

Appendix B Community Engagement



View of Community Consultation in Progress. Photography by Welsh + Major.

Overview + Engagement Strategies

1.0 Summary

Inner West Council engaged the community for input in the preparation of a 10-year plan for Darrell Jackson Gardens, which includes a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out with two drop-in sessions at Darrell Jackson Gardens and via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

1.1 Background

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Community engagement is a critical step in the preparation of a Plan of Management, forming one of the first stages of the process. Community feedback is then taken into consideration alongside stakeholders and expert advice to form a draft plan of management and master plan, which is presented for further community input prior to the final document being decided upon by Council.

Inner West Council has established a parks planning priority list, which nominates which open spaces it feels are in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Darrell Jackson Gardens has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West Council area.

The purpose of engagement was to establish key issues that the community may have in relation to Darrell Jackson Gardens, as well as highlighting aspects of the park which are highly valued. Contributors were encouraged to include ideas, comments and suggestions to assist in prioritising the focus of key strategies and outcomes for the future.

1.2 Engagement method

The methods of engagement were:

- Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au through survey and user posts
- Drop-in sessions held in the park

1.3 Promotion

The initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- Council website
- Email to identified groups

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions.

2.0 Engagement Outcomes

Outcomes of community engagement have been separated into feedback received at the drop-sessions, feedback received through online engagement and feedback from organisations and stakeholders.

The Darrell Jackson Gardens page received 108 visits. 7 contributions were made to online forms + discussion.

2.1 Drop-in sessions

Inner West Council's held two drop in engagement sessions that were held at Darrell Jackson Gardens, one on Saturday morning 10.09.22, 11am-1pm, and the other on Saturday afternoon 17.09.22, 2-4pm.

The material consisted of two A1 panels, which displayed an overall map of the park and some images of current parts of the park or activities and features of other parks in order to prompt discussion.

2.2 Online Survey

The online survey included multiple choice and essay style questions for more detailed feedback. Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs. Written responses have been themed to create word maps accompanied by summarised responses.

2.3 Online 'Share your visions'

The YSIW website also offered the opportunity the community to post a public comment on the page, to which other users could like, dislike and comment in response. Posts to the page have been collated and summarised in this document.

2.4 Stakeholder meetings

No individual stakeholder meetings were held.



2.1 Drop In Sessions

Overview

To engage park users during the drop-in sessions, two A1 sized printed boards were used. The first panel highlighted with labels the existing features of the park, shown on a map. The second panel presented eight image prompts of both existing and proposed features of the park.

Park visitors were asked to identify the facilities and areas they liked the most, and which facilities and areas they felt had room for improvement through coloured stickers on the panels. Further comments were welcomed through post-it-notes placed on the panels and A4 forms which participants could fill in.

The sessions were productive with a number of park visitors approaching the team and engaging with the material to have their say. The comments have been themed and are presented without hierarchy.

Have your say on 10 - year plans for Darrell Jackson Gardens

What facilities / areas of the park do you like most?
put a red sticker on the map

Where are there opportunities for improvements in the park?
put a green sticker on the map

I'd like to make a comment about this facility
put a yellow sticker on the map + your comments on a post-it



Keep up to date with this and other Inner West Council engagements by registering at yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au

**Masterplan Key Opportunities
Community Engagement Plan**

DARRELL JACKSON GARDENS AERIAL MAP
Map by Mapbox

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Community feedback has been themed for ease of reference:

Biodiversity and green space

- A number of users who engaged with the consultation value the open green spaces and requested that openness be maintained or expanded upon.
- Users requested more planting, including flowers and 'bush tucker' species throughout the park.

Recreational use

- Users requested lighting, safety and access improvements to enable early morning and evening use.
- There was support from a number of users for an off-leash dog area in the park.
- Other users requested an off-leash time for areas within the park.
- Many users valued the children's playground and supporting infrastructure.
- A number of users requested more variety in play equipment offered in the park, for a range of age groups. A sandpit, flying fox, swings, climbing equipment and in ground trampoline were requested items.
- Some users requested water play be integrated into the playground area.
- Users valued the skate park area and supported the resurfacing of the skating ramps.
- One user suggested the skate park have better delineation between beginner and expert equipment.
- One user request regulations on alcohol be reconsidered in the park to allow alcohol at social gatherings in the park.

