



Smith Park Masterplan Public Exhibition Report

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Executive summary

Overview

The development of a Masterplan for Smith Park, Hamilton was one of the recommendations of the Strategic Sports Plan which was adopted by City of Newcastle (CN) in 2020. The purpose of the Masterplan is to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years. The Masterplan aims to develop a flexible multi-use precinct to meet the recreation and sporting needs of the surrounding community, and enhance the visitor experience for players, officials and spectators.

Stage 1 works being carried out with grant funding awarded to Newcastle Junior Cricket Association include installation of drainage and irrigation, realignment of synthetic cricket wickets, new turf relay and installation of water tanks.

Other key improvements identified within the Masterplan include improved field layouts for football, OzTag and cricket, installation of lighting to meet Australian Standards, a proposed community/facilities building, upgrade of the existing carpark and replacing existing 90-degree parking on Parkside Avenue with parallel parking.

This work will be delivered in stages over a 10-year period and are subject to detailed design and assessment.

What we heard

The Masterplan was placed on public exhibition from 2 November to 30 November 2022.

Overall, 76 submissions were received via the online feedback form, including sporting groups/clubs representing cricket, football and bowls. Feedback was also received from a number of individual OzTag players.

Key themes

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on the Masterplan in the form of open text responses.

Responses were categorised into key themes, which were:

- lighting
- general positive comments/support for the Masterplan
- parking
- increased access/usage of facilities
- drainage and irrigation
- traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety

The community showed strong support for the Masterplan, with 57% of responses indicating positive sentiment, and a further 25% indicating some level of support. Lighting and drainage and irrigation were seen as high priority improvements given that usage of the park and its facilities is currently limited due to lack of lighting and poor drainage. The main concerns were related to parking and traffic, particularly from local residents who live in streets surrounding the park.

Other comments were regarding the inclusion of a footpath/shared path around the park, upgrades to amenities and facilities, layout of the cricket fields and trees.

Suggestions with fewer mentions included upgrades to cricket nets, a multipurpose court, barrier to stop balls rolling onto Griffith Road, a water feature, seating, playground, BBQ and picnic facilities, covered shelter, signs/enforcement of responsible dog ownership and more rubbish bins.

Recommendations received from the community during public exhibition

Lighting

Lighting should be prioritised, following drainage improvements which are part of Stage 1 works. The addition of lighting was strongly supported by the community, particularly OzTag, cricket and other sporting users. Many submissions commented that lighting would extend hours of play and increase capacity for sporting groups.

Parking

Many submissions commented on insufficient availability of parking. Consideration should be given to parking issues for nearby residents as well as the impact of parking changes on the number of overall spaces provided.

Traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety

Limited parking is also causing traffic build up around the park. Visibility, signage, traffic speed and pedestrian safety should be considered in line with any proposed changes to parking and traffic management.

Footpath/shared path

Including a footpath/shared path around the park could support increased usage by general recreation users for walking, riding and skating or roller skating. Path connections on Boreas Road and Thorn Road could also improve access to the playground and other facilities. Bicycle parking locations should also be considered.

Amenities

Consider the location of the amenities block to service all fields and users. Upgrades to existing amenities and additional amenities/toilet blocks should be included in the plans for future upgrades.

Field layout

Some changes to field layout have been suggested due to the position of lighting poles. Both cricket and football stakeholders suggested reducing the fields to two senior cricket fields and one junior field, plus other grass areas to enhance opportunities for lighting.

Cricket nets

It was suggested that upgrading the cricket nets should be included in the Masterplan. This includes increasing the length of the lanes, adding another lane and potentially an open roof.

1. Background

As part of City of Newcastle's Strategic Sports Plan (SSP) 2020, a number of recommendations were made relating to Smith Park, Hamilton including developing a masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

Specific recommendations from the SSP included: optimising the field layout and improving provisions for cricket, football and touch football/OzTag, upgrades to amenities and lighting improvements.

The Newcastle Junior Cricket Association has been successful in receiving over \$2.5 million in grant funding under the Multi Sport Community Facility Fund 2021/22.

CN has developed a draft Masterplan for Smith Park in consultation with local sporting user groups to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with the long-term vision of the park, and that it meets the needs of all user groups. The Masterplan will be implemented in stages over a 10-year period, with approved grant funding works being implemented as Stage 1 in the 2023-24 financial year.

2. Engagement objectives

To enable the community to have input into the vision and renewal of infrastructure at Smith Park, CN publicly displayed the Masterplan from 2 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

The purpose of the public exhibition was to seek general feedback about the Masterplan and specific sporting and infrastructure improvements.

3. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Masterplan from 2 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

The community were able to provide comment on the Masterplan in a number of ways:

Online feedback form

The community were invited to have their say via an open feedback form on the Have Your Say webpage.

In total, 76 submissions were received via the online feedback form.

Findings from the online form are presented in section **4. Key findings**







Other submissions

Community members were also able to provide feedback on the Masterplan by mail or email. Only one submission was received via email, however, a copy of this submission was also made via the online feedback form. Therefore, this feedback has been included as part of the key findings from the online feedback form.

4. Communication and promotion

During the public exhibition period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Masterplan and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in **Appendix 1 – Promotional materials**.

Channel	Description	Reach
 Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page provided information about the draft Masterplan and encouraged the community to provide feedback.	1,040 visits
 Flyers and onsite signage	<p>Flyers were distributed to local residences and businesses surrounding the park.</p> <p>Signage was also installed at each corner of the park.</p>	<p>200 flyers</p> <p>4 corflutes</p>
 Social media	The public exhibition was promoted via a post on CN's Facebook page on 16 November 2022. There was also a paid campaign running for 1.5 weeks to boost the post's reach. The post raised awareness and encouraged people to have their say.	10,889 reached 67 link clicks 31 comments
 Newsletters	An e-newsletter was distributed to CN's community panel on 4 November 2022.	Distributed to 2,439 people
 Targeted stakeholder engagement	CN representatives from the Project team conducted targeted engagement with key sporting users groups. The purpose was to raise awareness of the draft Masterplan and encourage feedback through CN's Have Your Say webpage.	n/a
 Councillor Memo	A memo was distributed to CN Councillors on 31 October 2022, advising of the engagement and providing information on how the community can provide feedback and comment.	n/a

5. Key findings

76 submissions were received from individuals or groups within the community via the online feedback form.

Submissions were received from various sporting groups/stakeholders including cricket, football, bowls and OzTag players.

Key themes

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on the draft Masterplan in the form of open text responses. Each of these responses were categorised to identify whether the sentiment was positive, mixed, neutral or negative.

Overall, 57% of responses were positive towards the draft Masterplan and 25% were positive about some aspects but not all (e.g. respondents were positive about sporting improvements but not parking and traffic). Eleven per cent of submissions were negative, and one submission provided comments that were unrelated to the Masterplan – this was categorised as 'other'.

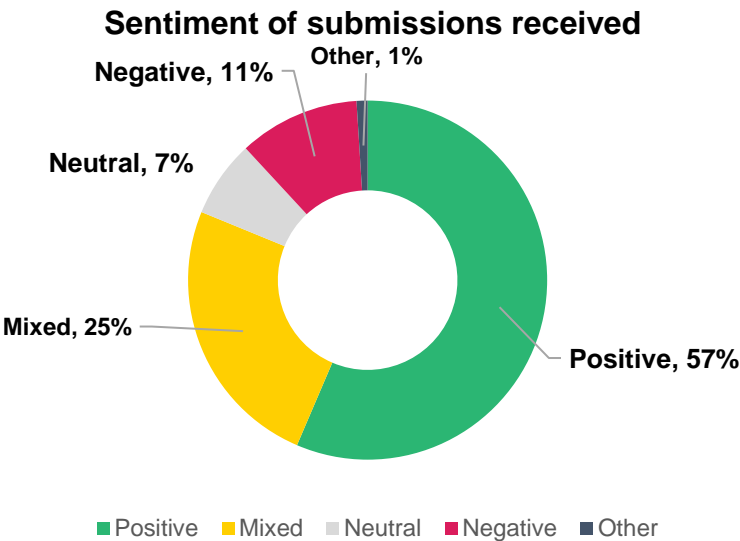


Figure 1. Sentiment of submissions received (N=76)

Responses were also categorised to identify recurring themes. Some responses focused on one particular aspect of the Masterplan, while other responses mentioned several aspects of the Masterplan.

