

Plan of Management and Master Plan

for Mackey Park

Revision F
November 2023



We acknowledge the traditional
custodians of the land on
which Mackey Park and the
Inner West Council Area
is located, the
Gadigal and Wangal Peoples.

Contents

-	Document Control	4
-	Introduction + Executive Summary	5
1.0	Context Overview	9
2.0	Categorisation/Ownership, Statutory Conditions + Legislation	19
3.0	Leases + Licences	27
4.0	Objectives and Performance Targets	31
5.0	Master Plan	41
	Appendices	
A	Site Analysis	
B	Community Engagement	

Further Information

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Front cover image: looking south across the Cooks River
Photography by Welsh + Major.

Document Control

Date:	Revision No:	Revision details:	Approved:
02/12/2022	-	Draft issue for client review	XX
10/02/2023	A	Minor text corrections	DW
27/03/2023	B	Sections 2 and 4 combined; Leases and Licences included	DW
30/04/2023	C	Minor Amendments	DW
31/07/2023	D	Part 3: Amendments to Lease and Licencing details; Part 4: Assessment Criteria added to Objectives, Strategies and Performance Targets; other minor amendments	DW
11/08/2023	E	Part 4 renamed; Crown Land boundaries added, other minor amendments	DW
02/11/2023	F	Amendments to croquet lawns and car park lighting, canoe launching and associated infrastructure; addition of playground and bubbler near Concordia Club; general notation corrections/ updates.	DW

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 2022, Welsh + Major 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 Mackey Park. Mackey Park is located in Marrickville and bound by Carrington Rd and Richardsons Cres. to the north, and the Cooks River to the south. The park consists of approximately 15.2 acres (6.15 hectares).

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 through 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 New amenities block + plaza

Replace existing amenities with new facility oriented to invite entry to the park from Carrington Road; include planted screen to Richardsons Crescent for aesthetic and acoustic benefits and create plaza in front of amenities.

02 Amenities serviced via dropped kerb on Carrington Road.

03 Pocket parkland

Native planting and benches tucked around existing trees

04 Remove shipping container, relocate storage to new amenities block

05 Replace untidy fence around Sydney Water plot with a neater and more permanent barrier

06 Expanded playground

Increase the footprint of the playground, add shade structures, benches, extend footpath through playground, relocate the fence locally around the play area

07 Additional barbecue and table, new trees for shading

08 Existing water tanks and service shed retained in place

09 Protect and preserve existing Bush Care Site/ Enhanced storm water solution

Reassess the storm water solution in this area; consider whether a naturalised Bio-retention basin would provide a more successful outcome;

10 Wetland platform

Cantilevered deck over the wetland with bench seats and picnic benches

11 Remove fixed fencing (shown red) around existing planted storm water zone, replace with continuous ball fence to edge of sports ground

12 Introduce low level consistent path lighting along footpaths across Mackey Park

13 Cooks River naturalisation

Naturalise the riparian zone of Cooks River, as and when the banks are in need of repair

14 Consult with Sydney Water to assess whether adjacent storm water drain can be naturalised

15 Concordia Club building upgraded or replaced

Upgrade or replace existing Concordia Club building to consolidate all services, new amenities and sports club office spaces within building footprint and create connections between sports ground and Cooks River

16 Service access retained to gas service enclosure.

17 Remove fence which separates Concordia Club from Cooks River path and sports ground

18 Pedestrian plaza

Accessible public plaza with benches, landscaped pockets, shared hard surface provides service access.

19 Increase width of Cooks River Path in front of plaza

20 Add benches and public picnic spots in front of plaza

21 Rationalised car parking

Resurface and remark car park area. Include turning circle, provide vehicle access connecting to new loading area at east side of the River Canoe Club. Alleviate potential conflicts at the node from pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicle accessing club house.

22 Redirected cycle path

At park entry point, separate cycle path from pedestrian path to alleviate pressure on existing 'blind' corner

23 Introduce native understorey planting

24 New cricket practice nets

25 Existing sports grounds monitored + maintained, upgraded as required

26 Existing floodlights maintained and upgraded if and when required

27 Permanent synthetic cricket pitch

28 Consolidated signage point at key park entry points, to include park map, instructional and statutory signage

29 Accessible canoe/ kayak launching ramp to Cooks River

30 New lighting to Croquet Lawns

31 New Play Equipment adjacent to Concordia Club

Plan of Management Stakeholder Targets and Activities

The Plan of Management Process has a number of engagement targets both internally and externally. These Include:

Community and External Stakeholders:

- The Local Inner West community
- Neighbouring properties
- Sports clubs
- User groups