Cricket pitch and Sporting facilities

- A few participants suggested a roll-out cricket pitch.
- A number of users were concerned about flying cricket balls in the park, with popular picnic areas close to the pitch.
- There was support for retention and upgrade of the tennis courts.
- Users requested another half basketball court.
- One user made a comment about the orientation of the basketball court, suggesting it be re-oriented to face south to avoid sun exposure and glare.

- Some users felt that the concrete ramp adjacent to the basketball court was underutilised space which could be used as an extension of the basketball area or skate park.
- A number of users requested cricket nets in the park.

Lighting

- Many users were keen for the park to be lit for early morning and evening recreation.
- Users requested lighting times start earlier, following instances where lights turn on well past sunset and activities in the park are forced to pause.
- Users mentioned the importance of lighting for the basketball hoop, which is often used after dark.

Facilities and furniture

- Users requested more seating, particularly picnic style seating, alongside the playground areas for safety and supervision of children.
- Many users commented on the importance of shade structures over playground areas.
- Users were supportive of new or upgraded toilet amenities, noting the poor lighting, poor presentation and lack of maintenance of existing toilet.
- Users were in support of having additional toilets in the park, with the inclusion of baby change facilities.
- Users requested more water stations in the park, particularly towards Carlton Cres.
- Users requested bike parking be offered in the park.
- Some users were keen to expand the BBQ area and shelter.

Movement and parking

- Users requested upgrades to the existing pathways within the park, noting the dilapidated condition of paths.
- One user requested more parking.

2.2 Online Survey

Overview

An online survey was conducted in August and September 2022 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Darrell Jackson Gardens. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for five weeks from 04.08.22 to 11.09.22.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs and word cloud diagrams below. Text based responses to the essay style questions have been grouped into themes, and issues which featured the most prominently have been summarised below.

Of all participants to the site, 5 submissions were made to the online survey. Participants could choose to skip questions if they preferred. The percentage of participants who answered the question is stated alongside the figure diagrams throughout this document.

A number of essay style questions were asked, to establish community opinion of Darrell Jackson Gardens in more detail.

Demographics of Participants

Q1: Age Group

See figure 1

Of the 5 participants who contributed to the online survey none were below 24 years of age and only 1 person was within the 25-34 age bracket. The other participants who took part in the survey were between 35-54 years of age. No contributions were made by persons over 55 years of age.

Q2: Gender

See figure 2

40% participants identified as female, while 60% identified as male. No participants identified themselves as non-binary or as using other pronouns.

Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

See figure 3

No participants identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

See figure 4

One user identified as having a disability, the remain contributors answered no to the question.

Q5: Suburb

See figure 5

Four participants were residents of Summer Hill and one user skipped the question.

Q6: How do you get to Darrell Jackson Gardens?

See figure 6

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, but allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable.

All users surveyed walk to Darrell Jackson Gardens.

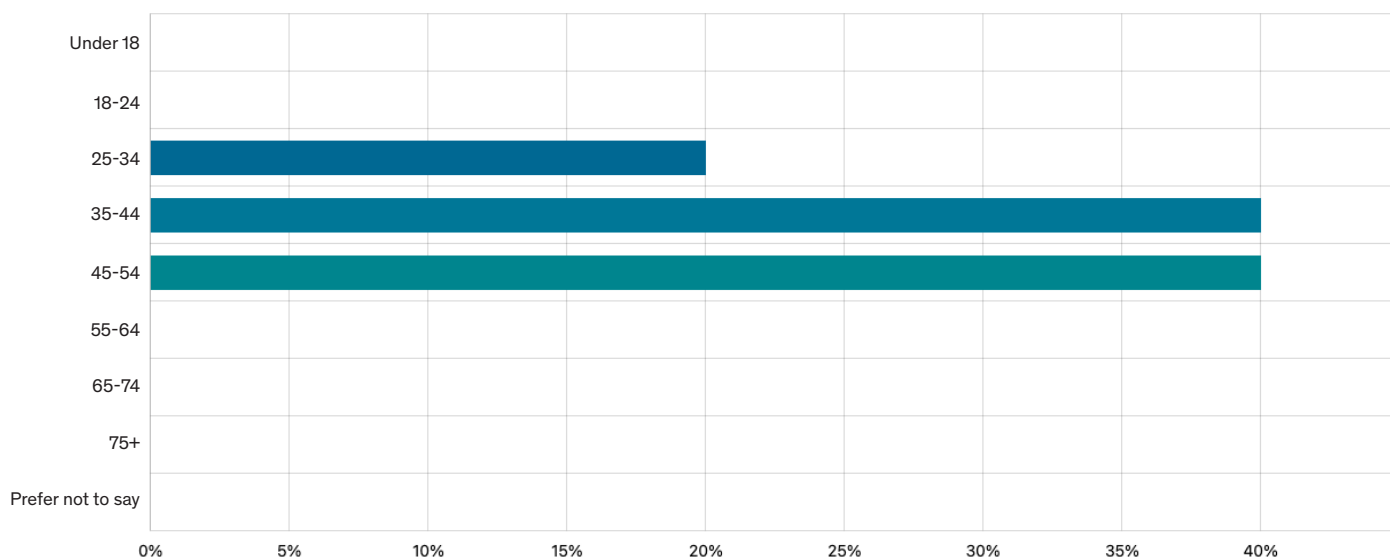
Q7: How often do you visit Darrell Jackson Gardens?