Overall, the main themes were:

- lighting
- general positive comments
- parking
- increased access/usage of facilities
- drainage and irrigation
- traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety

Table 1. Common themes regarding open feedback about the Masterplan

Theme	Number of mentions
Lighting	31
General positive comments	29
Parking	26
Increased access/usage of facilities	21
Drainage and irrigation	15
Traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety	14
Footpath/shared path	6
Amenities/public toilets	5
Layout of cricket fields	5
Trees/plantings	4
Water feature/fountain	3
Multipurpose court e.g. basketball, netball, tennis	3
Seating	3
Playground	2
Rubbish bins/litter	2
Signs/enforcement of dog owners and dogs e.g. on leash	2
BBQ/picnic facilities	2
Covered shelter	2
Cricket nets	2
Barrier to stop balls rolling onto Griffith Road to the south	2
Community garden	1
Restrictions/limits on number of users at any one time	1
Fitness/exercise equipment	1
Remove rugby posts to accommodate rugby 7's and 9's	1
Noise barrier	1
Environment/sustainability e.g. carbon neutral facilities, green star rating	1
Consider a turf wicket	1
Canteen/storage area	1
Building orientation/landscaping	1
Other – not relevant to project	2

Lighting

Lighting was the most frequently mentioned theme among the feedback received. The addition of lighting was seen as a priority as it would extend the hours that users are able to play sports or use the park for general recreation year-round. In particular, respondents commented that lights would be a positive addition for OzTag users. Examples of comments are shown below.

Table 2. Examples of lighting comments

Examples of lighting comments (N=31)
<i>"Light installation should be a priority. I have played oztag for quite a few years in Newcastle and over the last few seasons there has been an issues with playing later games due to insufficient lighting available at Smith park."</i>
<i>"More lighting!!!!..."</i>
<i>"I am there 3 nights a week in the summer. We can't use Smith Park during winter due to the lights. This is a great plan."</i>
<i>"The master plan is definitely needed, especially lights!"</i>
<i>"Smith park needs lights. Without lights this park cannot be used to full potential for any sport or recreation."</i>
<i>"100% in support of the plan. Lights will be a fantastic and much needed upgrade to the area to have it on par with others."</i>
<i>"...I would support inclusion of lighting to expand field capacity by extending hours of field access."</i>
<i>"...I also think lighting improvements are essential for safety of players because there is not enough light for later games even in the middle of summer..."</i>
<i>"This is great news for oztag, as we run out of light some nights and have to cut games shorter from 40 min games back to 30 mins to fit the teams in..."</i>

General positive comments/support for the Masterplan

The second most common theme was general positive comments about the Masterplan, indicating broad support from the community. Smith Park is an important asset to the community, and the proposed upgrades were seen to be beneficial to sporting users and the general community.

Table 3. Examples of general positive comments/support for the Masterplan

Examples of positive/supportive comments (N=29)
<i>"Fully support the proposed works, really is essential to continue use of the park for all of our sporting codes."</i>
<i>"Looks great. Wonderful that you have been able to improve the versatility of ground for various sports using the facility."</i>
<i>"This would be a fantastic enhancement and much needed for the sporting communities that access these grounds."</i>
<i>"I think these plans would be a great benefit to the sporting community and bring people together."</i>
<i>"I am happy to see this heavily used park receiving an upgrade..."</i>
<i>"As a long term resident of Boreas Road, in excess of 60 years, I applaud the development of a draft masterplan for Smith Park, Hamilton North..."</i>
<i>"All of this sounds worthwhile..."</i>

Parking

Parking was the main concern among feedback from the community. Parking availability is already an issue at Smith Park, and is of particular concern for residents living on surrounding streets such as Parkside Avenue, Newcastle Road, Thorn Avenue, and Boreas Road. Some residents mentioned being unable to access or leave their property and difficulties parking on the street when Smith Park was being used by sporting groups. The issue is expected to worsen following upgrades to the park and an anticipated increase in usage. Lack of parking also creates issues with traffic movement and pedestrian safety.

Table 4. Examples of parking comments

Examples of parking comments (N=26)

"1) The proposed car park on the west side of the park is woefully short of what is needed considering that most sport participants arrive with about 1 car each. 2) why not consider angle parking in Thorn Rd and Boreas Rd which are both very wide..."

"The current layout of Smith Park does not facilitate suitable parking for sporting events, and this is not accommodated in the masterplan. When sporting and other events take place, the parking available in Parkside Ave, Newcastle Rd, Thorn Ave and Boreas St are always in high demand, with vehicle and pedestrian safety concerns often observed in the race to secure a space. Additionally, as there is not ample parking, competitors often park in residential streets not designed for this level of traffic causing further safety concerns for local residents..."

"The parking MUST be addressed. I know parking isn't a priority when anything is built in this town, but the congestion in and out of Parkside Avenue on the 3 nights a week OzTag and touch is played is beyond ridiculous now. Especially onto Boreas Rd, trying to turn into Broadmeadow Road. My house is in that section, and I cannot come and go from my house during this time, due to the traffic chaos... I'd like to see how that is going to be addressed in a manner that actually works for all, and is sustainable."

"Parking upgrade will also be hugely beneficial for the players and spectators."

"...I am most hopeful that improvements can also be made to the parking situation currently experienced around the grounds. Unfortunately parking backlogs, double parking and illegal parking is currently common place during week days when OzTag and School sport is played and on weekends during cricket matches or when it's busy during the Sunday markets. This is quite concerning given the number of young children running around the roads to get to sport. Please consider increasing and improving parking around the grounds as well as residential parking options to help reduce the safety and congestion issues currently being felt."

"Please consider parking. Cars parking across driveways and very close to intersections is annoying for residents and extremely dangerous as it significantly reduces visibility at intersections. Car parking needs to be a priority of this upgrade."

"...At the moment not all fields are used and still parking is an issue. There aren't enough car parks around the park and cars park into tight streets poorly causing issues. I see an opportunity to increase the parking Boreas Street with a slight road widening into the north end of the park to allow nose in parking to increase the parking potential around the park to reduce the need for cars piling into tight streets."

Increased access/usage of facilities

Lighting and other proposed upgrades within the Masterplan were said to support increased access/usage of facilities, and the growth of social and competitive sports. Respondents also commented on how this would improve the physical and wellbeing of the community.

Table 5. Examples of increased access/usage of facilities comments

Examples of increased access/usage of facilities comments (N=21)
<i>"The proposed works will create a very big impact for the sports, allowing more teams to play (especially after sunset) and enjoy team sports and physical activity..."</i>
<i>"...These changes will also help to grow social and competitive sports, which is important for helping improve physical and mental wellbeing in our community."</i>
<i>"...With the growth of oztag in seniors and juniors we have to decline teams and people to play because we can't fit them in because of no lights. Our juniors especially have doubled in size and are expanding every term. This is great news and hope to help our sport expand more. Especially our female involvement in the game..."</i>
<i>"Great to see development & improvements proposed for Smith Park. These improvements will benefit so many local sporting associations..."</i>
<i>"Smith Park is a central location and encourages the community to engage with Oztag and cricket. With a growing population field space is a growing constraint to community sports. I would support inclusion of lighting to expand field capacity by extending hours of field access."</i>
<i>"I play Oztag here in all seasons and we desperately need lighting! Winter comp is almost futile because there isn't enough natural light to even run the competition! PLEASE, I don't care about anything other than sports field lighting being added to the park!"</i>

Drainage and irrigation

Drainage and irrigation improvements were also seen as a high priority. Several people commented on being unable to use the grounds for long periods after wet weather events. This was said to impact on sporting groups being able to play scheduled games.

Table 6. Examples of drainage and irrigation comments

Examples of drainage and irrigation comments (N=15)
<i>"The drainage is much needed..."</i>
<i>"...The irrigation at the park definitely needs to be addressed, as the perimeter of the whole park is under water as soon as it rains, and stays that way for days..."</i>
<i>"Drainage should be the number 1 priority. If you can't get on the fields it doesn't matter about layout, lighting, or parking. A field that gets damaged due to use while wet can put it out of service for weeks..."</i>
<i>"Drainage, irrigation and lighting would be amazing!... Drainage would mean we don't have to miss so many games we've already paid for due to rain."</i>
<i>"Improved field drainage and quality I think are essential changes, largely for safety of players (helping to reduce likelihood of injury), as well as helping more sport to continue despite unpredictable weather."</i>
<i>"Consideration on tree types and leaves already block the drainage within the laneway. Major drainage issues exist within the sag point of the laneway where the pit is. This flooding extends into the park rendering parts unusable even in medium rain events. Either the pit is blocked up and not maintained properly or the grade or capacity of the pipe isn't adequate. Flooding purely due to the drain not working properly occurs regularly. Drainage infrastructure in the laneway needs upgrading..."</i>
<i>"Can you guarantee the upgrade to the drainage system in the master plan won't impact more on the houses in the surrounding streets as some of them are in a high flood risk zone already."</i>
<i>"Smith Park #3 also needs to be raised to allow water runoff, as it floods down nearer the main road (which is where you intend to place the pitch)."</i>

Traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety

Traffic issues are generally related to the lack of parking available. However, some other comments mentioned the need to address visibility, signage and to slow down road users and add lighting to improve pedestrian safety.

