MAY 2023



FURTHER INFORMATION

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Front cover image: War Memorial Ashfield Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.

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Document Control

DATE:	REVISION NO:	REVISION DETAILS:	APPROVED:
27/08/20	-	Draft issue for client review	DW
07/01/21	Α	Draft Issue for public exhibition	DW
12/02/21	В	Amendments to playground fencing, off leash area	DW
11/03/21	С	Minor amendments - Public Exhibition	VP
16/02/22	D	Minor amendments - For Crown Land	AC
29/04/22	Е	Final review for Crown Lands approval	DW
23/08/22	F	Additional Community Consultation; amendments to off-leash area	DW
25/08/22	G	Off-leash area, sporting ground safety net and upgrades to Amenities building added/ amended	DW
5/05/23	Н	Minor amendments as per Crown Land requests	IWC

Introduction + Executive Summary

Inner West Council have produced a Plan of Management priority list identifying which open spaces within the Inner West LGA are in greatest need of review.

In 2019, Welsh + Major Architects were engaged by Inner West Council to develop Plans of Management and accompanying Master Plans for the seven top priority parks.

This document contains a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Ashfield Park. Ashfield Park is located in Ashfield and is bounded by Parramatta Rd and Orpington St to the north, and Pembroke St and Ormond St to the south. It consists of 14.4 acres (5.84 hectares), making it one of the larger parks within in the LGA.

Plan of Management

The Plan of Management [POM] is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years.

Master Plan

The Master Plan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the site over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of Management can be translated into site specific gestures for application to the park.

How to use this document

Development of the POM and Master Plan involved some overlap of research and analysis. As such the POM and Master Plan were undertaken simultaneously, and are presented together within the same document.

The site has been considered and designed as a whole, but for ease and clarity within this document it has been presented as four zones.

Developing the Plan of Management and Master Plan involved the following processes:

- Policy review identifying the opportunities and constraints presented by national and local government initiatives.
- Demographic review identifying the local community profile.
- Review of site ownership and legal categorisation.
- Identification of applicable statutory conditions and legislation.
- Undertaking a detailed site analysis.
- Undertaking Community Engagement though drop in sessions and an online survey.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Context Review, Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes to develop Key Objectives and Strategies for management and action.
- Application of the physical strategies within the Draft Master Plan.

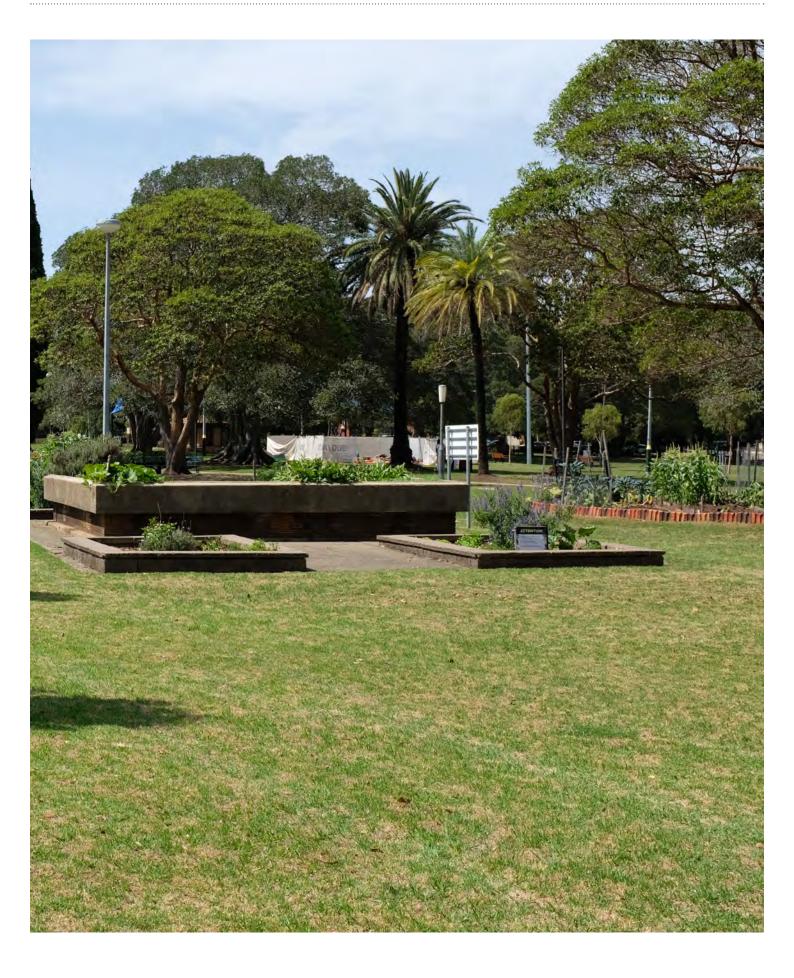
Key features of the Master Plan:

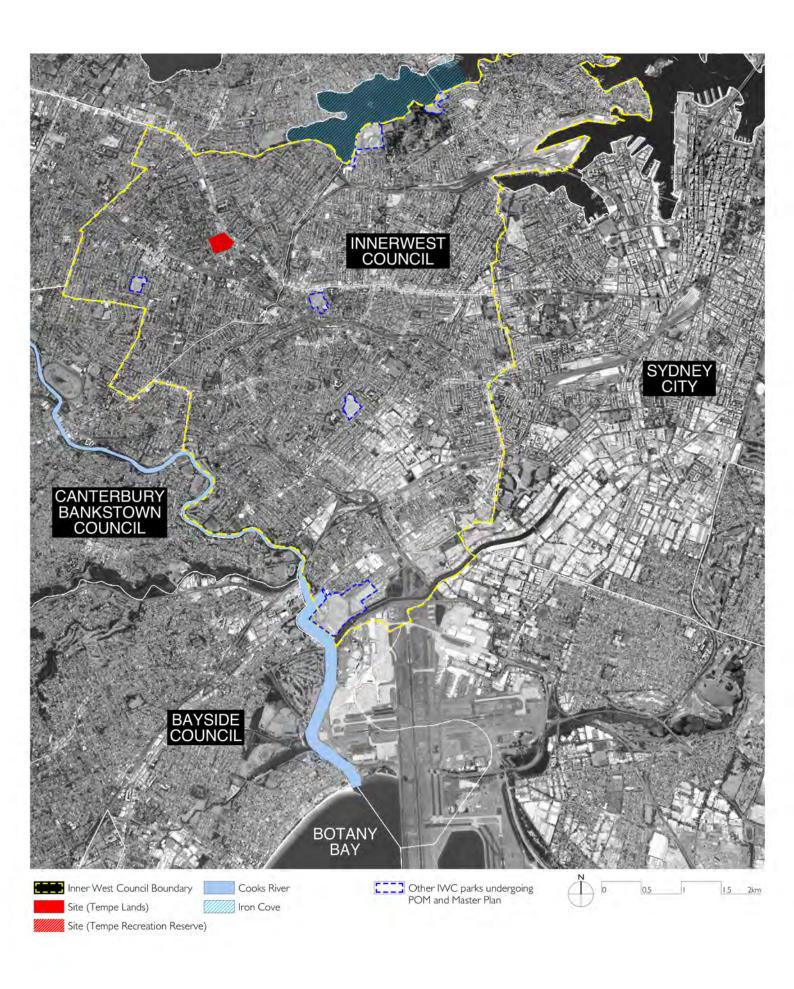
- 01 A new interpretation strategy to highlight significant historic aspects and monuments of the park.
- 02 Minor upgrades to amenities block (change room/ sheds) adjacent to the sporting ground.
- 03 Removal of the telegraph pole lamps adjacent to the sporting ground and replacing them with new sideline lighting to be consistent with other lighting within the park.
- 04 New table and chair park furniture in selected shaded locations.
- 05 Maintenance and repair of the existing exercise stations as required. C
- 06 Establishing a biodiversity area to the southern corner of the park.
- 07 New identity signage for the park.
- 08 Traffic calming measures to Orpington St, Pembroke St and Ormond St
- 09 Improvements to existing underground water tanks in an effort to 'drought-proof' the park as much as possible
- 10 Control measures to limit/ organise parking associated with the bowling club
- 11 Extend existing understorey native planting to the northern corner of the park to further develop a green buffer between the park and Parramatta Rd.
- 12 Retain and maintain the topiary of the date '1871 2019' and name 'Ashfield Park' which creates a strong identity for the park.
- 13 Extend and improve the community garden to provide additional planter beds and fruit trees to the area surrounding the garden.
- 14 New community garden composting areas, and a small structure to accommodate a seed bank, lockable tool shed and rainwater tank.
- 15 Upgrade of one of the grass bowling greens to a synthetic green.
- 16 New understorey planting in selected areas around the base of significant trees along the park perimeter.
- 17 A new, proposed off-leash dog area.
- 18 Relocation of the historic milestone to just south of the diagonal pathway to an appropriate level area where it can be easily viewed, with appropriate interpretive signage.
- 19 Increase the width of the circular path around the war memorial. The circular path is currently the only access point without stairs to provide a continuous path of travel to other pathways within the park, and as a result is highly utilised by many users, including wheelchair users and cyclists directed through the park. The new pathway could include imprints, etchings and local stories to complement the war memorial.
- 20 Completing the axis of Phoenix Palms with new palms towards the north-eastern entry gateway.
- 21 Upgrade the existing playground.
- 22 New outdoor table tennis tables with spectator seating
- 23 New deck and amphitheatre seating to support the bowling club bistro/ cafe
- 24 Additional BBQs and upgraded picnic areas.





 $Looking\ towards\ water\ fountain\ and\ community\ garden.\ Photography\ by\ Welsh\ +\ Major.$





REGIONAL CONTEXT

Inner West Council

The Inner West Council area is located five kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD)

The council area was established when the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016.

Inner West Council has five wards: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Stanmore.

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km² from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west

There are 269 parks and reserves including playgrounds and sports grounds in the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA).

Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

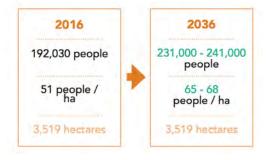
A Recreational needs study commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 provided an analysis of the existing parkland's within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage.

The community is expected to grow with an additional 49,000 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 13.3m² to 10.6m² per person within this timeframe.

Population growth will also result in additional pressure on current sporting and recreational facilities, and it is anticipated that additional facilities will be needed, and that current facilities will be required to intensify their usage to meet demand.

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- summer sporting grounds
- 8 winter sporting grounds
- indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- indoor leisure centre (dry)
- indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- skate park/facility.



INNER WEST PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and State participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, State and national level

Across the spectrum of recreation activities. people participated most often in recreation" activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly.

This was followed by personal fitness with 66% of people participating at least weekly

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in "passive recreation," but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 4 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.

Key differences between different groups

Females used children's playgrounds, aquatic centres, and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, sporting fields and courts,

and the Greenway more often than females.

· People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly

than the general community.

were that:

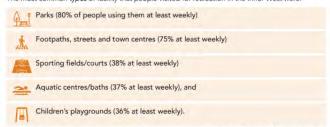


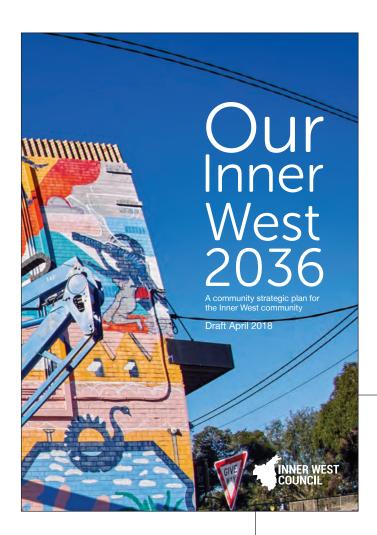
POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities were:

- · Footpaths, streets, and town centres
- · Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- · Cooks River foreshore path · Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- · Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- · Enmore Park, and
- · Ashfield Park

The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West were:









REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICY + DESIGN DOCUMENTS

Our Inner West 2036; A community strategic plan for the Inner West community

Inner West Council, draft endorsed by council 06/2018

This plan identifies the community's vision for the future, outlines long term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards that vision. It guides all of Council's plans, policies and budgets.

The strategic directions set out are:

- I An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods
- 3 Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 Caring, happy, healthy communities
- 5 Progressive local leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: green infrastructure, the total area of habitat for wildlife managed under bush-care programs, protection of the natural environment, safety of public spaces, cycleways, maintaining footpaths, aquatic and recreation centres, availability of sporting grounds and facilities and walk-able open space.

Recreation needs study - A healthier Inner West

Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/2018

Analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community, with a view to both maintaining and improving social and mental health as the population of the Inner West Council (IWC) area continues on its projected path of growth and change.

The study identified that the IWC area lacked sufficient public open space for the growing population. It outlines a strategic 'action' framework and explores how this framework could be applied.

The study identifies Ashfield Park as one of the more popular recreational spaces within the Inner West. It is the largest park within the north of Ashfield, and is regarded as a civic park, home to a number of monuments and hosting large community events. Areas of the park are also utilised for soccer, cricket and lawn bowls.

The study undertook extensive engagement with the community to determine both recreational participation within the inner west as well as comments and suggestions about the quality of public open space within the LGA. These findings in conjunction with community engagement carried out specifically for Ashfield Park form a body of information about community needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

Other Documents Reviewed:

- Ashfield Park Plan of Management (former) Ashfield Council adopted June 2007.
- Bike Plan 2010 (former) Ashfield Council
- Ashfield LEP 2013
- Comprehensive Inner West DCP 2016 for Ashbury, Ashfield, Croydon, Croydon Park, Haberfield, Hurlstone Park and Summer Hill
- Ashfield Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan Prepared for (former) Ashfield Council by Calibre Consulting.
- (former) Ashfield Council Street Tree Strategy 2015
- (former) Ashfield Council Urban Planning Strategy 2010
- Inner West Council Inclusion Action Plan

OUR INNER WEST 2036 - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcomes	Strategies	
1.1 The people and infrastructure of Inner West contribute positively to the environment and tackling climate change	Provide the support needed for people to live sustainably Reduce urban heat and manage its impact Create spaces for growing food Develop planning controls to provide ecosystem services* Provide green infrastructure that supports increased ecosystem services*	
1.2 Biodiversity is rich, with connected habitats for flora and fauna	Support people to connect with nature in Inner West Create new biodiversity corridors and an urban forest across Inner West Maintain and protect existing bushland sites for species richness and diversity	
1.3 The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways	Collaborate to make plans, designs and decisions that are water-sensitive Supply water from within Inner West catchments	
1.4 Inner West is a zero emissions community that generates and owns clean energy	Support local adoption of clean renewable energy Develop a transport network that runs on clean renewable energy	
1.5 Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy	Support people to avoid waste, and reuse, repair recycle and share Provide local reuse and recycling infrastructure Divert organic material from landfill Advocate for comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility+	

Outcomes	Strategies		
2.1 Development is designed for sustainability and makes life better	Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to suit community needs Identify and pursue innovative and creative solutions to complex urban planning and transport issues Improve the quality, and investigate better access and use of existing community assets Develop planning controls that protect and support a sustainable environment and contribute to a zero emissions and zero waste community		
2.2 The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced	Provide clear and consistent planning frameworks and processes that respect heritage and the distinct characters of urban villages Manage change with respect for place, community history and heritage		
2.3 Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings	Plan and deliver public spaces that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces		
2.4 Everyone has a roof over their head and a suitable place to call home	Ensure the expansion of social, community and affordable housing, distributed across Inner West, facilitated through proactive policies Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough		
2.5 Public transport is reliable, accessible, connected and enjoyable	Advocate for improved public transport services to, through and around Inner West Advocate for, and provide, transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth		
2.6 People are walking, cycling and moving around Inner West with ease	Deliver integrated networks and infrastructure for transport and active travel Pursue innovation in planning and providing new transport options Ensure transport infrastructure is safe, connected and well-maintained		

REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Outcomes	Strategies		
3.1 Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated	Grow Inner West's reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub, celebrating and supporting diverse creative industries and the arts Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and cultural activities		
3.2 Inner West is the home of creative industries and services	Position Inner West as a place of excellence for creative industries and services and support them to thrive Facilitate links to programs and services to help businesses grow, innovate and improve their competitiveness Encourage the establishment of new enterprises in Inner West Facilitate the availability of affordable spaces for creative industries and services		
3.3 The local economy is thriving	Support business and industry to be socially and environmentally responsible Strengthen economic viability and connections beyond Inner West Promote Inner West as a great place to live, work, visit and invest in		
3.4 Employment is diverse and accessible	Support local job creation by protecting industrial and employment lands Encourage social enterprises and businesses to grow local employment		
3.5 Urban hubs and main streets are distinct and enjoyable places to shop, eat, socialise and be entertained	Promote unique, lively, safe and accessible urban hubs and main streets – day and night Enliven community life by delivering and supporting events, public art, cultural celebrations and entertainment Pursue a high standard of planning, urban design and development that supports urban centres Promote the diversity and quality of retail offerings and local products		

Outcomes	Strategies	
4.1 Everyone feels welcome and connected to the community	Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life Embrace, celebrate, respect and value difference by building awareness and appreciation of Innew West's diversity Empower and support vulnerable ardisadvantaged community members to participate in community life Increase and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage	
4.2 The Aboriginal community is flourishing, and its culture and heritage continues to strengthen and enrich Inner West	Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and businesses Acknowledge and support the rights of the Aboriginal community to self determination Actively engage Aboriginal people in the development of programs, policies and strategies	
4.3 The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing	Provide the facilities, spaces and programs that support wellbeing and active and healthy communities Provide opportunities for people to participate in recreational activities they enjoy	
4.4 People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life	Plan and provide services and infrastructure for a changing and ageing population Ensure the community has access to a wide range of learning spaces, resources and activities Support children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning	
Outcomes	Strategies	
5.1 People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem-solving	Support local democracy through transparent communication and inclusive participatory community engagement	
5.2 Partnerships and collaboration are valued and recognised as vital for community leadership and making positive changes	Support leadership and mentoring initiatives that build and strengthen the capacity of individuals, businesses and communities Support local capacity for advocacy Collaborate with partners to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment	
5.3 Government makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities	Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision making, reflective of community needs and aspirations Ensure responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government Deliver innovation, excellence, efficiency and effectiveness and probity in Council processes and services	



EXISTING DOCUMENT REVIEW - RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

Key Findings:

A number of findings about recreation within the Inner West are highlighted by the report. These include its benefits and its changing perception and role within society generally. These have assisted in providing a foundation for the strategies and objectives of this Plan of Management and Master Plan. A summary of the key findings includes;

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people.
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits.
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week.
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West.
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation.
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

NEED

Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs

Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.

Picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings, as well as informal grassed passive recreation areas.

New facilities in parks including: table tennis tables; outdoor gyms including for seniors, and hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.

Lighting and design of parks to increase (feelings of) safety. Lighting should be fauna-friendly and use sustainable technologies to support environmental outcomes.

Improved lighting to support evening and night time use of sporting grounds and provide recreation opportunities after work hours

Improved waste management and maintenance in parks and sporting grounds.

Open Spaces:

The study indicates that the average amount of public open space across the LGA is 13.3m² per person. Ashfield has a below average provision of public space with 8.1m² per person. This is forecast to be reduced to 6.3m² per person by the year 2036 as populations increase.

Sporting Capacity:

The study identified the sporting ground of Ashfield Park as having an optimum capacity of 30 hours of use per week, which ensures a usable surface condition. The study suggests that the sporting ground is being used for 34 hours per week, indicating that it is operating close to it's optimal capacity. The sporting ground was last upgraded in 2018. Sporting ground use by clubs is outlined in the sporting and allocations policy.

Community Engagement:

Areas for suggested improvement for Ashfield Park include:

- Improved safety in design for seniors.
- Additional gym equipment and need for a space for Tai Chi within the park.
- More sports opportunities (tennis, basketball, cricket and pingpong tables), more playground equipment that includes older children, more bubblers, picnic tables and water play.

Objectives:

The report found a number of opportunities for improving recreational spaces within the LGA through a needs and gaps analysis. These opportunities were grouped into broad themes. Key opportunities which relate to the scope of this Plan of Management have been summarised below.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users
- Extend the Marrickville Public Toilet Strategy recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.
- Provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.
- In particular local parks in high density areas to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for residents.
- Lighting on streets including connections to open space and linear parks/shared paths, and Ashfield Town Centre to Ashfield Park
- Lighting in parks for informal night time use e.g. at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport and other sporting facilities.
- Increased maintenance resourcing
- Consider ongoing maintenance costs at the design stage of new/upgraded open space
- Consultation with outdoors staff at the design stage to identify possible future maintenance issues, and
- Self-cleaning BBQs.

Improving walkable connections to open space and recreation opportunities .

Improving sporting building infrastructure, amenities blocks to increase usability and support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport.

Spectator infrastructure, courts surfaces, lighting, allocation and booking processes.

Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.

Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.

Play spaces for older children / young people;

Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.

Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.

Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.

Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability including organised sport.

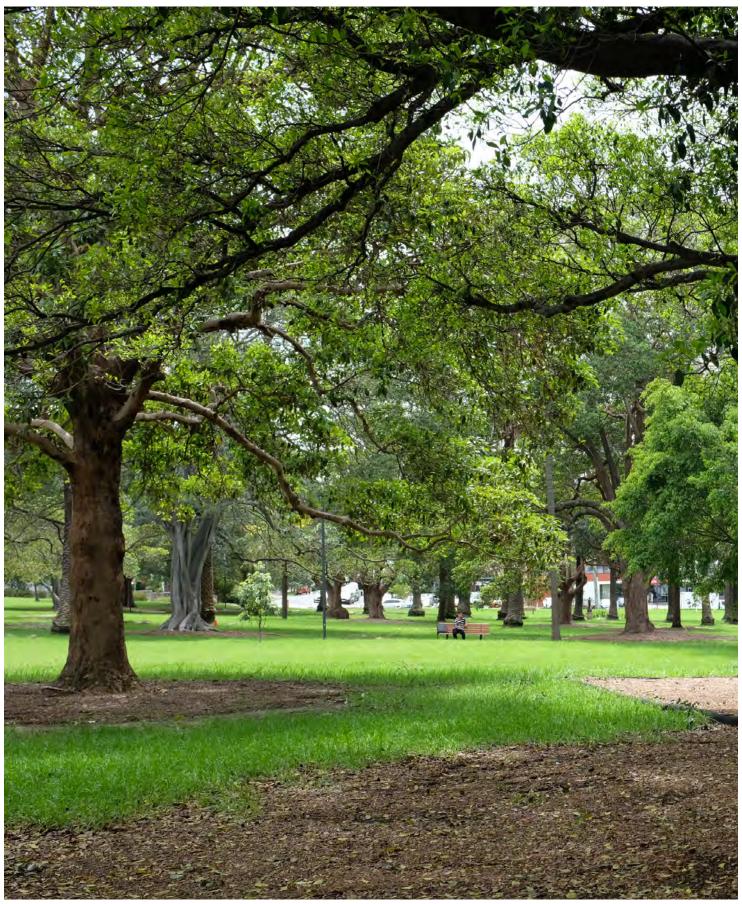
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community

Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

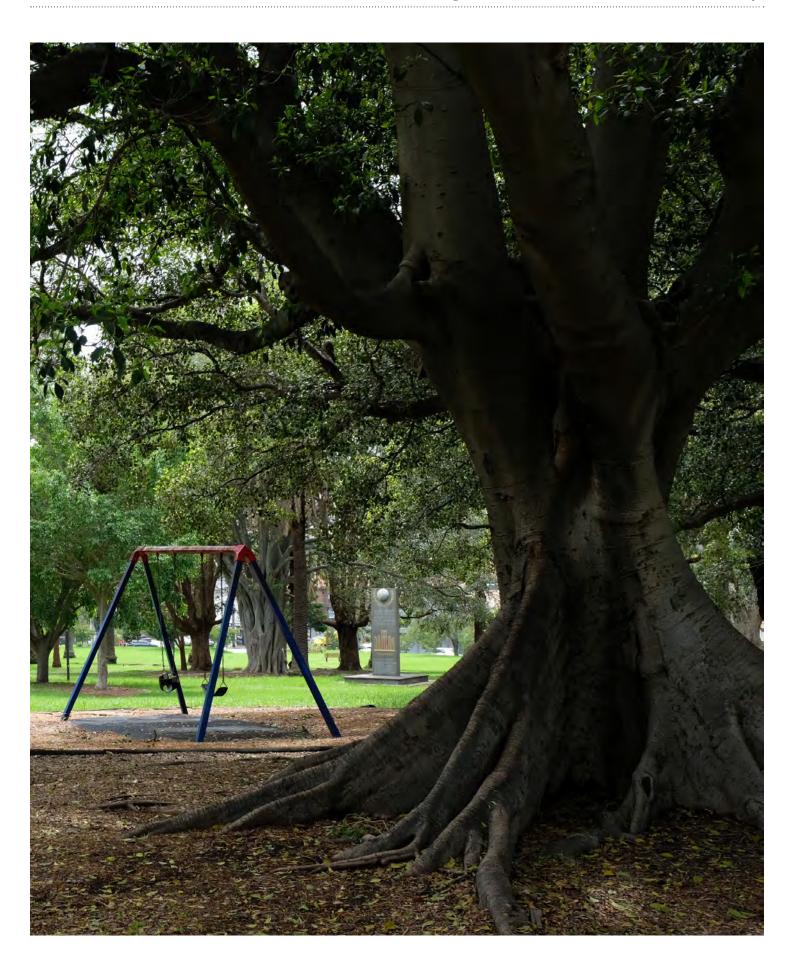
New off leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play; Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off leash areas; Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs.