See figure 7

Out of those surveyed, 80% visit frequently, either daily or multiple times a week. One respondent visits the park a few times a year.

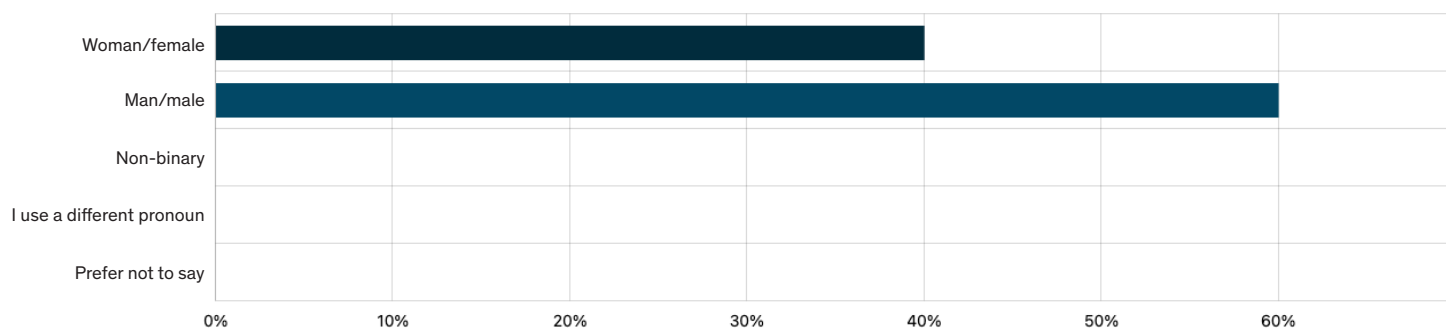
Q1: Age Group

Figure 1. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



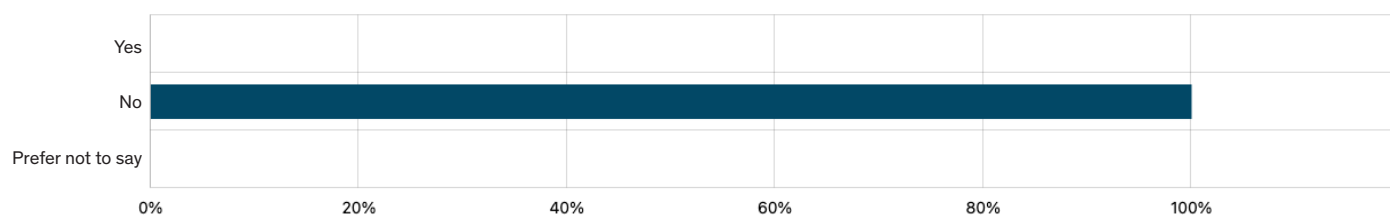
Q2: Gender

Figure 2. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

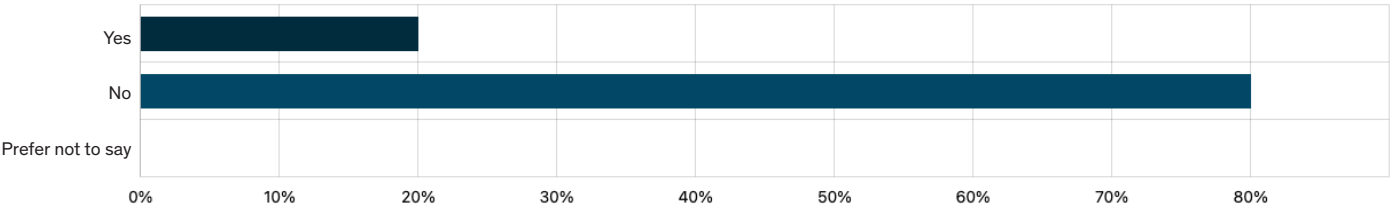
Figure 3. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