Table 7. Examples of traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety comments

Examples of traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety comments (N=14)
<i>"...Consider speed management designs to improve safety. Thorn Rd in particular can become very hectic with late arrivals zooming in frustration along the street, often in large Suvs or 4x4s, creating real danger to others..."</i>
<i>"...Please introduce road signage that communicates the parking requirements on Boreas and Thorn Road. Cars are often parked on the corner within the legal limit reducing peoples ability to have clear sight of traffic – this is a risk management process from Council – Apply road safety yellow lines for parking requirements on Boreas and Thorn Rd..."</i>
<i>"...Extending the no parking yellow unbroken line all the way up the eastern side of Payne St, to Clyde St. And patrol this. Living in Gow St, I have seen too many near misses as residents and other users try to turn out of adjacent streets on high traffic days. Visibility and manoeuvrability on Payne St are poor. This may well affect Phillip and Bowser Streets, but I don't use them regularly..."</i>
<i>"...I would also recommend additional lighting in the park for safety of residents walking home at night."</i>
<i>"...On days where there are sports on it is impossible to find a park on my street and there is a lot of traffic running around in circles trying to find a park in our local streets..."</i>
<i>"Boreas Road is a wide road, could you look into changing the parallel parking along Boreas Road into 45degree parking allowing for extra parking spots. This would narrow the driving surface forcing drivers to slow down along Boreas Road, I see this as a benefit as there will be more pedestrians accessing the sports field after this refurbishment."</i>
<i>"...The surrounding streets and lane ways can't cope with the traffic now from the 3 Oz Tag games per week. Now go and add to that an updated park with a lot more amenities, attracting a lot more people to play sports, and it's a parking recipe for disaster...during heavy traffic and especially at Sports start and finishing times I actually CANNOT get into or out of my property. The traffic is that banked up, bumper to bumper, and because no-one has manners anymore, or are courteous drivers, I can sit in my driveway for 10 minutes, and not get out..."</i>
<i>"...Review parking and traffic plan along Thorn Road and Boreas Road. Vehicles parking right to the edge of driveways hinder visibility. The same happens at the intersection between Thorn and Boreas with vehicles parked along Boreas right to the edge of Thorn Road. Vehicles coming from the 4 way stop at Hamilton Street often launch to excessive speed when crossing Thorn Road taking into account the density of traffic and woeful visibility brought about by reckless parking."</i>

Footpath/shared path

Including a footpath/shared path around the park and a path from Boreas Road to the playground was also suggested. A footpath/shared path was said to be a positive addition for walkers and parents with prams as well as beginner bike riders and roller skaters.

Table 8. Examples of footpath/shared path comments

Examples of footpath/shared comments (N=6)
<i>"Suggest having a concrete footpath/walkway from Boreas Rd to the playground as the grassed area in between becomes very wet and boggy. Makes it difficult for people to access the park from Boreas Rd."</i>
<i>"Please put a path around the whole park, soccer games and Oz tag games trudging through the mud for the past 8 years isn't fun, it would also be a great space for beginner bike riders and roller skaters..."</i>
<i>"Need a footpath around the park for walkers and mums with prams."</i>
<i>"...Shared path is high priority here – currently a missing link – need to consider the considerable population expected in Broadmeadow/Hamilton North in the coming years – passive recreation also needs a focus in the masterplan..."</i>

Amenities and facilities

Comments relating to amenities and facilities were varied. Mentions included that the toilet upgrades should be prioritised, whilst another suggested that the amenities block was in the wrong place, proposing an additional small toilet block along Thorn Street. Including a canteen in the facilities building could allow sporting clubs to generate additional revenue.

Table 9. Examples of amenities and facilities comments

Examples of amenities and facilities comments (N=5)
<i>"...Needs to be more COVERED seating (or carport shade shelters) and a small toilet block, to save players walking right across the fields to the amenities that are in the middle of the park, that's if they are even open. To me, the amenities block is in the wrong place..."</i>
<i>"...Ensure the facilities building can take a canteen for extra revenue gathering for the clubs..."</i>
<i>"...Toilet upgrades ASAP in conjunction with flooding works... more information required re community building – is it a community building or upgraded toilets?..."</i>

Layout of cricket fields

Reconfiguration of cricket fields may allow space for other facilities such as lighting and/or a shared path along Griffith Road whilst still meeting the needs of cricket users. Examples of comments are shown below.

Table 10. Examples of cricket field layout comments

Examples of cricket field layout comments (N=5)
<i>"Could the cricket field in the south-west be moved further west/north? this would allow for a shared path along Griffiths Rd but still allow for 3x cricket ovals..."</i>
<i>"Move to 3 full size fields plus other grass areas. This will allow for a better chance of lighting up the second full size pitch in south west corner. As current masterplan has no room for a light pole towards north east end of field. This will allow cricket to have 2 senior fields. With the work about to commence on the surfaces by cricket, lighting will be a major boost to the club..."</i>
<i>"...3 senior fields now reduced to one. Loss of grounds !!! Not good..."</i>

Trees/plantings

Additional shade trees were well supported by the community. One person commented that planting of trees, particularly along Parkside Avenue should be prioritised. If any trees are to be removed e.g. near the proposed half basketball court, consideration should be given to replanting trees elsewhere.

Table 11. Examples of trees/planting comments

Examples of trees/planting comments (N=4)
<i>"...Consider bringing the planting of trees into stage 1, particularly along Parkside Avenue. There used to be trees there that provided great shade for spectators and it is a great shame they were removed several years ago without any solution or funding to replace them."</i>
<i>"...Good to see many new shade trees proposed. Unsure if all trees proposed for removal are necessary to go i.e. the ones near the proposed half basketball court."</i>
<i>"Additional trees for shading for spectators is a great idea..."</i>

Feedback from cricket groups/users

Feedback from the cricket community has been analysed with feedback from the broader community above. However, given the detailed nature of their feedback, it has been summarised below.

Smith Park is said to provide essential multi-purpose sport and community assets that support current and future sporting needs of the LGA. In particular, it is an important facility for cricket users. Cricket stakeholders recommended two adult fields and one junior field, subject to placement of lighting. The proposed community facilities building should incorporate a minimum of two sets of changerooms to service fields 1 and 3. Capacity to increase footprint of cricket nets e.g. length of run up and an additional community lane. There was also a suggestion of adding an open roof over the cricket nets. Lighting should provide the capability to host twilight cricket on field no. 2 and support play from 6pm-9pm. It was suggested that lighting poles nearest the cricket training facility should have lights orientated over the training net.

Cricket users commented on considering female-friendly change rooms for both the home and away teams as well as separate public toilets. Other ideas include a covered area for viewing of games potentially with an elevated aspect similar to John Street Oval, Parbury Park, Feighan Oval etc, and possibly a small canteen/storage area. Building orientation and landscaping were also mentioned, with consideration to how they could support optimised viewing of games on Smith Park No. 2 (the ground that can be configured for both junior and senior games). The current building orientation allows for viewing Smith Park No.1 but does not seem to provide viewing for No.2. The landscaping indicated at the southern end of the building is said to likely obscure the viewing of games on No.3 and also No.2 to an extent. Consideration should be given to future upgrade or expansion of the existing cricket nets which are currently in high demand and have limited run up for bowlers unless the gate on the end net is opened. At a minimum, it was suggested that the length of the nets should be increased. There is also opportunity for a turf wicket at Smith Park.

Feedback from football groups/users

Football stakeholders suggested to move to three full size fields plus other grass areas, catering for lighting of at least two fields to match standards. Doing so is said to allow for a better chance of lighting up the second full size pitch in the south-west corner, and allow cricket to have two senior fields. The current layout is said to have no room for a light pole towards the north-east end of the field.

Feedback from OzTag users

Although there weren't any submissions from OzTag groups, there were a number of submissions from self-identified OzTag players. Many OzTag players strongly supported the addition of lighting allowing extended hours of play throughout the year.

Feedback from bowling stakeholders

Bowling stakeholders support the development of a Masterplan to upgrade Smith Park which is a hub for the community and well utilised by many sports clubs, groups, families, local residents and visitors throughout the year. Stage 1 works address much needed works, particularly the stormwater drainage issues that currently hamper playing conditions. Additional lighting will also have a positive impact, extending playing times for various sporting games. A concern for the club is the availability of parking spaces during sporting games. Parking is said to already be inadequate and the problem will only increase as more people visit and use the park.

6. Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the draft Smith Park Masterplan. The project team will review all feedback received during public exhibition and use this to inform the final Masterplan. The Masterplan will then be presented to the Sports Infrastructure Working Party (SIWP) for endorsement.


Appendix 1 – Promotional materials

Have your say webpage

THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Smith Park Sports Masterplan

Thanks for having your say on the draft Masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure at Smith Park over the next 10-15 years. We're reviewing your feedback and will report back soon.



Overview

As part of the CN Strategic Sports Plan (SSP) 2020, a number of recommendations were made relating to Smith Park, Hamilton including the development of a masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

Specific recommendations from the SSP included: optimising the field layout and improving provisions for cricket, football and touch football/OzTag, upgrades to amenities and lighting improvements. The Newcastle Junior Cricket Association has been successful in receiving over \$2.5 million in grant funding under the Multi Sport Community Facility Fund 2021/22.

Why develop a draft Masterplan for Smith Park?

CN has prepared a draft Masterplan for Smith Park in consultation with local sporting user groups to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with the long term vision of the park and meet the needs of all user groups. The Masterplan will be implemented in stages over a 10 year period with approved grant funding works being implemented as Stage 1 in the next financial year.

