



Stromlo Forest Park Consultation on Master Plan February 2016

Consultation
Report
May 2016

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CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction 2
- 2. Community engagement 3
- 3. Feedback from the community 5
 - 3.1 Support for the Master Plan 5
 - 3.2 Pool 6
 - 3.3 District playing fields and enclosed oval 7
 - 3.4 Tourism accommodation 8
 - 3.5 Equestrian 9
 - 3.6 Cycling 10
 - 3.7 Traffic and parking concerns 12
 - 3.8 Disruption during construction 13
 - 3.9 Changes to the natural environment 13
 - 3.10 Running and walking in the Park 14
 - 3.11 Gondola 14
 - 3.12 Skate facilities 14
 - 3.13 Other areas of feedback 14
- 4. Conclusion 15

1. Introduction

Stromlo Forest Park was opened in 2007 and since that time has grown to be one of Canberra’s premier adventure sporting destinations. Owned and managed by the ACT Government, the Park is located in Canberra’s south, and covers an area of approximately 1200 hectares. The Park is primarily used by equestrian, cyclists and runners.

The development of Stromlo Forest Park has attracted interest from the community and as the neighbouring suburbs of Molonglo are established it is likely that there will be continued interest in the use of the site.

Following community engagement during 2009 the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan was released in 2010. Since that time the Master Plan has been updated to reflect increased development in the residential suburbs adjacent to the Park, and to adapt to evolving recreational trends. Minor changes were made to the 2010 Master Plan, resulting in the 2015 Master Plan update which was released for community comment on 14 December 2015.

The 2015 proposed Revised Master Plan includes a number of new elements that the community was encouraged to provide feedback on, including new playing fields, an enclosed oval, tourist accommodation and a pool. The proposed changes to the Master Plan were presented to the community in the form of a map of the Park, highlight potential areas for new facilities.

This consultation report draws on feedback from the community as follows:

- 7 written submissions; and
- 744 responses to an online survey.

This report provides discusses the common themes that were provided across both these avenues for community feedback. It is apparent from the input and commentary by the community that there is considerable interest in being part of the ongoing planning for Stromlo Forest Park. The community recognises and values the variety of activities that currently occur within the park and recognise the importance of balancing the needs of the different user groups.

The most common themes are summarised in the text box below.



Common community themes

- General community support for the overall revised Master Plan
- More information on the detail of what is proposed in the Revised Master Plan would better enable community comment
- There is community support for key existing uses –cycling, equestrian, and running
- Important to ensure the safe interaction of all the different users of the park
- Concerns about parking and traffic implications of the new Master Plan
- Support for a swimming pool
- Some support for tourism accommodation, although a number of questions raised about the location and type and scale of accommodation
- Mixed support for playing fields and the enclosed oval

2. Community engagement

The proposed Stromlo Forest Park Revised Master Plan was released to the community in the form of a map that outlined a number of existing, proposed and possible facilities for development in the Park. As this was an update of the 2010 Master Plan the community consultation process did not seek to revisit the overarching design principles, or broader community vision, for Stromlo Forest Park. This consultation sought community feedback on several particular proposals for the area.

The community consultation was promoted through social media, a Ministerial press release and at the ACT Government's community engagement pages *Have your Say* and *Time To Talk*. As the consultation period was over the summer holiday period, the timeframe was extended to allow greater opportunity for the community to comment.

Members of the community were invited to submit written submissions to the process and/or to complete an online survey.

Below is a copy of the Master Plan Map that was used to seek community input. A larger version of this image can be found at *Attachment 1*.



Written submissions were received from the following organisations:

- Canberra Cycling Club
- Cycling ACT
- Pedal Power ACT
- The ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated
- Weston Creek Community Council
- YMCA of Canberra Runners' Club

'The primary challenge for the Park is managing the competing needs of different users while provide a safe environment for all.'

YMCA of Canberra Runners' Club

One individual submission was also received.

A summary of each submission is included at *Attachment 2*.

744 online surveys were completed. A copy of the survey questionnaire is included at *Attachment 3*. The survey included both multiple-choice based questions as well as open-ended questions for people to provide further comments. There were two open-ended questions:

- If you have concerns over the Master Plan, please tell us why.
- Is there anything else you would like to add?

The community was very proactive in providing written comments to these questions. 550 respondents (74%) provided details of concerns in response to the first question, while 411 respondents (55%) added something in response to the second questions. Information from both these open-ended responses has been analysed as part of preparing this consultation report.

The proposed Revised Master Plan included a number of new elements that the community was invited to comment on. These included new playing fields, an enclosed oval with an arena for athletes and spectators, tourist accommodation and a pool. Other features of the updated Master Plan included equestrian trails and a road cycling circuit.

The discussion in this report follows the order of questions as they were presented to the community, rather than in any order of weighting. Extra ideas generated by the community are noted at the end of the community feedback section.

Who completed the online survey?

The online survey captured a range of demographic information which helps to understand the context of those providing input to this consultation. More men (73%) than women (27%) completed the survey. Most respondents were existing park users with 67% using the cycling facilities at Stromlo Forest Park. Respondents were from across Canberra with 66% living somewhere other than Molonglo Valley or Weston Creek.

