

Eastwood Park Information Session Q&A

Wednesday, 8 March 2017 - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

1. Question (Q): Are you here to just explain away our concerns?

Answer (A) from Council: We don't have answers to all your concerns and we are not here to explain them away, we are here to hear them and ascertain if they can be addressed, mitigated or not. It is important to us that we understand them and that is what we are here for.

2. Q: Where in the park will the Youth Space be located?

A from Council: The yellow dots shown in the map of the park in the online survey indicates a general location where the new Youth Space could be located. The red lines on the park maps in the information session presentation show a bordered area where the design for the family space could fill. Based on feedback from the community, budget, and any constraints of the location the design for the multi-use space may or may not be located in these areas.

3. Q: Is the space in Eastwood Park too small to add anything?


A from Convic: The design for the family space would be specifically designed for the space and to complement existing use. This might mean adding more seating and shade and very small facilities for scooter and skating use.

4. Q: A lot of people (400 to 500) an hour travel though the area near the library at Eastwood. This is currently used as a passive play area. Will we lose the passive use of the park?

A from Convic: The Eastwood Park location is indicated for consideration only. Council is looking to the community to provide feedback about the current uses and what facilities could complement these uses as well as providing new opportunities for local families to play and learn.

5. Q: I wouldn't take my grandchildren anywhere near a skate park where they will get bumped into by older kids. Are skate parks actually used by all ages?

A from Convic: Age group use changes throughout the day. Young kids will use a space in the mornings and lunch times. After school, older kids will use the space and after work adults will use it. This use will help younger kids progress their skills.



A from Council: The park area is valuable because of the current wide use and I can hear that you're uncomfortable to see it changed. We're here to hear your concerns. We don't have answers to everything but we want to answer these issues together.

6. Q: I live in Eastwood and I don't see skaters. How popular is skateboarding versus soccer and other sports? Is this going to be used by people from other areas?

A from Convic: There are statistics that skating has overtaken footy and other organised sports in popularity that skateboarding is now a sport in the Olympics.

A from Council: It will probably bring in people from outside of Eastwood along with those who live in Eastwood as there is no other facility in the local area.

7. Q: Skaters are out all night making noise and using profanity. Older skaters are out after 11:00pm. Will these problems get bigger with a skate park?

A from Convic: These concerns highlight the need for an appropriate facility.

8. Q: Eastwood Park is not suitable because it's too small. The real issue is you need to accommodate for diversity and different skill levels. Can you have the new kids at one end and advanced skaters at the other end?

A from Convic: Maybe the design is only for beginners at this site. Down the line we could accommodate for an intermediate skill sets. Maybe we take a fragmented approach. It's true that there isn't enough space for a large facility like what's pictured in the presentation.

9. Q: Why Eastwood Park? Why not Glen Reserve or another park?

A from Council: Studies have shown that skate parks need to be visual. Glen Street Reserve is too hidden and not visible to the street. We went through a number of sites and it is hard to choose the right site in the area. Council looked at a number of sites in area. There is a gap in our community for a youth facility and it's important for us to know is Eastwood Park the right site?

10. Q: What about the risks? A flying skateboard could hit someone in a small area.

A from Convic: Modern skate parks create a segregated area. Segregating the area away from pedestrians would be part of the design.

11. Q: Is there a broader view about space and use? What is the proportion of space provided to use? For example, some activities with small use get a larger space in the parks, and vice versa.

A from Council: Council's draft Sport and Recreation Strategy looks at these issues. Our open space is under pressure and there are a lot of competing uses. There is an increase in mid-density housing proposals which pose a dilemma for our parks and for time allocations for sports in the future. The draft Sport and Recreation Strategy is currently available for community feedback until Sunday, 9 April 2017.

The Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan is also an opportunity to provide feedback about the issue. Council are working with the State Government and have provided them with the feedback that they need to seriously consider the lack of open space. There is a limit of open space and needs of the community are changing, demographics are changing. Schools are developing and they are also using Council open space.

12. Q: Why doesn't Council look at another park for this facility in the area?

A from Council: The Skate Park Working Group looked at all the other sites in the area.

13. Q: Is the Eastwood community being pitted against the Meadowbank community that's why you are having separate sessions?

A from Council: That is not our intention. These two sites were chosen through a process by the Skate Working Group and Council has asked us to consult on both these spaces. We understand that each community may provide feedback more positively for a skate park to be in the other area. However we don't want to focus on which park it should be in, our focus is to hear from each community their comments of having a skate park in their area and provide everyone with the same and full context.

14. Q: How big is the Meadowbank site? Would it have a bigger skate park?

A from Convic: Meadowbank Park is a bigger space with the availability for more room for associated facilities dependent on the community response to the design.

15. Q: What happens at the Design Workshop on Saturday?

A from Convic: We will talk about the sites and workshop in groups to design various features in each space using modelling clay and other materials. To get some concepts together to inform the brief and direct the detailed design.