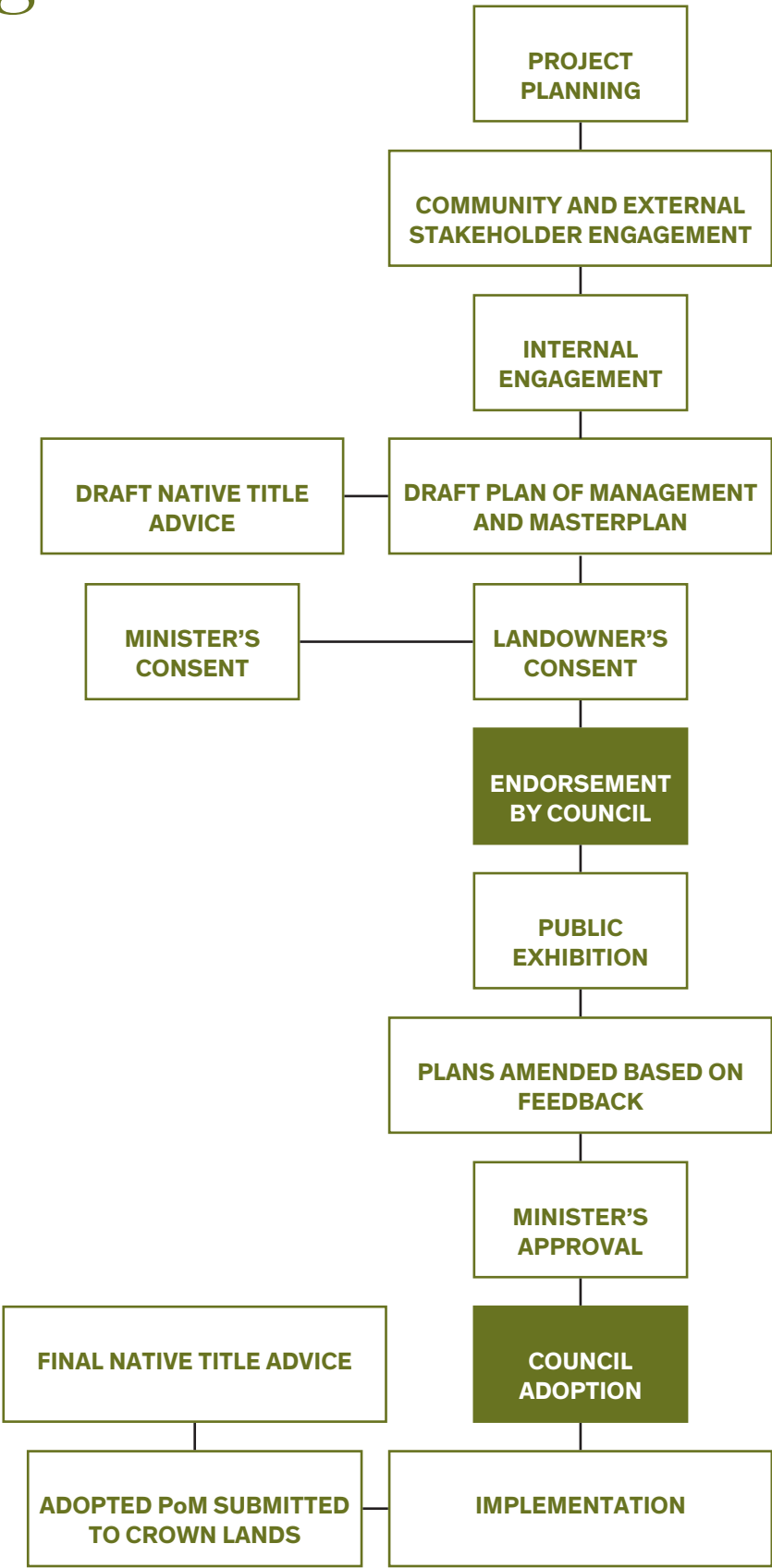
Activities Include:

- Onsite drop-in sessions
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion

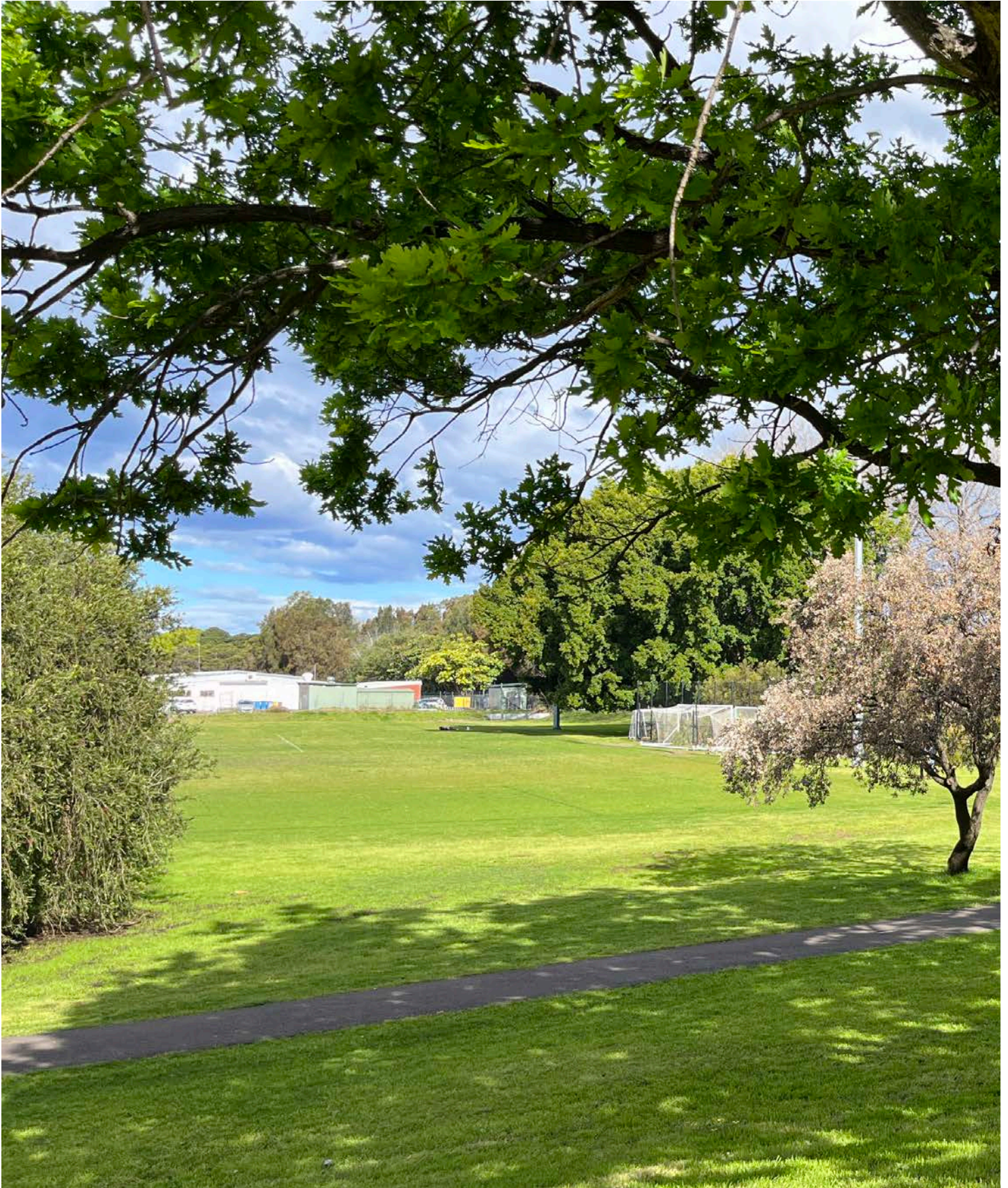
Internal (Council) Activities Include:

- Internal workshops
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion
- Meetings, phone calls, and written submissions