What's included in the draft Masterplan?

The draft Masterplan aims to develop a staged and flexible multi-use precinct to meet the recreation and sporting needs of the surrounding community, and enhance the visitor experience for players, officials and spectators.

Proposed works include:

- Realignment of football, Oztag and Cricket fields to meet relevant field of play dimensions and increase capacity to 9 full size Oz Tag fields, 4 senior soccer fields, 3 senior cricket fields and 1 junior cricket field.
- Installation of drainage and irrigation*
- Realignment of synthetic cricket wickets, new turf relay and installation of water tanks for future water harvesting opportunities*
- Installation of lighting to meet relevant Australian Standards
- Proposed community/facilities building
- Upgrade of existing carpark
- Existing 90 degree parking and loading area on Parkside Avenue to be replaced by parallel parking to accommodate changes to field layout

*part of Stage 1 Grant funded works

Note: Stage 1 works are subject to grant funding requirements and deadlines, and will commence as soon as practical.

Thanks for having your say!

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on the draft Masterplan. We're currently reviewing your feedback and will report back soon.

Smith Park Masterplan

- [Smith Park Sports Masterplan](#)
- [Smith Park Sports Masterplan - Summary](#)
- [Smith Park Sports Masterplan FAQs](#)

Supporting Documents

- [Strategic Sports Plan \(PDF\)](#)

Project timeline

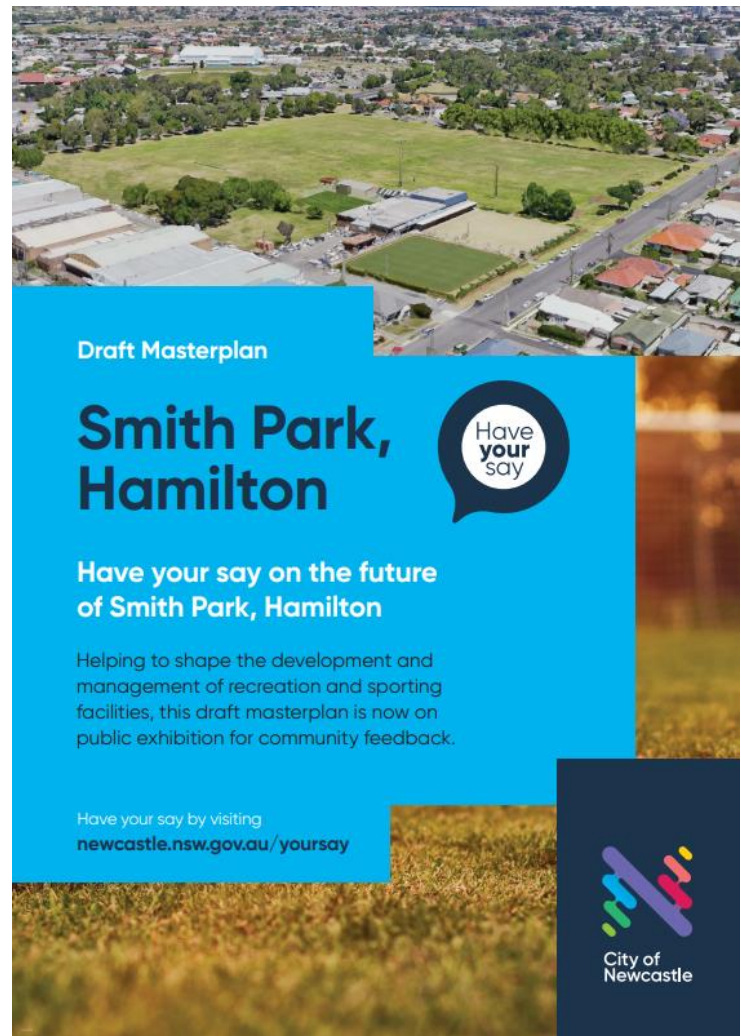
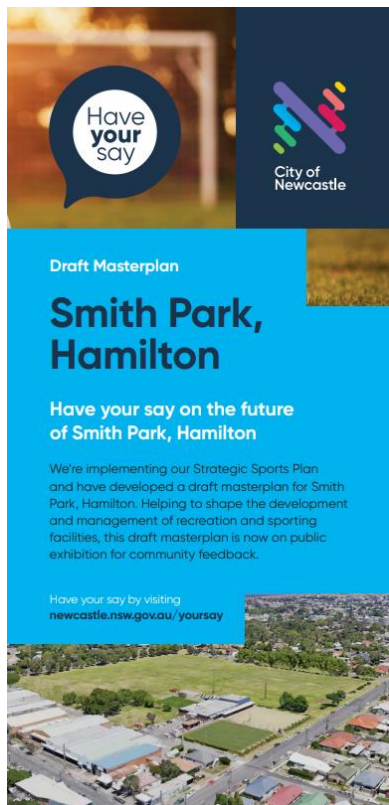
- November 2022
Public Exhibition - Draft Masterplan
The draft Smith Park Sports Masterplan is now on public exhibition for community feedback.
- December - Early 2023
Review feedback from Public Exhibition
The project team will review your feedback and provide a report to Council.
- Early 2023
Report to Council to adopt Masterplan
The final Masterplan will go to Council in early 2023 for adoption.

Expand timeline

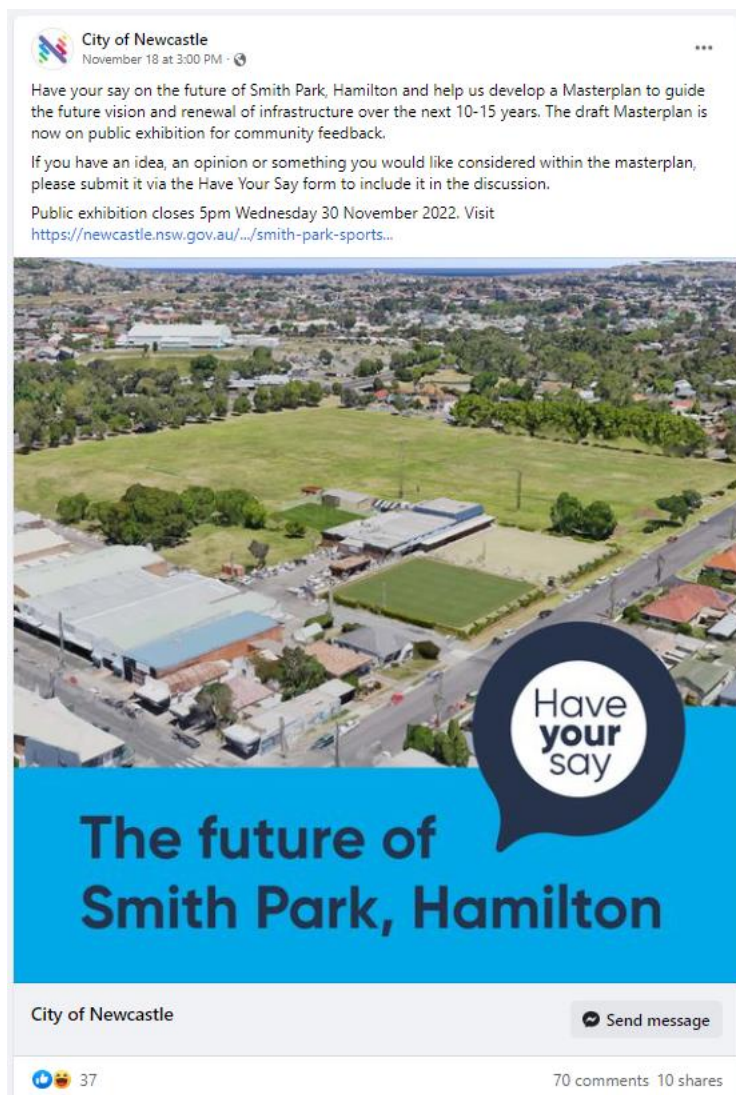
Contact us

Engagement team
Phone: 02 4974 2000
Email: engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Flyer and onsite signage



Social media



Newsletter

Smith Park Sports Masterplan

The draft Masterplan for Smith Park, Hamilton guides the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

The Masterplan includes optimised field layouts improving capacity for football, Oztag and cricket, upgrades to amenities and lighting improvements.



Have your say on the draft Masterplan until 5pm on **Wednesday 30 November 2022**.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Appendix 2 – Open feedback/comments

Please provide your comments/feedback on the Smith Park Masterplan

Light installation should be a priority. I have played oztag for quite a few years in Newcastle and over the last few season there has been an issues with playing later games due to insufficient lighting available at Smith park.

- 1) the proposed car park on the west side of the park is woefully short of what is needed considering that most sport participants arrive with about 1 car each.
- 2) why not consider angle parking in Thorn Rd and Boreas Rd which are both very wide. A narrower path would reduce the temptation to speed along those streets and people would access their cars in a protected/safer zone. Available parking would be greatly improved as a result.
- 3) Along with the above, consider speed management designs to improve safety. Thorn Rd in particular can become very hectic with late arrivals zooming in frustration along the street, often in large Suvs or 4x4s, creating real danger to others.
- 4) Finally, consider bringing the planting of trees into stage 1, particularly along parkside Avenue. There used to be trees there that provided great shade for spectators and it is a great shame they were removed several years ago without any solution or funding to replace them.