- Improved connections to Ashfield Park from the Ashfield town centre
- Upgrade sporting grounds throughout the LGA.
- Review throughout the LGA.
- Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.
- Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes
- Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.
- Include inclusive play equipment in all playgrounds, rather than only in some dedicated inclusive playgrounds.
- Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.
- Footpath improvements, bush care programs,
- More affordable recreation opportunities for older people
- Support with transport to recreation opportunities.
- Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable night time use including for organised and informal activities
- Encourage recreation providers (e.g. sports clubs, fitness providers) to provide recreation opportunities in the evening eg social versions of sport
- Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities and parks, for example in new amenities buildings.
- Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible.
- Welcoming change and bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.
- Recreation opportunities located close to public transport and promoted in community languages
- Recreation programs targeting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Recreation opportunities that reflect popular activities (e.g. informal sports, badminton, volleyball, table tennis, basketball, Tai Chi), and
- Working with sporting clubs to support inclusiveness and increased participation.
- Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement.
- Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict e.g. planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.
- In particular there is need for an off-leash dog area in the former Ashfield Council ward, where there is currently no offleash dog park.





View towards swings. Photography by Welsh + Major.





LAND TO WHICH THIS PLAN APPLIES

Community land - Local Government Act Requirements

Public land as defined under the *Local Government Act 1993*, must be classified as either community or operational land.

'Operational' land comprises land that serves a commercial or operational function (e.g. offices, works depot, car park, sewage pump station, etc.), or land that is being retained for commercial or strategic reasons. The range of controls that apply to Community land do not apply to the use and management of Operational land.

'Community' land is generally public park land set aside for community use. Development and use of this land is subject to strict controls set out in the Act such as Community land cannot be sold, or leased or licensed for more than 30 years. In addition to these controls, the Act requires Councils to have plans of management for all Community lands

A plan of management places each piece of Community Land into one or more of five categories which impact on how they can be used. These are: Natural area; Sports ground; Park; Area of cultural significance; or General community use. Community Land is still subject to zoning controls and a plan of management operates as an additional control over that piece of land.

Crown Land Management Act 2016

Following a comprehensive review of legislative provisions and the management of Crown land the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) commenced on 1 July 2018 and the Crown Lands Act 1989 was repealed. The objectives of the CLM Act are:

- To provide for the ownership, use and management of the Crown land of New South Wales, and
- To provide clarity concerning the law applicable to Crown land, and
- To require environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations to be taken into account in decision-making about Crown land, and
- To provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, and
- To facilitate the use of Crown land by the Aboriginal people of New South Wales because of the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to enable the co-management of dedicated or reserved Crown land, and
- To provide for the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management.

The CLM act gives council the authority to manage Crown Land in the same way that it manages Public land, as defined under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The legislation requires council to firstly classify Crown land managed by Council as Community Land or Operational Land, and to then to nominate a single category for the land. The Plan of Management then provides the mechanism to place the Crown Land into multiple categories which are better suited to the current and future use of the land.

Lot/DP	Name & Location	Current Management & Agreements Recommendations	Ownership & Classification	Area (approximate)	Crown Land Reserve Number & Purpose	Notes
	Ashfield Park Intersection of Parramatta Road and Orpington Street, Ashfield.	InnerWest Council	Crown Land Community Land	5.84 Hectares	R500001 Public Park gazetted 20 January 1904	unformed road is included as part of the Lot



CROWN LAND CATEGORISATION

Crown Land Reserves

Crown Land Reserves are owned by the State of New South Wales (NSW) and managed by councils or boards appointed as land managers on behalf of the NSW Government for the benefit of the general public.

Crown Land Reserves managed by council have been set aside for a particular public purpose. Where local councils are the land manager of Crown Reserves they are to be managed as if they are 'public land' under the Local Government Act 1993. Crown reserves which are classified public land require a Plan of Management.

The Crown Land within Ashfield Park is divided into the categories listed within the table below. The land which each category specifically applies to is demonstrated by the map opposite.

Management Principles

The principles of Crown land management are:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land, and
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible, and
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged, and
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged, and
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

Native Title on Crown Land

On Crown land native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- · native title has been extinguished; or
- native title has been surrendered; or
- determined by a court to no longer exist.

Some examples of acts which may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves managed by Council include:

- the construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, tennis courts, grandstands and barbecues,
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings,
- the construction of new roads or tracks,
- installation of infrastructure such as powerlines, sewerage pipes, etc,
- the creation of an easement
- the issue of a lease or licence.
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

When proposing any act that may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity to comment any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered native title bodies corporate and registered native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the Native Title Act 1993.

Category (Crown land)	Core objectives (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993)
sports ground	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
PARK	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public— (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).



Looking to bowling club across bowling greens. Photography by Welsh + Major.



An Overview

The Local Government Act allows council to grant leases, licences or undertake works over all or part of Community Land.

Where exclusive control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed or desirable, a lease is appropriate. There are also other factors which may influence the granting of a lease. These include the level or scale of investment, the necessity for security measures and the relationship between the activity on the land and the activity of the controller of the land.

The activities undertaken by a leaseholder should be compatible with any zoning or Council requirements and provide benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interest of the Council, protect the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Where short term, intermittent or non-exclusive occupation or control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed, a licence may be used. Providing there are no conflicts of interest, several licences may apply concurrently.

In considering whether to grant any lease or licence, Council should take into account the consistency of the proposal with the values and management strategies of this Plan of Management, particularly with regard to the following:

The Lessee/Licensee is responsible for ensuring the area is maintained to a standard which is acceptable to Council.

There is a need to define the times the land or facility will be available for use by the Lessee/Licensee, the impact of the lease/licence on the public/private space use of the Parks, the impact on maintaining the Parks as one cohesive open space.

The Plan of Management for Ashfield Park allows for the provision of leases and licences in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993, Crown Land Management Act 2016, Crown Land Management Regulations 2018* and any subsequent legislation. Future leases and licences will be authorised consistent with this Plan of Management, the Ashfield Local Environment Plan or Inner West Council Local Environment Plan (pending adoption) and any other applicable legislation. Any licences for biodiversity works are permitted.

Any leases, licences on crown land (a use agreement) on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests. Any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and in accordance with Part 8 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 unless native title is extinguished. For Crown land which is not excluded land this will require written advice of one of Council's native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

What are Leases and Licences?

A lease is a contract between the land owner, and another entity granting to that entity an exclusive right to occupy, use or control an area for a specified time.

A licence allows multiple non - exclusive use of an area. Short term licences and bookings may be used to allow the best overall use of an area.

Council's leasing and licensing is governed by its Land and Property Policy.

Authorisation of Leases and Licences

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires a lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of management (PoM). The lease or licence must be for a purpose consistent with core objectives of its categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government.

This PoM expressly authorises InnerWest Council as land manager of Ashfield Park (500001) to grant leases and licences for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those inTable 1.01 and Table 1.02. The leases and licences authorised on this land align with original gazetted purpose of "Public Park".

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to permissible under this PoM, the LG Act, the Local Government Regulations 2021, Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLMA), Crown Land Management Regulations 2018, Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 2013 and any subsequent LEP adopted by Inner West Council, and pursuant to a development consent if required.

Any proposed lease or licence for more than 5 years must be by tender unless it is to a non-profit organisation.

Any proposed lease, licence other than short term or casual public notice must be given and be in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

This Plan of Management does not authorise a lease or licence for any infrastructure to be placed in, on or over Ashfield Park relating to a pedestrian bridge over Parramatta Road.

CURRENT LEASES + LICENCES

Current Leases and Licences

Ashfield Bowling Club (1930) and two bowling greens, Recreational facility, leased by council. expires 30.11.20. The lease is currently on holdover.

Future Leases and Licences

This Plan of Management expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences of Ashfield Park for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in the following tables:

Long Term Use for Up to 30 Years. The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government

Where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted.

granted.	<u> </u>
Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which licencing/ leasing will be granted
Licence: Sports Grounds	Organised sport including but not limited to soccer, rugby, cricket, oz tag
Licence: Sports Grounds	School and community group recreation and education use
Lease: General Community Use Building	Bowling club and associated uses including but not limited to restaurant and bar. Sporting club and associated uses including but not limited to filming, training, storage, fitness classes and management of an indoor gym.
Lease: General Community Use Building	General Community Use Cafe/kiosk including outdoor seating and tables
Licence/ Lease: General Community Use Buildings	Bistro, restaurant, function venue with the provision to sell alcohol.
Licence: General Community Use Building	Creative industry/Artist in residence
Licence: Park	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence/ Deed: Park	Community garden and associated uses including minimal storage, compost facilities, worm farms.

Type of arrangement/	Purpose for which 12 month licence
categorisation and facilities	will be granted
Licence: Sports Ground	 Seasonal licences Sporting fixtures and events Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events Use as per the sporting ground allocations policy; Training from Tuesday - Friday; Games Saturday + Sunday
	School and community group recreation and education use
	Commercial fitness trainers
	Purposes of clause 31 of the CLM Regulation 2018
Licence: Park	 School and community group recreation and education use Delivering a public address Public performances Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings Conducting a commercial photography session Filming including film / television Community events and festivals Commercial dog walking Playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward Advertising Catering Community, training or education Community garden Environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies Exhibitions Functions Hiring of equipment Meetings Outdoor cinema Site investigations Sporting and organised recreational activities Storage Emergency purposes including training Purposes of clause 31 of the CLM

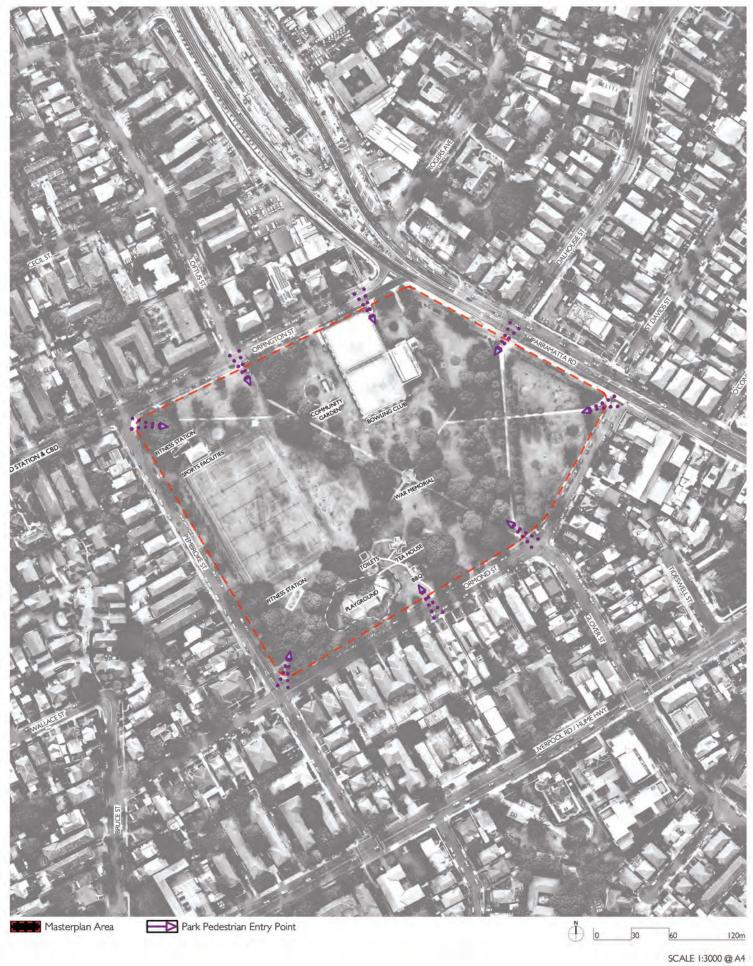




 $Looking\ over\ topiary\ hedges\ spelling\ 'Ashfield\ Park'.\ Photography\ by\ Welsh\ +\ Major.$

4.0 Statutory Conditions + Legislation





STATUTORY CONDITIONS + LEGISLATION

Zoning + Classification

Ashfield LEP: REI 'Public recreation'

Other Relevant Legislation

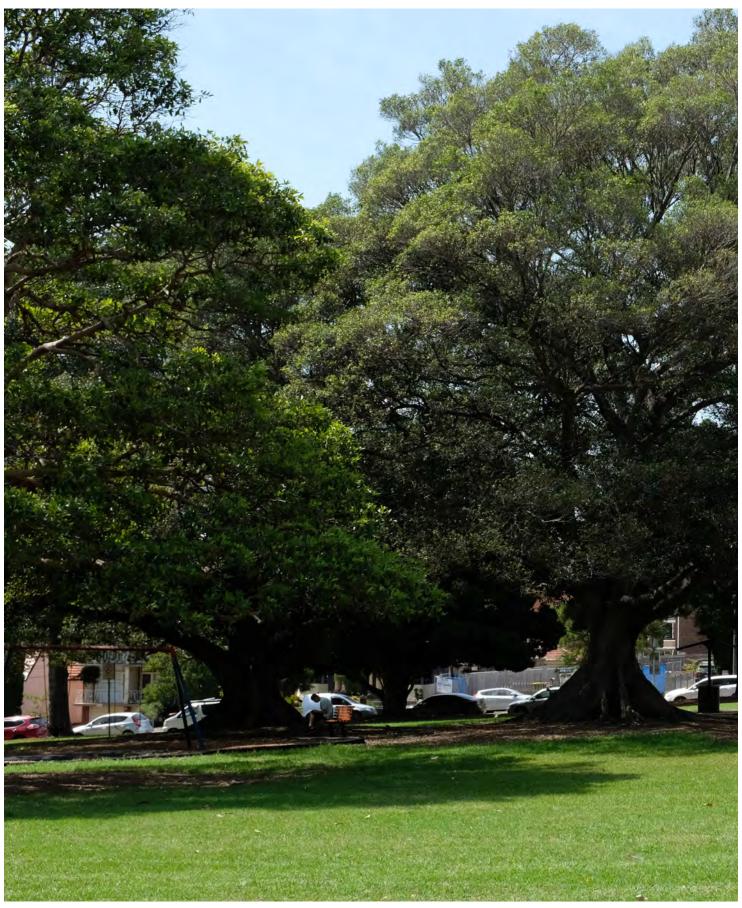
- Foreshore Building Line LEP 2013
- Native title Act 1993 (cwlth)
- Companion Animals Act.
- Disability Discrimination Act.
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- National Construction Code 2019.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007
- Work, Health and Safety Act.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP



4.0 Statutory Conditions + Legislation

CONDITION OF LAND + STRUCTURE

	Use of land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Condition of the land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Future Condition (targeted following adoption of the PoM)
01	Sandstone Entry Gates	Good	Maintain
02	Exercise Equipment - North West	Good	Maintain
03	Dressing Sheds	Fair	Maintain
04	Underground Water Tanks	Fair	Maintain + Upgrade
05	Sporting ground	Good	Maintain
06	Exercise Equipment - South East	Fair	Maintain
07	Playground	Fair	Maintain + Upgrade
08	Public Toilets	Good	Maintain + Upgrade
09	Begonia House	Good	Maintain
10	Public BBQs	Good	Maintain
	Swing Set	Good	Maintain
12	War Memorial	Good	Maintain
13	Community Garden	Good	Maintain + Upgrade
14	Bowling Greens	Good	Maintain
15	Bowling Clubhouse	Good	Maintain



View towards stone shelter. Photography by Welsh + Major.



5.0 Master Plan Strategies

OVERVIEW

The key objectives outline a broad vision for the future of Ashfield Park. They have been derived from the opportunities and constraints outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes. They have also been informed through a precedent study of successful local, national and international parkland projects.

Key strategies offer practical measures for how these objectives can be implemented within Ashfield Park.



ACCESS

Key Objectives:

- 1. Improve existing connections through the park.
- 2. Limit car access and parking on grass through physical deterrents.
- 3. Create a simple signage and wayfınding strategy for navigating the park and its assets.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Increase the width of circular pathway at park's centre.
- Install discreet bollards to the bowling club driveway to physically limit parking on grass.
- Consolidate wayfinding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.



INCLUSIVENESS

Key Objectives:

- 1. Improve the appeal and range of the existing playground.
- 2. Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.
- 3. Provide an area within the park which can welcome off-leash dogs.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade the existing Playground with additional elements which facilitate wild and imaginative play.
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within facilities.
- Establish an unfenced off-leash dog area within the park. Maintain the remainder of the park as dogs on-leash.



SENSE OF PLACE

Key Objectives:

- 1. Highlight unique features and history of the park and communicate it to park visitors.
- 2. Create opportunities to educate visitors about the culture and history of the site through public art and interpretation strategies.
- 3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and createnew fine-grain spaces.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish an integrated interpretation strategy to highlight assets within the park, to better inform visitors about existing park features and the history of the park.
- Foster the identity of Ashfield Park and maintain park areas that contribute to the park's civic character.
- Retain the existing heritage quality of the park.



COMMUNITY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support existing community facilities such as the bowling club and community garden, and their role within the wider community.
- 2. Provide high quality furniture and facilities.
- Improve or maintain the quality and amenity of existing facilities and park assets.
- 4. Ensure that the park remains as a flexible green open space for the community into the future.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide an on-site composting area. Establish a small shed that includes tool lock-up, seed-bank and water storage.
- Create additional shady seating areas and picnic tables.
- Increase maintenance to existing toilets. Continue to maintain the park as a high quality civic space.
- Protect the park generally from being exclusively used by any single user group and maintain the park's existing flexibility.



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives:

- Support local ecology and biodiversity.
- 2. Protect existing vegetation within the park.
- 3. Prioritise the environment in decision making.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish a biodiversity zone within the park, planting local species and understorey planting.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Educate park visitors about remnant vegetation and it's significance.
- Plant new trees where possible to increase shade cover.



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support safer interactions between vehicles and people.
- 2. Reduce trips and falls within the park.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Investigate lower vehicle speeds in suburban streets around the park.
- Improve pathways within playground to reduce trip hazards.



SPORTS + RECREATION

Key Objectives:

- 1. Continue a balance of sports and general community use of Ashfield park.
- 2. Maintain existing sports and recreation facilities. and repair existing exercise stations.
- Improve the utility, flexibility and ease of maintenance of the bowling club.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use. Remove existing sideline lighting and install new sideline lighting.
- Repair and maintain existing exercise stations.
- Undertake general maintenance works to park assets.
- Permit a synthetic bowling green to replace one existing grass green within the bowling club.



5.0 Master Plan Strategies



ACCESS

Key Objectives:

- 1. Improve existing connections through the park.
- 2. Limit car access and parking on grass through physical deterrents.
- 3. Create a simple signage and wayfinding strategy for navigating the park and its assets.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Increase the width of circular pathway at park's centre.
- Install discreet bollards to the bowling club driveway to physically limit parking on grass.
- Consolidate wayfinding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.

Park Connections

People visit and move through Ashfield Park in a variety of ways. Some may be visiting the park as a destination, strolling around the park or walking and jogging for exercise. Others may be using the park as a through-route. Cyclists are directed through Ashfield Park from both Parramatta Road and Gower Street to reach Ashfield.

All paths within the park meet at the war memorial. Axial pathways are separated from the war memorial on the north and east sides by several stairs, and as a result cyclists and other park users looking to avoid stairs are limited to using the narrow circular path to continue through the park. Being circular, it is also difficult for people on the path to see whether there are people coming in the other direction, which is problematic if there is a cyclist or jogger moving quickly.

It is recommended that this circular path is increased in width, so that two users can pass safely. The new circular path could form part of an interpretation strategy to complement the war memorial and to inform visitors about its history within the park. This could be through the use of etchings within the surface of the path.

Vehicle Access

Parking on the grass around the vehicle access driveway serving the bowling club should be limited through the use of physical barriers as opposed to obtrusive signage. Discreet bollards, such as those made from timber or plastic lumber, could be installed along the length of the driveway to restrict vehicles from accessing the grass. Existing signage to this affect can then be removed. Bollards should be spaced to ensure that pedestrian access is not restricted.

Signage + Wayfinding

Existing signage should be removed and replaced with signage that is clear, concise and designed to suit an overall signage strategy. Adding to signage over time in an ad-hoc manner should be discouraged.

Signage should be well placed but discreet, and located close to park entry points. It should identify the location of key assets within the park, such as public toilets. Signage should respectfully inform park visitors about what is permitted within the park and provide contact information. Signage within Ashfield Park should present the park's civic and historic character to the community through the use of high quality and durable materials.



Low impact recycled lumber bollards to protect areas of parkland from vehicles



Integrated signage and wayfinding²

¹Recycled plastic bollards © Replas.
²Pityarilla Park by Aspect Studios. Photo © SweetLime

ACCESS







Wider pathways encourage a variety of user groups I







Low impact bollards to protect areas of parkland from vehicles.



Forecourt with bike parking, planting and traffic control. $\!\!^{6}$



Removable bollards to control vehicle access to pedestrianised areas. 5

⁶ Place de la Paix, France by Mutabilis. Photo © Hervé Abbadie. ⁷ Slim removable bollards, University of Sydney Photo © Street Furniture Australia



Sir James Mitchell Park, South Perth. Photo from City of Southg Perth website.
 Glebe Public School fence, Sydney by Nuha Saad. Photo © Jamie Williams.
 New Road, Brighton, UK by Landscape Projects and Gehl Architects. Photo © Gehl Architects.
 New York Parks Department, USA by Pentagram. Photo © Pentagram.
 Recycled plastic bollards © Exteria Street and Park Outfitters.



INCLUSIVENESS

Key Objectives:

- 1. Improve the appeal and range of the existing playground.
- 2. Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.
- 3. Propose an area within the park which can welcome off-leash dogs.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade the existing Playground with additional elements which facilitate wild and imaginative play.
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within facilities.
- Propose an unfenced off-leash dog area within the park. Maintain the remainder of the park as dogs on-leash.

Playground Upgrades

The current playground is in an acceptable condition and well used by the community. However there is scope to rejuvenate areas of the playground that are less utilised and replace them with new play areas.

The master plan recommends including a more diverse range of play experiences, which could include imaginative and wild play, to replace the existing centre of the playground at the location of the granite benches.

The new playground component should include natural and free play elements, and can incorporate parts of the grassed slope within the playground boundary, to take advantage of the change in level, for example through the use of logs to climb or a water pump course. Existing flat areas of grass should be retained.

Tactile Signage

Key signage should incorporate tactile elements and information in Braille format.