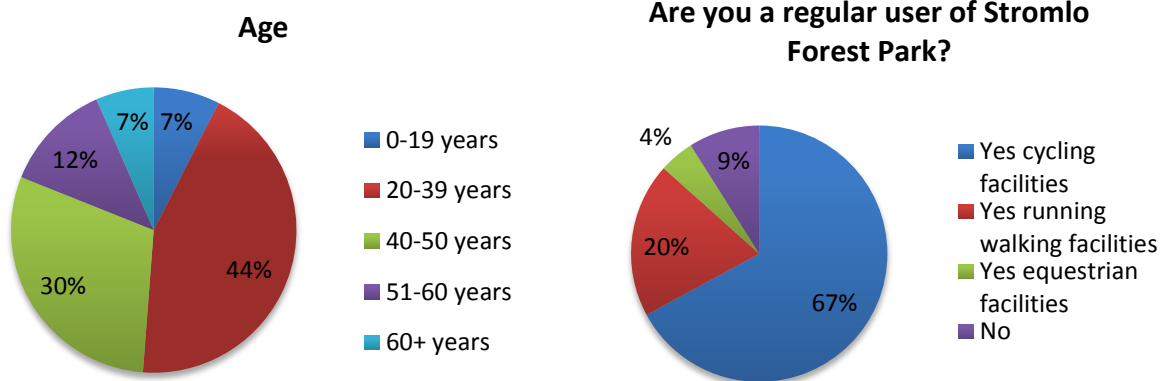


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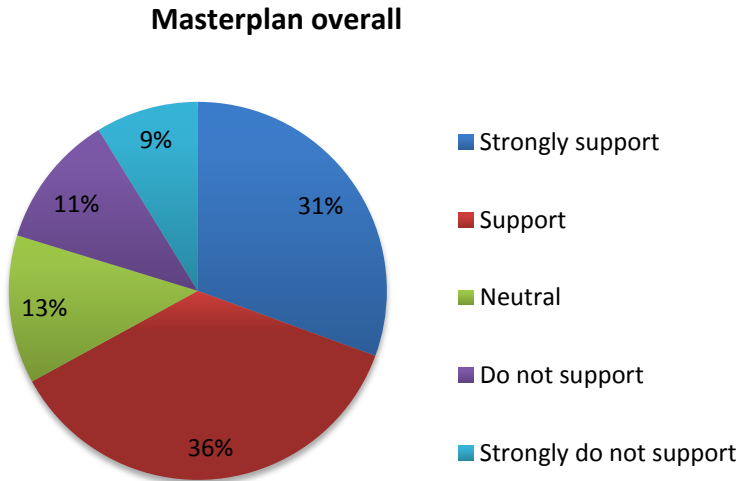


3. Feedback from the community

Feedback from the community has been grouped into a number of key themes for discussion within this consultation report. Feedback from both the online survey and the written submissions has been incorporated collectively within each of these themes.

3.1 Support for the Master Plan

In the online survey, respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed Revised Master Plan. There were more supporters than opponents to the Master Plan with 67% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting the Master Plan.



Within the survey responses most people qualified this support through particular comments and feedback on individual aspects of the Master Plan. This feedback is discussed within this report.

15 survey respondents, however, had no particular comment to provide, other than to support the proposed Revised Master Plan.

‘No concerns. The Park is a great facility and has grown in popularity since its inception. It isn’t just a place for individual users (cyclists for example), families are using the facilities and it is a great (safe) area for children to play, ride and run around. Well done.

Online survey respondent

There were a number of overarching comments made about the Master Planning process and the proposed Revision of the Master Plan. Community feedback suggested that the information provided as part of the community consultation process did not include enough detail to form opinions and provide constructive feedback on what is proposed. It was noted that the process of community consultation was not as extensive as was undertaken during the development of the 2010 Master Plan.

There were mixed views about what was proposed in the Master Plan, common comments that were made with respect to overarching planning for the site were:

- Concern that the site is at risk of being ‘over developed’ and ‘getting too big’.
- Uncertainty about what the future ‘character’ of the Park will be. Suggestion that there may be a loss of the ‘forest’ within Stromlo Forest Park.
- Concern that the Park was trying to be everything to everyone.
- Concern about lack of detail and the questions this raised about future of existing mountain bike and equestrian trails that were not marked on the map published for community consultation purposes.

‘The Master Plan looks quite exciting and will add to the pleasure of most residents (we imagine) of the Molonglo Suburbs and other suburbs including Weston Creek. I will probably make more use of the facilities as they develop.’

Online survey respondent
non-park user

‘I am a little concerned that you are trying to make the whole thing too big. It is already very popular, but the experience may not be as enjoyable when you feel you are in one massive complex and there are multiple events happening and maybe it is hard to park/get access etc.’

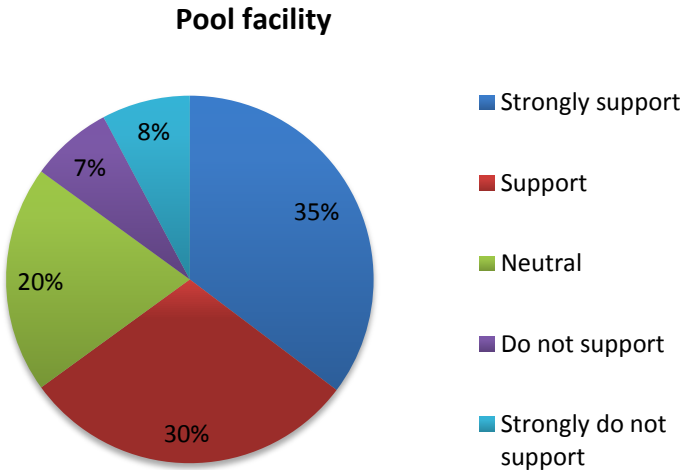
Online survey respondent

Those who presented written submissions to the process expressed an interest in on-going involvement in the Master Planning process.

Community members that completed the survey are also interested to be part of conversations about Stromlo Forest Park with 47% of survey respondents, or almost 350 people, providing their email address in order to be kept informed of developments of the Master Plan.

3.2 Pool

Survey respondents were primarily in favour of the establishment of a pool at Stromlo Forest Park, with 65% of respondents supporting its construction.



There were almost 40 additional comments provided in support of the pool as part of the online survey, including a number of suggestions that the pool include facilities for the sport of diving.

