



SUTTONS BEACH PUBLIC SPACE PROJECT – COMMUNITY SURVEY

Nestled on the Redcliffe foreshore, Suttons Beach Park is loved by locals and visitors alike. The significance of Suttons Beach extends to the social connections the Redcliffe Peninsula and wider community hold to this location. Planning for the future of the site is carefully considering community connections to the space and how these can be maintained going forward.

Council is committed to understanding and considering the needs of the community and ensuring this space is available for their benefit. A community survey was the first step in community consultation and was undertaken to help inform Council's understanding and decision making regarding the Suttons Beach project site. The survey aimed to help Council:

- better understand current use of the site and how the community might use the park in the future
- gather local stories to help share the history of the site and showcase community connection to this special place
- determine what potential replacement buildings and facilities should be considered if the imminent non-invasive and invasive testing confirms demolition or partial demolition of the buildings is necessary.

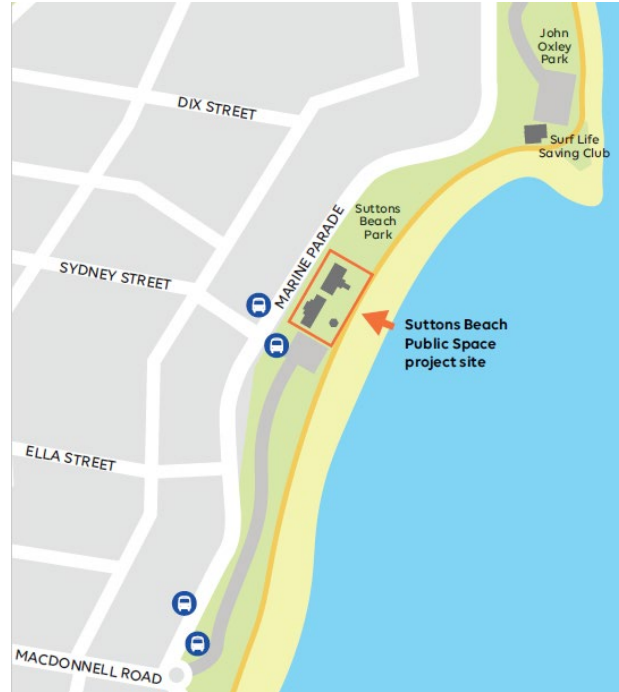


Figure 1: Location of Suttons Beach Public Space Project site

Voconiq was engaged to design, implement and analyse the survey. Survey responses were collected online and via paper-based surveys between 11 February and 25 March 2022. The survey was open to all community members from across the whole Moreton Bay region and people that may visit or work in the region. Participation was higher among residents of suburbs closer to the site, particularly Redcliffe.

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

2,063

Community members completed the survey



37% Male

61% Female

2% Prefer not to say

58%

Live within 5km of Suttons Beach

92%

Residents of Moreton Bay Region



Age

18-24: 1%
25-34: 7%
35-44: 17%
45-54: 21%
55-64: 25%
65+: 28%

50%

Lived in region more than 10 years



Park visitation frequency, duration and use

In the past twelve months, 95% of participants visited Suttons Beach (grassed area, beach, pavilion or car park). In addition, 45% visited at least once a week with 9% visiting every day. Most (51%) said they spend between one and two hours on site when they visit. Longer stays of between two- and five-hours duration were indicated by 34% of participants.

While 26% of survey participants walk to Suttons Beach, most (66%) drive, reflecting the number (58%) that reside within 5-10 minutes' drive or more of the site.

It is clear people use the site in different ways. The most frequently cited uses of the site included enjoying the view, purchasing food and drink, enjoying the relaxed atmosphere, meeting friends and connecting with nature.