2.2 Online Survey

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

Figure 4. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



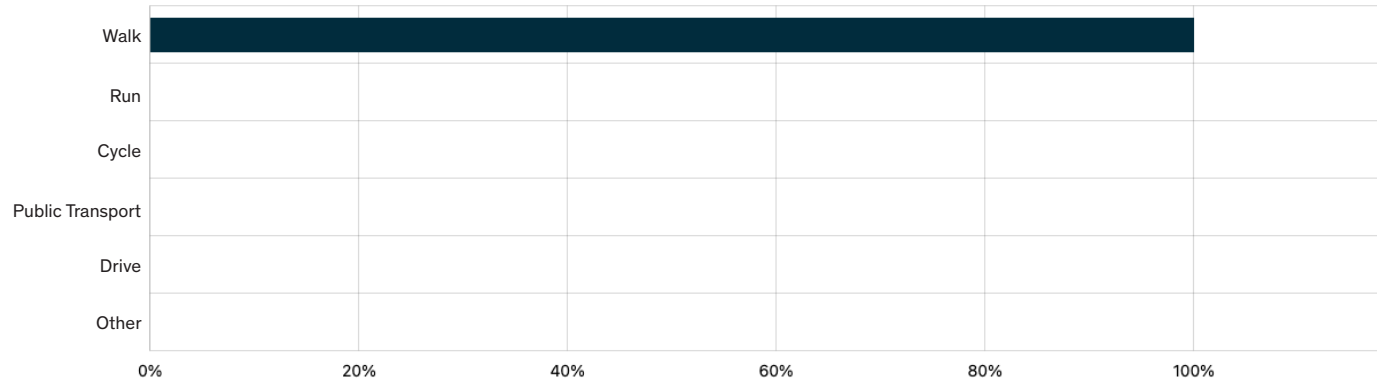
Q5: Suburb

Figure 5. Skipped: 1 | Answered: 4 (80%)

Summer Hill

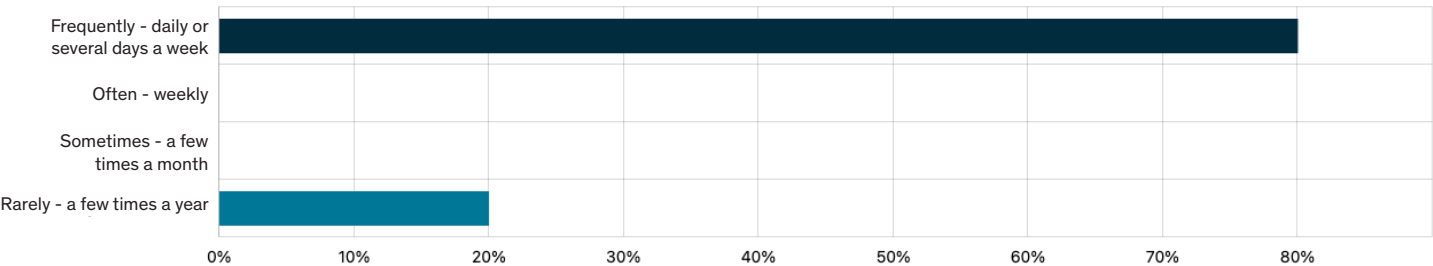
Q6: How do you get to Darrell Jackson Gardens?