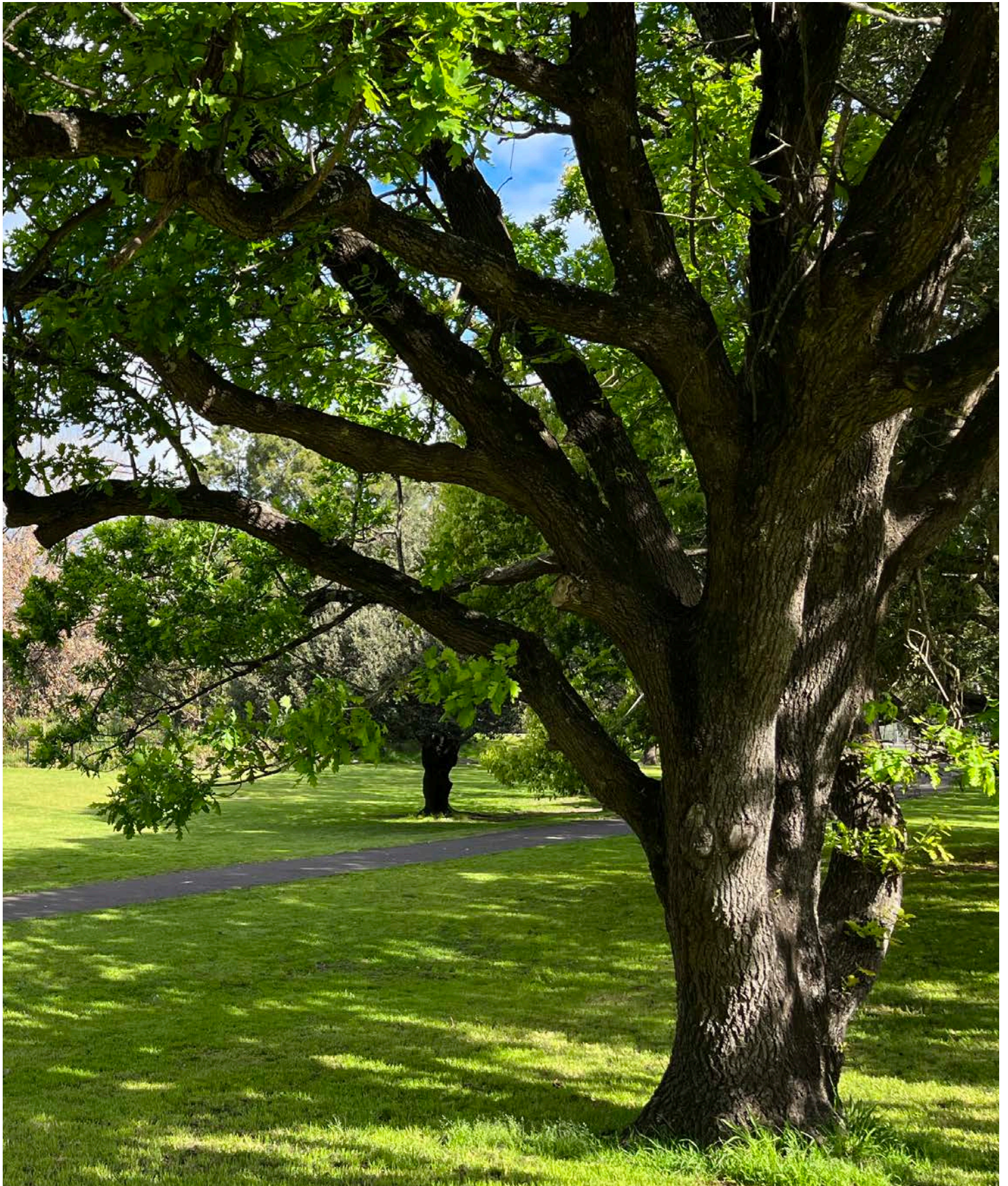
The Plan of Management Process: Stages

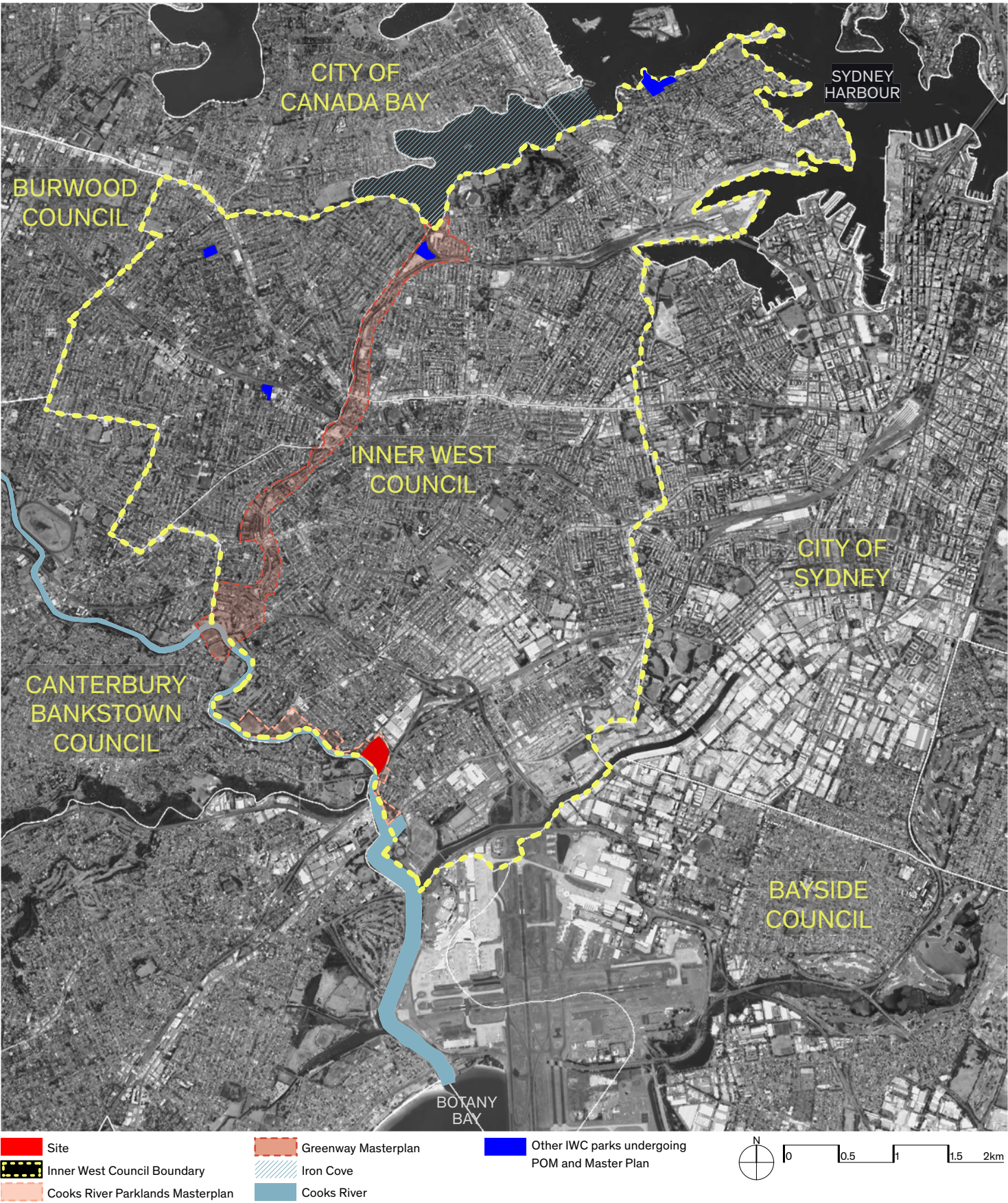


1.0 Context Overview



Looking east over the sports field. 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). It was established when the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016. Five wards make up the council: 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.