A diverse range of play experiences should be encouraged¹

lan Potter Wildplay garden, Centennial Park by Aspect Studios. Photo © Brett Boardman ²Colmslie Recreation Reserve, Brisbane: off leash area. Image: mustdobrisbane.com ²Braithwaite Park, Mt Hawthorn, WA

Pet Owners

It is proposed that an area of the park is allocated as an off-leash dog

Signage should clearly indicate that the remainder of the park is onleash at all times, and that dogs are prohibited in the playground area. Dog bag dispensers are already provided within the park at most bin locations.

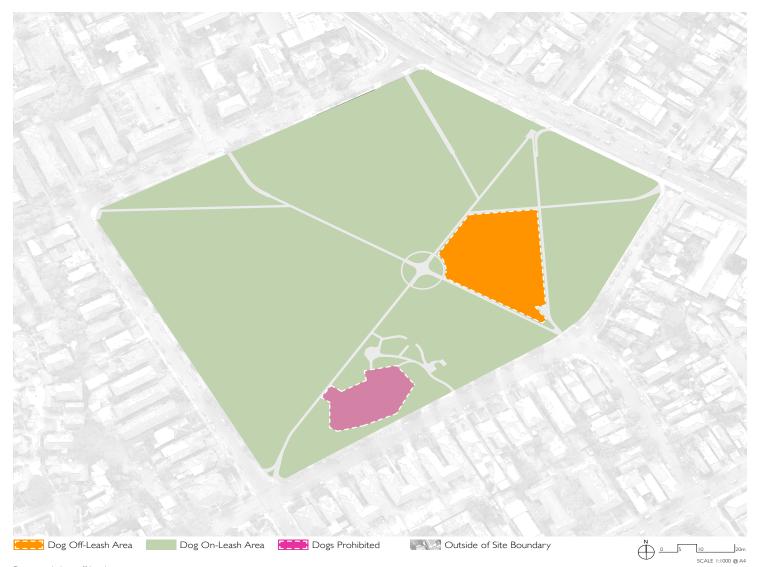
Future park water fountains should include a dog bowl component to avoid the need for plastic buckets being left within the park.



When suitably signposted and serviced, off-leash dog areas, are a wonderful social asset for contemporary parkland's 2



Creating spaces for a variety of different users is of fundamental importance in creating and maintaining of inclusive parkland's ³



Proposed dog off leash area



SENSE OF PLACE

Key Objectives:

- 1. Highlight unique features and history of the park and communicate it to park visitors.
- 2. Create opportunities to educate visitors about the culture and history of the site through public art and interpretation strategies.
- 3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and create new fine-grain spaces.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish an integrated interpretation strategy to highlight assets within the park, to better inform visitors about existing park features and the history of the park.
- Foster the identity of Ashfield Park and maintain park areas that contribute to the park's civic character.
- Retain the existing heritage quality of the park.

Highlighting Unique Features and Heritage

Ashfield Park has a mix of interesting features, ranging from natural and historical assets through to more recent monuments, memorials and art. A number of these features are not well communicated to park visitors.

This master plan recommends developing a park-wide interpretation strategy, to tie together and highlight key features of the park, while giving greater context to some of the park's hidden gems. This could be in the form of a map which is located at key points around the park which outlines a interpretation trail and where to find interesting elements within the park. More information around features of the park which require greater context could be in the form of interpretive strategies such as small informative plaques, images and text etched into new pathways.

Features to highlight are indicated on the map shown opposite. Each of these will be discussed and examples and precedents of suitable interpretive strategies will be shown.



Not just a sign: Well designed interpretive signage and wayfinding with visual interest ¹



P.L.Travers Memorial Statue ²

Samford Village Heritage Trail Interpretive displays, Moreton Bay made by Lump Sculpture Studio.

Memorial to PL Travers, a former resident of Ashfield and author of Mary Poppins, Photo: Sydney-City Blogspot.com

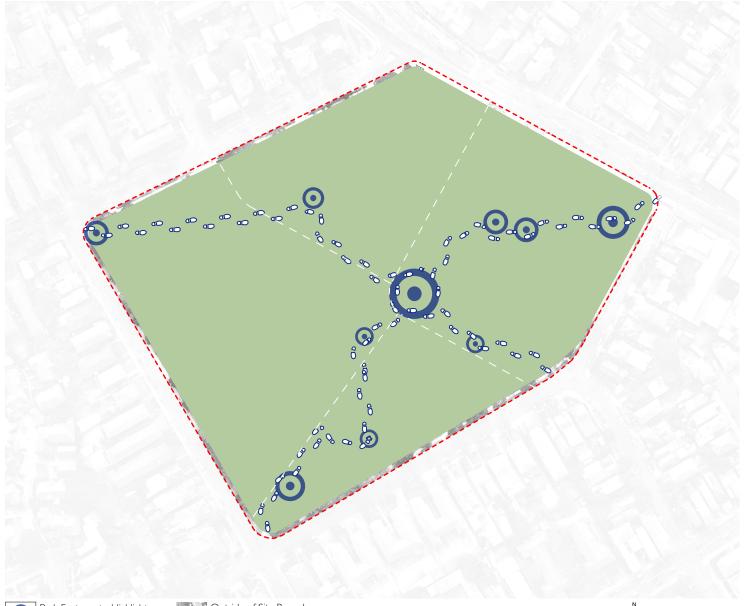
Compared to Plant Sydney Sy

SENSE OF PLACE





An example of an interpretive screen communicating site specific aspects of the local environment ³





Outside of Site Boundary



5.0 Master Plan Strategies



COMMUNITY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support existing community facilities such as the bowling club and community garden, and their role within the wider community.
- 2. Provide high quality furniture and facilities.
- 3. Improve or maintain the quality and amenity of existing facilities and bark assets.
- 4. Ensure that the park remains as a flexible green open space for the community into the future.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide an on-site composting area. Establish a small shed that includes tool lock-up, seed-bank and water storage.
- Create additional shady seating areas and picnic tables.
- Increase maintenance to existing toilets. Continue to maintain the park as a high quality civic space.
- Protect the park generally from being exclusively used by any single user group and maintain the park's existing flexibility.

Community Facilities

Ashfield Bowling Club

Ashfield Bowling Club is one of Sydney's oldest, with the first clubhouse being built in 1893.

The clubhouse and greens are essentially fenced off from the park overall, operating essentially as an independent operation separate to the park itself. A bistro operates from the clubhouse, and is open to the general public. The community garden area sits adjacent, immediately to the south of the greens.

The master plan makes a number of recommendations to support the clubs ongoing use. These are generally small-scale interventions, that will improve the overall operability and amenity of the Park as a cohesive public asset.

Improving the connectivity of the clubhouse to the park would allow the bistro operation to better serve park users. Consideration to open up a more direct link to the clubhouse should be made in the future should any other improvements to the bowling greens be made (see *Sports and Recreation* in this Section).

Small-scale interventions are generally lower cost recommendations that would assist the club with it's current program, increase its value and desirability as a place to visit and host events. This would include additions such as an external all-weather awning for outdoor events and alfresco dining, a storage structure to screen bins and general storage, and a community garden on the western green.

Significant alterations include the redevelopment of the club into a two-storey structure and the removal of the eastern storage structure. The first floor extension would face the sporting ground and open onto the park, improving this interface, which is currently poor. The purpose of the new structure would be to maintain allow the club to maintain its current uses, but also provide additional community spaces and areas for sporting groups.

Community Garden

The existing community garden is currently thriving under the care of a devoted group of local garden enthusiasts. Whilst clearly viable in it's current form, it could be easily improved through the provision of an on-site composting area along with a small building that could be utilised as a tool lock-up, seed-bank and water storage facility.

The provision of additional shady seating areas and picnic tables could also enhance the existing facility and encourage more people to enjoy this rewarding community asset.

Open Green Spaces

The open grassed areas of Ashfield Park are highly valued by the community for unstructured recreation and relaxation, particularly on the weekends. These areas should be protected and maintained into the future. Development within the park should be limited to existing building upgrades or to areas or which are currently under-utilised by the community (eg. the community garden and bowling club).

New Furniture

As mentioned above, current facilities within the park are very well used by both small and large groups, particularly on weekends. It is recommended that new seating is provided to various areas within the park. The majority of seating should be shaded by new and existing trees where possible. New seating should be considered to serve a number of areas including:

- Chairs / benches and tables directly associated with the playground
- Low wall / bench seating close to the sporting ground for spectators
- Bench seating serving the community garden
- Creative mixed seating with tables, integrated into the landscape across all four park zones.

Public Events

Council should investigate supporting community events, including the potential for hosting movie nights on the sporting ground when not in use for sporting events.



Example of a community park movie night.





New furniture of varying types can encourage informal gatherings and improved social interactions.⁵







Small, well sited service buildings can enhance public parkland's $.^{\rm 6}$

¹Movies Night (c) University City district / Phillyvoice

²Curl Curl Community Garden Open Day (c) koshka media

³Acre Eatery Camperdown Commons (c) Pony Design

⁴Campus Uni Trier (c) @T. Folkerts

 $^{^5\}mbox{Parco}$ Chairs designed by Broberg & Ridderstråle

⁶ New Orleans Botanical Garden Duplantier Volunteer Pavilion designed by Mike McKay

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support local ecology and biodiversity.
- 2. Protect existing vegetation within the park.
- 3. Prioritise the environment in decision making.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish a biodiversity zone within the park, planting local species and understorey planting.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Educate park visitors about remnant vegetation and it's significance.
- Plant new trees where possible to increase shade cover.

Planting Selection

Three categories of new planting are identified. These include:

• Native grasses / Groundcovers. [Can add to this]

A mix of lower level planting, such as native grasses, groundcovers [others], can assist with creating a soft transition between open spaces where there is no planting and areas where there is dense understorey planting. Beyond this, they contribute to the biodiversity of the area, improve soil quality and replace a significant missing layer.

• Native & Ornamental Understorey Species

Ashfield Park has a strong Victorian character, which best exemplified by the north-eastern zone of the park. This character is established by the ordered rows of palms and defined garden beds of ornamental flowers. As a result, any planting within this zone should aim to contribute to this existing heritage flavour, through a selection of ornamental species and defined planted areas.

• Native STIF Understorey Species

Like many areas of Sydney, Ashfield Park would have once been covered by species typical of the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest. Less than 95% of this vegetation type now exists in Sydney and as a result it has become critically endangered. Parts of Ashfield Park exhibit remnant vegetation of the STIF, namely in the form of the significant Turpentine trees within the park. While it is unlikely that these trees were present on the site prior to 1788, photographic evidence indicates that they were well established decades after the park was formed in 1885, indicating that they could be descendants of the original STIF, from a time where the area was pastoral.

This master plan recommends protecting the remnant Turpentine trees and reinstating surrounding understorey planting using species that typically would be present within the STIF.

Key Areas for Planting

New planting is recommended to be focussed in four key areas as identified on the map opposite.

Planting in this area should reinforce the existing green buffer between the park and Parramatta Road through the northwestern zone. It is recommended that the existing planting is supplemented and extended to increase the density of planting along this edge. Low level native grasses and ground covers can extend along the embankment between the footpath and the

- park, as well as around the north-west corner to maintain views through to the bowling club.
- Planting within this area should look to establishing a green buffer between the park and Parramatta Road. Currently this is the least utilised area of the park, largely due to the impact of Parramatta Road. Dense planting would assist in boosting the amenity of this area of the park, by improving the outlook and filtering the noise and pollution coming from Parramatta road. Planting in this area should focus on ornamental species with a well-kept appearance that can integrate with the existing Victorian character.
- Planting within this area should support the ecology of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark forest and establish a biodiversity zone within the park, around the location of existing remnant trees. Planting in this area should eliminate the need for mowing or works that can damage existing trees. Planting in this area should be looked after but allowed to grow wild. Planting should be dense enough to prevent people from freely moving though the area.
- of Similarly to area 03, this area should utilise understorey planting to protect the existing cluster significant trees from damage. Low level grasses and ground covers can transition between this planting and the more open surrounding areas.



Example of native meadow of shade tolerant understorey planting

¹Prince Alfred Park. Photo © Sue Stubbs. ²Prince Alfred Park. Photo © Brett Boardman.

SUSTAINABILITY





Example of low level grasses being utilised as transition planting between zones.²



5.0 Master Plan Strategies



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support safer interactions between vehicles and people.
- 2. Reduce trips and falls within the park.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Investigate lower vehicle speeds in suburban streets around the park.
- Improve pathways within playground to reduce trip hazards.

Safer Interactions

Vehicles & Pedestrians within Ashfield Park

The interaction between vehicles and pedestrians within the park (ie: around the bowling club) could be improved to increase safety for pedestrians. The master plan looks to address this through a number of strategies, some of which are discussed in Access including:

- Establishing limits to car parking on the grass around the vehicle access driveway through the use of physical barriers as opposed to obtrusive signage.
- Discreet bollards, such as those made from timber or plastic lumber, could be installed along the length of the driveway to restrict vehicles from accessing the grass. Bollards should be spaced to ensure that pedestrian access is not restricted.
- With these new controls in place, existing signage can be removed.

Reducing traffic speeds around public parks

Traffic calming measures in and around the council owned streets that surround Ashfield Park could greatly improve the safety of park users as well as improving connectivity between the Park and its' immediate neighbourhood.

Widening footpaths and planting beds, narrowing streets and traffic lanes, creating raised crossing platforms and appropriate signage are all measures that could be considered to achieve this objective.



Traffic calming ion surrounding council owned streets could improve safety in to and around Ashfield Park.

¹Traffic calming with colour changes and planting beds. Image: Project for Public Spaces (www.pps.org)

²The Paddocks, Parramatta Park. Design: McGregor Coxall. Image: Co-ordinated Landscapes

Improving pathway surfaces

The state of some of the pathways within the park. Particularly within the children's playground area, could be improved with replacement, repair and a regular maintenance program.

Introducing raised pathways in and around areas with larger trees, constructed from a variety of robust, slip resistant materials can create an additional layer of play to these areas, whilst also protecting the health of the existing tree stocks.

Materials such as steel and timber, decomposed granite and softfall material, as well as concrete could all be utilised in imaginative ways to improve the safety and amenity of the park



Safer pathway surfaces can be achieved with a variety of different materials.²

SPORTS + RECREATION



Key Objectives:

- Continue a balance of sports and general community use of Ashfield park.
- 2. Maintain existing sports and recreation facilities and repair existing exercise stations.
- Improve the utility, flexibility and ease of maintenance of the bowling club.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use. Remove existing sideline lighting and install new sideline lighting.
- Repair and maintain existing exercise stations.
- Undertake general maintenance works to park assets.
- Permit a synthetic bowling green to replace one existing grass green within the bowling club.

Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

Casual Recreation spaces

Providing spaces for both formal and informal sports and games helps to support the community in leading an active lifestyle outside of organised sports. Generally Ashfield Park provides a good level of sporting amenity, however the general upkeep of these assets needs to be maintained to ensure they maintain their usefulness and remain accessible and available to as many user groups as possible.

The sporting ground and some of the park's other open spaces are utilised by a variety of formal and casually organised sporting groups (see: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-30/social-sports-casual-afterwork-society-cohesion/9710892). Care should be taken in the management of the park to allow as many different groups as possible to utilise the open spaces of Ashfield Park to encourage public health and wellbeing as well as community cohesion by providing opportunities for various cultural groups to come together and interact through exercise and sport.

Exercise Equipment

An exercise circuit with exercise machines was installed in 2015. While generally in good condition, some minor maintenance is required to ensure the equipment is safe and workable. It is recommended that a regular maintenance program be put in place to ensure they remain this way.



Synthetic bowling greens offer advantages such as reduced maintenance and reduced water consumption.

Organised Sports

Organised sports at Ashfield Park are a key aspect of the parks history. The use of the park by various sporting clubs shall continue to be supported. The master plan includes a number of recommendations to improve the ability of the park to host sports events, including:

- Maintaining the sporting ground as a natural turf surface.
- Ensuring the sporting ground flood lighting is a suitable level for different sports codes.
- Future upgrades to replace one of the existing bowling greens with a synthetic surface
- Future minor upgrades to the amenities building, including the reinstatement of the toilet facilities (currently used as storage)

Lighting Upgrades

Whilst the existing lighting to the sporting ground itself is generally appropriate for use, lighting to the 'sideline' areas of the ground should be upgraded to allow safe and amenable light levels to these areas.



Exercise equipment installed in 2015 is generally in good condition, however some maintenance is required.²







View through axis of pheonix palms. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.





- Ol Develop an interpretation strategy to highlight significant historic aspects and monuments of the park. This should have two components: a map component to guide park visitors to significant sites in the park, located at key points such as close to park entry points, and low impact interpretation strategies close to significant sites, which could include elements such as inscriptions or imprints in footpaths and small informative plaques close by. The interpretation strategy should be engaging for engaging for both children and adults and highlight the history of the park.
- Elements which should be highlighted in zone 1 include the historic sandstone gates
 (1a) and the location of the historic bandstand (1b), since removed.
- 02 Upgrades to Amenities building, including:
- A canteen;
- Reorganised changing facilities/toilets across both levels, including reorganisation of the disused public toilets to storage and the conversion of the operational staff room to future storage opportunities;
- A concrete slab at base of stairs to mange wear of turf.
- 03 Remove telegraph pole lamps adjacent the sporting ground. Replace with underground electrical connection. Replace sideline lighting to be consistent with new lighting within the park.
- 04 Install table and chair park furniture in selected shaded locations.
- 05 Maintain and repair exercise stations as required and extend exercise stations in the future to include higher level fitness equipment to engage additional users.
- Install timed low lumen lighting at exercise stations to facilitate use after dark during the winter months. Designed wildlife friendly and to reduce spill into the adjacent biodiversity area.
- Provide accessible path to equipment.
- Provide 2 bike racks
- Provide equipment to encourage older participants in one station
- Provide body weighted static structures in another station.
- 06 Establish a biodiversity area to the southern corner of the park. Plant dense understorey planting in selected areas to improve biodiversity within the park. Understorey planting within Zone I should respond to the natural heritage of the area, utilising native plants typical of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.
- 07 Investigate hosting additional community events at the park throughout the year.
- 08 Design and install new signage to identify Ashfield Park. Remove existing signage. New signage should communicate the civic and historic character of the park. Remove existing haphazard and outdated signage defining what is permitted within the park. Replace with a clear, concise and attractive signpost at key locations and at park entry points. New signposts should:
- Include any important information about the park, such as what is permitted. Critical
 information should be also provided in languages other than English and in Braille
 format Include a small map to identify the location of key park features, such as public
 toilets, removing the need for confusing signage elsewhere. The map could feature a
 Braille key and haptic elements.
- 09 Reduce speed limit of Orpington St, Pembroke St and Ormond St to 40km/hr to improve safer pedestrian safety around the park.
- 10 Improve the quality and amenity of areas around underground water tanks. Assess water tank capacity and role in drought-proofing park into the future
- 11 New retractable safety net along western side of sporting ground.



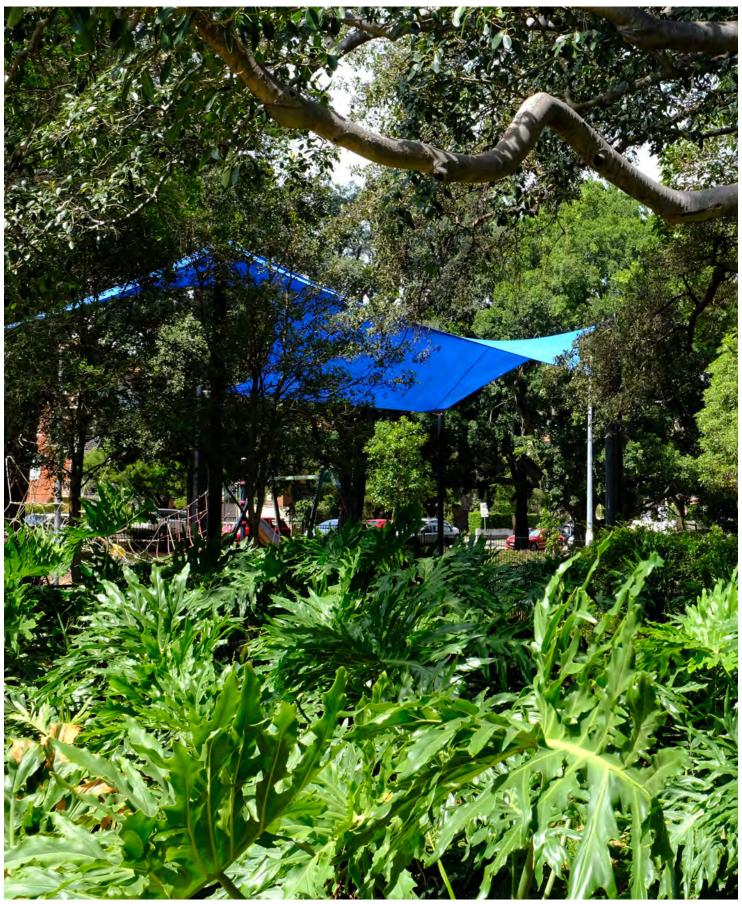
- 01 Install rows of bollards along driveway to prevent vehicles from parking on the grass. Bollards should be visually unobtrusive and in keeping with the civic character of the park, using materials such as timber or plastic lumber. Space bollards to permit free pedestrian movement between. Remove associated 'no parking on grass' signage.
- 02 Install table and chair park furniture in selected shaded locations.
- 03 Continue and extend existing understorey native planting to the northern corner of the park to further develop a green buffer between the park and Parramatta Rd. Retain and maintain the topiary of the date '1871 2019' and name 'Ashfield Park' which create a strong identity for the park.
- 04 Extend the community garden to provide additional planter bed for community herb garden. Investigate including edible fruit trees into the area surrounding the garden.
- Of Create an area for composting on site for the community garden's green waste, located adjacent the bowling green and access driveway. Develop a plan of management for composting on site to ensure that the compost is carefully managed. Investigate the potential for involving multiple stakeholders in the composting program, which could include the involving local neighbours and the bowling club bistro.
- Of Construct a small enclosure to contain a designated compost area, seed bank and lockable tool shed. Capture rainwater from shed roof into a small tank for community garden use. Composting area should be constructed so that it is attractive, presentable, can be kept free of vermin. Signage associated with the compost area should educate the community in understanding the composting process and how to get involved.
- 07 Future upgrade of one of the current grass bowling greens to a synthetic green. One green to be retained as natural grass.
- 08 Support the bowling club in its engagement with community groups and it's ability to host a diverse range of events into the future.
- 09 Establish understorey planting in selected areas around the base of significant trees along the park perimeter. Understorey planting in this area should respond to the natural heritage of the area, utilising native plants typical of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. Understorey planting should assist in protecting the trees from damage from lawn mowing as well as assist in creating a green buffer between the street and the park.
- 10 Refer to Zone 1:01 Interpretation Strategy.
- Elements which could be highlighted in zone 2 include the community garden (10a) and the water fountain (10b).
- 11 Reduce speed limit of Orpington St to 40km/hr to improve safer pedestrian safety around the park. Install street signage to inform vehicles of high pedestrian activity.
- 12 Upgrade lighting where needed. Install timed low lumen lighting designed wildlife friendly and to reduce spill into the adjacent biodiversity area.
- 13 Reconfigure entrance. Provide wider, more open accessible path.
- 14 Provide signage along brick wall for Bowling Club.
- 15 Provide potential for additional seating, informal nature play and 'spill out zones' for parties and functions on Synthetic green.
- 16 Provide outdoor deck seating here to support the cafe and terraced apmhitheater seating which not only provides access to the cafe, but a variety of seating options.
- 17 Install accessible path form park to entrance.
- 18 Install 2 table tennis tables with concrete pads, accesible path and spectator seating.
- 19 Design and install new signage to identify Ashfield Park. Remove existing signage. New signage should communicate the civic and historic character of the park. Remove existing haphazard and outdated signage defining what is permitted within the park. Replace with a clear, concise and attractive signpost at key locations and at park entry points. New signposts should:
- Include any important information about the park, such as what is permitted. Critical
 information should be also provided in languages other than English and in Braille
 format. Include a small map to identify the location of key park features, such as public
 toilets, removing the need for confusing signage elsewhere. The map could feature a
 Braille key and haptic elements.



