

Skateboard park site survey December 2018

History

At its recent Finance Committee meeting Woollahra Council decided to progress its \$1.1million skateboard park project for Rushcutters Bay Park. The skateboard arena was stipulated to accommodate 8-14 year old skateboarders. Now it is designed to accommodate 5-12 year olds apparently.

Council's background notes referred to an examination of other sites. This examination was inadequate and misleading. It failed to thoroughly examine all possible sites within council's own Local Government Area [LGA] or nearby and the two sites it referred to were not properly or adequately assessed.

Councillors were misled and have not been given the "full menu" of available or possible sites.

This survey remedies those information gaps.

Methodology

This survey has considered every single one of council's 50 open space sites within its LGA. A number were subject of a desk-top study and were eliminated. These included beaches, pools, sloping sites, those with limited physical space, poor access and/or safety concerns etc. The list of the 50 council-controlled public sites was provided by Woollahra Council.

Nine pre-selected potential sites then selected. These were inspected individually by two people on Saturday 22nd December 2018 with corroborated notes and photos taken on-site. This desk-top and on-site surveys initially considered the following 50 sites including an additional state-government-owned site in William Street, East Sydney:

Bellevue Hill

- Bellevue Park
- Bradley Avenue Reserve
- March Street Reserve
- Thornton Playground

Darling Point

- McKell Park
- Rushcutters Bay Park
- Sir David Martin Reserve
- Yarranabbe Park

Double Bay

- Blackburn Gardens
- Cooper Park
- Epping Reserve
- Foster Park
- Guilfoyle Park
- Lough Playing Fields
- Murray Rose Pool
- Steyne Park

Paddington

- Cambridge Street Reserve

- Dillon Street Playground
- James Cook Reserve (Cook's Paddock)
- Royal Hospital for Women Park
- Soudan Street Playground
- Spring Street Playground
- Trumper Park Oval
- Union Street Playground

Point Piper

- Duff Reserve

Rose Bay

- Andrew Petrie Oval (Woollahra Oval 1)
- Bungaree Reserve
- Dumaresq Reserve
- Hermitage Reserve
- Lyne Park
- Pannerong Reserve
- Percival Park
- Rose Bay Park
- Tingira Memorial Park
- Woollahra Oval 2/3

Vaucluse

- Beach Avenue Reserve
- Christison Park
- Derby Street Reserve
- Lighthouse Reserve
- Nielsen Park
- Parsley Bay Reserve
- Parsley Bay Swimming Enclosure
- Samuel Park
- Signal Hill Reserve

Watsons Bay

- Camp Cove Beach
- Camp Cove Reserve
- Gap Park
- Gibson's Beach Reserve
- Plumb Reserve
- Robertson Park
- Victoria Wharf Reserve
- Watsons Bay Baths

Woollahra

- Chiswick Gardens
- Elms Reserve
- Euroka Reserve
- Harbourview Park
- Holdsworth Street Playground
- Moncur Street Reserve

The nine pre-selected potential sites were inspected and analysed individually by two people on Saturday 22nd December 2018 with corroborated notes and photos taken on-site:

1. Lough Playing Fields
2. Christison Park
3. Lyne Park
4. Woollahra Ovals 1 and 2 general area
5. Centennial Park
6. Trumper Park
7. Barracluff Park
8. William Street vacant lot
9. Cooper Park

Map references refer to UBD Gregory's 2017 edition

The following nine criteria were used to assess site suitability:

1. size, ie., above 1,200 square metres
2. general location
3. proximity to public transport
4. car parking drop-off and pick-up availability for young children
5. room for observation seats
6. local safety
7. proximity to residences
8. conflicting other activities and
9. potential adverse acoustic impacts.

Location

1 Lough Playing Fields map ref 25 G1

Looking easterly



Looking south easterly



Comments: acceptable

2 Christison Park map ref 238 B3

Looking north east



Looking north



Comments: large open spaces with direct bus service access, observation seating provided.
No residential premises within 80-100 metres.
Acceptable.

3 Lyne Park

Looking westerly: possible skateboard area beyond basketball court



Looking north



Comments: Adequate space with no need to construct basketball court, no conflict with other potential uses, no residences within about 100-150 metres beyond a four-lane road. Room for observation benches. Toilet amenities and shade provided. Bus services immediately adjacent.

Acceptable.

4 Woollahra ovals precinct map ref 237 K13

Looking easterly



Comments: Plenty of unobstructed access without conflict of uses.

Acceptable.

5 Centennial Park Reservoir

Looking easterly



Looking northerly



Comments:

The Centennial Park Trust has indicated it intends to contrast a skate board park within its ground - see letter attached.

Comments: Wide open spaces from form obstructions No residences nearby. All other criteria met. **Acceptable.**

6 Trumper Park map ref 4 M13

Looking north easterly



Looking north west



Acceptable.

7 Barracluff Park ma[ref 237 M16
Looking east



Looking east



Acceptable

9 Cooper Park

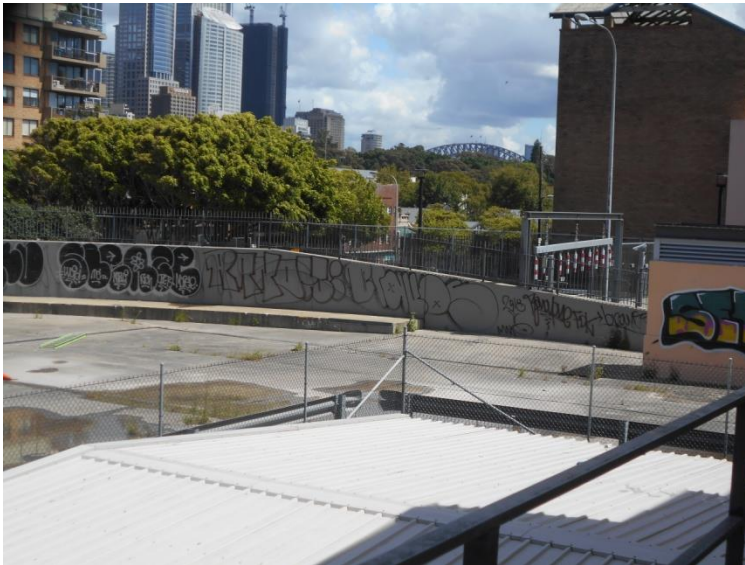
Looking westerly



Comments: requires minor landscaping modifications but otherwise *acceptable*.

8 William Street Darlinghurst

Looking north west



Looking easterly



Comments:

In addition to the above sites, the NSW state government has designated a large space for a possible skateboard park in William Street in Darlinghurst. This site has excellent public transport access and is currently well used by skateboarders.

It has been previously supported by the Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC and www.skateboard.com.au.

Woollahra Council should pursue new uses for this vacant site and contact the relevant Minister. It has a legal obligation to work with other councils and state government instrumentalities.

Acceptable