In total (including non-Council owned land), there is 321.6 hectares of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.1% of the total land area. Based on the 2016 population, this equates to 16.4m² of open space provision per person.

There are 278 Council-owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds, totalling 256 hectares. This makes up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West.

Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, published in 2018 and then updated in October 2021, is a study commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 providing an analysis of the existing parkland's within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage. The document breaks down the Inner West into 4 catchment areas to provide accurate information regarding the future needs of each catchment.

Mackey Park lies within Catchment 4 - South.

The Inner West community is expected to grow with an additional 34,815 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 16.4m² to 14.3m² 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:

- 3 summer sporting grounds
- 5 winter sporting grounds
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 9 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 0.9 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 0.6 indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- 0.5 skate park/facility.

COMMUNITY 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 "active 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 18 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.

	Walking (Most popular activity in the survey with 34% participating at least weekly, 3 rd most popular in the community map, 5 th in the school workshops, popular in the multicultural focus groups)
	Walking for transport (2 nd in the survey with 24% participating at least weekly)
	Playing in a playground/playing in a park/taking children to play (3 rd in the survey (24%), 5 th in the community map, 4 th in the school workshops, high in multicultural focus groups)
	Personal fitness/outdoor fitness (4 th in the survey with 23% participating at least weekly)
	Walking the dog (5 th most popular in the survey (23%), 4 th most popular in the community map, 6 th in the school workshops)
	Cycling (6 th in the survey (19%), 2 nd in the community map, 3 rd in the school workshops)
	Swimming (7 th in the survey (19%), most popular activity in the community map and school workshops)
	Running (8 th in the survey with 18% participating at least weekly)
	Relaxing in a park (9 th in the survey with 16% participating at least weekly)
	Hockey* (10 th in the survey with 13%). *It should be noted that the survey was completed by a high number of hockey players.)
	Football (11 th in the survey (10%), 2 nd in the school workshops)
	Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton were also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.

Figure 18 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

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

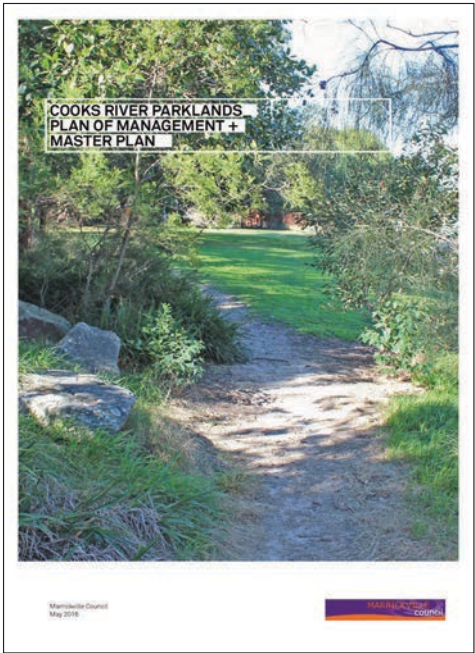
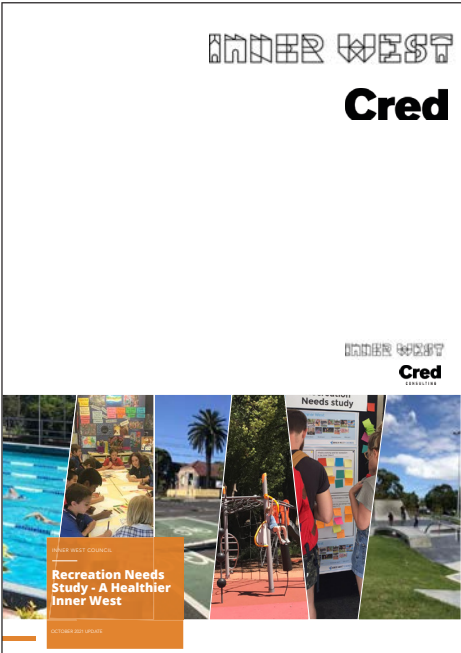
- Footpaths, streets and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park
- Ashfield Park

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.

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

	Parks (80% of people using them at least weekly)
	Footpaths, streets and town centres (75% at least weekly)
	Sporting fields/courts (38% at least weekly)
	Aquatic centres/baths (37% at least weekly)
	Children's playgrounds (36% at least weekly)



Reviewed Documents

Our Inner West 2036; The Inner West Community Strategic Plan (endorsed by council 06/2022)

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:

- 1 - An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 - Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 3 - Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 - Healthy, resilient and caring communities
- 5 - Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: connected natural areas + increased biodiversity, improved health of waterways, public infrastructure which fulfils the needs of diverse communities, safe networks of transport.