The Weston Creek Community Council supports the establishment of the pool in their written submission which is summarised at Attachment 2.

'Council welcome the new Master Plan, particularly the pool facility which Council would like to see fast forwarded to cater for the needs of Weston Creek who have been waiting for over 40 years and the new residents of Molonglo.'

Weston Creek Community Council

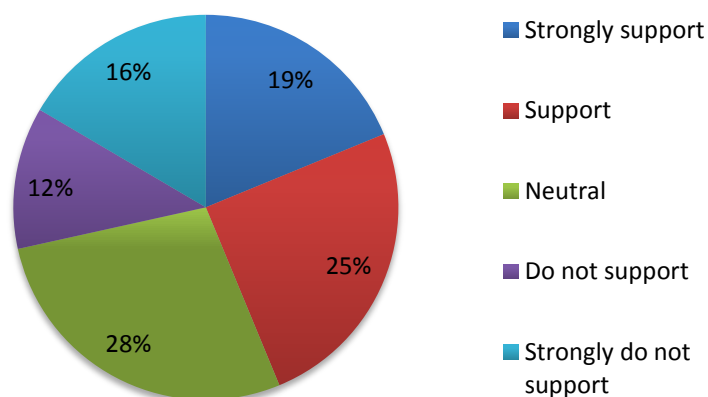
Online survey responses that expressed concerns about the loss of cycling and equestrian facilities at the Park were largely opposed to the construction of the pool, if it meant a decrease in these existing facilities. Opposition to the location of the pool included suggestions it should be closer to other community facilities within Canberra.

3.3 District playing fields and enclosed oval

The proposed inclusion of district playing fields and an enclosed oval on the site was met with a mixed response.

When answering the survey question 44% strongly supported or supported, while 28% did not support or strongly did not support, construction of playing fields on the site.

District playing fields



The incorporation of proposed playing fields into Stromlo Forest Park also attracted considerable comment from the community, with almost 100 comments associated with the playing fields. Almost all those providing additional comment were opposed to the construction of playing fields on the site, although this opposition was strongly linked to the fact that the proposed playing fields were at the expense of existing facilities.

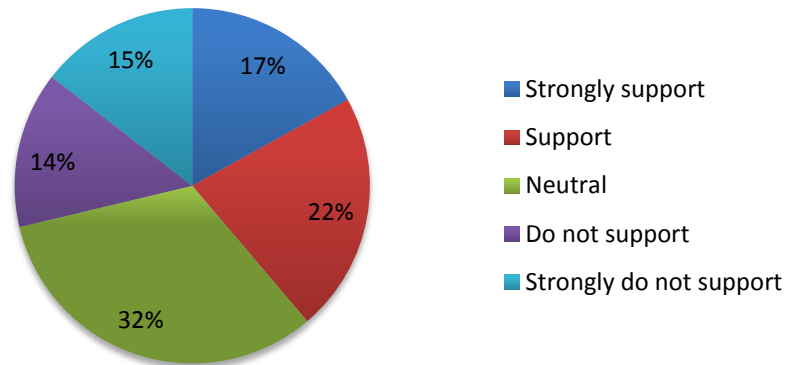
Key areas of additional feedback include:

- Negative impact on existing uses in the Park, in particular the removal of existing beginners mountain biking tracks and shortening of the criterium cycling track.
- Impact on traffic and parking at the Park and in the surrounding suburb, particularly on the weekends.
- Concern that the number and scale of the playing fields, in addition to the pool and other facilities, may dilute the purpose of the Park as a recreational park, instead creating an urban hub.
- Large number of suggestions that the playing fields be located in other areas across Weston Creek and Molonglo, or that there are already sufficient playing fields in Canberra.
- Concern about location of the playing fields near the bushfire memorial and impact on wildlife in the area.
- Large water consumption required to support playing fields.

None of the written submissions expressly opposed the playing fields however submissions from the cycling community were strongly opposed to the reduction of the criterium circuit and other facilities which may result from the construction of the ovals. There was support within the written submissions for the enclosed oval, particularly if this could include an indoor velodrome.

When answering the survey question about the enclosed oval views were generally spilt between a third supporting, a third opposing and a third being neutral or undecided.

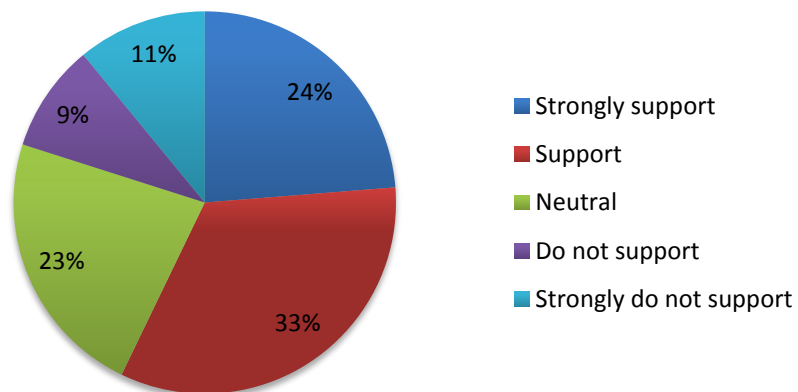
Enclosed oval



3.4 Tourism accommodation

When completing the online survey more than half of respondents (57%) were supportive of the establishment of tourist accommodation on the site.

Tourist accommodation



Less than 20 people provided particular feedback on the proposal to locate accommodation on the site. The feedback provided by these extra comments was generally evenly split between those that thought it was an inappropriate location for accommodation, and those that thought it would be suitable to have accommodation on site.

