of artwork in the area (another target for vandals).
- To reduce speed and spin outs, residents suggested speed calming devices located in the car park and along Tygum Road, especially in pedestrian-crossing areas.

Recreation

- Additional bar-b-que areas were suggested, particularly in the area identified as the new location for the Marine Modellers (in keeping with their current facilities).
- The Marine Modellers require substantial shade in the new location (suggest shade sails) as well as a gazebo with table and chairs; bar-b-que; water; 25 metre pontoon (15 cm above the water with one side hand rail); access to the water's edge for a car and trailer (lockable swing gate, ample turning room near the lagoon and hard ground to launch their dinghy); lagoon race marker poles; and storage shed with water (for more details refer to Marine Modellers submission).
- A two-step platform above the lagoon water level is suggested (in case of flooding) and a viewing platform for lagoon activities (suggested by Marine Modellers - willing to assist with cost).
- Many residents said that rubbish is a problem as wind blows rubbish from the recreation area across the lagoon onto the northern banks (no bins in the car park).
- Residents request that the toilet block be up-graded. The marine modellers suggest that a new toilet facility could be attached to their 'storage shed'. Another resident suggests that an addition toilet block on the other side of the lagoon would help the elderly and disabled.
- There are conflicting views on whether there should be an exercise area in the park (eg dog exercise area, fitness circuit and poles for volleyball nets) as some residents believe the park should retain its 'natural environment and wildlife atmosphere' and be part of a wildlife corridor. Some say the lagoon circuit is not long enough to be a serious circuit.
- Residents highlighted the need for more seating (particularly west side of lagoon), a shade sail for the playground, additional parking, and generally more shelter.
- Other suggestions included: an open-screen area to show films for children (like Springwood), the lagoon should be called a "lake"; more grass area is needed to spread activity; need a community centre close to the park; and a boardwalk (rather than concrete) which needs to be high enough not to flood in rainy weather.

Other issues

- One resident suggested mesh between the concrete and the rail on the lagoon bridge/walkway to stop the ducks "messaging the path".
- Residents would like to see more services in the area (eg a bigger shopping centre) to support the additional use of the park and its surrounds.
- One resident requested that Council fix the footpath along Kingston Road (outside 895-893 Kensington Road) if the park is to attract more visitors on foot.
- Residents located either side of the Main Roads-owned lot on Kingston Road (indicated in the yellow 'proposed acquisition' area) are concerned about pedestrian access causing security problems as well as the issue of 'proposed acquisition'. One resident requests more detail in writing of the proposed acquisition and purchase intentions of Council.
- There was a suggestion that Melliodora Road may require upgrading if there is to be a lookout and additional traffic on this road.
- The 'land swap' resident requests further consultation.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- the Parks Branch and consultants consider the feedback provided by park users and residents of Waterford West when reviewing the Tygum Park Draft Master Plan.
- this consultation report be forwarded to Cr Able and be placed on Council's website to provide feedback to residents.