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/2018, (Updated Oct 2021)

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 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 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:

- Inner West Local Environment Plan 2022
- Cooks River Parklands Plan of Management + Master Plan, Marrickville Council 2016
- Going Places - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Inner West, adopted March 2020
- Inner West Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan, August 2021
- Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020

Our Inner West 2036



SD1 – An ecologically sustainable Inner West

1. The Inner West community is recognised for its leadership in sustainability and tackling climate change

- Provide the community the information, knowledge, and tools for a sustainable Inner West
- Share successes and publicise community and Council achievements in sustainability

2. An increasing and resilient network of green corridors provide habitat for plants and animals

- Maintain and increase Inner West's urban tree canopy
- Manage and improve Inner West's mid and understorey vegetation
- Protect, connect and enhance natural areas, biodiversity corridors and sensitive habitat

3. Waterways are healthy and the community is water-sensitive, treating water as a precious resource

- Implement water-sensitive policies and projects to improve the health of our waterways
- Capture and use water from Inner West catchments
- Identify and plan for river swimming sites

4. Air quality is good and air pollution is managed effectively

- Improve air quality through effective regulation and education
- Facilitate alternatives to private motor vehicle use to reduce exhaust emissions
- Minimise air pollution through policy and regulation

5. Inner West is zero emissions, climate adapted and resilient to the changing climate

- Respond to the Climate Emergency and implement the Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop and implement a whole of Council climate adaptation strategy to build resilience to the changing climate

6. Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy

- Move towards a circular economy to avoid waste, reuse, share and recycle through education, information, projects and initiatives
- Publicise and broaden access to local reuse and recycling infrastructure
- Increase recovery of organic material and provide a food organics recycling service to all households



SD2 – Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

1. Development is designed for sustainability, net zero and improves health and wellbeing of the community

- Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to benefit community and local environment needs
- Monitor local development and ensure it meets legislative requirements for safety and amenity

2. The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced

- Provide clear and consistent planning and management that respects heritage, accessibility and the distinct characters of urban centres

3. Public spaces are welcoming, accessible, clean and safe

- Plan, deliver and maintain public spaces and infrastructure 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 and provision of additional public and open spaces

4. People have a roof over their head and a safe, secure place to call home

- Increase social, community and affordable, livable housing with good amenity, across the Inner West

- Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments
- Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough

5. Public transport is reliable, accessible and interconnected

- Improve public transport services
- Provide transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth

6. People walk, cycle and move around the Inner West with ease

- Deliver safe, connected and well-maintained networks of transport infrastructure
- Manage the road network to increase safety and prioritise active and public transport over private motor vehicles
- Collaborate on innovative, accessible transport options



SD3 – Creative communities and a strong economy

1. Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated

- Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and culture and pursue creative lives
- Celebrate and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage

2. Inner West remains the engine room of creative industries and services

- Promote the Inner West as a leading destination for creativity including street art, live music and performance
- Enable creative and cultural industries to thrive through targeted investment and support
- Build new content, audiences and professional opportunities through local programs, including for young and emerging creatives

3. The local economy is thriving

- Assist businesses growth, innovation and improvement
- Encourage new enterprises in Inner West

4. Employment is diverse and accessible

- Manage the strategic future of industrial and employment lands
- Collaborate with business and industry on social and environmental initiatives



SD4 – Healthy, resilient and caring communities

1. The Inner West community is welcoming and connected

- Celebrate, value and respect the diversity of the Inner West community
- Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life
- Address social inequity, obstacles to participation and social exclusion

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and culture flourish and enrich the Inner West

- Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander needs and voices at the heart of initiatives, policies and strategies

- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history

3. People have opportunities to participate, and develop their health and wellbeing

- Provide facilities, spaces and programs that support community health and wellbeing
- Build connected communities and provide opportunities for social participation

4. People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life and all abilities

- Plan and deliver infrastructure and services for the changing population and those with disabilities
- Provide quality children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning
- Provide facilities, resources and activities for lifelong learning
- Improve the quality and use of existing community assets



SD5 – Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

1. Council is responsive and service-focused

- Deliver responsive and innovative customer service
- Monitor performance and implement continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of the community

2. Council 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 probity and responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government
- Manage public resources to achieve financial sustainability

3. People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem solving

- Inform communities through multi-channel communications
- Support local democracy through inclusive participatory community engagement

- Support evidence-based Council decision-making

4. Partnerships and collaboration are valued and enhance community leadership creating positive change

- Advocate for emerging community issues
- Build resilience and capacity of local leaders, groups and communities
- Work with suppliers to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

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.

Open Spaces:

The study divides the Inner West into four catchment areas, with Marrickville in Catchment 4 - South. Catchment 4 has an average, but declining, provision of open space per person at 16.4m2 in 2016, and an estimated 14.3m2 by 2036. The benchmark for the combined LGA in 2036 is stated as 14.3m2 per person.