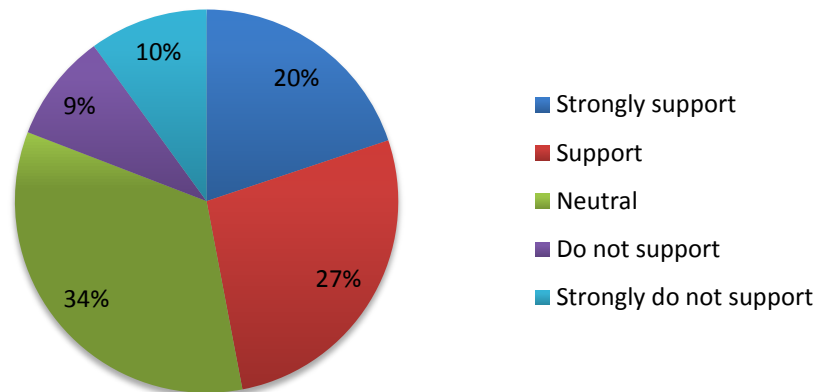
The Weston Creek Community Council supports the establishment of accommodation on the site and suggested that consideration be also given to accommodation on the southern area of the site.

There was a general theme that further information is required on the implications of having accommodation on the site; was the proposed location within the Park the best one, where would supporting facilities be located, what type of accommodation is proposed?

3.5 Equestrian

There is considerable community support for the inclusion of equestrian trails in the Park, with 47% of survey respondents supporting or strongly supporting the equestrian trails. There were 19% of respondents who did not support equestrian trails in the Park.

Equestrian trails



There were more than 60 additional equestrian associated comments made as part of the open ended questions within the survey. These comments reflected a concern that there was inadequate consideration given to the equestrian users of the Park as part of the Master Planning process. Feedback from these respondents included:

- Concern about the reduction of equestrian trails in the revised Master Plan and suggested location of a trail within the cross country running track.
- Concern about the interaction of equestrian activities with other uses of the site and potential safety implications for all Park users. Importance of trails being designed and appropriately signposted to ensure safety. This could be supported by education of park users about behaviour around horses.
- Concerns about negative impacts of gondola and gravity sports on horses on trails below these facilities.
- Concern about the number of crossings over the equestrian trails, particularly in West Stromlo and the old Pipeline Road, that reduce the appropriateness of these trails for equestrian use.
- Need for facilities for equestrian vehicle parking.
- Concern about the potential impact of the revised Master Plan on the Bicentennial National Trail.
- Noted that the cavaletti horse entrance on Cotter Road is not marked on the map yet is an importance equestrian entrance to the Park.

There were also a small number (less than 10) comments that directly opposed further investment in equestrian facilities within the Park. Some of this opposition was linked to the location of equestrian facilities near the cross country running track, while others related to the safety concerns of mixing cycling and horse riding.

The ACT Equestrian Association Inc provided a written submission in response to the proposed Revised Master Plan. This submission is summarised at Attachment 2 and the key issues raised are consistent with those reflected in the themes listed above.

‘The Master Plan continues to display a complete disregard for the amenity and safety of equestrian users. ‘

The ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated

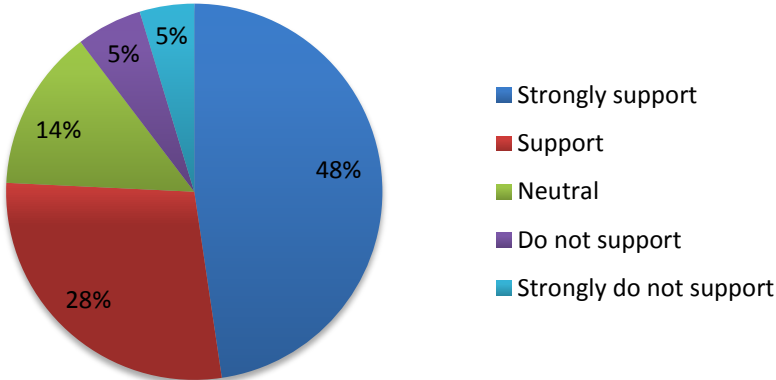
The submission expressed strong concerns about the apparent shift away from equestrian as one of the key priority uses of the Park. Concerns about the long term safety impacts of close interaction between equestrian and cycling was highlighted, examples included crossing of bike track and equestrian trails, location of the accommodation, gravity sports and the possible road cycling circuit. Concern was also expressed about the location of a BMX park on a site that was previously designated as a camping area with the possibility of horse yards and parking for horse floats.

3.6 Cycling

The most substantial community feedback on the proposed Revised Master Plan for Stromlo Forest Park related to the use of the Park by various forms of cycling. This reflects the fact that 67% of those completing the online survey were current users of the cycling facilities at the Park.

From the multiple choice section of the survey, it is clear that a majority of respondents (76%) support the establishment of a road cycling circuit.

Road cycling circuit



It should be noted that a number of written comments provided during the consultation suggested that the map released for consultation did not provide enough detail on a number of aspects of proposed cycling facilities, including the exact make up of possible road cycling circuit and what type of cycling facility was proposed in the south western part of the Park.

The most common area of additional feedback through the survey related to cycling. Almost a third of all open-ended responses to the concerns survey question related to cycling. When invited to provide additional comment, 10% of comments related to cycling.

Feedback was provided across a diverse range of cycling matters. Generally these comments were about protecting or enhancing the existing cycling facilities within the Park, including suggestions that the site has the potential to be a world class cycling facility.

Criterion circuit

The strongest feedback related to suggestions in the Revised Master Plan that the criterium circuit be shortened; with over 120 individual comments made in support of the existing circuit. Primarily the feedback was that the criterium circuit was a unique Canberra cycling asset that would be significantly compromised if it was shortened. This view was also strongly supported by written submissions from the Canberra Cycling Club and Cycling ACT.

'I love that it's being expanded as a destination place but please don't shorten the crit [sic] circuit, it would be a real shame to shorten and make less exciting what is an absolutely brilliant track and layout.'