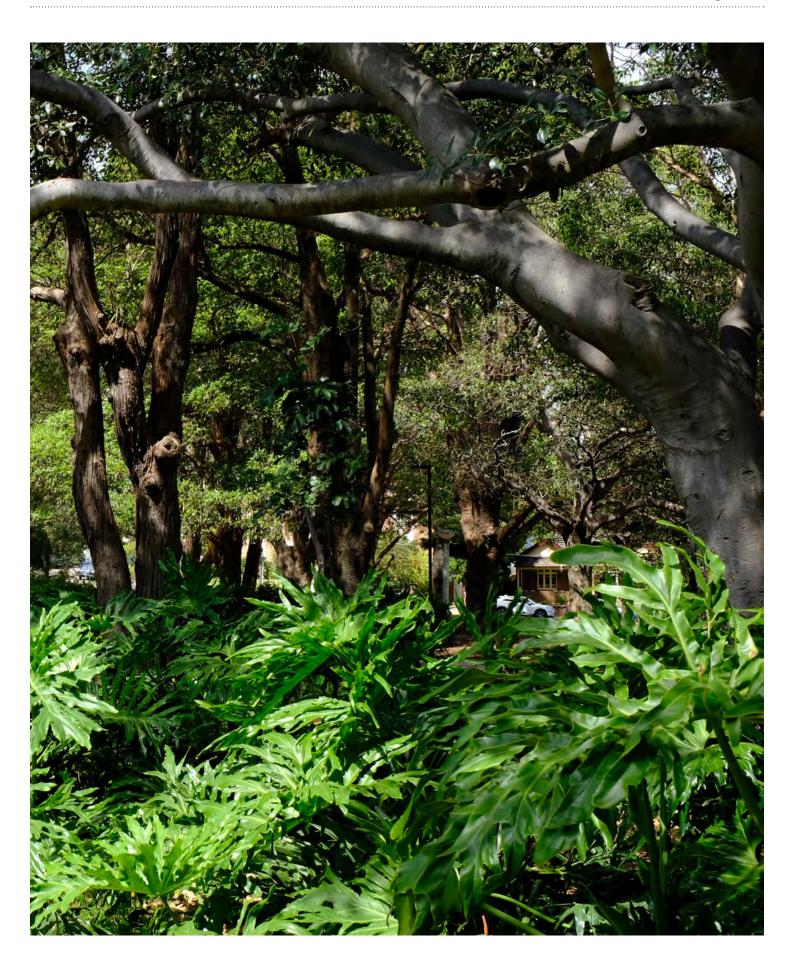
- OI Continue and extend existing understorey native planting to the northern corner of the park to further develop a green buffer between the park and Parramatta Rd.
- OZ Create new understorey green buffer to the edges of the park bordering Parramatta Rd and Ormond St. Employ native species which have an ornamental character and can complement the Victorian character of this historic corner of the park.
- 03 Relocate park benches to the edge of new understorey planting so that open areas can become more flexible. Change the orientation of the benches so that outlook is towards the park as opposed to the road.
- 04 Maintain area for passive recreation with spill out space for cafe patrons.
- 05 Proposed unfenced dog off leash area with dog off leash facilities including seating, water fountain with dog bowl and dog bins. Fencing and landscape planting (900mm high chain wire black fence) along Ormond Street and a small section of Parramatta Road
- 06 Relocate the historic milestone to just south of the diagonal pathway, keeping it within the north-eastern corner of the park. Relocate to a level area where it can be easily viewed. Integrate the milestone with a historical interpretation strategy to inform visitors of it's significance. This could include for example etchings into the pathway entry from the corner of Ormond St / Parramatta Rd which create a narrative around the historical significance of Parramatta Rd, how it was travelled, and the use of the marker as signifying 51/2 miles from the Obelisk in Maquarie place.
- 07 Refer to Zone 1:01 Interpretation Strategy.
- Elements which should be highlighted in zone 3 include: the historic milestone (06); the war memorial (7a); the Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial water fountain (07b); The International Mother Language Day monument (07c); Statue of Dr Jose P Rizal (07d); Rainbow Serpent carved tree artwork (07e).
- Maintain existing ornamental flower gardens which contribute to the park's historical character. Retain and maintain the topiary of the date '1871 - 2020' and name 'Ashfield Park' which create a strong identity for the park.
- 09 Install table and chair park furniture in selected shaded locations.
- Increase the width of the circular path around the war memorial. The circular path is currently the only access point without stairs to provide a continuous path of travel to other pathways within the park, and as a result is highly utilised by many users, including wheelchair users and cyclists directed through the park. The new pathway could include imprints, etchings and local stories to complement the war memorial.
- 11 Design and install new signage to identify Ashfield Park. Remove existing signage. New signage should communicate the civic and historic character of the park. Remove existing haphazard and outdated signage defining what is permitted within the park. Replace with a clear, concise and attractive signpost at key locations and at park entry points. New signposts should:
- Include any important information about the park, such as what is permitted. Critical information should be also provided in languages other than English and in Braille format.
- Include a map to identify the location of key park features, removing the need for confusing signage elsewhere. The map should feature a Braille key and haptic elements
- 12 Complete axis of Phoenix Palms with new palms towards the north-eastern entry gateway.
- 13 Reduce speed limit of Ormond St to 40km/hr to improve safer pedestrian safety around the park.
- 14 Upgrade park entrance to be more sympathetic to the heritage nature of the park.
- 15 Locate new bin with dog bag facility.
- 16 Install timed low lumen lighting for evening dog walking. Designed wildlife friendly and to reduce spill into the adjacent biodiversity area.
- 17 Install accessible drinking fountain with dog bowl.



- 01 Undertake general maintenance works for existing toilet facilities. Ensure that facilities are regularly cleaned and maintained.
- 02 Establish a biodiversity area to the southern corner of the park. Plant dense understorey planting in selected areas to improve biodiversity within the park. Understorey planting within Zone I should respond to the natural heritage of the area, utilising native plants typical of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. Understorey planting should assist with protecting remnant vegetation from damage.
- 03 Include nominated trees within the park for the significant tree register.
- O4 Create a interpretation strategy to educate park visitors about the significance of the remnant vegetation within the park and protecting and recovering natural heritage of the area, of which little remains. Engage with local First Nations artists and community members.
- 05 Refer to Zone 1:01 Interpretation Strategy.
- Elements which should be highlighted in zone 4 include: The biodiversity area and remnant vegetation (04); Mary Poppins Statue (05a).
- 06 Upgrade the existing playground:
- Relocate or remove the granite bench seats and fixed horses. Create a new play area
 that involves other forms of play, with a focus on wild and imaginative play. This could
 continue into sections of the grassed areas around the perimeter of the playground.
- Ensure that some areas of open grass are maintained for families and children to sit, play and engage in non-structured play.
- Improve the levelness of pathways in the playground to reduce loose pavers causing trips and injuries.
- Replace fence with low unobtrusive fencing and expand fenced area to allow for additional grassed recreation space and areas for picnicking.
- 07 Allow for native understorey species planting to encroach into the playground to reduce the impact of the playground fencing.
- 108 Look into adding permanent dog water bowls to existing water fountain. Encourage that new water fountains are specified to include a dog bowl which can also assist in providing water for wildlife.
- 09 Remove existing haphazard and outdated signage defining what is permitted within the park. Replace with a clear, concise and attractive signpost at key locations and at park entry points. New signposts should:
- Include any important information about the park, such as what is permitted. Critical information should be also provided in languages other than English and in Braille format.
- Include a map to identify the location of key park features, removing the need for confusing signage elsewhere. The map should feature a Braille key and haptic elements
- 10 Reduce speed limit of Ormond St to 40km/hr to improve safer pedestrian safety around the park.
- 11 Provide additional play elements with a focus on nature play.
- 12 Upgrade picnic area with additional BBQ area, picnic table and bubbler.
- 13 Remove all archways.



 $Looking\ across\ existing\ understorey\ planting\ towards\ playpark, Ashfield\ Park.\ Photography\ by\ Welsh\ +\ Major\ Architects.$



Overview

This section connects the Master Plan Objectives + Strategies to the Master Plan proposals.

The following pages prioritise the proposed Master Plan actions with a view to their phased implementation over a ten year period - until the Plan of Management for Ashfield Park is reviewed and revised.

For consistency and ease of reference, the actions have been grouped according to the categories used to set out the Master Plan Objectives + Strategies:

- Access
- Inclusive
- Community
- Sense of Place
- Sustainability
- Safety
- Sport + Recreation

The framework defined in the table below is applied to each objective. This includes the level of priority, preferred funding source and suggested measure for assessing the recommendation for success. This forms the basis for determining the future directions and management actions required to implement the recommendations.

Management Issues	Broad issues listed here, derived from Inner West Council Community Strategic Plan and community engagement outcomes
Objectives and Performance Targets	List objectives and targets associated with consistent with local government act
Means of Achievement of Objectives	A list of practical steps that will be taken to achieve the objectives
Manner of Assessment of Performance	Practical measure of assessment of the recommendation
Priority	Advises time-scale for implementing for the recommendation
• High	Short term: I to 3 years
• Medium	Medium term: 4 to 6 years
• Low	Long term: 7 to 10 years
 Ongoing 	Continually considered during implementation of works and maintenance strategies

ACCESS



Key Objectives:

- 1. Improve existing connections through the park.
- 2. Limit car access and parking on grass through physical deterrents.
- 3. Create a simple signage and way-finding strategy for navigating the park and its assets.

- Increase the width of circular pathway at park's centre.
- Install discreet bollards to the bowling club driveway to physically limit parking on grass.
- Consolidate way-finding regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Signage	Clearly communicate availability and location of facilities and what is permitted within the park — Inform interested visitors about civic and historic context of the park — Use concise visual communication where possible; minimise number of physical signs within the park	Replace all existing signage with new, simple and informative signage around the park entry points and key internal junctions Consider a modular system which information can easily be added to or replaced Periodically review and edit information on display, to avoid build up of outdated signage	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med
Access through the park	Improve accessible connections around and through park	Increase capacity of level access route by widening the step free circular path at the centre of the park to comfortably accommodate wheelchair users, cyclists and pedestrians alongside each other	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Vehicle access	Prevent vehicles from parking on grass	Introduce bollards to restrict vehicular access into park while maintaining free pedestrian movement Remove 'no parking' signage on grass	Monitor use of area through observation by park wardens, and/ or CCTV	High

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Playground upgrades	Provide stimulating active play opportunities for a range of ages Maximise potential of play area, and integrate with surrounding landscape	Increase range of activities available including wild play and nature play Remove fences and barriers between activity spaces to avoid perceived divisions between age segregated play Retain open grassed spaces Replace hard-scape in the play area with alternative surface treatments, or more play opportunities Incorporate play equipment which takes advantage of level changes within the playground for example through the use of logs to climb or a water pump course Continue to maintain play equipment and area, periodically review condition and renew as required	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med

INCLUSIVENESS (%)



Key Objectives:

- Improve the appeal and range of the existing playground.
- Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.
- Provide an area within the park which can welcome off-leash dogs.

- Upgrade the existing Playground with additional elements which facilitate wild and imaginative play.
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within facilities.
- Establish an unfenced off-leash dog area within the park. Maintain the remainder of the park as dogs on-leash.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Physical accessibility	Ensure all areas of the park are accessible to less able users Continual evolution of park spaces to facilitate accessibility	Adapt all existing routes and entry points which are not currently accessible. Where this is not feasible, offer an alternative accessible route Consider physical accessibility when undertaking any future works to the parkland	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Pets - dogs	Introduce a dedicated space for off-leash dog walking Improve existing experiences of dogs and dog owners within the park Make park more inviting to dog owners	Nominate an unfenced off leash dog zone in a shared part of the park Use signage and markers to clarify that the majority of the park is on-leash Incorporate dog bowls into nearby drinking fountains, and bench seats for owners	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med
Inclusive communication	Communicate in an informative and user friendly way	Promote graphic and tactile signage for example use simple maps, info-graphics or Braille as opposed to text based options	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Connection to Place - Interpretation strategy	Develop an inclusive parkwide interpretation strategy, which engages and informs interested visitors of the civic and historic assets of the park— Ensure interpretation strategies or artworks span a wide range of reference points including history, place, environment— Educate visitors of the presence and significance of the remnant native vegetation and importance of protecting this natural heritage	Connect features with an 'interpretation trail' with elements of interest mapped on park signage — Use an imaginative range of low impact interpretation strategies including visual or tactile installations - minimise use of exclusively text based information plaques — Victorian era assets identified in the Masterplan include but are not limited to: Historic sandstone gates Location of historic bandstand Community garden Water fountain Historic milestone War memorial Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial Fountain International Mother Language Day Monument Statue of Dr Jose P Rizal Rainbow Serpent carved tree artwork — Engage with local First Nations artists and community members before planning and undertaking interpretation strategies or artworks	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On

SENSE OF PLACE



Key Objectives:

- 1. Highlight unique features and history of the park and communicate it to park visitors.
- 2. Create opportunities to educate visitors about the culture and history of the site through public art and interpretation strategies.
- 3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and create new fine-grain spaces.

- Establish an integrated interpretation strategy to highlight assets within the park, to better inform visitors about existing park features and the history of the park.
- Foster the identity of Ashfield Park and maintain park areas that contribute to the park's civic character.
- Retain the existing heritage quality of the park.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Connection to place - Wellbeing strategy	Provide spaces for visitors to pause and recalibrate in a natural environment — Maximise flexibility and expanse of green space	Relocate park benches to edge of vegetated areas for shade and sense of sanctuary reorient benches to look into the park as opposed to out onto the road — Provide and distribute new table and chair park furniture in shaded locations around the park — Maintain substantial areas of open green turf without obstructions and furniture, to facilitate a range of uses	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Identity / Landmarks	Retain and enhance the heritage character and formal civic qualities of the park	Plant new palm trees to continue the existing line of Phoenix Palm trees lining the axial north east path Upgrade Parramatta road entry to be more sympathetic to/ consistent with the character of the park Continue to maintain ornamental landscaping beds on Parramatta Road boundary, maintain the topiary date annually Relocate the historic milestone to a location and level where it is more easily viewed	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Community facilities - bowling club	Continue to support the bowling club as an independent community serving business operating within Ashfield Park — Build on connections between the bowling club and park, recognising that each entity can support and mutually benefit one another	Improve physical connection between park and bowling club, to allow park users to benefit from bistro service, and allow the bowling club to benefit from increased footfall— Support bowling club in installation of a shelter or awning to attract outdoor events which benefit both the club and the community— Consider supporting a larger scale intervention to the bowling club, which could also provide amenities for sports teams and spectators— Provide outdoor seating adjacent to the club, to create 'spill out' zones from the bistro and cafe	Assess success through observation and visitor numbers to park and bowling club	On
Community facilities - community garden	Continue to support the community garden and facilitate improvements	Collaborate with users of the community garden to identify beneficial improvements, which could include: Small structure for on site compositing, lock up tool shed and seed bank Water capture and storage for irrigation Picnic tables + seating Additional planter bed Edible fruit trees Outline strategy in a Plan of Management for the garden	Assess success through observation, consultation with community gardeners, visitor survey, and cross checking with Plan of Management	On

COMMUNITY



Key Objectives:

- I. Support existing community facilities such as the bowling club and community garden, and their role within the wider community.
- 2. Provide high quality furniture and facilities.
- 3. Improve or maintain the quality and amenity of existing facilities and park assets.
- 4. Ensure that the park remains as a flexible green open space for the community into the future.

- Provide an on-site composting area. Establish a small shed that includes tool lock-up, seed-bank and water storage.
- Create additional shady seating areas and picnic tables.
- Increase maintenance to existing toilets. Continue to maintain the park as a high quality civic space.
- Protect the park generally from being exclusively used by any single user group and maintain the park's existing flexibility.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Events	Support diversity of activities through shared public space	Offer the sports ground as a venue for fairs, outdoor screenings and other organised public attractions and events — Coordinate with sports team timetables to utilise sports ground for events, when not in use for sports — Give due consideration to continuous condition and upkeep of sports ground, which should be kept fit for its original purpose	Assess success through observation and visitor survey, and popularity of events	On
Maintenance	For visitors to feel satisfied with condition of park and amenities and comfortable to use them	Implement maintenance works to the existing toilets, followed by an ongoing cleaning and maintenance programme	Assess success through observation, maintenance records and visitor survey	On
Furniture	Respond to community demand for amenities	Upgrade picnic and barbecue facilities, increase seating capacity, giving careful consideration to placement of new furniture Refer to recommendations in 'Wellbeing Strategy', pg67	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Cycle racks	Encourage visitors to cycle to the park, and passing cyclists to stop and stay in the park	Provide a reasonable number of robust cycle racks in logical locations	Assess success through observation and survey of cyclists and other park visitors	High

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Approach to building	Prioritise sustainable practices when considering any building work — Prioritise use of natural elements over built structures	Use sustainable energy sources to power amenities around the park including barbecues, toilets, lighting — Approach design of new buildings with sustainable practices at the forefront of design approach	Assessment of energy consumption rates and projected life cycle energy consumption of projected new buildings	On
Biodiversity + Wildlife - Cultural Fauna	Protect ornamental planting patterns which showcase heritage character	Preserve planting patterns characteristic of Victorian era landscaping where present, and build upon this if considering additional planting in these areas Refer to recommendations in 'Identity/ Landmarks', pg67 re, Phoenix Palms and ornamental flower beds	Assess success through observation/ visual survey	On

SUSTAINABILITY



Key Objectives:

- 1. Support local ecology and biodiversity.
- 2. Protect existing vegetation within the park.
- 3. Prioritise the environment in decision making.

- Establish a biodiversity zone within the park, planting local species and understorey planting.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Educate park visitors about remnant vegetation and it's significance.
- Plant new trees where possible to increase shade cover.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Biodiversity + Wildlife - Native Fauna	Protect significant trees, specifically endangered species of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) Establish biodiversity zones within the park by building on existing pockets of fauna Continue to provide spaces which benefit visitors' physical and mental well being	Preserve, protect and maintain pockets of STIF Nominate trees for the Protected Tree Register Use understorey planting around the pockets of forest to protect the trees, and simulate conditions of a natural forest Incorporate information about native species into interpretation strategy Where appropriate, allow pockets of native fauna to spill into parkland, densify and diversify native planting, introducing under storey planting. Refer to Master Plan section 5: 'Key Objectives and Strategies' for suggested planting zones, and consult with Landscape Architect as required	Assess success through observation/ visual survey by ecologist	On



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

- 1. Support safer interactions between vehicles and people.
- 2. Reduce trips and falls within the park.

- Investigate lower vehicle speeds in suburban streets around the park.
- Improve pathways within playground to reduce trip hazards.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
General road safety	Facilitate safer access to the park for all users	Implement traffic calming measures in council owned streets surrounding the park — Introduce 40km/h speed limits in surrounding streets — Use signage in surrounding streets to inform motor vehicles of the high volume of pedestrian traffic necessitating increased awareness and reduced travel speeds	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Footpath safety	To remove trip hazards caused by broken or uneven surfaces, to facilitate comfort and safety of all park users	Identify areas where tree roots are disrupting footpaths, and investigate alternative path treatments which can accommodate roots while maintaining level pathways for path users. Repair uneven pathways throughout the park	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Lighting	For visitors to feel safe and secure in the park after dark — Avoid light pollution to sensitive biodiversity habitats	Low level lighting around exercise stations, off leash dog area, key routes and pathways — Assess and manage impact of proposed lighting on biodiversity habitats	Assess success through observation, visitor survey and visual survey by ecologist	High

SPORTS + RECREATION



Key Objectives:

- 1. Continue a balance of sports and general community use of Ashfield park.
- 2. Maintain existing sports and recreation facilities and repair existing exercise stations.
- Improve the utility, flexibility and ease of maintenance of the bowling club.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use. Remove existing sideline lighting and install new sideline lighting.
- Repair and maintain existing exercise stations.
- Undertake general maintenance works to park assets.
- Permit a synthetic bowling green to replace one existing grass green within the bowling club.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Casual recreation spaces	Provide opportunities for non- organised, casual recreation within the park	Install table tennis tables	Assess success through observation, monitoring use of facilities and visitor survey	Med
Sports equipment	Provide consistent and reliable access to exercise stations, to facilitate health and fitness of the community — Cater for a wider range of users	Repair and maintain existing exercise equipment with regular servicing — Diversify range of exercise stations to attract older users and disabled users — Incorporate sustainably powered low level lighting at exercise stations to facilitate use after dark during the winter months — Provide accessible pathway to exercise stations	Assess success through observation, monitoring use of facilities and regularly reviewing condition of equipment	High
Outdoor Sporting Grounds	Provide high quality sports grounds for sports teams Maximise usability and longevity of sports grounds Upgrade Dressing Sheds	Maintain natural turf sports ground, renew surface as and when required Replace existing sideline lighting Prepare Conservation Management Plan for Dressing Sheds, upgrade interiors, and implement ongoing maintenance plan	Assess success through observation, visitor survey, volume of bookings	High
Bowling club	Improve utility of bowling club, providing opportunity to increase capacity	Allow bowling club to upgrade one of the two pitches to a synthetic surface	Assess success through observation, popularity of synthetic pitch	On



 $Ash field\ Park\ Community\ garden.\ Photography\ by\ Welsh\ +\ Major\ Architects.$





Inner West Council area and suburbs. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Overview

This section outlines the current community profile of Ashfield using data from the 2016 ABS Census from Profile i.d. Ashfield Park lies on the border of Ashfield and Haberfield, which is defined by Parramatta Road.

Population growth

In 2016, the Estimated resident population of the Inner West was 192,030 people. The population increased by 11,729 people or 6.5% between 2011 and 2016. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 9.8%.

Ashfield has been separated into Ashfield North and Ashfield South within the analysis, due to the size of the area and different urban conditions to the north and south of the train line.

Ashfield North experienced an above average amount of growth, with its population increasing by 1085 people (9.0%). Ashfield Park can be considered to be located within Ashfield North.

Ashfield South experienced average population growth with its population increasing by 684 people (6.4%).

Haberfield experienced a decrease in population of 177 people (-2.7%).

Open space provision

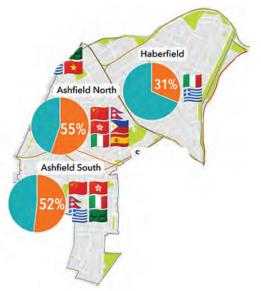
The Inner West has 323.4ha of open space which equates to 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m2 per person. Of this, council owns 256ha, which equates to 7.3% of total land area, or 13.3m2 per person.

The provision of open space in Ashfield is low, with 8.1 m2 of council owned space per person in 2016.

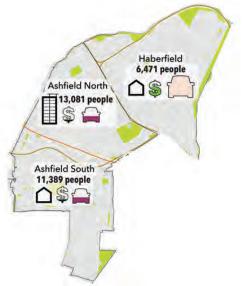




01 Ashfield - Age + disability profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.



02 Ashfield - Cultural profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.



KEY

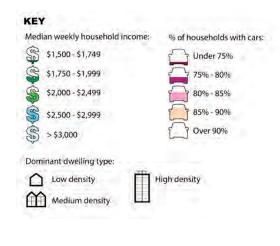
Icons show suburbs with a proportion above the LGA average or high number of:

- Babies and children (0 12yrs) (over 12.9% or over 1,000 people)
- Young people (12 24yrs) (over 13.1% or over 1,000 people)
- Older people (65yrs +) (over 12.2% or over 1,000 people)
- People with disability (over 4.5% or over 500 people)



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- People with disability (over 4.5% or over 500 people)



03 Ashfield - Density, income + housing profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age + disability profile

Spaces that are inclusive of all age groups, accessible and flexible should be prioritised to cater for current and future population needs.

Ashfield has an above average proportion of Babies and children (0-12yrs), young People (12-24yrs) Older people (65+yrs), and People reporting a need for assistance.

Ashfield also has the lowest median age within the LGA of 30 years old.