Sporting Capacity:

The study set a maximum capacity of use for the Mackey Park sports ground at 30 hours per week, but suggests that it's actual use exceeds this amount by 6 hours per week.

By 2036, Catchment 4 will have a gap of:

- 5.9 outdoor multi-purpose courts
- 0.53 indoor leisure centres
- 2 indoor multi-purpose courts

Community Engagement:

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 form a body of information about the community's needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

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.

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.

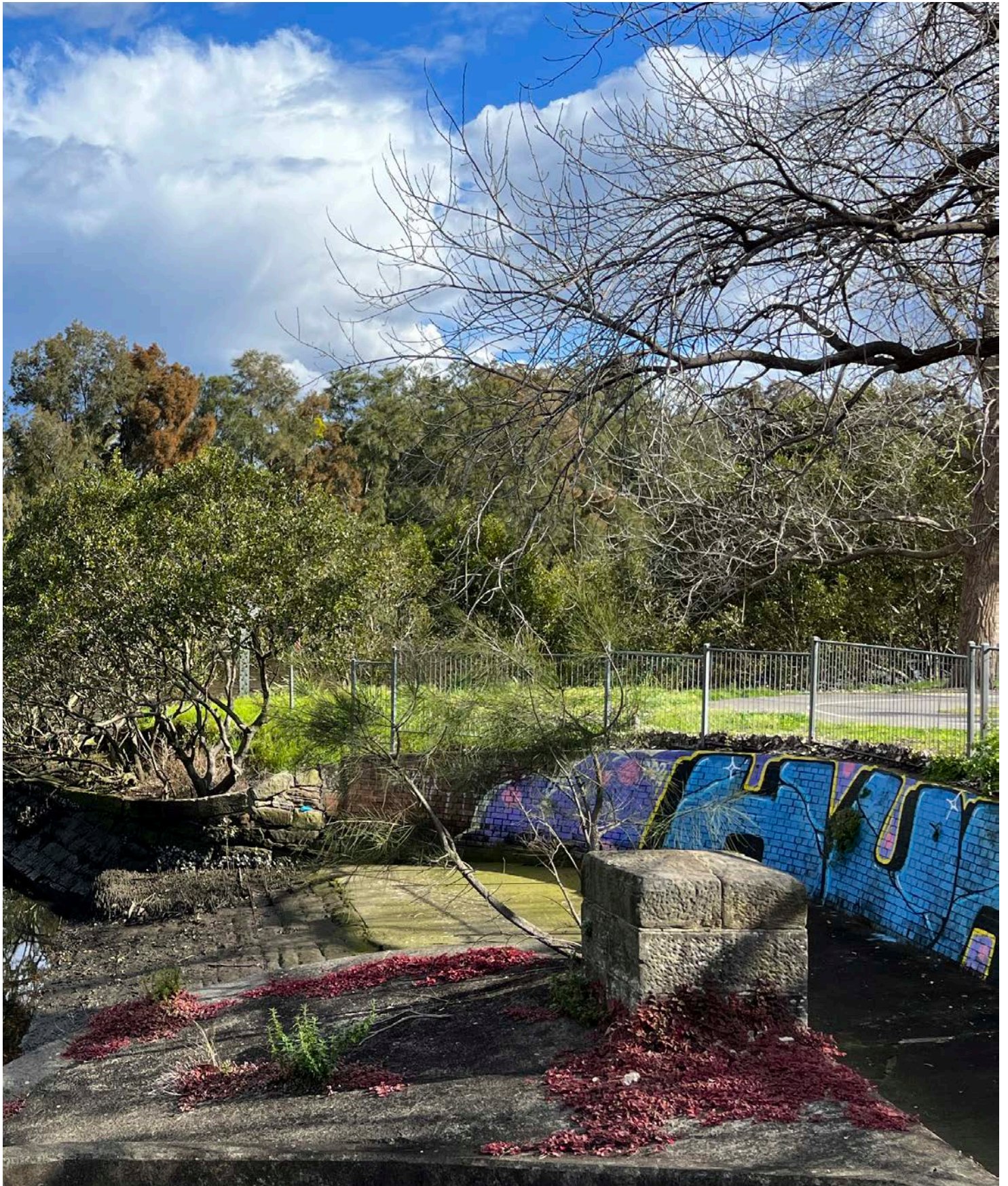
OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users• Extend the Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020 recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.

New facilities in parks including: table tennis tables; outdoor gyms including for seniors, and hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equipment and designated areas for a diverse range of outdoor activities.
Lighting and design of parks to increase (feelings of) safety. Lighting should be fauna-friendly and use sustainable technologies to support environmental outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street lighting around perimeter to connect park with surrounding streets and to Marrickville CBD. • Lighting in specific areas of park for informal night time use, e.g. dog walking, running paths and areas for informal sport.
Improved lighting to support evening and night time recreation opportunities after work hours.	
Improved walkable connections to open space and recreation opportunities .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved connections to Mackey Park from the Marrickville town centre
Improving sporting building infrastructure, amenities blocks to increase usability and support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access paths.
Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review throughout the LGA.
Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.
Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath improvements, specifically to consider steepness of paths into the park. • More recreation opportunities for older people.
Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable night time use including for informal activities.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with a disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities in parks, for example in new amenities buildings. • Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

2.0 Categorisation / Ownership, Statutory Conditions and Legislation



Sydney Water stormwater channel meets the Cooks River. Photography by Welsh + Major.



