

# Lord Mayor of Sydney

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## Fitzroy Gardens and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve

The City of Sydney's proposed renewal of Fitzroy Gardens and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve will respect the parks' extensive heritage since 1939 and provide improved landscaping that can be enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors for years to come.

These parks are important for local residents and visitors, especially as the Kings Cross and Potts Point area has the highest population density in Australia. The City recently completed our 83rd park and playground renewal project, reinforcing our commitment to providing recreational and open space facilities for our growing population.

We have worked hard to create beautiful and inviting parks, ensuring that the community is part of the decision making process. In response to suggestions on Fitzroy Gardens, Council has asked City staff to further assess the significance of recent social and physical heritage, as well as the plantings and public art in the park, before proceeding.

### The concept plans

The concept plans for Fitzroy Gardens protect and celebrate the iconic El Alamein fountain, and open the park to Macleay Street by replacing the raised garden planters with open paving, seating and new trees. They include a generous lawn and terraced planting edge to Baroda Street, with the barrier walls removed alongside Baroda Street and the Rex Building.

Plans also include a bigger, better new playground, a generous new lawn area, sustainability initiatives including water re-use, and improved space for the markets. A new shared zone will be created in Baroda Street, the public toilets upgraded, and the Police Station façade improved next to a pedestrian walkway along the old alignment of Elizabeth Bay Road, visually connecting the fountain to Lawrence Hargrave Reserve.

Council is also considering early concepts for Lawrence Hargrave Reserve to improve sunlight, access and security by removing the top level of the Kings Cross Car Park. The improvements would include a small café or kiosk, and community gardens.



city of villages



#### Consultation to date

These plans incorporate community feedback received over many years. Calls to improve these parks date back to 2002 and were repeated as part of the City Edge initiative in 2006.

After my election as Lord Mayor, the City consulted on Local Action Plans in 2006, and the City East community again asked for these important parks to be “refreshed and linked as a community gathering place and an important village square, to include more green space, public conveniences and an improved playground.”

At public workshops in July and October 2008, participants proposed more than 1200 ideas to improve the parks. We provided all this work to award-winning designer Philip Thalys (of Hill Thalys) and the City’s Design Advisory Panel for further research and development.

When we made new concept designs available in August 2010, we received further valuable ideas on improving access, enhancing the police station façade, maintaining trees and providing more green open space. Some submissions called for a larger, fenced playground. Overall, more than 74 per cent of submissions provided support for the new concept.

You can read an independent report of these consultations on the City’s website at [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au). Go to the ‘Development’ link on the homepage and select ‘City Improvements’ from the drop-down list. Click on the ‘Find out more’ link under Parks and Reserves and choose Fitzroy Gardens and Lawrence Hargrave Reserve from the list.

#### Next steps

The current work will be reported to Council, with further consultation before Council adopts a final design. Detailed designs will be developed early 2011 and construction could commence by mid 2011. The popular markets will be retained during construction.

I invite you to find out more about the project at the Kings Cross Customer Service Centre, 50-52 Darlinghurst Road; our website [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting our Landscape Architect Chaya Bratoeva on 9265 9333 or [cbratoeva@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbratoeva@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

*Clare Mose*