Ashfield north has a high proportion of people attending university (10.7%), and Ashfield South has the highest proportion of people attending TAFE (2.5%).

Haberfield has one of the highest median ages (43).

Cultural Profile

Ashfield is culturally diverse, with a higher proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, identified as 55% of the population in Ashfield North, and 52% of the population in Ashfield South. The primary languages identified included Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese.

A third of Haberfield residents identify as speaking a language other than English at home, with the primary languages identified as italian and greek.

Density, income + housing profile

Ashfield overall has a mix of density types, with south of the train line typically exhibiting lower density housing. Ashfield North in particular has a majority of high density dwellings at 59%, and a high population density (83 persons per hectare).

Households within Ashfield North and South have below average weekly incomes, with Ashfield South having the lowest median weekly income within the LGA at \$1,585.

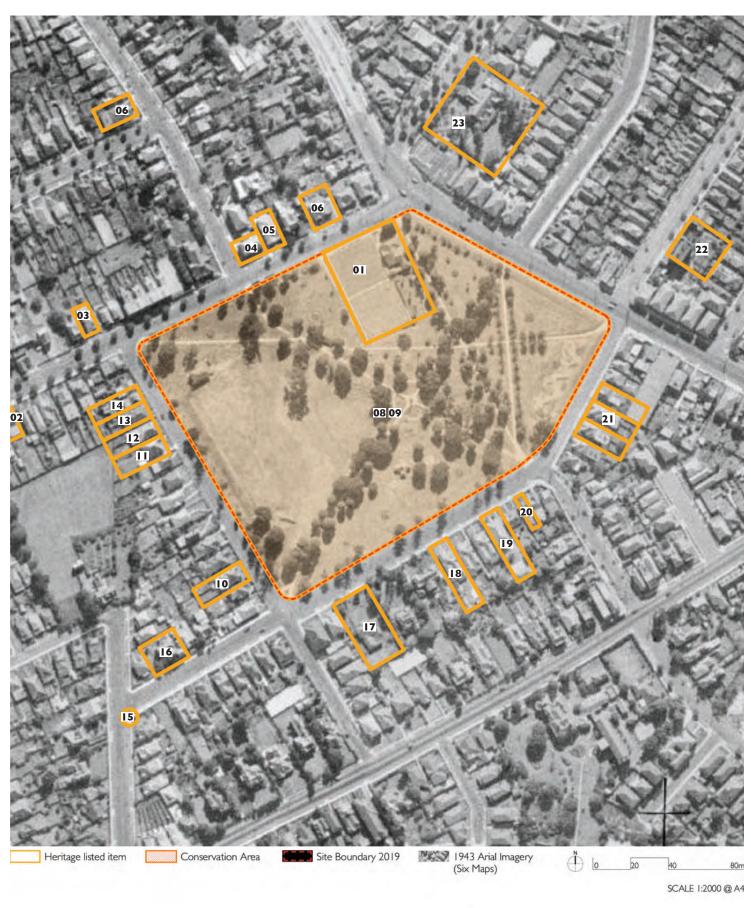
There are also a high proportion of low income households (17% in Ashfield South and 15% in Ashfield South) that receive less than \$650 per week.

Ashfield was identified as having a large proportion of households without a car (21%). This identifies the need for supporting on alternative forms of transport with a focus on a walkable urban domain.

Ashfield town centre was identified as a key employment destination within the LGA.

Haberfield is identified as having one of the lower densities within the LGA, with 27 persons per hectare. The suburb also has a relatively higher median weekly income of \$2000-2499, and a high proportion of households with cars (90%).





HERITAGE LISTED ITEMS + CONSERVATION AREAS
 01
 Ashfield Bowling 03
 50 Orpington St 06
 86 Orpington St 09
 Ashfield Park (Item no 244)
 (Item no 248)
 (Item no 272)
 12 42 Pembroke St 15 Pavement Inlay 18 29 Ormond St 21 51 Ormond St (Item no 272) (Item no 276) (Item no 230) (Item no 233) (Item no 237) (Item no 243) **04** 80 Orpington St **07** 10-12 Loftus st 10 22 Pembroke St 13 46 Pembroke St 16 4 Ormond St

 04
 80 Orpington st 07
 10-12 Lott (Item no 246)

 02
 43-47 Orpington st 01
 (Item no 246)
 (Item no 247)

 05
 82 Orpington st 08
 Milestone (Item no 247)

 4
 (Item no 247)
 (Item no 247)

 (Item no 218) (Item no 274) (Item no 277) (Item no 231) (Item no 234) (Item no 456) 11 38 Pembroke St 14 48 Pembroke St 17 21 Ormond St 20 39 Ormond St 23 | Rodgers Av (Item no 271) (Item no 275) (Item no 232) (Item no 278) (Item no 235) (Item no 455) 6

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

First Nations History

Prior to European colonisation, the Ashfield area was inhabited by the Wangal band of the Dharug (Eora) language group. The territory of the Wangal peoples extends along the southern shore of the Parramatta River to Parramatta. There is limited knowledge available regarding First Nations history of the site due to the devastating and immediate impact of European colonisation.

The area would have offered numerous food sources, from the fish and molluscs within the mangrove estuaries of Iron Cove and Cooks River, to the natural eucalyptus woodlands which would have provided habitat for fauna such as possums and plants such as fern rhizomes and tubers. In the years following first contact, the lands between Iron Cove and the Cooks River became known as Kangaroo Ground, possibly indicating that kangaroos were common in the area. I

The Formation of Ashfield Park

1810-1885

As early as 1810, the area now known as Ashfield had been divided into parcels of land and granted to Europeans, many of whom had been members of the NSW Corps.² Over the next decade, these smaller land grants had been amalgamated into four large estates, with the estate known as Ashfield Park, owned by the Underwood Family, extending between Liverpool Road to the south and Parramatta Road to the north.

The early growth of Ashfield as a suburb was relatively unique for Sydney, which had typically experienced growth along its waterways. The stimulus for Ashfield's growth was its location at the junction of two major thoroughfares - Parramatta road which linked Sydney Town to Parramatta in the west and Liverpool road (formerly the great south road) which linked to Liverpool in the south.

Parramatta Road was established as early as 1789, where a bush track was cut between Sydney Town and the new settlement of Rose Hill, now known as Parramatta. By 1802 the road was widened considerably³, with the current Parramatta Road generally following this original route and passing along the northern edge of Ashfield Park.

The estate of Ashfield Park was subdivided in 1838, where land along Liverpool road became known as the Village of Ashfield.⁴ The opening of the Redfern to Granville railway in 1855 further spurred the development of the area, with the increase in population warranting the establishment of a Council authority which was elected in 1871.

The formation of the park as it is known today followed the acquisition of 20 acres of land from the Underwood Estate at auction by the colonial government in 1879, under the directive of the NSW premier Sir Henry Parkes. This land was placed under the control of the local Council, and the Park was proclaimed Ashfield Park in 1885.

^{01.} A Short Walk Through Ashfield's Past - Compiled by Chris Pratten from the records of the Ashfield & District Historical Society. / **02.** ibid **03.** 1988 Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988 Coupe, Sheena **04.** A Short Walk Through Ashfield's Past - Compiled by Chris Pratten from the records of the Ashfield & District Historical Society.



Commonwealth Pavilion at Farm Cove, 1900. Source: State Library of NSW



The Queen visits Ashfield, 1954. Source: Sydney Morning Herald



Commonwealth Pavilion as bandstand at Ashfield Park, 1922. Source: (former) Ashfield Council.



A Group of Children Infront of The Bowling Club Building In Ashfield Park. Source: Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988.



Bandstand at Ashfield Park, Since Demolished. Source: State Library of NSW



Ashfield Park, Looking North From the Corner of Ormond and Pembroke Streets, 1920. Source: Mclaren Family. Note established turpentine trees on the right and avenue of brushbox along path.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

History of Ashfield Park

1185-Present

Various sporting organisations began to utilise the park shortly after its formation. An area was allocated for bowling greens in 1891, with the first clubhouse build along the Orpington street boundary during 1893, making it one of the earliest bowling clubs in Sydney. The clubhouse was later extended in 1895 and again in 1916, until finally being replaced in 1958. The associated bowling greens were a source of contention throughout the park's history, with a number of applications for additional greens being refused.

A cricket pitch was established as early as 1891, and football games began to be held at the park by 1892.

Ashfield Park has also historically played a strong civic role within the community. After a protracted search and tender for a bandstand for the park, a structure known as the 'Pavilion of the Commonwealth' was relocated to the park from Farm Cove within Sydney botanic Gardens in 1903.

The pavilion was grand in design and was attributed to the Architect John Barlow. It included a domed roof, four large and ornamented arched openings and was adorned with a large British crown. The pavilion was surrounded by sets of Venetian masts for bunting, as well as numerous flagpoles. It stood over 15 metres high and could host 100 people seated. It likely hosted moonlight and day recitals and other ceremonies. The pavilion was located close to the centre of the park. Unfortunately the pavilion had fallen into disrepair by the 1940s, which resulted in its demolition - a great loss for built heritage.

There are two historic relics which remain within the park. A milestone can be found at the north-eastern corner of the park, adjacent Parramatta Road. The milestone originally was placed at the junction of Parramatta Road and Liverpool Road to mark a distance of 5 1/2 miles from from the Obelisk in Maquarie place. The sandstone gates which mark the south-western entry point were relocated from the Schuldham Hall Estate, Croydon, built during 1860.

The park was used for rallies held by conscriptionists during the First World War, convincing young men to enlist. Inevitably by 1921 a war memorial in the form of an obelisk was unveiled at the centre of the park, to commemorate those who had served and died in conflict.

A number of statues and memorials are located within the park. These include:

- The George and Mary Watson fountain erected in 1939 in honour of Mayor George Watson 1921-1922;
- A statue of Dr Jose P Rizal, national hero of the Philippines erected in 1988;
- A statue of Mary Poppins to commemorate the author of Mary Poppins, PL Travers, who lived on Pembroke Street from 1918-1924, which was erected in 2004.
- The International Mother Language Day monument to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in 1952 at Dhaka, Bangladesh to protect the Bangla language, erected in 2006.

Historically Significant Trees

Remnant Vegetation

There are also a number of natural assets within the park which are historically significant. The area would have originally been covered by Sydney turpentine-ironbark open forest, containing a mix of Turpentine, Grey Gum, Grey ironbark and thin-leaved stringybark. The forest would have been characterised by trees approximately 30 metres in height with an open canopy, permitting understorey planting to a height of up to 2 metres.

There are a number of turpentine trees located throughout Ashfield Park which could be considered remnant examples of vegetation. While the age of these trees is unknown, photographic evidence indicates that they were already well established by the 1920s, indicating that they are significantly older than this. # A grand blackbutt tree, a species once common within the Sydney region, is located in the park along Ormond St. These trees provide an important connection to the Pre-European history of the area.

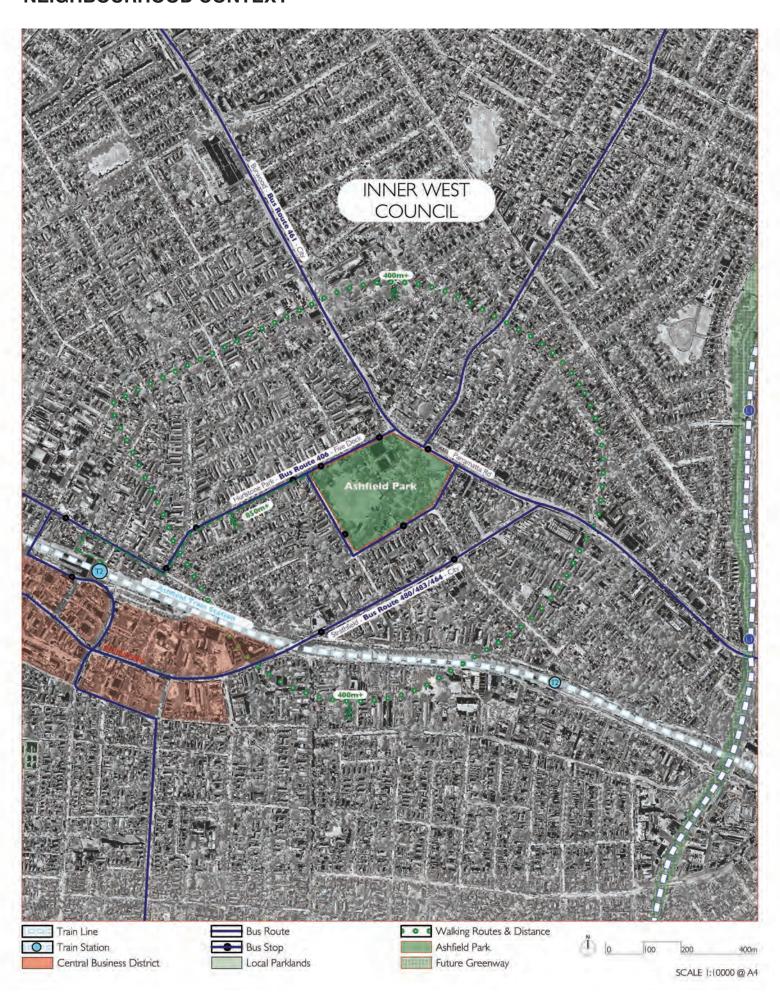
Federation Palms

Ashfield Park contains a number of significant date palms, including both *Pheonix Dactylifera* and *Pheonix Canariensis*. One such palm was transplanted from the nearby garden of Mrs McCredie to Ashfield Park on the 22nd of September, 1900². It was planted with a bottle containing a copy of 'The Advertiser', describing the trees origin. Whether the palm still survives and the location of the buried bottle are unknown.

 $\bf 01.$ Ashfield at Federation - Chris Pratten / $\bf 02.$ 1988 Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988 Coupe, Sheena.



NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT



NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT

Local Character

Ashfield Park is located approximately 900m walking distance north of the central business district (CBD) of Ashfield. The CBD is a diverse and active hub with a number of civic and retail functions.

There is not a clear and direct link between the CBD and Ashfield Park, however there are some street signs indicating the direction to Ashfield Park. Additional well placed and integrated could improve the connectivity of the park to Ashfield Station and the CBD beyond.

The park is generally surrounded by residential dwellings along Pembroke, Orpington and Ormond streets, which range from single storey houses to inter-war and post-war two to four storey apartments. Along the Parramatta Rd side this is supplemented by some commercial buildings and a Mcdonalds food outlet.

Major Roads

Parramatta Road (Great Western Hwy) runs along the northern edge of the park, which is a major thoroughfare. To the north of the park is an entry point to the WestConnex tunnel known as the Parramatta road Interchange.

Liverpool Road (Hume Hwy) runs one street south of Ormond St and is a major thoroughfare, linking Parramatta Rd to Ashfield.

Public Transport

The local area is well connected by public transport and is serviced by both train and bus routes. These include:

- Ashfield Train station, with regular services along the T2, T3 and T7 train lines.
- Bus Route 461, with stops from Burwood to City
- Bus Route 464/483/480, with stops from Strathfield to City
- Bus Route 406, with stops from Hurlstone Park to Five Dock

A number of bus stops fall within 400m+ walking distance of the park, the closest of these being route 406 which has a number of stops around the perimeter of the park.

It is approximately a 850m+ walk from the park to Ashfield Station, which is generally considered to be a prohibitive distance for some members of the community such as parents with children, the elderly and those with accessibility requirements.

Cycle Routes

The local area is generally lacking a designated cycle network. There is a shared cycleway which runs along the footpath along the southern edge of Parramatta Road for a short section, which enters the park. Currently this segment does not link to other off-road cycleways, but does link to minor roads in the area which are used by cyclists. There is an opportunity to link Ashfield Park to the proposed Greenway cycleway, which runs north-south one kilometre to the east.

Local Parklands

There are no other significant parks within walking distance of Ashfield Park.





ZONE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY

Zone Definition

Ashfield Park has been separated into four zones for the purpose of clarifying a detailed site analysis. The zones have been selected based on an assessment of the character and use of different areas within the park, while taking into account real and perceived boundaries. The borders of the zones should be treated as blurred rather than absolute and are indicated as dotted lines for graphic clarity.

Scope of detailed Site Analysis

Zone I

Zone I forms the south-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Pembroke St. The key features of the zone are the sporting ground, associated amenities building and two fitness stations.

Zone 2

Zone 2 forms the north-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Parramatta Rd. The key features of the zone are Ashfield Bowling clubhouse, bowling greens and community garden.

Zone 3

Zone 3 sits at the eastern corner of the park, and is bordered by Parramatta Rd and Ormond St. This zone is defined by the war memorial obelisk at the centre of the park and the rows of Canary Island date palms.

Zone 4

Zone 4 is located at the south-eastern corner of the site and is bordered by Ormond St. The zones key features include the historic tea house, BBQ areas, playground and public toilet.



Zone I - View west to amenities building.



Zone 2 - View west to community garden



Zone 3 - View along palm rows.



Zone 4 - View east to Begonia House.





01. Historic entry gates (north-west entry gates) / 02. Bus Stop. / 03. Fitness station / 04. below-ground water tank / 05. Pavilion Dressing Sheds / 06. Sporting ground / 07. Seating along embankment / 08. Shady Area alongside axial footpath / 09. Roadside embankment with saplings / 10. Open grassed area used for occasional events

ZONE 1 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

Zone I of Ashfield Park extends along the south-western edge, and is defined by the park boundary along Orpington and Pembroke streets, and more loosely by the axial footpaths within the park to the north and east.

Character

The character of zone I is sports and activity focussed, and most of the zones features are arranged around the central sporting ground. The surrounding pockets each have their own character. At the park entry gates there are large fig trees creating a dense shade, which complements the adjacent exercise station. Along the Orpington street edge, the park is open and spacious, with trees providing a mix of shaded and sunny areas and places to sit.

Along the north-eastern side of the sporting ground is a grassy embankment with some seating, providing a view to the sporting ground. Further to the north is a row of trees with a dense canopy⁸, creating a popular spot for picnics on the shaded grass beneath.

The sporting ground is set higher than Pembroke street, resulting in an embankment that runs along this street edge, approximately 2 metres in height. This results in a strip of parkland between the sporting ground and the road which appears to be underutilised, but does serve the purpose of creating buffer between the sporting ground and the street. Recent tree planting may change the character of this area into the future. At the southern corner of the zone is a second exercise station, which is more exposed. There are also a number of trees lining the pathway, creating areas of dense shade.

Activity

The zone is well utilised by the community for a number of activities. The sporting ground itself is used for both sporting events and informal sports, as well as joggers running around the perimeter of the sporting ground. The exercise stations are well used by the community. The grassy areas are also popular for unstructured recreation, with people relaxing, meeting for picnics and gatherings, dog walking and practicing tai chi. The north-eastern corner of the zone is a large open grassed area, which is occasionally used for hosting events, with temporary stages and seating.

Furniture

The placement of seating within the zone is fairly utilitarian. Seven park benches face the sporting ground at equal spacing, with some benches also provided behind these under the shade of the trees.

Two park benches are placed along Orpington St, set back from the footpath a few metres in an exposed location.

There are also three benches integrated into planter bed retaining walls along the northern edge of the zone, bordering the pathway. There is a wheelie bin and dog waste bin located along the path leading to the north-west entry gates.

There is an exercise station close to the dressing shed pavillion with 4 pieces of equipment, which are in good condition. The southeastern exercise station has 5 pieces of equipment is generally in good condition except for the sit-up station which is in need of repair. The stations are designed to appeal to a range of fitness levels and

mobilities.

Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. The new lighting generally follows the main pathways, allowing areas beyond these to remain dark to the benefit of local wildlife. There are approximately 13 lampposts lining the converging footpaths which lead from the north-west entry gates to the war memorial at the centre of the park. There are 4 floodlights associated with the sporting grounds which appear to be in good condition.

There are 10 telegraph poles with street light attachments, 8 of which run along the sidelines of the sporting ground, connected by overhead power lines. These are in poor condition and inconsistent with the overall lighting of the park..

Signage & Wayfinding

Signage throughout the zone is haphazard and at times unclear, and generally in poor condition. Just beyond the north-west entry gates, a small sign informs visitors that 'dogs must be on a leash in this park'. The sign appears quite old and a number of dogs off leash were observed in the park.

There are two signs relating to toilet locations attached to different sides of the pavilion dressing sheds. One indicates that ladies toilets can be found to the rear of the bowling club, and the other indicates that toilets have been relocated to the Ormond St end of the park. This could be confusing and contradictory, particularly for visitors who are unsure of their surroundings.

There is signage indicating flammable materials are stored underneath the pavilion dressing sheds. Facing the sporting ground is a sign indicating use of the sporting ground is restricted to authorised users between the hours of 5pm-9pm Monday to Thursday and Saturday 8am-5pm, punishable by fines. There is a sign adjacent indicating to contact council if there are any issues with the park which provides council's telephone number:

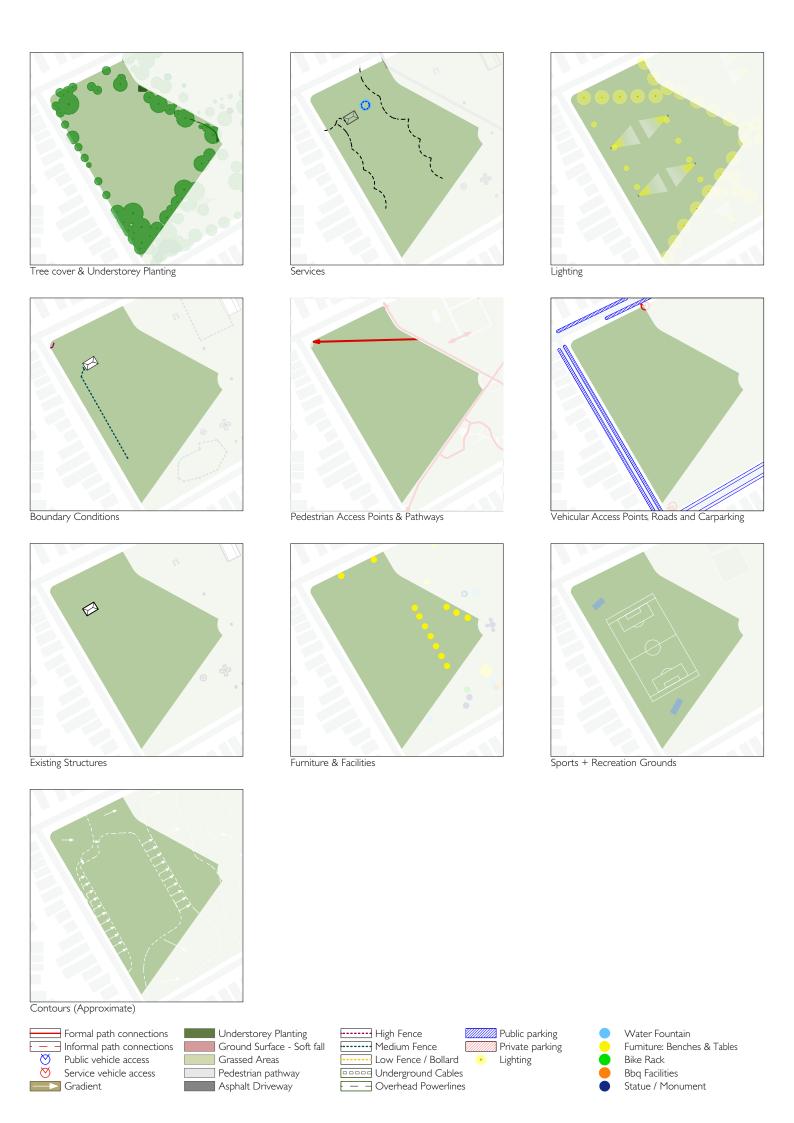
There is an 'Ashfield Park' sign located midway along the Pembroke Street, which is in poor condition. There is an array of park signage at the entry point midway along Orpington St, relating to what is permitted within the park, which could be consolidated and updated. There is 'no smoking' sign fixed to a bollard at the north-east corner of the sporting ground.

The majority of signs are labelled Ashfield Municipal council, which has since been amalgamated to form Inner West Council.