Online survey response

Feedback with respect to the criterium circuit also included:

- Location of the playing fields should not be at the expense of the criterium circuit as playing fields are already located across Canberra and new ones could be located in other areas.
- The existing track is particularly useful for tandems used to cater for vision impaired riders.

Mountain Bike Trails

Comments on the mountain bike trails included:

- Need for clarity around the proposal and its impact on existing mountain bike trails.
- Importance of investing in the mountain bike trails to ensure they are regularly altered, upgraded and plans developed for new trails for the future.
- Concern about loss of the mountain bike trails in the south eastern corner (Holden's Creek) for the location of playing fields. It was particularly noted that these trails provide an important area for beginners to ride.
- Loss of trails as a result of location of proposed accommodation site.

Road cycling

- There was some cynicism that the inclusion of road cycling within the Park would lead to attempts by the ACT Government to limit road racing by local clubs.
- There was a level of confusion around what was proposed with respect to road cycling and how it related to Cotter and Uriarra Roads.
- There was mixed support for road cycling to be incorporated within the Park.



The provision of a road cycling circuit around the Park was supported by the written submissions along with suggestions to improve the interaction of cycling infrastructure with Uriarra and Cotter Roads.

Velodrome

There were a number of comments around the potential for a velodrome on the site and concern about the removal of the velodrome from the 2010 Master Plan. There were suggestions that the proposed 'enclosed oval' could be a multi-purpose facility featuring an indoor velodrome.

Submissions from both the Canberra Cycling Club and Cycling ACT supported the inclusion of an indoor velodrome in the Park.

'The proposed inclusion of an 'enclosed oval'... does indicate there is an opportunity for an indoor velodrome that should be explored as part of the consultation process for the proposed Revised Master Plan.'

Cycling ACT

A modern velodrome of appropriate standard would be a fillip to cycling in Canberra, and would establish Stromlo Forest Park as the centre for cycling in Canberra.'

Canberra Cycling Club

Other cycling related comments

- Connections for the Park with on-road and off-road cycling routes through Molonglo.
- Alternative facility for children riders.
- Keep access to the facilities free.
- Suggestions for more resources for BMX riders, including enhancement of existing BMX jumps and provision of spectator seating.
- Concern expressed by horse riders about interactions with cyclists and suggestions that better signage and education be used to build awareness within the cycling community of how to interact with horses.

The written submission from Pedal Power ACT proposed that a learn-to-cycle-safety area be constructed and highlighted the need for long term storage facilities for cycling groups to be reflected in the Master Plan.

All cycling groups expressed an interest in being part of continued discussions with the ACT Government on the development of the Revised Master Plan.

'...consult with cycling groups before finalising the Master Plan to identify exactly what type of facility is needed and what would be supported by the cycling community.'

Pedal Power ACT

3.7 Traffic and parking concerns

89 (12%) respondents to the survey identified concerns about traffic and parking associated with the Park relating to access to the site, traffic impacts and parking capacity. The common themes of community feedback were:

- Concern about relying on one main vehicle entry to the Park, with the increase in facilities, particularly during multiple events. There were a number of suggestions that a southern entry to the Park be created.
- Concern about access to the site, particularly from Weston Creek and the impacts of increased traffic on the residential suburbs of Molonglo. Suggest that right hand turn from Uriarra Road into Swallowtail Road to allow access to Duffy, Holder, Rivett and Chapman.
- Safety of cyclist riding up Mount Stromlo Road interacting with the traffic on that narrow road.

- Importance of ensuring there is adequate parking provided on the site for the proposed new facilities, including during construction periods, which may see existing carparks out of action.
- Particular need for traffic planning and parking associated with major events, which already impact on the surrounding suburbs. Particular roads noted were Cotter Road, Uriarra Road, Peter Cullen Way and Swallowtail Road.
- The potential impact of traffic and illegal on-street parking to become a problem on Swallowtail Road once the playing fields are constructed. Suggestion that better parking on the south eastern edge be established to address this.
- Suggestions that the existing parking areas need to be sealed.
- Increase noise impacts from additional traffic to the area and need for associated noise mitigation treatments.
- Impact of construction traffic.
- Negative impacts of current number of vehicles that park on Eucumbene Drive or Cotter Road to access the facilities, including horse floats. There were suggestions that equestrian parking be established on the site.
- Recommendation that the Park be better accessed by public transport.

3.8 Disruption during construction

As part of the survey respondents were invited to provide comment on any concerns the community may have about disruption during construction.

Community feedback included:

- Traffic impacts from construction vehicles
- Noise, rubbish and dust from the construction site
- Access to facilities and parking during construction
- Impact of snakes and other wildlife being driven into the urban areas as a result of being disturbed during construction.

3.9 Changes to the natural environment

One of the prompted questions in the online survey invited the community to express any concerns they may have about the changes to the natural environment. Approximately 75 comments were received and almost all comments provided positive reference to the natural environment as one of the Park's most important assets.

The most common feedback provided was that the proposed revisions to the Master Plan would spoil the existing 'bush environment' and 'peace and quiet' of the Park turning it into more of an urban environment.

'The mountain is not a suburb; it is currently a natural asset which is why it is so popular.'

Online survey response

Other concerns expressed include:

- Potential negative impacts on wildlife, particularly during construction.
- Negative impacts on the bushfire memorial as a result of development, in particular the sporting ovals.
- Loss of existing bush habitat in the Brittle Gums track and Holden's Creek areas which is proposed for the playing fields.
- Suggestion that the sustainability of the trails may be compromised with ongoing pressure from potential over use and that perhaps some trails need to be closed for times to allow for rejuvenation.
- Importance of general environmental management and encouraging natural regrowth of areas within the Park.

- Potential visual impacts of the development on nearby residents who are keen to preserve their bush views.