Would love for the playground to get an upgrade. Currently very exposed and sunny and limited access for younger children/toddlers, most of the equipment being made of ropes.
Easiest improvement would be more rubbish bins, park is currently full of litter and I think it would help to put in some bins

Suggest having concrete footpath/walkway from Boreas Rd to the playground area as the grassed area in between becomes very wet and boggy. Makes it difficult for people to access the park from Boreas Rd.

Can you **** that soccer pitch off please, the Z grade standard is embarrassing for our community and we would be far better off with unit blocks built their instead.

For my 2023 major project at school I am looking into a fountain area to replace the current one, it would have seating areas around a main water feature, I believe this would make a great addition to smith park as the water fountain currently there has been their sponce I was young and always had too much or too little water pressure with warm water to boot, I believe that a new fountain peace should be looked into
Thanks

The current layout of Smith Park does not facilitate suitable parking for sporting events, and this is not accommodated in the masterplan. When sporting and other events take place, the parking available in Parkside Ave, Newcastle Rd, Thorn Ave and Boreas St are always in high demand, with vehicle and pedestrian safety concerns often observed in the race to secure a space. Additionally, as there is not ample parking, competitors often park in residential streets not designed for this level of traffic causing further safety concerns for local residents. Council should look at incorporating an off-street parking facility within Smith Park to accommodate parking demands.

Happy for upgrade to go ahead but a parking station MUST be provided. There is limited parking now for residents who pay their rates we can't accommodate any additional parking.

All the sports options look great but was there going to be a community garden that was once talked about?

Brilliant plan Smith Park is important to Newcastle

Although upgrading sporting facilities is a good idea, other than changing parking on one road, where is the recommendation to provide additional parking. As a resident who frequently has people parking across my driveway or blocking access to driveways when oztag is on, where is the accountability for additional parking?

In addition to this i'm a nurse who works shift work and is frequently on call to cover trauma surgeries. Having members of the public block access to get in and out of my own property is a huge issue.

You are reducing the available parking spaces. If you took the time to see the impact of these sporting events have on the local community, even a qualified town planner could see a need for more off-street parking. Let's take oztag as an example. 9 oztag fields x 12 players per team = 216 players + approx 50 spectators / officials = approx 270 people at any one time on the field. Most stay on to watch the next game or head over to the Club for dinner or drinks. Let's say they play 10 games a night per field. The later games, people are forced to park their vehicles in the surrounding residential streets. A cap of how many people use the field at any one time may be required. The reality is local residents cannot park in the vicinity of their residence when these events are on.

This facility definitely needs upgrading, lightening is essential for use for all year round sports. Fantastic improvements, toilets needed for year round use by families visiting the recently upgraded playground.

Please put a path around the whole park, soccer games and Oz tag games trudging through mud for the past 8 years isn't fun, it would also be a great space for beginner bike riders and roller skaters, those who are ball sport orientated are still included in the upgrade.

Need a footpath around the park for walkers and mums with prams

The drainage is much needed and the lights will be a great addition.

A basketball court/ hoop, netball hoop or wall ball wall would be a great addition. There are so many teens in the area and it would be great to get them outdoors and active.

Perhaps a footpath around the whole park for walking or kids to learn how to ride. Many of the blocks in the area are small, so this would be an added bonus for families.

The parking MUST be addressed. I know parking isn't a priority when anything is built in this town, but the congestion in and out of parkside Avenue on the 3 nights a week OzTag and touch is played is beyond ridiculous now. Especially onto Boreas Rd, trying to turn into Broadmeadow Road.

My house is in that section, and I cannot come and go from my house during this time, due to the traffic chaos.

Also, the irrigation at the park definitely needs to be addressed, as the perimeter of the whole park is under water as soon as it rains, and stays that way for days.

My main issue though, is with traffic management and parking.

I'd like to see how that is going to be addressed in a manner that actually works for all, and is sustainable..

I am happy to see this heavily used park receiving an upgrade.

Please consider:

- replacing water fountain near park with a combined bottle refill and dog bowl stand. Fountain location should be retained near park as it is the most frequently used portion of the facility by local residents and line of sight from the playground is important.

- please also consider a bbq facility and additional shelter near park.

- extending the no parking yellow unbroken line all the way up the eastern side of Payne St, to Clyde St. And patrol this. Living in [REDACTED], I have seen too many near misses as residents and other users try to turn out of adjacent streets on high traffic days. Visibility and manoeuvrability on Payne St are poor. This may well affect Phillip and Bowser Streets, but I don't use them regularly.

(And whilst we're bothering to consult about Hamilton North, get someone to put a raised pedestrian crossing, or even a wombat crossing, on Clyde St before someone is knocked down and seriously injured.)

Sorry, I forgot to add exercise equipment around the perimeter of the park. So many other parks in Newcastle have this and it would be nice to have nearby.

We at Fletcher continually hear and see the work going on in Newcastle and the inner suburbs of Newcastle. We never have anything done out our way. The park in Lochness Dr is a disgrace Equipment is 22 yrs old the pond and its surrounds are also a disgrace, grass is knee high and there is mud and dirt over the paths, and has been like it for years. You are not telling us what is happening to Minmi RD when the New Estate is housed on both sides of the road. We are the Forgotten area of Newcastle. OUR Council Rates go up every year for What !!!!!

Parking is an issue in the area already, increasing the amount of playing fields will add to this issue. Boreas road is a wide road, could you look into changing the parallel parking along Boreas road into 45degree parking allowing for extra parking spots. This would narrow the driving surface forcing drivers to slow down along Boreas road, I see this as a benefit as there will be more pedestrians accessing the sports field after this refurbishment

More lighting!!!! And more Parking!

I am there 3 nights a week in the summer. We can't use smith park during the winter due to lights. This is a great plan

To whom it may concern, I would like to add my vote for having lights installed at the fields.

Fully support the proposed works, really is essential to continue use of the park for all of our sporting codes

The propowed works will create a very big impact for the sports, allowing more teams to play (especially after sunset) and enjoy team sports and physical activity. Parking upgrade will also be hugely beneficial for the players and spectators.

We desperately need lights!!

Would love to see some lights to aid with game day times

I play Oztag here in all seasons and we desperately need lighting! Winter comp is almost futile because there isn't enough natural light to even run the competition! PLEASE, I don't care about anything other than sports field lighting being added to the park!

Improved field drainage and quality I think are essential changes, largely for safety of players (helping to reduce likelihood of injury), as well as helping more sport to continue despite unpredictable weather. I also think lighting improvements are essential for safety of players because there is not enough light for later games even in the middle of summer. These changes will also help to grow social and competitive sports, which is important for helping improve physical and mental wellbeing in our community.
This master plan is definitely needed, especially lights!
This is great news for oztag, as we run out of light some nights and have to cut games shorter from 40 min games back to 30 mins to fit the teams in. with the growth of oztag in seniors and juniors we have to decline teams and people to play because we can't fit them in because of no lights. our juniors especially have doubled in size and are expanding every term. this is great news and hope to help our sport expand more. especially our female involvement in the game. 414 females 581 males for juniors. seniors 900 females approx and males 1500 approx playing the game over 4 nights
Please put lights on the field for people that play OzTag after sundown
100% in support of the plan. Lights will be fantastic and a much needed upgrade to the area to have it on par with others
Smith park needs lights. Without lights this park cannot be used to full potential for any sport or recreation.
Looks great. Wonderful that you have been able to improve the versatility of ground for the various sports using the facility.
OzTag has grown so much, there is a desperate need for lights and more attention to the grounds.
Fix it up. Lighting would be great. I support the proposed works.
We really need lights for this ground!
Very supportive of improvement and drainage at this park to facilitate sports and fitness
Drainage should be the number 1 priority. If you can't get on the fields it doesn't matter about layout, lighting, or parking. A field that gets damaged due to use while wet can put it out of service for weeks. Parking would be my next priority. If there are 3 games of cricket or soccer that is at least 66 people. 9 games of oztag is more than double that. Even if only 6 fields are in use for oztag, there will be over 200 people including those playing and those waiting to play in the next time slot.
Additional or... Some Drainage is a must so that the kids can play and not be washed out
Smith Park is a central location and encourages the community to engage with Oztag and cricket. With a growing population field space is a growing constraint to community sports. I would support inclusion of lighting to expand field capacity by extending hours of field access.
Definitely approve lightening being a priority at Smith Park. As a current parent of an Oz-tag player lightening in games after 630pm can become an issue.
This would be a fantastic enhancement and much needed for the sporting communities that access these grounds.
As a current OzTag player at this facility I agree that lighting and drainage are a must for any proposed works. We currently have poor visibility at later start times during the summer oztag season and need to have reduced playing times, half time breaks and changeovers to ensure the teams in the last time slot have enough light to play. I am unsure what is meant by lighting to the Australian standard but would hope this provides enough light to play on the fields at night time.