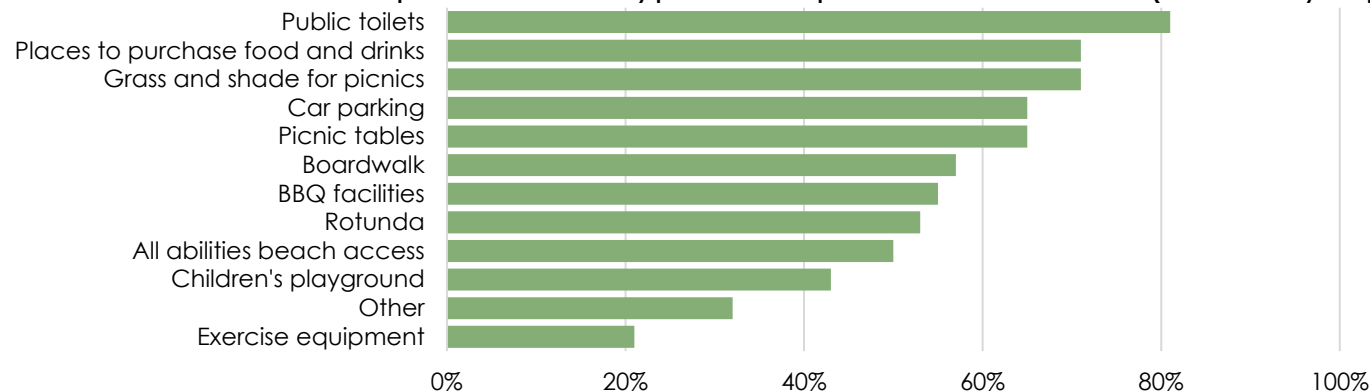


Many, many strong and happy memories...Spending time there as a family over many years ...Picnics, barbecues, playing & swimming at the beach, spending time at the restaurants & cafes over the time. Swimming fishing ... I love walking the beach in the morning and evening.

Importance of facilities, utilities and services

When asked what utilities or services are important to include in any future planning, responses varied although all options received some support. Basic utilities like public toilets and car parking received strong support, as did places to purchase food and drinks and social amenities (grass and shade for picnics, picnic tables, BBQs).

What utilities or services are most important to include in any potential future plans for the Suttons Beach Park (select as many as appropriate):



The Rotunda

Most participants (55%) indicated they have strong feelings about the rotunda. Participants from across the region identified that following attributes of the rotunda are important: its architecture, it is an icon of the area, it is a great stage for smaller cultural performances, it is a beautiful place to host events, it provides a great backdrop for photographs, and it is accessible to everyone.



Picture: Suttons Beach Rotunda

Potential future park uses and buildings

The most preferred uses for Suttons Beach in the future were closely aligned to current uses: to purchase food and drink, for recreation (e.g., picnics, family gatherings) and to enjoy the natural surrounds (e.g., watch the sunrise, stroll along the beach). Analysis of the 'other' responses revealed a strong preference among participants for a permanent restaurant or casual dining option (e.g., fish and chip shop). Terms such as 'restaurant' and 'fish and chips', often connected explicitly to the Pavilion were mentioned frequently. Proximity to the beach, the view, ability to host events, live music and entertainment and access to a licenced venue were also prominent themes in responses. A surf lifesavers club was suggested multiple times as an alternative use for the site.

Overall, participants' responses indicated:

- strong support for Council spending ratepayers' money on constructing replacement buildings
- stronger opposition than support for any new buildings being of contemporary design
- stronger support than opposition for new structures reflecting the original 1930s building design
- slightly stronger opposition than support for returning the site to its original 1930s use as a bathhouse, kiosk and some community space
- relatively similar levels of support and opposition for building a more compact structure that includes public amenities and a café
- stronger support than opposition for renovating the current structures regardless of the cost
- stronger support than opposition for a new building of similar size with restaurant and function centre.

Community connections with Suttons Beach

The survey asked participants to share their stories about Suttons Beach to help inform park design and interpretive historical, cultural and environmental displays that are being planned for the project site.

1,504

community members shared their
memories and stories

Here's just some of what they had to share:

“ Spending time there as a family over many years as our sons grew up. Picnics, barbecues, playing & swimming at the beach, spending time at the restaurants & cafes over the time.

“ My parents used to go there in the 1920/30s. I went there from when I was young. My children went there starting with play group. Ice creams from the pavilion shop was the feature.

“ I have lived in Redcliffe most of my life. I remember family picnics and the Sungirls Quest that used to be iconic on the Peninsula. Many, many strong and happy memories of when my kids were growing up. Swimming fishing etc. I love walking the beach in the morning and evening.

“ I have always met my old friends at Suttons Beach Pavilion and have great memories of seeing them all over the years and catching up. The building is an essential part of Redcliffe's history and needs to be looked after for future generations; without history a community is soulless.

“ Have attended The Pavillion for weddings, social occasions & have many loved memories. The building & its unique design & architecture are interwoven into the memories I have of Suttons Beach.

“ Visiting there as a child with my grandparents who lived at Redcliffe, sailing a small trailer sailer from the beach. Picnics and walks as I have grown older. Loving the historic style of the building as it has developed, taking photos of the area. It all has such an old-world beach feel, lost in most other places.