3.10 Running and walking in the Park

A number (almost 20) people particularly highlighted the importance of the Park as a place for walking and running and suggested that much of the bush feel associated with these types of activities would be significantly reduced by the proposed changes.

The YMCA of Canberra Runners' Club provided a written submission which is summarised at *Attachment 2*. This submission reflected much of the feedback outlined in other areas of this report about the importance of safe interaction between different users of the park, while highlighting the need for a bridge over the criterion circuit to allow safe crossing to the cross country running track. The Club also called for improved facilities to support the cross country track, including construction of a pavilion and the creation of a marked grass track for shorter distance running and warm up areas.

3.11 Gondola

There were 40 individual comments provided in response to the possible inclusion of a gondola within Stromlo Park. Feedback was evenly split between support (23) and opposition (17) to the gondola.

Support largely came from those seeing the facility as a tourist attraction and for use by mountain bike riders.

Opposition to the gondola came from those concerned about the safety of equestrian users in the vicinity of the gondola or suggestions that it was not an appropriate investment of community funds.

3.12 Skate facilities

20 survey respondents specifically called for the establishment of skateboarding facilities within the Park.

'What about an indoor skatepark or competition vert ramp that was left out of the Belconnen Skatepark?'

Online survey response

3.13 Other areas of feedback

In addition to the themes outlined above, there was a range of other feedback and suggestions provided by the community about the future of Stromlo Forest Park. These were not necessarily proposed by large numbers of people, but may indeed reflect broader community view, or provide interesting additional considerations for the Government. This feedback (in no particular order) included:

- Concern about park security particularly at the carpark.
- Disappointment about the inability to bring dogs (off-leash) into the Park and suggestions that a dog park be established in the area.
- Questions about the future opening hours of the Park and potential for late night events and activities to generate noise that will impact on surrounding residential suburbs.
- Improved pram and tricycle access into the Park through the narrow bollards.
- Concern about impacts of the development on the Bushfire Memorial.
- A number of issues around the maintenance of the site including recognising and supporting the work of volunteers, providing clearer guidance on how to report damage or areas requiring maintenance and the inclusion of a bike-wash facility to minimise weed contamination.
- Improved public transport links to the site.
- Calls for access to the site to continue to be free.
- The need for more toilet and shower facilities on the site.
- Calls for a coffee shop.

- Inclusion of tennis courts on the facility.
- Inclusion of an ice-skating rink.
- Creation of a 'pop-up' commercial space in the short-term.
- More access to drinking water.

4. Conclusion

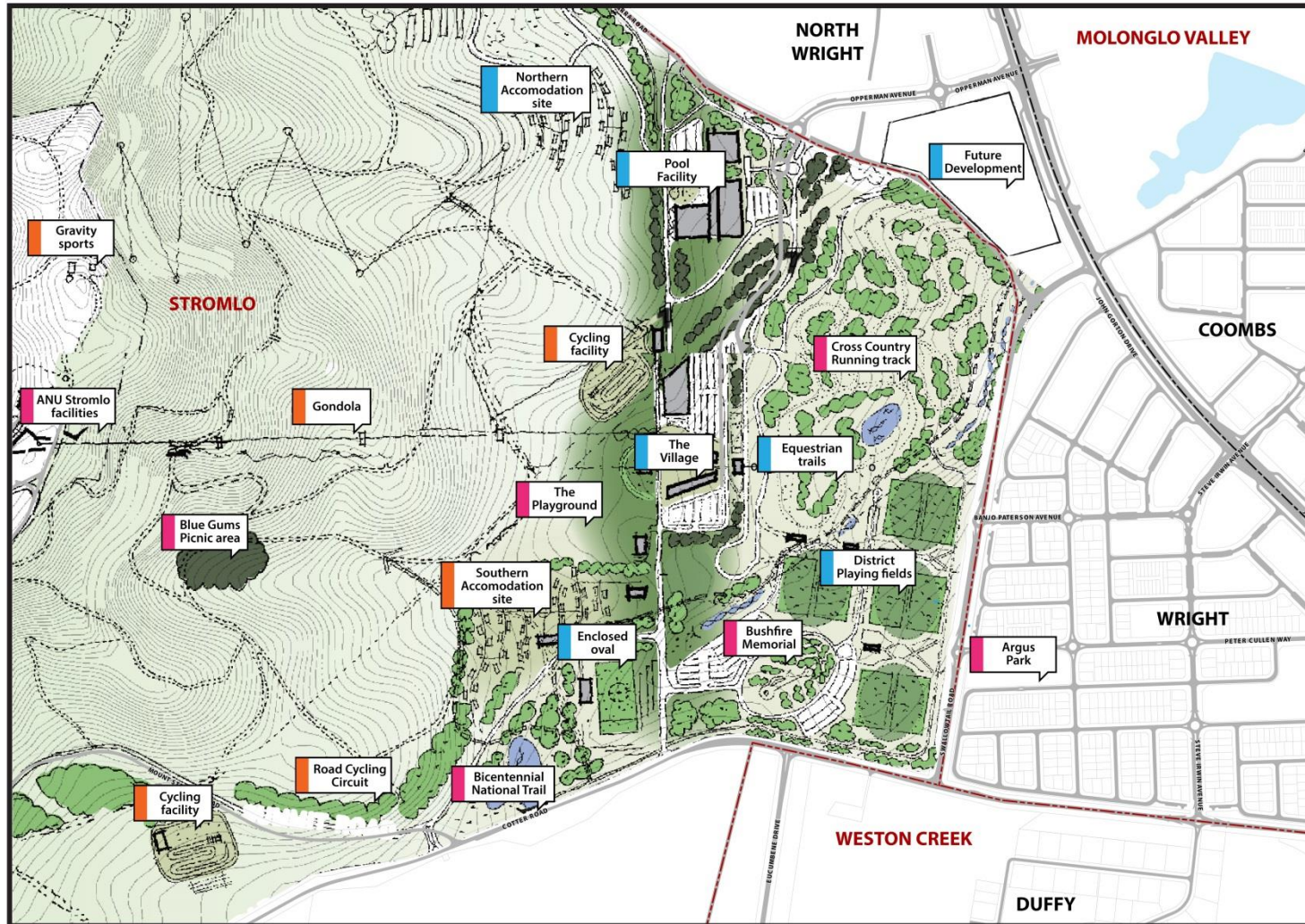
The level of community participation in this consultation exercise reflects the strong community interest associated with Stromlo Forest Park. As the Park attracts a variety of users, it is not surprising that there are mixed levels of support for some of the proposed additions or alterations to the Master Plan. It will always be a challenge to balance the needs of the many different groups that use the facility.