Figure 6. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



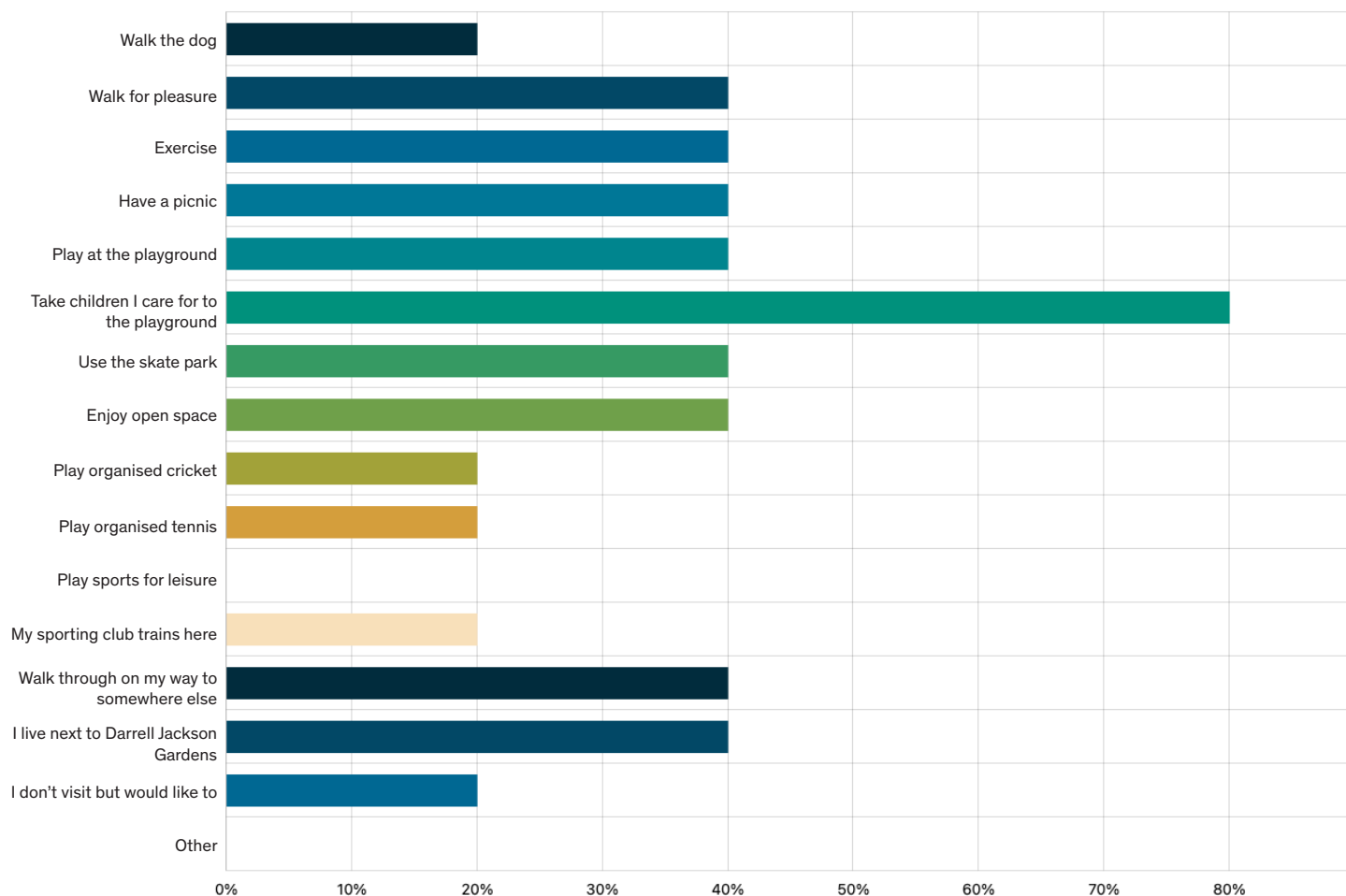
Q7: How often do you visit Darrell Jackson Gardens?

Figure 7. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Darrell Jackson Gardens?

Figure 8. Skipped: 0 / Answered: 5 (100%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Darrell Jackson Gardens?

See figure 8

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, which allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable. On average, users each selected five responses to the question, highlighting the diversity of park use + activity.

Other common activities can be observed in the graph above. Passive exercise and recreation was more popular amongst respondents than organised sports.

None of users surveyed identified 'sports for leisure' or 'other' as a reason they visit the park.

2.2 Online Survey

Q9: What stops you from visiting Darrell Jackson Gardens?

This essay style question received no input from participants. As such, no data or word cloud for this question is included in this document.

Q10: Please describe what you value about Darrell Jackson Gardens, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

See figure 9

All participants engaged with this question, leaving thorough responses and highlighting a number of positive attributes of the park within their responses. As highlighted in the word map, the 'Sense of Community' was identified as the parks biggest asset.

