



THE PEOPLE'S LOOP TRIAL

The 'People's Loop Trial' was a temporary two-month initiative to improve walking and cycling in World Heritage-listed Parramatta Park during 2020. The aim of the People's Loop is to create a new visitor experience, including a dedicated pedestrian and cycling loop in the West Domain area of the park.

The People's Loop trial included temporary changes to vehicle access, parking and circulation. These were in place from Tuesday 19 May to Sunday 19 July 2020.

The Trial and the information received from the public will help the Parramatta Park Trust (The Trust) to plan and design future improvements to circulation in the park, as funding becomes available.

This document presents the key findings from a community survey about the People's Loop trial.

We asked the community
for feedback and received

987 survey
responses

WHAT WE HEARD

Ten key themes emerged from the feedback:



Overall support for the People's Loop Trial



People want more parking



The community value Parramatta Park



People want to be able to access playgrounds and picnic areas by car



People want to separate cars from other users



Increased signage in the Park to improve directional flow



People want to separate cyclists from pedestrians



People want increased amenities



People want wider paths



Some people want to keep Parramatta Park as it is



Overall support for the People's Loop Trial

- 41% like the People's Loop trial removing cars on one side of the park and would like more areas with no cars.
- 35% like the Westmead side of the park being closed for the trial.
- 26% like areas with no cars but only if there is parking nearby, and
- 20% prefer car access as it was before the trial.

There is support for less cars and separation of cyclists in Parramatta Park, however people want a number of things addressed if it is to continue, including:

- Clear separation of pedestrians and cyclists on the People's Loop.
- Widen the entry and exit points of the People's Loop
- Access to the playground and picnic areas, particularly for parents with children, people with limited mobility or disability was limited during the trial. This was a problem.
- Lighting at night to improve sense of safety.
- Flow of movement of cyclists and pedestrians on the People's Loop needs to be managed.

“I would like to thank you for the opportunity, as a local, to have my input considered. I see Parramatta Park as my own backyard. I love the work being done on it at the moment.”

- Survey respondent

The community value Parramatta Park

People feel strongly that Parramatta Park is welcoming and inclusive for all ages and abilities.

People noted that these spaces are important for all user groups in the local community as well as for visitors to support health and wellbeing and provide opportunities to connect to nature.



People want to separate cars from other users

People told us that separating cars from other users improves safety in the park, minimises pollution such as noise and fumes, and makes it more comfortable and enjoyable for other users.

There is a need for clear signage and road markings to designate car lanes throughout the park, as well as signage for speed limits and speed bumps to minimise speeding.



People want to separate cyclists from pedestrians

80% think it would be a good idea to separate cyclists from walkers and runners for the safety of both groups.

- During the People's Loop Trial, walkers would spread out across the pathways and use the cycling lane, especially during times of high foot traffic.
- People were concerned about the high speed of cyclists near pedestrians and children.
- The entry and exit points of the People's Loop Trial is too narrow and dangerous for cyclists, with concerns about possible collisions with pedestrians.





Community want wider paths

People expressed a strong desire for widening of pathways to accommodate the high volume of walkers, joggers and cyclists in the park and to ensure social distancing is maintained.

We heard that the entry and exit points at the People's Loop Trial were too narrow.

Increased signage in the Park to improve directional flow

People expressed a strong need for increased signage around Parramatta Park to improve flow of movement that clearly indicates and communicates to users which lane pedestrians, cyclists and cars should be in.



People want more parking

Access to parking is particularly important for families with children, people with disability or limited mobility and the elderly, and should be available to ensure Parramatta Park is inclusive to everyone. 45% of people who did the community survey access the park by car.

People felt that during the trial there was an increase in car traffic making it difficult to access parking within a convenient distance to the People's Loop.

People want to be able to access playgrounds and picnic areas by car

We heard that the People's Loop Trial limited access to the playground and picnic areas by car, which was challenging for families with children, people with limited mobility and the elderly.



People want increased amenities in Parramatta Park

We heard that people would like increased and improved amenities throughout Parramatta Park, particularly to improve safety, including:

- Lighting at night
- Accessible public toilets
- Drinking fountains and bubblers
- Additional exercise equipment
- Rubbish bins for general waste
- Recreation facilities such as basketball courts
- Cafes
- Off-leash areas for dogs, and
- Community gardens.



Some people want to keep Parramatta Park as it is

20% of people who did the community survey indicated they value Parramatta Park as it is and do not see the need for the People's Loop Trial to be implemented permanently.

These people were particularly concerned about limiting car access to people with a disability or limited mobility, families with children and elderly people, and losing entry to the Park via the Queens Road Gate.