In general the community recognises the variety of users of the Park and there is only a small minority that suggests that any of the existing uses of the Park be reduced. The community has expressed an interest in being part of on-going discussion about the Master Plan and this presents opportunities to work with the different interest groups to best balance the needs and aspirations of each.

Consultation Master Plan Map



STROMLO FOREST PARK MASTER PLAN



- Existing
- Proposed
- Possible

Please note:
At present none of the projects outlined in the master plan have construction funding.

Summary of written submissions

Submission 1 – Canberra Cycling Club

- Opposed to shortening of the existing criterium track which has been designed to conform to Cycling Australia technical regulations and to provide a suitable level of technical difficulty to riders. It is a well-used track with over 500 cyclists competing each week during summer months.
- Propose that the North-South road through the Park be sealed for use in road cycling events and intersect with Cotter Road at the T-intersection, rather than a roundabout. Planning of other aspects of the Park should recognise the use of this road for the purpose.
- Recommend upgrade of bike path parallel to Uriarra Road to make it suitable for open road cycling events.
- Road cycling circuit around the Park would be an asset for major national or international road cycling events, although unsuitable for events catering to average riders.
- A velodrome, as shown on the 2010 Master Plan, is supported for its ability to establish the Park as the centre for cycling in Canberra.

Submission 2 – Cycling ACT

- Suggest more detail around proposed changes to the Master Plan would have better informed the consultation process. It is important that revisions to the 2010 Master Plan reflect the same level of consultation that was undertaken in developing the 2010 Master Plan.
- Not acceptable to remove any part of the existing criterium circuit as it would impact on technical aspects of the circuit required for use as a national and international venue. It will also negatively impact on use of the circuit by cyclists with a disability, as well as impacting all cyclists during associated construction works.
- Consider it unacceptable for the Government to compromise and reduce existing specialist cyclist infrastructure in favour of additional district playing fields that can be located elsewhere.
- Concerned about removal of the proposed northern extension of the criterium circuit which was specified in the 2010 Master Plan. Not completing the extension will reduce potential future uses for the existing criterium circuit and limit the ability for the circuit to be used in road races.
- The proposed Revised Master Plan does not provide sufficient detail on the future sealed road cycling circuit around the base of Mr Stromlo, using sections of Mr Stromlo Road and the existing Uriarra Road. It is important that this detail be provided to assess its suitability to achieve its intended aims as outlined in the original 2010 Master Plan.
- The proposed Revised Master Plan does not refer to the development of a future velodrome which was included in the 2010 Master Plan. It is not clear from the proposed revisions what is referred to by an 'enclosed oval', but could suggest there is an opportunity to explore the potential for an indoor velodrome to create a multi-purpose facility. An indoor velodrome in Canberra would be the only in Australia at altitude, giving substantial training benefit to riders competing on the international stage.
- It is important that access to facilities proposed in the Revised Master Plan is designed to not impact on existing cycling infrastructure.
- Proposed inclusion of new infrastructure in the Park must be accompanied by associated increased in parking locations as parking on the site is already stretched during simultaneous events.
- Additional infrastructure included within the Park must reflect additional amenities.

Submission 3 – Pedal Power ACT

- Draft Revisions do not appear to give enough emphasis to recreational activities, as distinct from competitive sporting ones. More detail is required on what is meant by terms such as 'the village' or 'cycling facility'.
- Suggestions that the 'village' should include:
 - Outdoor undercover area for teaching, maintenance etc
 - Indoor venue for event registration
 - Secure bik parking
 - End of trip facilities
 - Canteen facilities
- Suggest a purpose built learn to cycle safety area be constructed separate from the existing popular park. This should include a 'road rule' facility.
- The possible cycling facility to the south fo the Park appears to be disconnected from the other facilities and should be located in a more convenient location. Suggest that further consultation occur with cycling groups be used to identify exactly what type of facility is required.
- A number of cycling groups currently store equipment in containers at the Park. This does not appear to be reflected in the Master Plan and suggest that a specific area be allocated for this purpose.

Submission 4 – The ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated

- Concerned that the focus for the Stromlo Forest Park remains on activities that compromise the long term safety and amenity of equestrian users of the Park and a desire to change the nature of this recreational destination.
- Believe the online survey was too simplistic and focused solely on new infrastructure therefore discouraging comment on how the proposed long term development of the Park will impact on different users.
- Large parts of the old Pipeline Road is no longer appropriate as an equestrian trail as a result of the number of bike tracks that are now built across this road.
- Notes the shift of the possible gondola to over the top of the downhill track, which is an improvement from previous locations. Any development of the gondola needs to take into consideration the impact of overhead noise and potential falling objects on horses below.
- Careful design and planning to separate horse riding from accommodation areas is important.
- The 2010 Master Plan showed an area designated for camping including potential for horse yards and float parking, this seems to have disappeared to be replaced by a BMX track. Suggest the BMX track should not be so close to the fire trail, but rather should be much closer to the Cooter Road and BMX rider be discouraged from taking their bicycles onto the equestrian link to the Mount Stromlo Summit Road.
- The cavaletti horse entrance to the Park on the Mount Stromlo Summit Road should be recognised on the Master Plan.
- Concerned about proposals for gravity sport facilities which would overfly several designated equestrian trails. This proposal shows disregard for equestrian safety and would seek to exclude horse riders from the eastern face of the mountain.
- The proposed district playing fields will influence the route, amenity and safety of the proposed Bicentennial National Trail link which should be taken into account when planning for the playing fields.
- The labeling of the proposed Revised Master Plan is not clear, for example how does the multiple generic 'equestrian trails' related to the signs for the Bicentennial National Trail link?