The root of what users valued most about Darrell Jackson Gardens was repeatedly attributed to:

- Access to open green space in a dense residential and urban environment;
- The large established trees which create separation from the streets and harbour a sense of relaxation within the park;
- Outdoor space for mental health and well-being;
- Shady areas under trees and shade structures for sun protection while picnicing or relaxing in the park;
- Family friendly values and sense of local community fostered within the park;
- Ability for children to play freely, away from roads and other safety concerns;
- The tennis wall to the east of the park, which allows for informal practice;
- The fenced playground area for children;
- The range of activities offered to cater to the whole community;
- Space to gather;
- The shaded winding pathways throughout the park, as both a thoroughfare and for leisurely use;
- The skate park for all ages of kids;

Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

See figure 10

Successful aspects of Darrell Jackson Gardens were highlighted by responses to this question:

- All users feel safe when they visit Darrell Jackson Gardens during the day;
- 100% of users think Darrell Jackson Gardens has a nice

character;

- All users surveyed feel apart of the community when they visit.

Less successful aspects of Darrell Jackson Gardens were also highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day. Most users felt unsafe;
- Less than half of users feel that the park is well maintained.
- 40% of users disagreed that it was easy to find information on the park, while the other 60% were unsure.

Q12: What don't you like about Darrell Jackson Gardens?

See figure 11

- Grassed area next to the fenced playground and alongside the community centre feels underutilised and disconnected from the park;
- The alleyway to Hardie Ave is dirty and dangerous;
- Area to the west boundary is underutilised, lacking furniture for picnics or sitting;
- Lack of open space in the park;
- Hard edges to the tennis courts and skate park which don't feel integrated into the park;
- Lack of wayfinding, specifically a common meeting place in the park.
- Awkward pathway junction at the centre of the park;
- Existing play equipment which is too rough on young children;
- Lack of cricket nets;
- Unhygienic and unsightly bathroom under the community centre;
- Underutilisation of the community centre;

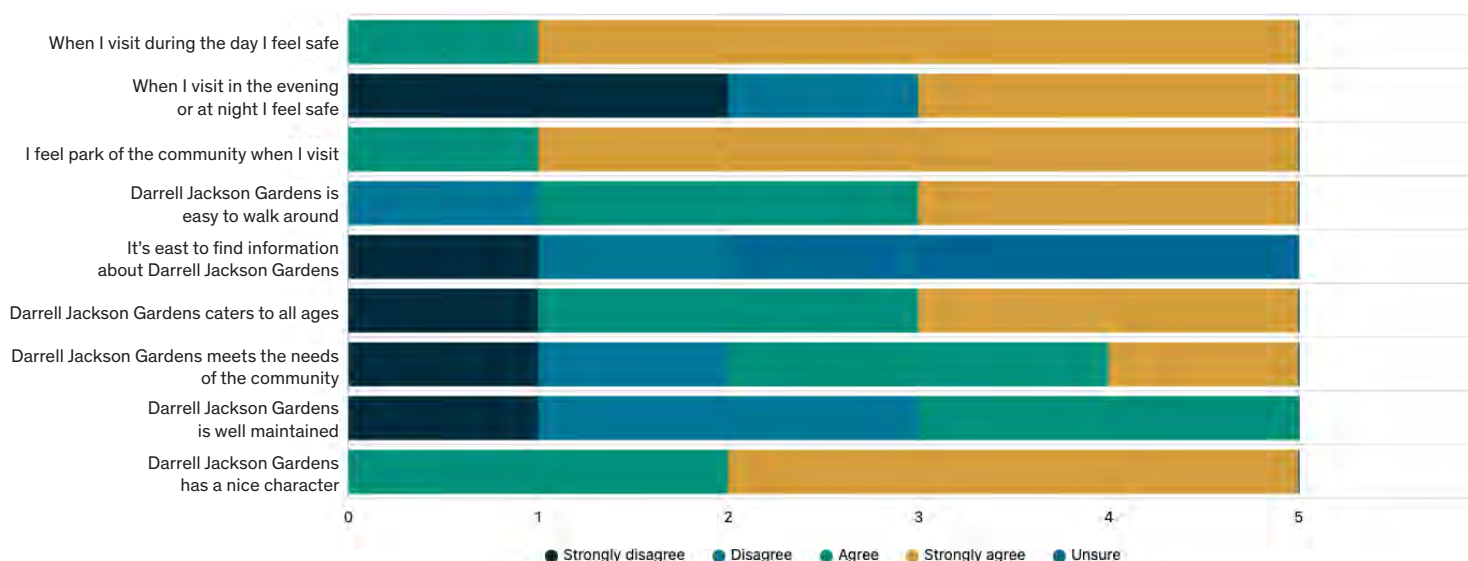
Q10: Please describe what you value about Darrell Jackson Gardens, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