Tree Cover

There are a number of tree species within the zone, and tree cover is most notable along the main pathways and at the park entry points. There is scattered tree cover along the Orpington St side, with a number of large and significant trees spread throughout the grassed areas





ZONE 1 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

There is a row of very tall pine trees spaced along Pembroke St edge. These have been mirrored by a row of new saplings that have been planted along the embankment. There are a number of large trees around the southern corner of the zone.

Planting

There is a general lack of understorey planting within the park. There are small areas of understorey planting located alongside the central pathway between Orpington St and the war memorial. A row of plants run along the outside of the fence along the south-western edge of the sporting ground to disguise the fence along this edge.

Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. The park also lacks significant areas of understorey planting, and as a result the only habitat is provided by the trees and the open grassed areas. This likely limits the biodiversity within the park. Regardless, the park would provide a welcome respite for local fauna and there is an opportunity to provide additional planting scale and diversity to improve biodiversity within the park.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

Pathways throughout the zone are consistently wide concrete pathways. Ground cover is typically grass, however under the canopies of the larger fig trees this is replaced by mulch or bare dirt and leaf litter likely due to being in constant shade.

Services & Drainage

Large underground rainwater storage tanks were installed on site as part of a stormwater harvesting and irrigation project. The tanks are located adjacent the amenities building. It should be assessed whether additional capacity is desirable or whether any modifications or upgrades to the system are required. The areas around the tank are unpleasant and underutilised, and the grass above the tank is in poor condition.

There are a series of overhead power lines providing electricity to the light posts around the sporting ground.

Boundary Conditions

The sporting ground is bounded by a low fence along the south-western edge, presumably to limit balls from rolling down the embankment onto Pembroke St. This does in effect create a thin strip of parkland along Pembroke St which is cut off from the park generally. The boundary of the park is a stone gutter step of 150mm, which could make access difficult for some members of the community. The gates at the corner of Orpington St and Pembroke St appear to be accessible.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Pedestrian access to the zone is generally via the gates at the corner

of Orpington St and Pembroke St, or midway along Orpington St, which link to the major axial pathways within the park. Pedestrian access to the park from Pembroke St is generally limited to these entry gates on account of the embankment and fence that runs along the edge of the sporting ground.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is no vehicle access to the zone, however service vehicles can access the zone via the south-west entry and Orpington St entry, both of which have with removable bollards. There is no car parking within the zone, with visitors to the park arriving by car parking in the street.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The Pavilion Dressing Sheds is located along the north-western edge of the sporting ground. The sheds date from 1930 and are historically significant. Change rooms are located on the first level of the Pavilion, which is oriented to the sporting ground. A verandah faces the sporting grounds, with some bench seating available however this is likely insufficient for both a home and away team. The lower level of the dressing sheds include a locked storage area, which could be utilised better:

An electronic scoreboard and noticeboard has been recently installed adjacent this structure.

There are sandstone gate posts and wrought-iron gates at the north-western corner of the park. These are engraved 'the park'. The sandstone gates which mark the south-western entry point were relocated from the Schuldham Hall Estate, Croydon, built during 1860.



01. Original park gates at the intersection of Pembroke St / Orpington St / 02. Pedestrian Footpath / 03. Exercise station (north) / 04. Open parkland along Orpington St. 05. View back towards park gates / 06. Embankment alongside sporting ground, note seating and lighting. / 07. Water tank below ground / 08. Tank equipment / 09. View to dressing rooms and scoreboard / 10. Shaded grassy areas alongside pedestrian pathway / 11. Seating alongside sporting ground. / 12. Exercise station (south).

ZONE 1 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 1.

There are opportunities to:

- Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the dressing sheds to guide future works and maintenance.
- Upgrade the internal areas of the dressing sheds.
- Investigate alternative uses for the lower level of the dressing sheds, such as better storage facilities for sporting equipment or a canteen.
- Remove telegraph pole lamps adjacent the sporting ground and replace with sideline lighting consistent with new lighting within the park.
- Improve signage consistency throughout the zone.
- Remove contradictory, confusing and low quality signage.
- Establish a design for new signage that communicates the civic and historic character of the park.
- Install a park map at well selected locations. The park map should include a tactile section. Clearly identify park assets and public toilet locations. The map should communicate the civic and historic character of the park.
- Investigate the current use and capacity of stormwater tanks and whether any upgrades would be of use.
- Improve the quality areas around the stormwater tank to the north-east of the dressing sheds. Ensure the tanks and associated equipment are still able to be accessed.
- Investigate planting understorey planting to select areas around the south-east corner of the zone.
- Investigate options for the thin strip of parkland along Pembroke street, such as additional planting or furniture.
- Install additional table and chair park furniture in well-shaded locations.



01. Orpington St entry / 02. Service vehicle access / 03. Ramped entry to bowling greens / 04. Bowling greens / 05. Vehicle access to bowling club / 06. Community garden / 07. Bowling club building / 08. Parking adjacent bowling club / 09. Understorey planting and topiaries.

ZONE 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

Zone 2 of Ashfield Park forms the north-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Parramatta Rd to the north, and Zone I & 3 to the south. The key feature of the zone is the bowling clubhouse, greens and community garden.

Character

Zone 2 is characterised by an active community spirit. The bowling club is visually connected with the park to the south, separated only by a low fence, through which access is permitted via a gate. The greens are well used and contribute to a sense of liveliness for the surrounding areas. To the east of the greens sits the clubhouse itself. The community gardens sit within an open grassed area to the west of the bowling greens. The gardens are attractive, well maintained and positively contribute to the park.

The north-eastern corner of the park appears to be less utilised. The bowling club presents its back of house functions to this area, and to the north-east lies Parramatta Rd.

Activity

Ashfield bowling club is a popular venue within the community. Both greens are well utilised by club members and general community use through barefoot bowling. The clubhouse remains successful food and drinks venue.

The community gardens are a positive initiative, and signage invites members of the community to contribute to working bees to maintain the garden and make use of the produce.

The remainder of the zone generally consists of open grassy areas for unstructured recreation.

Furniture

There are a number of seats surrounding the two bowling greens for use by people attending the club. There is a single bench to the north of the community garden, facing the garden. There is a picnic table under the shade of a large tree to the south of the zone which appears to be well used.

There are two water fountains to the south of the bowling greens. One is incorporated into a large sandstone memorial, and is in good condition. The other is an older style water bubbler. It is in acceptable condition but could be upgraded.

Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. The new lighting generally follows the main pathways. The lighting follows the converging footpaths which leads from the entry gates along Orpington St² to the war memorial at the centre of the park. There is no lighting to the north-east corner of the park. There is some flood lighting associated with the bowling club and greens.

Signage & Wayfinding

There is signage associated with the community gardens to inform the community about their use and participation. There is a sign identifying Ashfield park along Parramatta Rd. There is signage associated with the bowling club facing Orpington St.

There is a large council sign at the vehicle entry⁵ which indicates 'no parking on grass areas', in response to visitors to the bowling club parking on the grass. This could potentially be addressed through physical means to avoid the need for intrusive signage.

Ground Cover and Surfaces

There are two bowling greens on site, surrounded by a central concrete pathway. There is a concrete driveway to the east of the bowling club which leads from Orpington St to the bowling club, which permits vehicle access. There is also a short driveway to the west of the greens which is primarily used for waste collection and skip bin storage.

Memorials & Historical Interpretation

The George and Mary Watson fountain sits to the south of the bowling greens, and is in good condition. The water fountain was erected in 1939 in honour of Mayor George Watson 1921-1922 and appears to have been recently restored.

Tree Cover

Tree cover is generally clustered along the main pathways and at the park entry points.

There is a turpentine tree along the Orpington St edge which is an example of the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) which would have covered the area. The species is identified as being a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth).*

There is limited tree cover in the areas surrounding the bowling club and community garden. A row of 9 saplings have been planted between the community garden and bowling greens, which should lend some shade to this area in the future.

Planting

As with most areas of the park there is a general lack of understorey planting. The most significant area of understorey planting runs along the edge of Parramatta Rd, beneath the row of trees. Currently this planting is fairly sparse and patchy in areas.

There are some small areas of planting around the edges of the bowling club.

There are also low level decorative topiaries along the edge of Parramatta Rd which have been carved to read Ashfield Park 1871 - 2019. These contribute to the civic nature of the park.





ZONE 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. The zone contains a small area of understorey planting, which may contribute to the biodiversity of the area, however the majority of the zone is open grassed areas and isolated trees which likely limits biodiversity Regardless, the park would provide a welcome respite for local fauna.

Services & Drainage

Underground cabling is located within the zone, following approximately the direction of the two concrete footpaths.

Boundary Conditions

There is a low fence around the perimeter of the bowling greens to limit access onto the greens. A high brick wall runs between the edge of the greens along Orpington St, which partially acts as a retaining wall and balustrade for the greens.

Low and spaced timber 'post and beam' style fencing runs along the line of the driveway to limit vehicle access to the park but permit pedestrians to pass through, however this seems to have been ineffective or not consistent in some areas as vehicles parking on the grass is clearly an issue.

A low metal fence runs from the driveway to the bowling clubhouse to prevent people falling due to the change in level.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Access to the zone is generally via the entry points along Orpington St, which link to the major axial pathways within the park. There is also a gated entry point via a ramp, adjacent the Orpington St bus stop, which directly accesses the bowling club and greens and appears to provide wheelchair access to the club.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is vehicle access to the zone with driveway access to the bowling club. There is limited parking to the east of the clubhouse, with space for approximately 2 cars. Parking on the grass is not permitted. Service vehicle access to the rest of the park is permitted via the end of this driveway, through the use of removable bollards. There is also service vehicle access to the short driveway to the west of the greens which is for garbage collection and potentially emergency access to the greens.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The bowling club as it stands today was opened in 1958, replacing an earlier structure. It appears to have undergone some minor modifications, such as the inclusion of solar panels on the roof. The bowling club faces south-west towards the greens, with the northeast side generally presenting back of house functions such as waste

and bin storage. There are also public ladies toilets which are accessed through this side of the bowling club.

The community garden consists of some larger low planters, as well as a concrete raised planter which appears to be wheelchair accessible.



01. View to Orpington St entry along pathway / 02. Community garden / 03. Community garden raised planter / 04. View to bowling greens from community garden / 05. Ashfield Bowls Club building / 06. Picnic table beneath tree / 07. Memorial water fountain / 08. View to Parramatta Road and areas to the north of the driveway / 09. View along driveway to Orpington St / 10. Areas to the north of the bowling club / 11. View to the south-east along driveway / 12. View along Orpington St showing interface of bowling greens with street.

ZONE 2 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 2.

There are opportunities to:

- Extend the community gardens with additional garden beds.
- Plant edible fruit trees adjacent to the existing community gardens.
- Address the impact skip bin waste storage to the west of the bowling greens, understanding that waste storage and safe waste collection is a requirement. Investigate relocating the waste storage to an area to the east of the bowling club.
- Create a dedicated waste storage area to the east of the bowling club to reduce the impact of waste storage on surrounding areas of the park.
- Install additional barriers along the driveway access to bowling club to limit the ability for cars to park on the grassed areas.
 These could take the form of timber or plastic lumber bollards, ensuring that people are still able to move freely. Remove signage reading that parking is not permitted on grassed areas.
- Continue and extend native planting along the Parramatta Road edge, creating a dense band of vegetation which can provide a green buffer to the street. Improve the consistency and quality of the understorey planting throughout this area.
- Install additional table and chair park furniture in well-shaded locations.
- Improve the street presentation of the bowling club perimeter wall along Orpington St.





01. War memorial Obelisk / 02. International Mother Language Day monument / 03. Ormond St entry with lattice structure / 04. Rows of historic palms / 05. Circular garden beds / 06. North-eastern entry at intersection of Parramatta rd & Ormond St / 07. Parramatta Rd entry with stair & ramp / 08. Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial water fountain / 09. Historic milestone / 10. Statue of Dr Jose P Rizal / 11. Rainbow Serpent Artwork

ZONE 3 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

Zone 3 focuses on the north eastern corner of Ashfield Park. To the north it is bounded by Parramatta Rd and to the east the zone is bounded by Ormond Street. The zone extends to the south to include the war memorial.

Character

Zone 3 has strong civic character. The diagonal pathways are lined by rows Canary Island date palms, lending them a processional quality. Multiple statues, a trio of flagpoles and the war memorial obelisk, further contributes to the areas civic nature.

Parramatta road is six lanes in width and experiences constant and substantial traffic. The areas of park adjacent to the road are very open and exposed, with very little tree cover or planting separating the park from the road. As a result, these areas do not seem to be as well utilised compared to other areas of the park which are further from the road and less exposed.

Activity

The zone is generally used by visitors for passive recreation, with the community making use of the grassy and shaded areas for relaxation, picnics and gatherings. The more exposed areas of open grass adjacent the roadways are typically less utilised. The pathways are used for access through the park, particularly by walkers and cyclists who use the park as a through-route to other areas, such as Haberfield to the north, Ashfield to the south-west and Summer Hill to the east. The park is also used for park events, such as the 'Carnival of Cultures' where stalls are set up along pathways between the trees.

Furniture

There are two benches facing onto the Parramatta Rd boundary. While these are set back from the street, they have a fairly poor outlook onto the road and are very exposed. There are two benches positioned along the southern pathway, under the shade of large trees. There is a single bench located in the centre of the eastern grassed area, which feels very exposed and somewhat limits the flexibility of the space. There is a shaded bench to the east of the bowling club. There is a bin adjacent the Ormond St entry.

Lighting

General lighting has been recently upgraded throughout the park. Lighting is limited to the main axial paths. The pathway running north-south has approximately 6 light posts, with the east-west pathway having approximately 5 light posts. No lighting i present on the diagonal pathways.

Signage & Wayfinding

There is an Ashfield Park sign at the north-eastern entry to the park. There is a street sign along the Parramatta Rd shared path indicating a bicycle route to ashfield through the park. There is little other signage within the zone.

Memorials & Historical Interpretation

There are a number of monuments within the zone, including,

- A statue of Dr Jose P Rizal [1988], national hero of the Philippines;
- The International Mother Language Day monument² [2006] to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in 1952 at Dhaka, Bangladesh to protect the Bangla language;
- Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial water fountain. When Jessie Stuart died in 1935, her will bequeathed funds to establish a number of memorial fountains for dogs in various parks around Sydney.
- Rainbow Serpent carved tree artwork [2014] by artists Danny Eastwood and Jamie Eastwood.

The War memorial at the park's centre, established in 1921, is the most significant and grand memorial. The obelisk stands 10 metres in height and is surrounded by an enamel tile floor. The memorial was originally to commemorate those who volunteered and gave their lives in the first world war 1914-1919 but has since been updated to commemorate a number of other conflicts. The memorial now includes plaques commemorating the Boer war, World War 1, World War 2, Korean, Malaysian, Malaya/Borneo and South Vietnam wars and peacekeeping operations, Iraq - the first gulf war, Afghanistan, Iraq - the second gulf war, and peacekeeping operations. The memorial is also surrounded by a circle commemorative rosemary bushes that appear in good condition.

A nearby memorial flag pole and plaque, established in 1984 commemorates the polish men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and in appreciation of service to the community.

A milestone⁶ can be found at the north-eastern corner of the park, adjacent Parramatta Road. The milestone originally was placed at the junction of Parramatta Road and Liverpool Road to mark a distance of 5_{1/2} miles from from the Obelisk in Maguarie place.

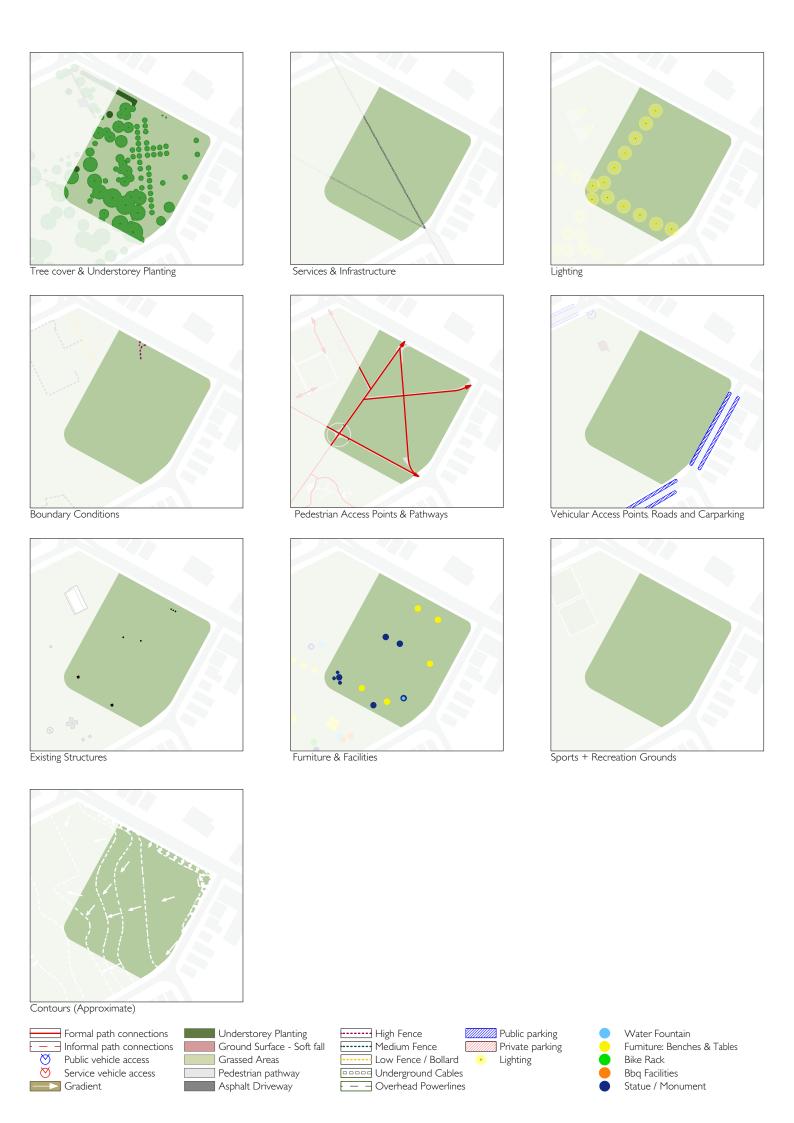
Tree Cover

There are a large number of Canary Island Date Palms within the zone, which generally provide little shade but contribute significantly to the civic quality and history of the park. There is dense tree coverage to the southern and north-western corners of the zone, centred around the axial pathways and park entry points. There is a row of young trees along the Parramatta Rd which may assist in creating a buffer to the road along this edge in the future. There is a significant and large eucalyptus blackbutt tree located close to the Ormond St Entry.

Planting

There is generally a lack of understorey planting within the zone. There are some small circular planter beds, scattered throughout the zone. These contain plants which are more ornamental in nature, such as rosebushes.





ZONE 3 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fauna Linkages

The zone lacks significant areas of understorey planting, limiting the available habitat for local fauna to the open grassy areas and rows of trees.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

The ground cover is generally grass, which becomes patchy in areas of deep shade beneath the larger trees. Pathways are typically concrete. The area around the war memorial is an enamel tile. There is a brick paver material around the entry stairs at Parramatta Rd.

Boundary Conditions

There are no significant boundaries within the zone. There is a low wall associated with the stairs at the Parramatta Rd entry point. The interface of the park with the footpath is typically a low sandstone block edge, which is consistent with the historic nature of the park but could make access difficult for some users.

Pedestrian / Cyclist Access & Existing Pathways

There are 3 defined pedestrian entry points to the zone. Midway along the Parramatta Rd frontage is a set of stairs and recently constructed ramp. The ramp appears to connect to the shared cycle path and allows for wheelchair access to the park. A second ramped entry lies at the intersection of Parramatta Rd and Ormond street, marked by a tall piece of heritage sandstone and park signage. A third ramped entry sits midway along Ormond St. The entry points appear to be accessible and is marked by a lattice structure adorned with flowers.

Paths generally lead to the centre of the park, where a circular path runs around the perimeter of the war memorial. This circular path is separated by steps from the war memorial forecourt itself. This generally leads to cyclists and some pedestrians using the perimeter circular path as they move through the park. A number of e-bike riders were observed riding along this circular path at speed, moving through the park between Gower St, Parramatta Rd and Loftus St.

This circular path is narrow and has limited sight lines due to the surrounding shrubs. This could result in potential conflicts between cyclists who are moving at speed and using the park as a throughroute and pedestrians.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

Vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles, which are able to gain access via the north-east entry. A removable bollard blocks access at other times. The only public parking available is street parking along Ormond St.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The only structure within the zone is the lattice which marks the entrance along Ormond St. It appears to be in acceptable condition and assists to define the Ormond St gateway.



01. View to war memorial / 02. Mother language monument / 03. Processional path to war memorial / 04. Jessie Stuart Bloomfield memorial water fountain / 05. Diagonal pathway through to Parramatta Rd. / 06. Large solitary eucalyptus / 07. exposed furniture and open grass areas / 08. View to Parramatta Rd and flag poles / 09. Parramatta Rd entry stair / 10. Rainbow Serpent carved tree / 11. Dr Jose P Rizal statue / 12. View along tree-lined pathway through to Parramatta Rd.

ZONE 3 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 3.

There are opportunities to:

- Improve the amenity of the areas adjacent the busy Parramatta Road.
- Establish a buffer between the park and Parramatta Road, to improve the amenity of the zone. This could include additional planting or changing the topography of areas adjacent the road to create a berm.
- Investigate the open grassed areas of the park and whether additional planting of trees could improve the amenity of these areas, while balancing the need for flexible open areas for hosting events and general recreation.
- Investigate the current program of events within the park and whether additional events could or should be held within the park.
- Consider the requirements of larger events within the park and whether any permanent or temporary infrastructure could assist in the hosting of these events.
- Continue to maintain monuments within the park, particularly the war memorial and surrounding areas.
- Place new park furniture in shaded locations.
- Remove / relocate park furniture which is located within the middle of open green spaces, limiting the flexibility of these spaces.
- Maintain stairway and ramped entry point along Parramatta road which is in need of repair.
- Provide an interpretive strategy to inform visitors of the sandstone marker and its historical significance.
- Install a park map at well selected locations. The park map should include a tactile section. Clearly identify park assets and public toilet locations. The map should communicate the civic and historic character of the park.
- Improve the safety for pedestrians within the park. Limit the possibility for negative interactions between cyclists and pedestrians within the park, particularly around the war memorial where space for both is limited. This could involve measures such as introducing an additional path link for cyclists moving through the park, clearly defining these paths as shared and limiting some paths within the park to pedestrian only.





01. South-east entry at intersection of Pembroke St & Ormond St / 02. Dense tree cover surrounding electrical substation / 03. Playground / 04. Statue / 05. Historic tea house / 06. Barbeques and shelter / 07. Swing Set / 08. Public toilets / 09. Ormond St park entry.

ZONE 4 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

Zone 4 is located at the south-eastern corner of Ashfield Park. The eastern perimeter is bounded by Ormond St to the south-east. The zone contains the playground, Begonia house, public toilets and barbecue facilities.

Character

The zone is characterised by a sense of play and socialisation. Children and families make good use of the playground, with caretakers often meeting together on the benches while children make use of the equipment. Begonia House is a popular venue for weekend picnics and gatherings with family and friends, which is complemented by the public barbecue facilities close by.

Activity

The zone is utilised by the community for socialising, gatherings and eating together, with park visitors enjoying Begonia House and barbecue facilities. The playground is very popular and busy most days. The shady areas to the north are popular for passive recreation, with people relaxing, gathering and sitting on the grass.

Furniture & Equipment

There is a well located single bench positioned beneath the shade of the fig tree adjacent the swing set. There are four picnic benches located within Begonia House, which are in good condition, having recently been replaced due to vandalism. There are two separate barbecue facilities close by, with two hotplates each. Both are sheltered by small pitched roofs.

Four wheelie bins are located a short distance from the barbecue area, directly adjacent a water bubbler. There is a second bubbler located to the north of the playground, directly adjacent the exercise equipment.