- The Revised Master Plan does not include West Stromlo. The suggested road cycling circuit cuts many equestrian trails and will reduce the amenity of users and make this riding area very unsafe. The southern entrance point for the cycling circuit to West Stromlo will destroy the only southern public equestrian entrance to this part of the Park.
- The equestrian community feels constantly under threat with little consideration of our needs or our history in the Park.

Submission 5 – Weston Creek Community Council

- Welcomes the Revised Master Plan, particularly the pool facility as a facility for the local community, including water safety for young people and exercise for aging residents.
- Welcomes the addition of the road cycling facility, provided other users such as walkers and equestrians can continue to use the Park without detriment. Hope this facility will also take some of the pressure of surrounding roads which do not have appropriate verges.
- Some concern in the community about over development within the Park that may impact on its spacious feel.
- Some concern about maintenance of the fire trails.
- Believe the Bushfire Memorial is becoming crowded by uses adjacent to it. Suggest there be less district playing fields in this location and wonder if they could not be located within Wright or Coombs.
- Welcome the enclosed oval.
- Suggest the gondola is an interesting proposal but may reduce traffic and cyclists on the road to the top of Mount Stromlo.

Submission 6 – YMCA of Canberra Runners' Club

- Support the development of Stromlo Forest Park over the last 10 years and agree that many of the proposed developments will further enhance this facility for our members. Have a number of concerns and found it difficult to respond to the limited detail provided in the new Plan.
- Concerned about the apparent removal of the proposed bridge over the criterion track.
- Important that there be continue development of the trails on the mountain, including signage to indicate that trails may be used by runners and horses as well as cyclists to ensure appropriate safe speeds and care is taken at track crossings.
- Concerned about apparent proposal to develop equestrian trails in the area of the cross country running track. This would have negative impacts for the safety of runners and horse riders as well as resulting in significant damage to the track surface.
- The Plan appears to indicate only one vehicle access to the facility. Given the range of venues proposed for the site and use of this access road for road cycling events, such a restriction is likely to lead to periods of considerable congestion.
- Would like to see trails from the surrounding suburbs developed which avoid road crossing and provide access around the proposed playing fields. There also needs to be low risk foot and bike access from the pavilion area to the trails on the slopes of Mount Stromlo.
- The construction of a bridge criterion track to allow safe crossing from the cross country running track to the pavilion is a high priority and appears to have been omitted from the 2015 Revised Master Plan.
- Consider the construction of a small pavilion next to the running track is a priority to provide protected facilities for users and include limited toilet facilities and access to drinking water.
- There is an ongoing demand for marked grass tracks for shorter distance running training and warm up areas for events on the cross country track. We would support the inclusion of a marked grass track in this vicinity.

- The 2015 Master Plan does not refer to plans for a mixed use trail leading from the Park to Coombs. We feel this would be an amenity of the Park that was included in the 2010 Master Plan.
- It is important that runners continue to be able to access trail across the whole Park, including trails right around Mt Stromlo. This is indicated in the 2010 Plan, but not specified in the updated version.
- The distance running community considers Stromlo Forest Park the premiere training and event venue in Canberra and is recognised as a world class facility. The primary challenge for the Park is managing the competing needs of different users while provide a safe environment for all.

Submission 7 – Individual

- Concerned about plans to reduce the length of the criterium circuit which will significantly reduce the flexibility of the facility, including its ability to host concurrent grades on the same circuit.
- Suggest that the location of an equestrian facility between the running tracks, planned sporting fields and the criterium circuit will create significant potential for conflict and risk as a result of the incompatibility of horse riding with speeding cyclists.
- The Plan names a possible future road cycling circuit, however doesn't appear to make appropriate provision to address the technical requirements of a circuit that circumnavigates Mount Stromlo. This would include linking the onsite path along Uriarra Road, the entry road, spur road onto the criterium circuit and out the other end of the circuit to link with Mount Stromlo Road. Without this provision there may be limitations to future development.

Online survey questions

- **Do you live in:**
 - Molonglo Valley or Weston Creek
 - Somewhere else in Canberra

- **Age**
 - 0-19 years
 - 20-39 years
 - 40-50 years
 - 51-60 years
 - 60+ years

- **Gender**
 - Male
 - Female

- **Are you a regular user of SFP? (answers are checkbox, multiple allowed)**
 - Yes – cycling facilities
 - Yes – running/walking facilities
 - Yes – equestrian facilities
 - No

- **How do you feel about the updated master plan for SFP and proposed facilities?:**

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Do not support	Strongly do not support
Masterplan (overall)					
Pool facility					
District playing fields					
Enclosed oval					
Tourist accommodation					
Equestrian trails					
Road cycling circuit					

- **If you have concerns over the master plan, please tell us why:**
 - Traffic impact
 - Disruption during construction
 - Changes to the natural environment

If your concern has not been covered above, please provide more information below:

Text box

- **Is there anything else you would like to add?**
Text box

- **Would you like to receive updates on the Stromlo Forest Park master plan? If yes, please provide your email address below.**
Text box