Please consider parking. Cars parking across driveways and very close to intersections is annoying for residents and extremely dangerous as it significantly reduces visibility at intersections. Car parking needs to be a priority of this upgrade.

Smith Park needs lights! My son plays OzTag there and his game last week was played in the virtual dark.

Concern regard impact on local residents please see attached document.

As a resident for the past 20 plus years in Hamilton North I'm more than happy for any improvements that can be done in the area and welcome the idea of upgrading Smith Park. However, I believe parking will be a big issue as currently it is already a problem particularly when there are any local events on in the area e.g.

- Home games at McDonald Jones stadium
- Circus in the Park
- Shows at Entertainment Centre
- Newcastle City Farmers Market
- Newcastle Caravan Camping Expo
- Newcastle Outdoor Adventure & Motoring Expo
- Health, Wealth & Wellbeing Expo
- Newcastle Show
- Newcastle Roller Derby Expo
- Live Bands
- Disney on Ice
- Tag football in the Park
- Cricket in the Park

As there is no parking along Griffith Road it is all signed "No Stopping"
Some Residents do not have off street parking in Boreas Road, Thorn Road, Bates St and Newcastle St, visitors from outside this area are not using local buses and train line to attend these facilities.

Parkside Ave has businesses the full length of the Ave which parking is always utilised for their customers so very little additional parking will be available for sport goers.

As well some of this parking area is utilised by other businesses on Broadmeadow Road
Existing parallel parking will be significantly reduced when you plant a tree in every 3rd space.
Existing 90 degree parking will currently only accommodate approx 10 vehicles this number will be reduced once you have converted back to parallel parking.

This area will only hold approx 20 car spaces, why not reclaim area 4 and build a multilevel carpark to accommodate additional sports players to the area. This is desperately needed now well before you improve the area.

I live in [REDACTED] and like many other resident's in this street along with all other street nearby are continuing to be impacted whenever there is an event on and unable to park in our own residential street on many occasions.

You have Newcastle Street listed as "R2" Low Density Residential on your draft have you not noted unit blocks now being developed in this street all with a shortage of parking to cater for people renting so this is also causing additional pressure.

At least once a week I can't park at my residence I have to park elsewhere and that is on a good day when there are no activities happening. When there is an event on like "Newcastle Outdoor Adventure & Motoring Expo" I do not even risk using my car as I know I will not be able to park in the area the entire weekend.

So I disagree that Newcastle Street is "R2" Low Density Residential, has the "Smith Park Masterplan" been designed by a local to the area who understand the area and it needs, It doesn't look that way.

I agree that appropriate drainage work needs to be done in the Park as each time we have a large amount of rain fall the park becomes like a marsh land that you cannot walk through.

Over the past 20 years this problem is escalating as with all development you must also provide the correct infrastructure as well.

Please do not pass the burden on to all the local residents who live here and pay council rates to wear the constant frustration and inconvenience of not getting this right. Why not utilise space 1 & 4 to build a multi-level parking station and re-locate or remove half basketball court as there is the Newcastle Basketball Association 1.3km away (3mins) in Broadmeadow, another 4.6km (8mins) away in New Lambton as well as one in Parry St Newcastle 3.3km (7mins) away.

Do we really need a half basketball court!!!

You MUST provide a parking station

I think these plans would be a great benefit to the sporting community and bring people together.

As a local resident of [REDACTED] I am looking forward to enjoying the upgrades at Smith Park. I am most hopeful that improvements can also be made to the parking situation currently experienced around the grounds. Unfortunately parking backlogs, double parking and illegal parking is currently common place during week days when Oz Tag and school sport is played and on weekends during cricket matches or when it's busy during the Sunday markets. This is quite concerning given the number of young children running around the roads to get to sport. Please consider increasing and improving parking around the grounds as well as residential parking options to help reduce the safety and congestion issues currently being felt.

Drainage, irrigation and lighting would be amazing! I've been playing Oztag for over 11 years now and lights would mean we could play more often and play full games all year round. Drainage would mean we don't have to miss so many games we've already paid for due to rain.

Great plan and please upgrade lights as some nights there is minimal natural light causing some teams getting knocked back due to not enough time slots when there is light. Also instead of parallel parking bring in angled parking as they are Easy to park, Easy to exit, Requires less turning radius, Less likely to get blocked in, Can fit more spaces per square meter

Very supportive of water harvesting.

Good to see many new shade trees proposed.

Unsure if all trees proposed for removal are necessary to go. I.e. the ones near proposed half basketball court.

Hello. I am a home owner on [REDACTED] and would like to suggest a few items that have not been considered from a safety perspective and sustainability of the park.

-Please introduce road signage that communicates the parking requirements on Boreas and Thorn road. Cars are often parked on the corner within the legal limit reducing peoples ability to have clear sight of traffic - this is a risk management process from council

-Apply road safety yellow lines for parking requirements on Boreas and Thorn rd

-Install/increase signage around the park to communicate the rules ie dogs on leash

-Increase the amount of bins to reflect the amount of users at the park

-Upgrade the playground to include equipment for the older kids, 10+, similar to Stockton park which has a flying fox

-With more cars and existing space being over capacity what will be done to increase car parking to reflect the increase usage? Often there are cars that park over current home owners driveways

-Update the current bench and seats that are along Thorn rd

I would like to see a tennis wall put in smith park, like the one in empire park bar beach. This would be a popular addition to the other sports involved at smith park.

Cricket concerns : 3 senior fields now reduced to one. Loss of grounds !!! Not good. Smith Park #3 wicket pushed further toward main road - concern with balls being hit onto road, potential accident. Might have to fence along roadway. No one uses the carpark who uses the grounds. It's basically used by the bowling club patrons as it's closest to them. When playing cricket you park along Thorn Rd / Parkway lane as it's closer to the pitches of Smith Park #1 , # 2 & #3. It's easier to drag a very big kit bag from the car to the edge of the field. We usually sit under the trees along Thorn st. Needs to be more COVERED seating (or carport shade shelters) and a small toilet block, to save players walking right across the fields to the amenities that are in the middle of the park, that's if they are even open. To me, the amenities block is in the wrong place. Smith Park # 3 also needs to be raised to allow water runoff, as it floods down nearer the main road (which is where you intend to place the pitch).

As a long term resident of [REDACTED] in excess of 60 years, I applaud the development of a draft master plan for Smith Park, Hamilton North. The installation of drainage and irrigation is desperately needed, as the Park in recent years has regularly become a swamp after rain. I have major concerns about removing the 90 degree parking in Parkside Avenue. There is a need for additional parking, as when Oz Tag is played I regularly cannot park near my home. I would suggest an additional car park be included in the plan and more 90 degree parking. I would also recommend additional lighting in the park for the safety of residents walking home at night.

Where is the parking? Sure you can update the park and create a better sports ground, but with that comes more use which entails more people. I have friends who live on thorn rd and they have to leave work early to be able to park near their house on nights with oztag.

It is great to see this improvement to the park and its will have great benefits to the community.

But as a local who live on [REDACTED] I have to say that there needs to be an increase in the amount of parking around the park. On days where there are sports on it is impossible to find a park on my street and there is a lot of traffic running around in circles trying to find a park in our local streets.

It appears that you are in fact reducing the parking along Parkside Avenue, increasing the capacity of the fields should include increasing parking capacity.

Currently there is insufficient parking available when touch football and soccer is on. Possibly more perpendicular parking to replace the parallel parking within the laneway could be considered. Additional trees for shading for spectators is a great idea. Consideration on tree types and leaves already block the drainage within the laneway.

Major drainage issues exist within the sag point of the laneway where the pit is. This flooding extends into the park rendering parts unusable even in medium rain events. Either the pit is blocked up and not maintained properly or the grade or capacity of the pipe isn't adequate. Flooding purely due to the drain not working properly occurs regularly. Drainage infrastructure in the laneway needs upgrading.

The basketball court is a welcomed addition.

Two full sized courts could be located adjacent the playground without impact on the sporting fields

Can you guarantee the up grade to the drainage system in the master plan won't impact more on the houses in the surrounding streets as some of them are in a high flood risk zone already

It would be awesome if oztag could access this field during the winter. That would require sufficient lighting. Thanks, oztag player

Before anything is done. All the multiple dogs off leash has to be addressed. It's a long on going issue.

very good idea - ensure the facilities building can take a canteen for extra revenue gathering for the clubs. if possible removal rugby posts to accommodate rugby 7's and 9's.

- could the cricket field in the south-west be moved further west/north? this would allow for a shared path along Griffiths Rd but still allow for 3x cricket ovals - shared path is high priority here - currently a missing link - need to consider the considerable population expected in Broadmeadow/Hamilton North in the coming years - passive recreation also needs a focus in the masterplan
- no loss of greenspace for additional parking
- toilet upgrades ASAP in conjunction with flooding works
- cricket nets (at least 1) should be available for public use
- strong support for half basketball court - could a tennis wall also be included in the design?
- more information required re community building - is it a community building or upgraded toilets?
- footpath around the park is required
- there is no need to remove the existing water fountain on Boreas Rd, regardless of heritage record. retain and use as a marking point when you arrive at the park from Boreas Rd
- need a table at the south-west corner of the park - people often eat their lunch here (workers etc) but there is nowhere for them to sit. existing ones near bowlo or Thorn St are too far away

Whilst I look forward to the park having the atrocious drainage issues sorted out, my main concern with this "Masterplan", is like most developments in Newcastle and surrounds, parking seems to not be a priority in the planning process.

