

6.2. MM02: Anderson Park - A Park for Everyone

Councillors will be aware that with less open space per person than any other northern Sydney council there is constant pressure on our parks, sportsfields and reserves. With our high residential density, large workforce and student population, our parks are working much harder than most.

This means Council is constantly juggling the competing demands of different sporting codes, active versus passive recreation, and the expectations of everyone from older residents out for a stroll through to top level athletes and toddlers on their tricycles.

Anderson Park in Neutral Bay is one of the parks which is used for both active and passive recreation and there was heated community debate a few years ago over whether Council should install artificial grass on the sportsfield to extend the hours of use.

In recent months, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of visitors to our parks again and the grassed area in Anderson Park has been getting quite a work-out from fitness groups and recreational runners. When I have been down walking in the park, I have been approached by a few residents who have asked me whether there is an option to keep runners off the centre of the park so that the grass remains in good condition.

I have advised these residents that Council is unlikely to revisit the artificial turf proposal but we could explore other options. For example, perhaps it would be feasible to install some kind of soft-fall surface around the edge of the park where grass doesn't grow that would be suitable for walkers, runners and children on their tricycles.

On a separate but related note, I have also been asked whether there is something Council could do to mark the flight by Air Commodore Charles Kingsford-Smith and Captain P. Gordon Taylor who took off from Anderson Park in 1934 on a promotional flight over Sydney to Mascot in a Lockheed Altair single-engine plane.

It's a unique moment in our history and I rather like the idea of commemorating it with a piece of play equipment in the shape of an aeroplane. The right design could be sculptural, commemorative and fun for children.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT staff prepare a report exploring options and costs for a walking/cycling track around the perimeter of Anderson Park and the installation of a commemorative piece of aeroplane play equipment.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**