There are a range of types of benches and seating within the playground. There are 9 timber benches placed around the perimeter of the playground, and 4 granite benches arranged within the playground. There is also a bike rack and garbage bin located at the playground entry.

The playground contains equipment for a range of age groups and abilities, including: A climbing web, bridge and slide; a spinning carousel; a swing dish; a see-saw; two fixed horses; 2 springy rockers; a small slide and climbing area for young children; a small climbing net and cubby house; a digger and an array of stepping stones. The majority of the equipment appears to be in good condition. There is potential to increase the amount play experiences within the playground, potentially by replacing some of the lesser utilised areas, such as the fixed horses and granite benches, or expanding into some of the open grassed areas and incorporating the slope to the south.

There is a water fountain located midway along the pathway to the north, close to the exercise equipment which is in good condition.

Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. Lighting within the zone primarily follows the pathway that runs along the north-western edge of the zone from the entry at the intersection of Pembroke St and Ormond St to the war memorial at the park's centre. Lighting also runs along the pathway through to the Ormond St entry at the south-east of the zone. There is no lighting associated with the barbecue areas, which could limit their use during the evenings.

There is a single floodlight within the playground which is in an acceptable condition but is generally not in keeping with the new lighting within the park. There is a single light within Begonia house which is in poor condition.

Signage & Wayfinding

There is an array of outdated signage relating to prohibited activities within the park at the park entry at the intersection of Pembroke & Ormond St. There is some signage associated with the playground, including signs indicating dogs to be on lead and not to swing on the playground metal gates. There are also signs present on the public toilet building indicating that feeding of pigeons is prohibited, that other toilets are available

Memorials & Historical Interpretation

There is a statue of Mary Poppins within the playground which commemorates the author of Mary Poppins, PL Travers, who lived on Pembroke Street from 1918-1924. The statue was erected in 2004. There is a stone and memorial plaque within the playground to commemorate Barry John Ramsay (1935-2008).

Tree Cover

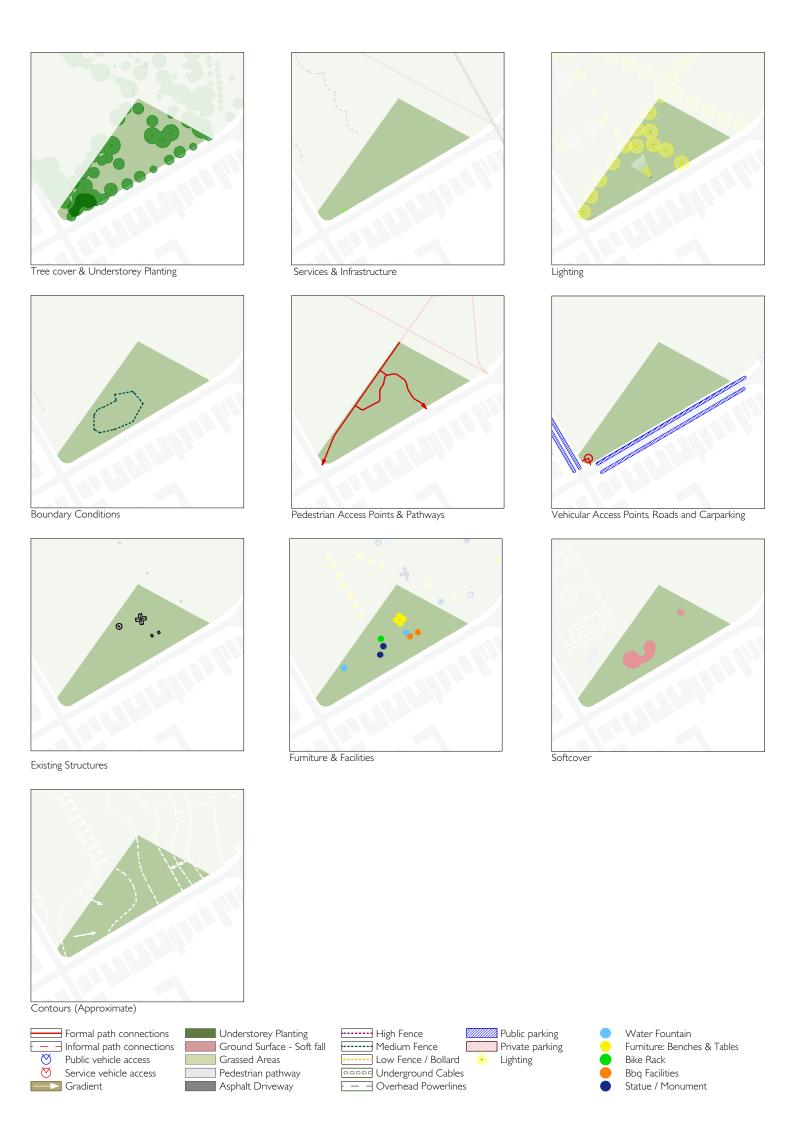
Tree cover is relatively dense throughout the zone, particularly to the north and west of the playground. To the north east of the playground the area becomes more open with scattered tree cover.

There are a number trees which are remnants of the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) which would have covered the area. The species is identified as being a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*. The remnant vegetation is fragmented, consisting of a sparse collection of large turpentine trees. The trees are significant, not only due to their high ecological value but also as they form a connection to the history of the area prior to European arrival.

To the east of the playground are some open grass areas, complemented by some large fig canopies further to the north.

Planting

There is some understorey planting to the north of the playground beneath the established trees, creating a fairly dense area of vegetation. Low planting is continued in a thin strip around the playground fencing, presumably to soften the fencing, however this has yet to fully develop



ZONE 4 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

and is patchy in areas. Around the south-east entry there is some patchy understorey planting.

Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. This area of the park does offer patches of dense understorey planting which would provide a small habitat for local fauna.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

Pathways within the zone are typically concrete. Areas within the playground are generally softfall around equipment and grass or mulch in other areas. Areas beyond the playground are typically grass.

Services & Drainage

There is a substation and sewer ventilation riser located close to the street along the Ormond St boundary.

Boundary Conditions

The playground is surrounded by a black metal playground fencing and is accessed through multiple gates. The interface of the park with the footpath is typically a low sandstone block edge, which is consistent with the historic nature of the park but could make access difficult for some users.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Pedestrian access to the zone is generally via the south-west entrance at the intersection of Pembroke St & Ormond St, which is marked by a lattice structure. There is another entry midway along Ormond St that links through to the barbecue areas and begonia House.

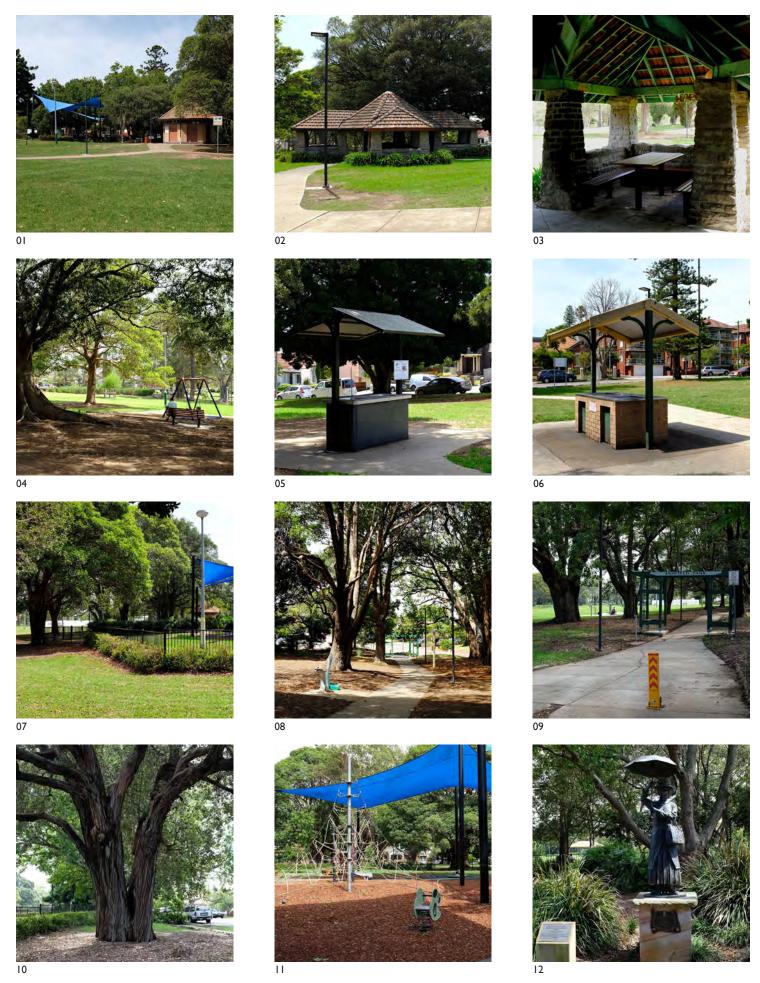
Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

Service vehicles can access the zone via the south-west entry point through the use of removable bollards. Public parking is limited to surrounding streets.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

Begonia House, Also known as the Summer House picnic shelter, is federation style picnic shelter built around 1920. It is of historical significance to the park and has been well used throughout its life. It appears to be in good condition currently and should receive ongoing maintenance to ensure that it does not fall into disrepair.

There is a small public toilet facility to the north of the playground. It appears to be in acceptable condition however there are signs indicating that female toilets are also located elsewhere in the park. There is a lattice structure which acts as a gateway at the Pembroke St entry point, which appears to be in good condition.



01. View south to public toilets and playground beyond / 02. View east to 'Begonia House' picnic shelter / 03. View inside picnic shelter / 04. Shady park bench overlooking the swing set / 05. Northern barbecue shelter / 06. Southern barbecue shelter / 07. View north to playground fencing / 08. View to Ormond St & Pembroke St entry / 09. View from Ormond St & Pembroke St entry / 10. Example of turpentine tree / 11. Playground equipment / 12. Mary Poppins memorial statue.

ZONE 4 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

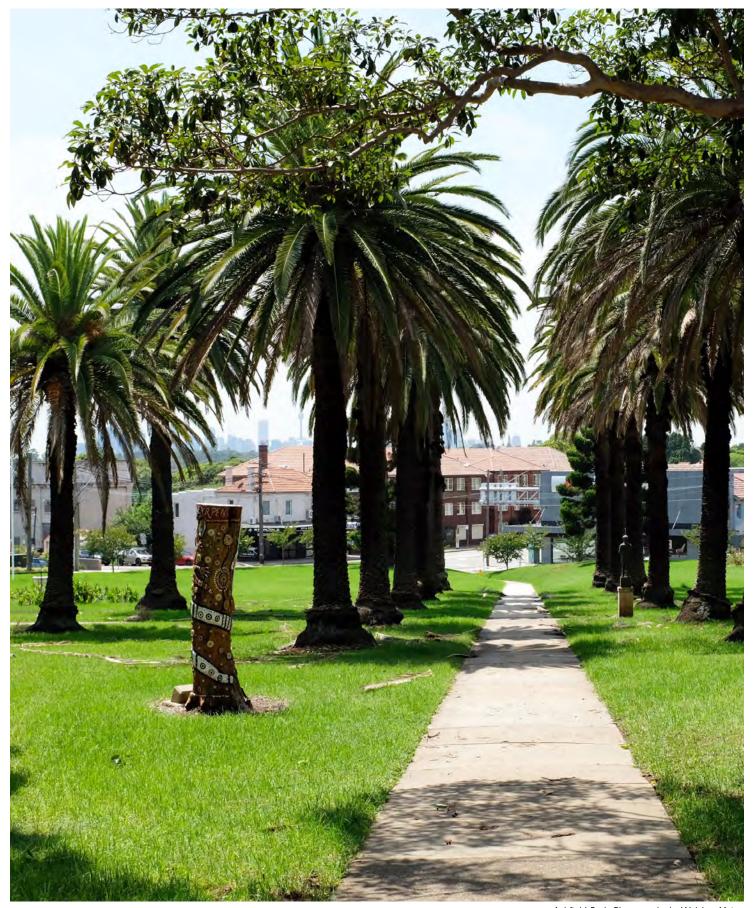
Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 4:

There are opportunities to:

- Upgrade the playground with additional equipment and play areas, that could include imaginative and wild play.
- Plant additional native understorey planting around existing turpentine trees around the south-east corner of the park. Include vegetation that would be typical of understorey planting within Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark forests.
- Develop a plan for protecting significant turpentine trees within the park to ensure their continued survival, including guidelines for maintenance and building works adjacent trees.
- Develop an interpretation strategy associated with the remnant vegetation examples of turpentine trees within the park, to inform visitors about the ecological history of the area.



Community Engagement



Ashfield Park. Photography by Welsh + Major.



OVERVIEW + ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

1.0 Summary

Council engaged the Inner West community for input in the preparation of a 10-year plan for Ashfield Park, which is to include a Plan of Management and Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out via the engagement platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

Online engagement was first carried out from the 2nd of March 2020 to the 31st of March 2020. The project page received close to 327 visits. Of those visitors, 113 visitors left feedback. The questions prompted visitors to express their thoughts on Ashfield Park in general, including what visitors currently value and dislike about Ashfield Park; what improvements visitors would like to see in Ashfield Park; and what should be prioritised within the plan.

I.I Background

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Community engagement is a critical step in the preparation of a Plan of Management, forming one of the first stages of the process. Community feedback is then taken into consideration alongside stakeholders and expert advice to form a draft plan of management and master plan, which is presented for further community input prior to the final document being decided upon by Council.

Inner West Council established a parks planning priority list, which nominates which open spaces in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Ashfield Park has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West council area.

The purpose of engagement was to establish any key issues that the community may have in relation to Ashfield Park, as well as highlighting aspects of the park which are highly valued. Contributors were encouraged to include ideas, comments and suggestions to assist in prioritising the focus of key strategies and outcomes for the future.

1.2 Engagement Method

The methods of engagement were:

- Online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au through survey
- Engagement with existing park organisations (formal and informal) including dog owners and the community garden

Drop-in sessions were planned to be undertaken within Ashfield Park on Wednesday 18th of March 11am-12:30pm and Saturday 21st of March 4-5:30pm. As part of council's response plan to coronavirus COVID-19, these sessions were unfortunately not able to be held.

1.3 Promotion

Community consultation The public exhibition period was promoted by Inner West Council using a number of means, including:

- Social media
- 'Your Say Inner West' monthly update
- Council Column Inner West Courier
- Council website
- Email to identified groups.

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions. When it was discovered that in-person sessions were unable to go ahead due to the public health response, signs were posted to direct would-be participants to online.

2.0 Engagement Outcomes

Outcomes of community engagement received through the online survey and written feedback forms have been collated within this report. Feedback to questions has been arranged so that comments which were more common are presented first.

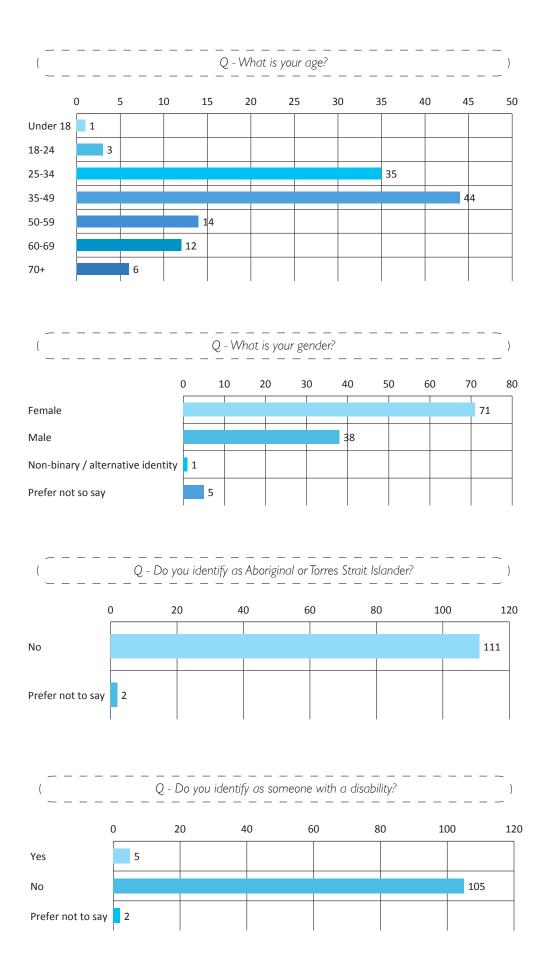
2.1 Online Survey

The online survey included multiple choice and essay style questions for more detailed feedback. Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in the Engagement Outcomes section below. Written responses have been themed and are presented a in descending order of common themes raised.

Feedback from organisations was also sought through the online engagement format, with the ability for organisations to upload documents and provide comments.

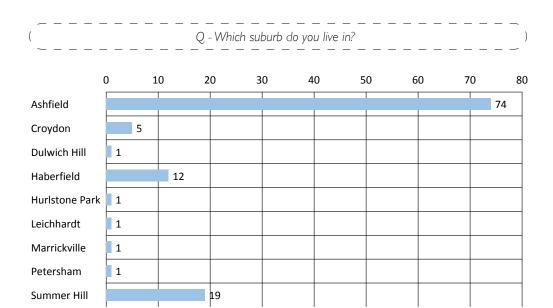
Input was also received by council in the form of written surveys and feedback posted to council to ensure that there were opportunities to provide feedback beyond the online portal. This feedback has been themed and collated with the online feedback.

The demographics of respondents were collected through the online survey and is represented in graph form within this report. The most significant age group of respondents was between 35-49 (38% of respondents) followed by 25-34 (32% of respondents). The majority of respondents identified as living in Ashfield (64% of respondents) followed by Summer Hill (16% of respondents).

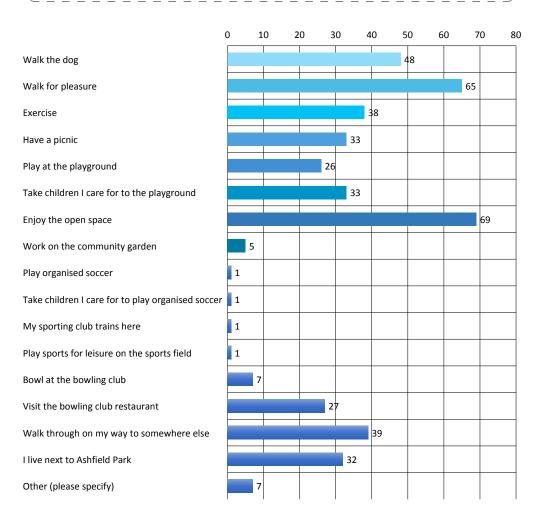


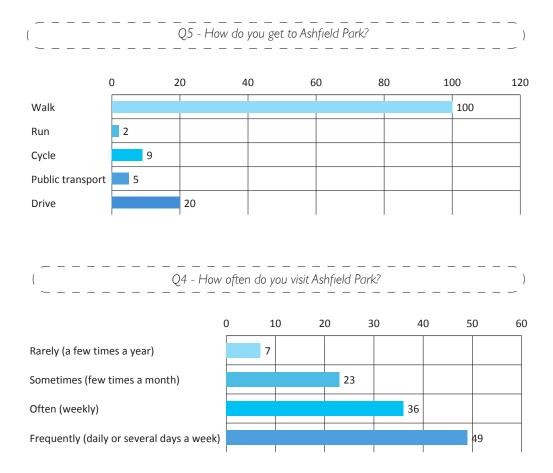


ONLINE SURVEY - MARCH 2020











ONLINE SURVEY - MARCH 2020

Q6 - Please describe what you value about Ashfield Park. You may like to describe what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

- Open green spaces and leafy greenery.
- The grand, established and historic trees within the park which also provide welcome shade.
- The park is a peaceful space, with a unique calming character.
- A great place for dog walking and meeting other dog owners.
- Safe areas for children to play and socialise, such as the fenced playground and amongst the trees.
- The size of the park and the many spaces available so that there is enough room for all visitors.
- Jogging, strolling and pram walking around the paths.
- Using the community garden, and watching how visitors interact with it.
- The rich history of the park.
- Seeing the local wildlife, such as possums and birds.
- That the park is well kept, clean and maintained.
- The way the park brings a diverse community together.
- The park is great for getting some exercise.
- The bowling club and the community feel.
- The open spaces are valuable for people who live in apartments and offers a respite from dense urban areas.
- Barbecue shelters.
- Exercise equipment.
- The lovely flower gardens within the park.
- That the park is not overdeveloped and isn't overly defined.
- The memorials, particularly the war memorial.
- Attending soccer / cricket training and games at the park.
- Cycling through the park.
- That the park is family friendly.
- Children riding their bikes around the paths.
- Seeing dogs within the park.
- Slack-lining between trees within the park.
- Available water fountains.
- Great place for watching the sunset.
- Running in the park.
- The park is great for impromptu soccer games.
- The inter-crossing paths.
- Spending time with family in the park.
- The picnic seating.
- That the park is on-leash for dogs.

Q7 - What don't you like about Ashfield Park?

- Many participants noted that the park was generally very good.
- Lacks off-leash dog areas, timed or otherwise.
- Lack of parking during sports events and training, difficult for residents and other visitors.
- A lack of shady picnic benches with tables.
- Lack of toilets within the park needs more toilets and upgraded facilities - current toilets are too small.
- The toilets are unpleasant and should be better maintained to keep up with use.
- The park being overrun with sporting groups and training.
- A lack of shelter, particularly from the sun but also for wet weather gatherings. Needs additional picnic shelters.
- The lack of lighting, particularly along pathways and around picnic areas.
- Dogs being off-leash throughout the park regardless of this not being permitted.
- A good coffee shop, pop-up or coffee van would be welcomed as the bowling club 'Homer's Cafe' has closed.
- The park needs more native plants and fauna habitat.
- A lack of trees in the park.
- Lack of signage / confusion about where toilets are located. Hard to find the toilets.
- A lack of strategic bin placement more bins and better located.
- The footpaths within the playground are uneven, and kids running /riding around often trip over.
- Recent additions that do not sit well with the timeless character of the park such as new lighting and display board at sporting ground.
- The impact of the busy Parramatta Rd on the park.
- Water fountains are out of order / there is a lack of them.
- Need more areas with playground equipment, such as more smaller play areas, more play structures, such as waterplay, and play equipment for older children.
- Not enough seating within the park.
- Vegetables being stolen from the community garden
- Rubbish being left in the park from visitors getting takeaway from the nearby Mcdonalds.
- Lighting could be improved around exercise stations.
- Memorials and statues are hard to interpret, lacking context to justify why they are in the park.
- The footpath around the Anzac memorial could be improved and wider.
- The amount of loud parties and events at the park which continue into the night.
- The bowling club could use an upgrade, and include a pet and child friendly element, such as a cafe.

- The parks vegetation is overly manicured.
- The feeding of birds and possums by some visitors.
- Some of the spaces can be taken over by large groups.
- The park could have more food and drink options.
- More fresh water for dogs.
- Bindies in the grass.
- Parramatta Road is an eyesore and could be obscured with new planting.
- Maintain Begonia House and upgrade the lighting inside.
- The post at the ramp along Parramatta Rd.
- Noise from sporting training.
- More barbeques as the existing ones can get crowded.
- The manicured gardens are neglected.
 - Q9 What do you think should be the main priority of the park plans?
- Off-leash dog areas, for example using the sporting ground when not in use, or time-share arrangements for another area within the park.
- A fenced off-leash area, as fencing would be required to protect dogs from running onto Parramatta Rd.
- Limiting new additions or developments to the park as it is currently a versatile, open and welcoming space for all.
- Upgrading the toilets.
- Better play areas for children playground upgrades.
- Upgrading the exercise equipment as it is outdated. Suggested equipment could include: chin-up bars; parallel bars; dip bars; callisthenics equipment.
- Hosting more community events within the park, for example small, free festivals, with music, activities, food stalls, etc.
- Reducing the speed limit on roads around the park to make access safer for people crossing the road to the park.
- More planting and more trees.
- Preserving the trees.
- Maintaining the planter beds / more garden areas.
- More sheltered picnic spaces for all-weather use.
- A sensory garden, for example in the locations of the existing ornamental garden beds.
- Addressing shopping trolleys being left within the park.
- Improve the planning around events held at the park.
- Any new additions should blend in.
- Function and hiring requirements to limit noise after dark.
- Dogs should be on-leash only and no parts of the park should become off-lead.
- The sporting ground should be available for the community to use.