Figure 9. Skipped: 0 / Answered: 5 (100%)



Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Figure 10. Skipped: 0 / Answered: 5 (100%)



Q12: What don't you like about Darrell Jackson Gardens?

Figure 11. Skipped: 0 / Answered: 5 (100%)



2.2 Online Survey

Q13: What should be the main priority for the park planning?

See figure 12

- Reducing built up areas and maintaining open grassed space;
- Maintaining unstructured play areas;
- Increasing shaded sitting areas for picnics;
- Improving the look of the park with increased planting;
- Increased cleaning and maintenance of play equipment and amenities;
- Improving sporting facilities in the park with additional seating around sporting zones;
- Utilising the grassed area to the south towards Smith St;
- Improved safety with upgraded lighting and amenities;
- Investigating an area for off-leash dog play.

Q14: Do you have any other comments about Darrell Jackson Gardens?

See figure 13

Users requested additional art and sculpture in the park.

One user suggested a fence or planting buffer along Carlton Cres to improve safety of children from the road.

A comment was made about parking congestion around the park.

One user saw an opportunity to recognise Aboriginal heritage through increased public art, interpretive signage and renaming.

Comment was made that the park was not big enough to sustain an off-leash dog area, despite there being no dog park in Summer Hill.

Q13: What should be the main priority for the park planning?

Figure 12. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 5 (100%)



Q14: Do you have any other comments about Darrell Jackson Gardens?

Figure 13. Skipped: 1 | Answered: 4 (80%)



2.3 Share Your Visions

Overview

The Community were also encouraged to make a post on the YSIW website. These posts, in the structure of a social media platform, could be liked and commented on to encourage community members to engage with eachothers views on the park.

The page received 2 posts which and 2 likes from other users.

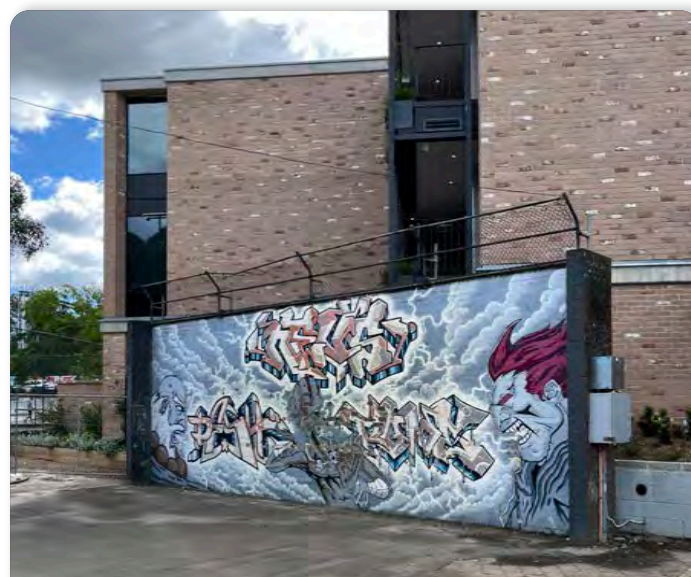
The outcomes of the 'Shared Visions' for Darrell Jackson Gardens are gathered below with a summary of each post:

"Tennis hitting wall"

This post was made to highlight the importance of the mural wall near the walkway to Hardie Ave as secluded place for passive recreation. One other user liked this post.

"More seating options at DJG"

This post requested more seating in the park and a greater variation of the seating types/arrangements offered.



Tennis hitting wall

Posted by John a month ago

The tennis hitting wall is a critical part of the park. Its value is important for a number of reasons. Often I see young adults using the wall, as finding hitting partners or taking coaching is very expensive and that person can develop skills using the wall. While waiting for the courts it's great to warm up. If you don't have someone to play with you can use that wall and it's a excellent workout.

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments

Above: example of 'post' format from YSIW website.
Supporting image not supplied by participant. Image by Welsh + Major