Speak to anyone living around the park - including myself - and the surrounding streets and lane ways can't cope with the traffic now from the 3 Oz Tag games per week.

Now go and add to that an updated park with a lot more amenities, attracting a lot more people to play sports, and it's a parking recipe for disaster.

My house is [REDACTED]. I am 2 doors away from the Bowling Club, heading towards Broadmeadow Road.

[REDACTED]

During heavy traffic and especially at Sports start and finishing times I actually CANNOT get into or out of my property. The traffic is that banked up, bumper to bumper, and because no-one has manners anymore, or are courteous drivers, I can sit in my driveway for 10 minutes, and not get out. I also can't turn into my driveway from turning into Boreas Rd from the Broadmeadow Rd end, as the cars are bumper to bumper, and there is also the cars entering and exiting the lane to add to that mayhem. Now I've held up the cars behind me, whilst trying to enter my property, that it then banks up out and onto Broadmeadow Road, and then it's gridlock. No-one can come or go, or move!?!?!?

It's a joke. I have no idea how to fix this, other than painting a "Keep Clear" road marking outside my driveway, as my house is the ONLY one affected like this. The ONLY ONE!!

In actual fact, now that I think about it, I will be strongly pushing for these road markings to made a part of this Masterplan going forward, and if that falls on deaf ears, I suppose I will lobby via my local Ward Council Member, and take it to public voice or elsewhere, if it turns out I become a hostage in my own property due to lack of foresight about traffic management etc in regards to this proposal or any subsequent proposals that do not address the issue. See attachment for visual of said road markings.

As for the proposal on the Masterplan to convert the now horizontal parking in the lane way to 90° angled parking, have you actually tried to drive down that lane way of an afternoon or weekend when sports are on, and the businesses that back onto that lane are open!?!?!?

You can't get a car single file down there. Some of those businesses have their goods spilling out into the lane way like they personally own the space!

I utilise that laneway to access my house, and drive to my business multiple times a day, and I can tell you right now, changing the existing pathetic parking that is there now, to 90° angled parking is NOT going to solve any problems - I can only see that scenario exacerbating it.

I'd be very happy to meet with a representative from the planning committee and Roads and Traffic management to walk you through the issues of the lane way and Boreas Rd, specifically at the end incorporating [REDACTED] Boreas Rd.

My details are below.
Thank you for your time..

With so many fields Oztag have 12 players per team with 2 teams over a possible 7 fields where a majority of the players drive in a car by themselves. At the moment not all fields are used and still parking is an issue. There aren't enough car parks around the park and cars park into tight streets poorly causing issues.

I see an opportunity to increase the parking Boreas street with a slight road widening into the north end of the park to allow nose in parking to increase the parking potential around the park to reduce the need for cars piling into tight streets

All of this sounds worthwhile. I particularly think lighting would be a valuable addition as there seem to be a lot of periods, especially over winter, when these grounds could be utilised but are not.

██ have the following suggestions for Smith Park masterplan to cater for lighting of at least 2 fields to match standard.

- Move to 3 full size fields plus other grass areas.
- This will allow for a better chance of lighting up the second full size pitch in south west corner. As current masterplan has no room for a light pole towards north east end of field.
- This will allow cricket to have 2 senior fields.
- With the work about to commence on the surfaces by cricket, lighting will be a major boost for the club.
- I believe all other areas of the masterplan are agreed upon.

- Move to 3 full size fields plus other grass areas.
- This will allow for a better chance of lighting up the second full size pitch in south west corner. As current masterplan has no room for a light pole towards north east end of field.
- This will allow cricket to have 2 senior fields.
- With the work about to commence on the surfaces by cricket, lighting will be a major boost for the club.
- I believe all other areas of the masterplan are agreed upon.



- 1) something to stop balls rolling onto Griffith road to the south is needed. There may be an opportunity to create a sound deflecting berm that would also shield the suburb from increasing traffic noise.
- 2) increase rubbish collection and place signs to discourage rampant dumping, particularly along Thorn Road.
- 3) review parking and traffic plan along Thorn road and Boreas Road. Vehicles parking right to the edge of driveways hinder visibility. The same happens at the intersection between Thorn and Boreas with vehicles parked along Boreas right to the edge of Thorn Road. Vehicles coming from the 4 way stop at Hamilton Street often launch to excessive speed when crossing Thorn Road taking into account the density of traffic and woeful visibility brought about by reckless parking.

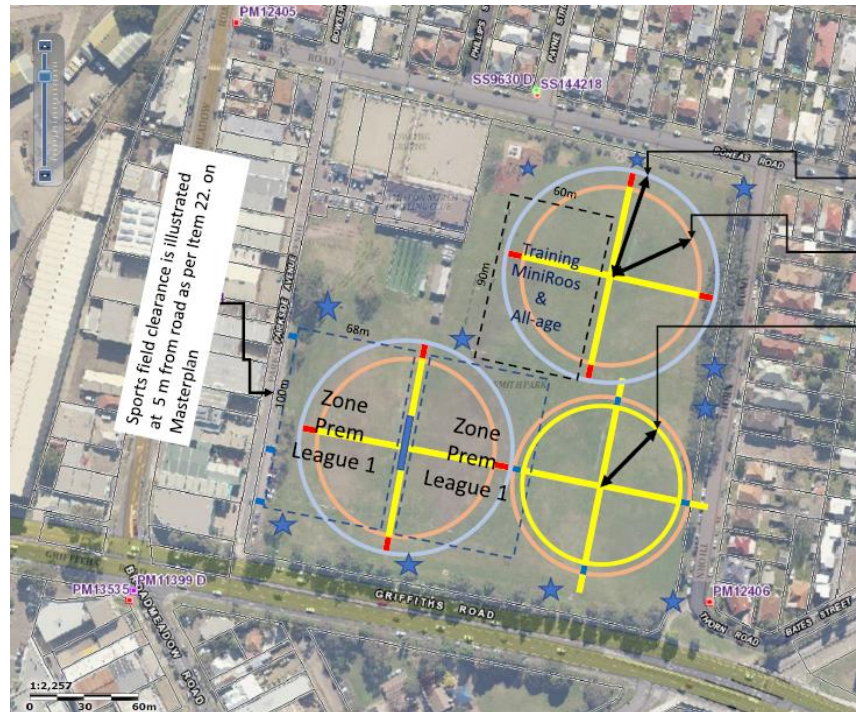
Please find attached cover letter and concept plan

██, along with its members, credit the City of Newcastle for developing a masterplan proposal to upgrade Smith Park. This great park is utilised by many sports clubs, groups, families, local and non-local people throughout the year making it a thriving community hub for the suburb of Hamilton North.

Stage I of the masterplan, as we see it, addresses much needed works to the park in particular the continual stormwater drainage issues that currently hamper playing conditions. We also see that the installation of addition lighting at the park will have a major positive impact. This will enable the

extension of playing times for various spotting games which are currently using the park. One point of concern for the club is the available car parking spaces whilst sporting games are being played. The available parking already is inadequate, and we see this problem dramatically intensify as stage I is completed when more people visit the park.

Please find enclosed the Cricket' Community's consolidated feedback to the proposed Masterplan.



Cricket Recommendation – Playing Fields

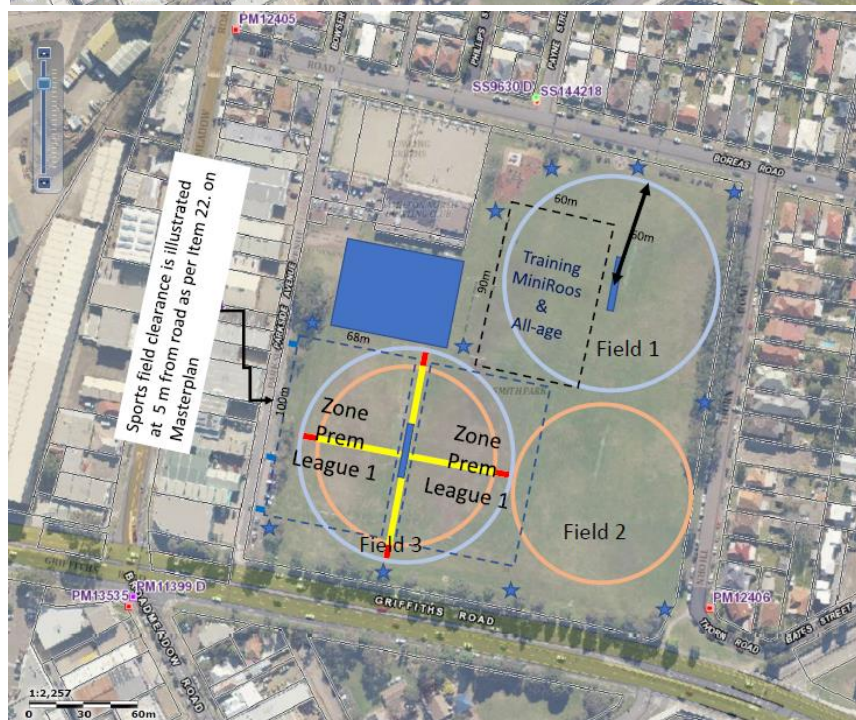
All cricket fields measured from Centre of new wicket