- Ensuring the park is welcoming for people to picnic and children to play.
- There are many memorials and information that celebrates first nations people, history and local indigenous culture.
- Shady areas for tai-chi.
- Remove signage that is belligerent and ensure new signage respects visitors.
- A water feature for local birds to drink, particularly during the drought when a water source is important.
- Shared paths / signage for cyclists.
- The bowling club is a great place to share with friends and family and could be expanded.
- Sympathetic fencing around the parramatta road side to improve safety for children.
- Theme the park into quadrants to strengthen the character of the various areas, such as; leisure; formal/ceremonial; play; activity.
- Pavement upgrades to make jogging and cycling easier.
- Another playground at the other end of the park would be good.
- Cricket nets.
- A specialised running and cycling track.
- Fixing bowling club signage.
- Focus on recreation for smaller groups and individuals rather than sporting groups.
- Create a space for kids to ride bikes.
- More barbecue facilities.
- Add more bicycle parking.
 - Q Do you have any other comments about Ashfield Park?
- The well-being of dogs and dog owners in the community, including those with companion animals, should be considered with an off-leash dog area.
- A natural green barrier between Parramatta Rd and the park would make that area of the park more attractive and useful, and block noise / traffic pollution.
- The date being displayed on Parramatta Road is great / must be continued into the future.
- Park is in great condition, is well maintained and is highly valued by the community. This should be a continued focus.
- Food trucks / pop-up cafe for weekends or sporting events could be a good addition.
- Climate change should be considered in planning for the future, such as around water use. The park should be drought-proofed with additional capacity.
- More lighting is needed.
- Dogs-on-leash rules should be maintained.



ONLINE SURVEY - MARCH 2020

Q - Do you have any other comments about Ashfield Park? - Continued

- Parking can be an issue during events, but this may not have a solution.
- Dense understorey planting should be re-established at the corner of Ormond and Pembroke St.
- There are occasionally people sleeping rough in the picnic areas.
- Barbecue and picnic areas would benefit from more lighting.
- A walking track with separated cycleway is needed.
- The bowling club is a fantastic community asset.
- The park's multicultural character makes me feel proud to be part of this community.
- The park must be protected as an oasis and green retreat from a dense urban area.
- Council should keep the community updated on the park and any changes going into the future.
- The bus route that stops at the bowling club should be protected.
- Events should be supported at the park, such as the carnival of cultures and carols. Jazz concerts should be held at the park once again.
- There is little on offer for teenagers.
- A separate bike path.
- Do not install more unattractive fencing.
- Ensure that new grassed areas are growing adequately and not neglected, resulting in bald / exposed patches.
- The park itself should be protected from development, particularly any future roadway expansions along Parramatta Rd and Westconnex.
- The areas surrounding Ashfield Park should not be overdeveloped and the density should remain as it currently stands.

2.1.1 Input from Organisations

Online input was received from one organisation.

Ashfield Park Dog Community

Online input was received in the form of a document from the Ashfield Park Dog Community. The document suggested that an offleash dog area be considered for the park. The organisation suggested a timeshare arrangement for the off-leash dog area, so that it can be used between 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm. A suggested location for the off-leash area was the grass area close to the Ormond St / Gower St Entrance. The same organisation also has an online petition for the support of this suggestion, which had 275 signatures as of the 3rd of April, 2020.

2.2 Other Input

Input was also received by council in the form of a written survey and letters posted to council. This feedback has been collated with the information collected online.

2.3 Stakeholders and Organisations

Input was sought from a number of key stakeholders who are currently involved with Ashfield Park. These stakeholders included:

- Ashfield Park Community Garden
- Ashfield Bowling Club
- APIA Leichhardt Football Club
- Canterbury & Western Suburbs Cricket Association
- Ashfield Park Dog Community

1) Ashfield Park Community Garden

- The community garden is well looked after, with people working and learning together, sharing skills and fresh produce provided by the garden. There are on average 20 members currently, but this number rises and falls. The group includes a wide range of ages. The group made use of largely existing garden beds that were in a disused state on site to create the community garden.
- Members normally meet on the first Saturday of the month, with one or two people watering the garden every day or two.
- The size and variety of the garden is good; It could be extended with a herb garden that could be free and open for the wider community to pick.
- A fence could assist in reducing people from being tempted to harvest the garden, however a fence would also isolate the garden from the wider community which is one of its assets and best features.
- The garden is generally in a good location; but the bed adjacent the large tree is sapped of nutrients by the trees roots, which is difficult. It could be relocated further from the tree to address this.
- The existing facilities include a watering tap on site. The group bring their own fixtures and hoses. The tap attached to the raised garden leaks, and some attachments require 2 people at once to use.
- There is an existing storage shed offered by the bowling club, however this is quite far from the garden and somewhat dependant on the owner of the bowling club permitting access in the future.
- A water tank would be a good water saving measure / could be used for the garden.
- A compost on site would benefit the garden, as well as key access to the green waste bin used by the bowling club (the bin is padlocked).
- There is existing signage, but this could be improved to discourage harvesting by non-members.
- Access to any small amounts of council excess garden material from council, such as fertiliser, could be beneficial.

STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANISATIONS

- Council could assist by paying public insurance cost for the garden so that the money raised by the group can be invested into equipment and plants.
- New edging around the smaller round garden bed mowers maintaining the grass in the park have damaged the current edging.
- Weatherproof signage to inform the community of working bees.

2) Ashfield Park Bowling Club

- The bowling club has around 900 members across a range of age groups, and has been operating for 130 years.
- The club offers a variety of services to the wider community including; senior citizen computer lessons; barefoot bowls where younger players are matched with senior players; a range of events for different community groups and organisations and more. Space to community groups is offered for meetings and functions at no extra cost. Nursing homes and disability groups frequent the club.
- Parking is an issue, with street parking fairly limited which impacts bookings at the club.
- The vision is for the club to become more family friendly and to change one of the existing natural grass bowling greens to a synthetic green, so that the club can host more community days on the green.
- The club is in contact with the First Nations community through the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence to explore opportunities for new and inclusive events at the club.
- Council should continue to renew the lease for the club and support the club so that it can continue to operate.
- The club has rainwater tanks located under ground.
- The community garden has access to storage in the bowls room via a key, so that they can access the room at all times.

3) APIA Leichhardt Football Club

- It was noted that the club's home ground is Lambert Park and that Ashfield Park is generally used for junior's games and training.
- The club uses the playing ground on Saturday mornings (shared with the Pirates sport team) and Sundays.
- Parking during sports games can be difficult, particularly the younger games, with parents often dropping off younger players and parking to watch the game. This is however the nature of the inner west.
- Amenities and change rooms could use an upgrade, ensuring better facilities, accessibility and gender neutral change facilities. Canteen facilities would be welcomed.
- APIA would not be supportive of a synthetic pitch at Ashfield Park, as it limits general community use.



STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANISATIONS

APIA Leichhardt Football Club - continued

- A fence around the entire sporting ground would be nice, but it was acknowledged that this is not really practical for a community sporting ground that is used by other sporting games, for example cricket.
- The park is very well maintained and generally is a great place already.
- Facilities for spectators are not really an issue people generally bring their own chairs, or sit in the shade to watch games.
- Lighting for the sporting ground is generally very good.

4) Canterbury & Western Suburbs Cricket Association

- Generally 3 games of cricket are played on a Saturday.
- Lighting level is sufficient for grade of cricket played at Ashfield Park.
- Cricket nets at the park would be useful, but would need to be fairly close to the playing area for warm up and training exercises, and Cricket Australia can provide specification for nets.
- An additional smaller sporting ground would be nice to have, but could be hard to locate at Ashfield Park.
- Sporting ground seems to drain, and there are not issues raised with standing water.
- Cafe 'flag poles' to advertise the bowling club is open or can be reached from the sporting ground area, so that parents attending sports on Saturdays know that there is a cafe on site / ensure that bowling club cafe is catering towards this. Would be nice to have a 'hatch' or side opening so that there is a takeaway spot at the bowling club.
- Storage for cricket equipment would be ideal. Storage should be secure and ventilated, so that expensive equipment is protected and does not go mouldy or get damaged. Storage / renovating underneath existing dressing sheds may be able to provide this.
- Typically there is one team sitting under the trees and one team under the awning on the benches, as there is not enough space on the verandah.
- Seating along embankment is currently nice and casual, and well used.

5) Summer Hill Cricket Club

- Typically 250 players, with numbers growing, particularly with girls playing the club has been established for 29 years, and has a junior boys and girls teams, and mens teams.
- The sporting ground is used for Saturday afternoons for girls cricket. Lighting is not used.
- The sporting ground is great size for junior girls cricket and is considered one of the better grounds for this division.
- Well maintained, good drainage great sporting ground.

- players and spectators set up at the southern end in the shady areas. There is good access to toilets and play equipment nearby.
- Parking is not ideal.
- The bank along the eastern edge could be levelled to increase the length of the shortest boundary.
- Tea room in the park would be a nice addition.

6) Ashfield Cricket Club

- Typically 200 players in last season and growing, with an age range of 5-65.
- Currently make use of storage under the dressing sheds.
- Sporting ground is in a great condition for cricket, and sloping boundaries are pleasant for sitting and watching.
- Parking is a challenge but this would be difficult to improve.
- Cricket net facilities would be good.

7) Ashfield Park Dog Community

- The community requested a time-share arrangement for local residents and their dogs, excluding commercial dog walking businesses or trainers.
- Proposed the time for off-leash use would be limited to 6:00am -10:00am and 3:00pm - 7:00pm, Monday - Sunday. All other times dog walking and exercise must be on-leash.
- Suggested that the space would be limited to grass areas closest to Ormond and Gower streets entrance to the park, but not close to the footpath entering the BBQ or playground areas.

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A SECOND ONLINE SURVEY - JULY 2021

Summary

Following the inital community engagement in 2020, Council drafted the 10-year plan for King George Park, which includes a Plan of Management and Master Plan, using the community feedback, research and other information recieved. The draft was then put on public exhibition for community comment via the engagement platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

The exhibition was open online between 12 July 2021 and 24 August 2021. The project page received 773 visits. Of those visitors, 196 visitors left feedback. The questions asked visitors to read the draft

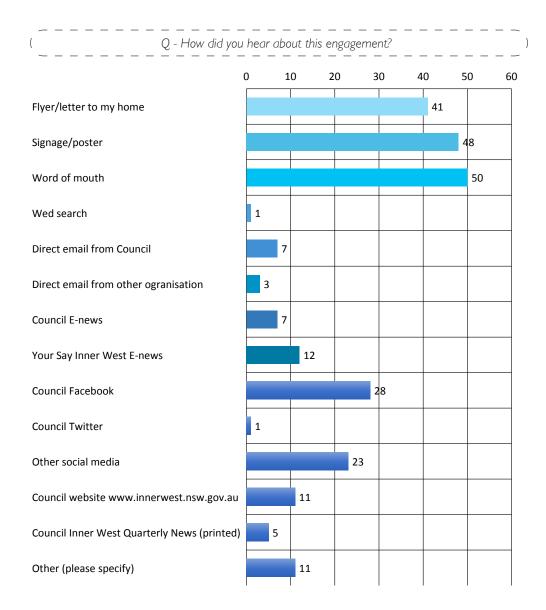
Plan of Management and Master Plan and express their feedback on the plans.

Engagement Outcomes

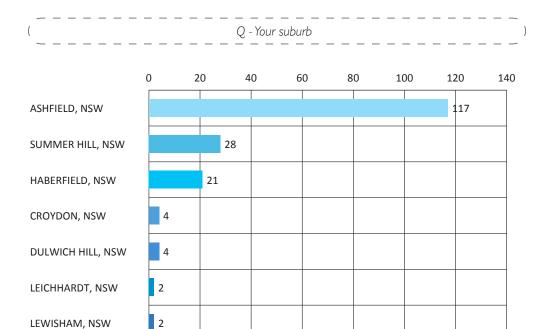
The majority of respondents (65%) identified as being a resident of Ashfield. 28 respondents were from Summer Hill and 21 respondents were from Haberfield.

The majority of respondents supported the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan (71%). Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents were unsure if they supported the plan and 12% did not support the current draft Plan of Management and Master Plan.

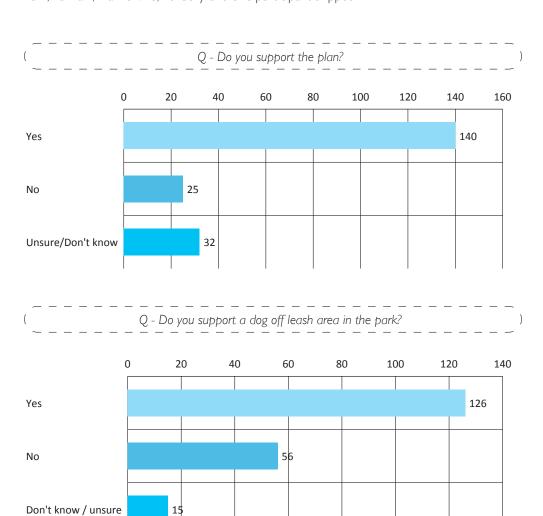
Respondents were asked to comment on their support of a dog off leashed area within the park. Sixty four percent (64%) of respondents support a dog off leash area in the park and 28% of respondents did not support the introduction of a dog off leash are within the park.



DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT



Including one participant from each Granville, Earlwood, Enmore, Dee Why, Bilgola, Hurlstone Park, Balmain, Marrickville, Ashbury and one participant skipped.



A SECOND ONLINE SURVEY - JULY 2021

Common themes that were raised within the community engagement were:

Heritage and Character

- Heritage themes and elements are valued by park users.
- Respondents were concerned about intensification of park usage through the introduction of additional recreation opportunities. The community want to ensure there are still opportunities for passive recreation throughout the park.
- There were mixed responses in support of the planted hedge in the shape of "Ashfield Park". Some respondents considered it important to the character of the park whilst other respondents considered it a waste of money.
- Respondents were concerned that some of the suggestions within the draft Master Plan may conflict with the heritage nature of the park. There were concerns that the park would become occupied with too many fences and too much segregation and this would detract from the historical aesthetic of the park along with the reduced accessibility and responsibility as a park user.

Community Gardens

- The community garden was well supported by the respondents.
- There were some requests for the community garden to be fenced to reduce potential theft and provide the opportunity to sell produce.

Exercise equipment

- There was a high volume of support for the upgrade/expansion of exercise equipment within the park.
- There were numerous requests to upgrade the pull up bars citing the current height was too low.
- Upgrade exercise equipment with additional body weighted equipment.

Dog off leash area

- The majority of respondents supported a dog off leash area within the park.
- There were conflicting opinions on if the dog off leash area should be fenced or unfenced.

Bowling Club

- Many respondents noted that the club needed to do more to engage with its park location. This included a café that fronts the park or providing food and beverages to park users and picnickers.
- The synthetic bowling green was not supported by respondents with the community preferring to retain the natural turf.

Recreation opportunities

Ping Pong Tables

- Respondents were supportive of the ping pong tables with many people expressing their excitement.
- There was a respondent who was concerned about the additional concrete and concrete pad being placed in the park.

Netball/basketball hoop

• There were numerous requests for a netball hoop and basketball hoop within the park confines.

Cricket Nets

• Cricket nets were not supported by the majority of respondents.

Skate facilities

 There were requests for skate facilities within the park including street skate elements.

Tennis courts

There were numerous requests for Tennis Courts within the park

Girl's cricket

The community were supportive in Council supporting women and girls in sports, namely girls' cricket.

Public toilets

• There was strong support for the public toilets to be upgraded

Vegetation

- Respondents appreciated the established tree canopy within the park.
- The community were in favour of increasing planting density along the
- Parramatta Road boundary of the park.

Parking

- There were requests for lined parking along adjacent streets
- There was strong support for reducing traffic speed on surrounding roads
- A respondent requested an electric vehicle charging stations at the park

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT

Other responses from individuals

- Respondents were not in favour of the cricket nets as the space is currently used as a quiet space for passive recreation.
- Respondents requested a volleyball post and net set up, basketball ring, badminton, futsal and tennis court within the park.
- The community requested to be engaged prior to the installation of ping pong tables to ensure wind direction and sun glare were well considered.
- There was support for increased seating throughout the park.
- Respondents appreciated that it was a delicate balance between the provision of additional infrastructure and priceless open space.
- A respondent requested additional low native flora to provide habitat for native fauna and the planting of turpentine trees.
- A respondent requested recycling bins within the park along with additional waste bins.
- There was a request for signage within the community garden requesting people not to take produce along with a fence to protect produce and allow for the sale of produce.
- A respondent requested a coffee shop servicing the park.
- There were concerns about the sportsground being used intensively and on Sundays.
- Speed of cars along Orpington Street is an issue with the request for speed bumps and zebra crossings.

Petition

Council received a petition with 122 signatures requesting additional swings within the park. The petition requests an additional swing set within the existing playground and an additional swing set outside the existing playground.

Organisations

Knights of Rizal – there was strong support for the retention of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal monument within the park.

Ashfield & District Historical Society Inc. – The society considered the historical background to be too minimal to base a 10-year master plan for Ashfield Park.

The society requested additional information be sought on adjacent heritage items, planting, path layout and surviving built elements. The historical society requested that a CMP be established, and all initiatives undertaken within the Master Plan be supported by the CMP first.



FURTHER CONSULTATION - JULY 2021

Further "in person" consukltatuon was undertaken in June/ July 2022.

On 28 June 2022, a Council resolution pertaining to additional community consultation was carried (motion: (Drury/Griffiths))

"That the matter be deferred to the August Council Meeting for further consideration to allow for additional in person consultation."

Sporting User Engagment

Tailored Community engagement was held with both Ashfield Pirates and APIA Leichhardt on site 6 July 2022. Feedback included the following:

I. Amenities Block

Full refurbishment & upgrade of the interior of amenities building to include the following:

- Co-design with seasonal hirers new interior layout ·
- · Inclusion of canteen amenities
- Redesigned gender neutral changerooms with toilets
- Improved storage space within the two levels of building (former
- Public toilets and outdoor staff space converted into storage areas)
- Synthetic Apron between the Pavilion and Sporting ground (to address significant sporting ground access issues)

2. Fence netting - poles

• extended on existing metal fence that runs along sideline on Pembroke St side. Removable "curtain" style netting able to be pulled across. Full height of fence + net = 4 metres. This is to address a safety issue with balls easily going over existing fence and reaching road. High degree of risk with junior players and car interactions in retrieving balls.

Public Meeting held at Ashfield Bowling Club, 6 July 2022

The following improvements to Ashfield Bowling Club were discussed:

- A Synthetic Green potential to replace one or both bowling greens with synthetic turf
- Future Café access to Park
- Decking on side and wraparound front of clubhouse to allow for future café access and use (Park facing as well as bowling green
- Shelter above internal bowling green pathways

The following internal improvements to the club house were raised:

- Upgraded toilets and changerooms to become accessible
- An accessibility assessment to incorporate accessible solutions in to any future designs for improvements
- Deck around kitchen/café side and across front of club house to create indoor and outdoor access

Community Garden

Pursuant to the Inner West Council Community Garden Policy it is noted that Council is an enabler of community gardens, not a provider.

Any future works in the community garden will need to be undertaken by the Community garden group not Council. Key future improvements which will be permissible under the Plan of Management include:

- An automated watering system
- Provision of a small shed for the storage of tools (designed in keeping with the park) Ideally tools should be stored in the adjacent bowling club to minimise buildings within the park.
- Expansion of the community garden is permissible subject to agreement with Council.
- Provision of fruit trees as part of the community garden permissible.
- The Community Garden is to remain open so it can be enjoyed as an inclusive space for the community as a whole.

Drop In Community Engagement Session

Held on site 30th July 2022.

Support for off leash area -Option A had the highest support. (see following page). It includes fencing and landscape planting (900mm high chain wire black fence as per picture below) which runs along Ormond Street and a small section of Parramatta Road, with a suggestion that the area couyld be planted with Australian native Leionema "Green Screen"-Phebalium)



An example of off-leash area fencing.

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT

Other items that were raised by the community at the July drop-in session included:

Community Garden: There was support for the community garden and possible future expansion.

Concerns was expressed about built form including future storage for the gardens and ensuring that any future building proposals respected the heritage values of the parkland.

Outdoor Sports Facilities (Amenities Block): Improvements to the current amenities block were generally supported as a need by the community

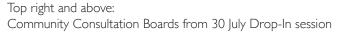
Community Events in the park were supported as was the ongoing potential for Council to allow, support and promote community events within the parkland.

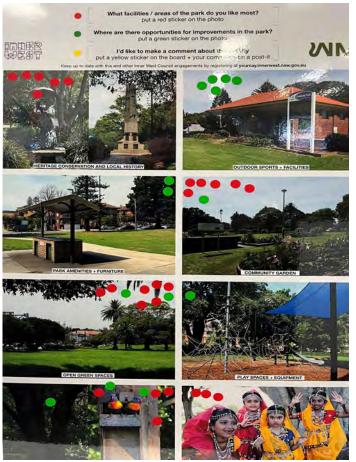
Heritage Conservation and History were highlighted by community members as one of the most important attributes of the parkland and one which should be further provided for in terms of future interpretation and maintenance of the existing heritage items.

Biodiversity and Ecology: These elements also received good community support and were seen as important aspects of the park which should be considered more broadly as part of future master planning opportunities.









A3 Fold Out Master Plan to accompany Draft Plan of Management + Master Plan for Ashfield Park August 2022



- A new interpretation strategy to highlight significant historic aspects and monuments of the park
- (02) Upgrades to amenities block adjacent to the sporting ground.
- (03) $Removal\ of\ the\ telegraph\ pole\ lamps\ adjacent\ to\ the\ sporting\ ground\ and\ replacing\ them\ with\ new\ sideline\ lighting$ to be consistent with other lighting within the park.
- (04) New table and chair park furniture in selected shaded locations.
- (05) Maintainance and repair of the existing exercise stations as required. ${\sf C}$
- 06) Establishing a biodiversity area to the southern corner of the park.
- (07) New identity signage for the park.
- (08) Traffic calming measures to Orpington St, Pembroke St and Ormond St
- (09) Improvements to existing underground water tanks in an effort to 'drought-proof' the park as much as possible
- Control measures to limit/ organise parking associated with the bowling club
- Extend existing understorey native planting to the northern corner of the park to further develop a green buffer (23)(24)
- Retain and maintain the topiary of the date '1871 2019' and name 'Ashfield Park' (12)
- Install 2 table tennis tables with concrete pads, accessible path and spectator seating.

(13) LEGEND

- Natural Grass
- Existing Exercise Station
- Existing Understorey Planting
 - New Decking
- Synthetic Bowling Green
- - New STIF Planting
- Existing Ornamental Garden
- Native Grasses / Ground Cover New Native / Ornamental Understorey Planting
- Softfall Groundcover
- Existing buildings New retractable net fence
- Existing Structures

(25)

(18)

(21)

(22)

- New / Relocated Furniture
- Existing Furniture New Playground Area
- Community Garden New & Relocated Beds New Nature Play Equipment
- Dog Off-Leash Area
- New Bollards

Completing the axis of Phoenix Palms with new palms towards the north-eastern entry gateway.

Extend existing BBQ area, with the inclusion of additional play elements focusing on nature play.

Provide outdoor deck seating to support the cafe and terraced amphitheatre seating.

Interpretation Strategy Feature

Extend and improve the community garden to provide additional planter beds and fruit trees to the area

New understorey planting in selected areas around the base of significant trees along the park perimeter.

Relocation of the historic milestone to just south of the diagonal pathway to an appropriate level area where it

Upgrade of one of the grass bowling greens to a synthetic green.

Increase the width of the circular path around the war memorial.

New retractable net fencing to western side of sporting ground

Upgrade the existing playground.

A new, partially fenced off-leash dog area in the north-east corner of the park.

Existing Tree New Tree