- 60m Boundary (blue)
Open age community recommended
- 50m Boundary (amber)
Open Age Community (min) & Junior Cricket Stage 3 (max)
- 45m Boundary (yellow)
Junior Cricket Stage 2 (max)

Cricket's Recommendation

- 2 x 60m recommended adult fields
- 1 x 50m Junior Field
- Subject to further understanding of lighting opportunity

Overlay Illustrations are indicative. Not to scale

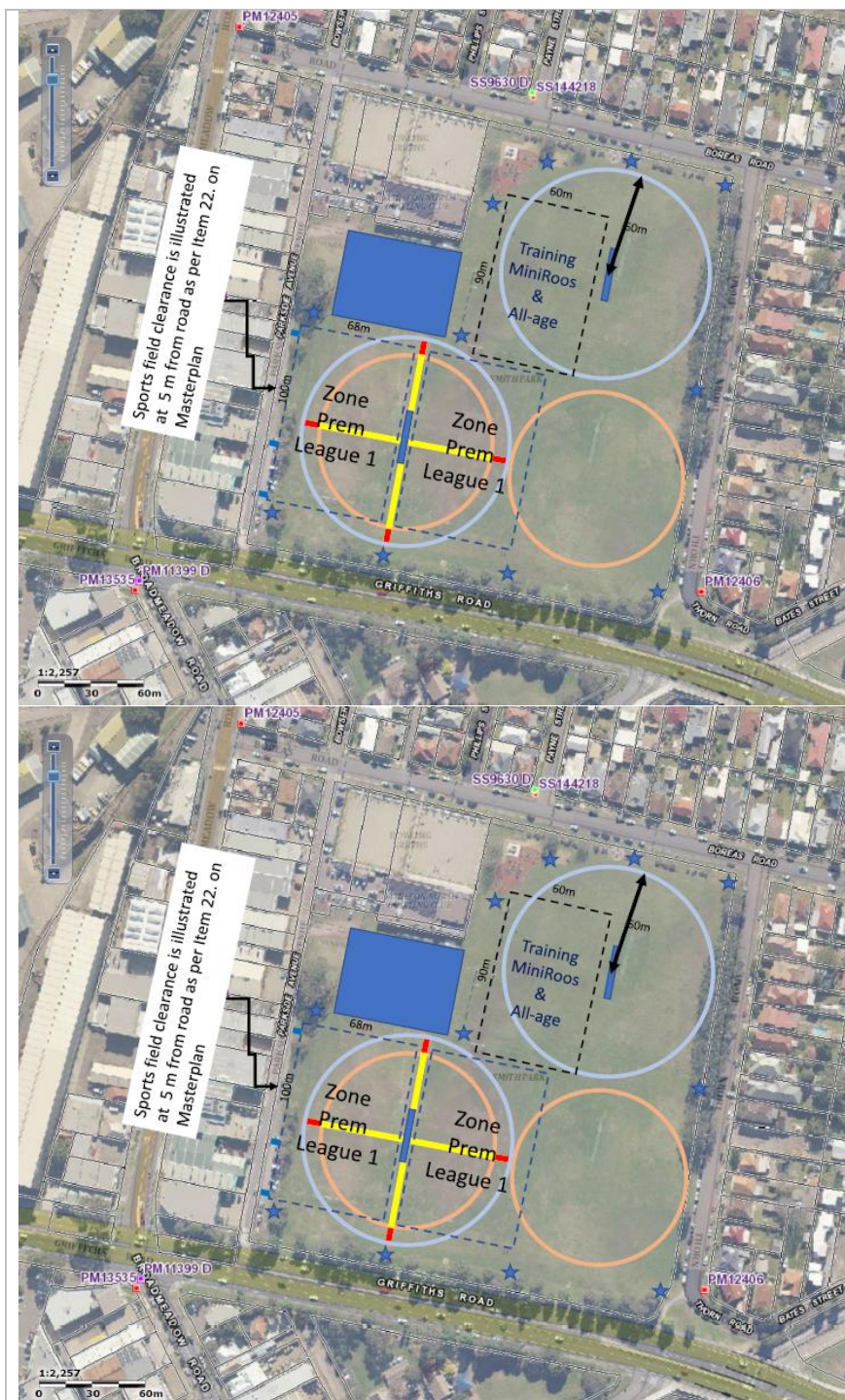


Cricket Recommendation – Ancillary Infrastructure

(17) Proposed Community Facilities Building

- Design to incorporate a minimum of 2 sets of changerooms to service fields 1 & 3
- Internal Building Storage – cricket training equipment 30m²
- Multipurpose Room & Kitchen/Kiosk
- Changerooms (4 x 30m²)
- Amenities (2 x 25m²)
- Accessible Toilets (2 x 25m², 1 x 5.5m²)
- Umpire's Room (2 x 15m²)
- First Aid / Medical Room (1 x 10m²)
- Click here for [Cricket Australia Club Rooms & Change Facilities](#)

Overlay Illustrations are indicative. Not to scale



Cricket Recommendation – Ancillary Infrastructure

Cricket Nets (Existing)

- Capacity to increase footprint subject to increase length of run-up and additional community lane
- Addition of roof over facility – open aired

Overlay Illustrations are indicative. Not to scale

Cricket Recommendation – Ancillary Infrastructure

(19) Lighting – [Click Here for Guidelines](#)

- Smith Park 2 to have capability to host twilight cricket
- Ability to support play from 6pm – 9pm
- Lighting poles nearest to cricket training facility to have lights orientated over training net

Overlay Illustrations are indicative. Not to scale

OUTDOOR CRICKET

AS 2580.2 CLASS	LEVEL OF COMPETITION	AVERAGE HORIZONTAL MAINTAINED ILLUMINANCE				
		SQUARE	INFIELD	OUTFIELD	PRACTICE* (ON-FIELD)	PHYSICAL EXERCISE**
I	• International (M) • Domestic (M)	1500	1500	1000	750	50
II	• Match Simulation – National/State (M)	1000	850	700	500	
III	• International (F) • Domestic (F) • Premier Senior – 1st & 2nd XI (M) • National Youth Championships (U/19 M)	750	600	500	400	
IV	• Premier Senior – 1st XI (F) • Premier Senior – All other (M) • National Youth Championships (U/19 F)	500	400	300	300	
V	• Premier Senior – All other (F) • Community Senior (M) • National Youth Championships (U/17 M) • Premier Junior (M&F) • Junior Cricket Stage 3 (M)	300	250	200	150	
VI	• Community Senior (F) • National Youth Championships (U/16 F) • Junior Cricket Stages 2 & 3 (F) • Junior Cricket Stages 1 & 2 (M)	200	200	200	100	
VII	• Junior Cricket Stage 1 (F) • Master Blasters (M&F) • Junior Blasters (M&F) • Schools Programs (M&F)	100	100	100	75	

*Non-competitive throwing and fielding (catching, ground balls)

**Non-ball activities
(M) = Male
(F) = Female

Notes: Lighting levels relate to non-broadcast outdoor cricket competition. Lighting levels provided are based on use of a standard white ball, however are also considered appropriate for a pink ball. The use of night screens that contrast with the ball colour is important to enable quick and clear visual identification.

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We understand that the proposed facilities / amenities building may not yet be funded, however, the master plan should consider:

- Female-friendly change rooms for both the home and away teams, as well as separate public toilets
- Covered area for viewing of games (possibly up a couple of steps for an elevated aspect?) – similar to those at places like John St Oval, Parbury Park, Feighan Oval etc.
- Possibility for a small canteen / storage areas.
- Building orientation and landscaping – consider how the building could be oriented, and the type of landscaping, to optimise viewing of games on Smith Park No 2 – which is the ground that can be configured for both junior and senior games. The current orientation may provide some viewing of Smith Park No 1, but does not seemingly “face” Smith Park 2. The landscaping indicated at the southern end of the building would likely obscure viewing of games on Smith Park 3 and also Smith Park 2, to an extent.

The masterplan could consider future upgrade / expansion of the existing Smith Park nets. They are often in high demand, and currently have very limited run up for bowlers (unless the gate on the end net is opened). The length of the nets should be increased, when funding permits, as a minimum.

Is there opportunity to consider a turf wicket at Smith Park, or will all three wickets be synthetic?

Great to see development & improvements proposed for Smith Park. These improvements will benefit so many local sporting associations.

Would love for Newcastle Council to look at making the amenities facility carbon neutral and greenstar rated development.