Lots and Zoning



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 & Agreement Recommendations	Ownership & Classification	Area	Notes
Lot 70 DP 1066013	Mackey Park, Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Inner West Council	Crown Land	5.25ha	
Lot 71 DP 1066013	Mackey Park (croquet lawns), 1 Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Inner West Council	Crown Land	7590m ²	
Lot 72 DP 1066013	Concordia Club, 1 Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Separate licence between The Crown and Concordia Club	Crown Land	3530m ²	
Lot 7307 DP 1145332	Mackey Park, Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Inner West Council	Crown Land	225m ²	
Lot 1 DP 908763	Cooks River Canoe Club, Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Inner West Council	Inner West Council	700m ²	
Lot 1 DP 114889	Mackey Park, Richardsons Cres, Marrickville	Currently no agreement between Inner West Council and landowner. Recommend to set up a lease/ agreement with Sydney Water	Sydney Water	2200m ²	

Note: Lot 7009 DP 93581 is part of Crown Land reserve R80566 but is not included in this Plan of Management

Existing Park Conditions



	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	Sports club canteen + clubhouse	Poor	Good - replace
02	Public amenities	Poor	Good - replace
03	Sydney Water site fencing	Poor	Good - upgrade
04	BBQ area + furniture	Fair	Good - upgrade
05	Playground + shade structure	Fair	Good - upgrade
06	Stormwater crossing bridge	Good	Good - maintain
07	Foreshore path	Good	Good - maintain
08	Rainwater garden	Poor	Good - upgrade
09	Sandstone Foreshore	Fair	Fair - maintain
10	Concordia Club	Poor	Good - upgrade or replace
11	Croquet Lawns	Good	Good - upgrade + maintain
12	Canoe Club	Good	Good - maintain
13	Car Parking	Poor	Good - upgrade
14	Sports Fields	Poor	Good - upgrade
15	Planted Embankment	Good	Good - maintain
16	Lighting	Poor	Good - upgrade

Zoning + Classification

Inner West LEP : RE1 'Public recreation'

Other Relevant Legislation

- Foreshore Building Line LEP 2013
- Native title Act 1993 (cwlth)
- Companion Animals Act 1998.
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- 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 2011.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP

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 Elkington Park and Fitzroy Ave Reserve 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 power lines, 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).

Land Categorisation Map



0 10 20 30 50m
SCALE 1:2000 @ A4

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Site Boundary | Land category - Park |
| General Community Use | Land category - Sports Ground |
| Crown Reserve Boundary | |



Sports clubhouse + canteen. 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 Park, the impact on maintaining the Park as one cohesive open space.

The Plan of Management for Mackey Park allows for the provision of leases and licences in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Lands Management Act 2016, Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018 and any subsequent legislation. Future leases and licences will be authorised consistent with this Plan of Management, the Inner West Council Local Environment Plan (2022) and any other applicable legislation. Any licences for biodiversity works are permitted.

Any leases or licences (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 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 both the land and the reserve purpose.

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 Inner West Council as land manager of Mackey Park to grant leases and licences for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and Table 1.02. The leases and licences authorised on this land align with original gazetted purpose of "Public Recreation".

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to be permissible under this PoM, the LG Act, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (CLMA), Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018 and Inner West Council LEP 2022, 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.

Current Leases and Licences

- Lease: River Canoe Club of NSW Inc. Purpose: Clubhouse for River Canoe Club of NSW Inc.
- Licence: Croquet NSW. Purpose: Croquet Court - for the playing of Croquet.
- Seasonal Allocation: Marrickville Football Club. Purpose: Amenity Facilities - for storage and activities associated with football club
- Lot 72, DP 1066013 is subject to a Crown lease to the Concordia Club

Future Leases and Licences

This Plan of Management expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences of Mackey 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.

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	Sporting and social 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/ Easement	Address encroachment by verandah from Lot 72 DP 1066013 to Lot 71 DP 1066013
Licence: Park	School and community group recreation and education use

Table T.01

Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which up to 12 month licence will be granted
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and community group recreation and education use
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial fitness trainers
Licence: Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and community group recreation and education use
Licence: Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward Advertising Catering Community, training or education 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

Table T.02

4.0 Objectives and Performance Targets



Shared cycle and pedestrian path. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



Overview

The key objectives and performance targets outline a broad vision for the future of Mackey 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 Mackey Park.



ACCESS+INCLUSIVENESS

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.*
3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Resurface existing car park with disabled access and retain connection to facilities + Promote the use of graphic as opposed to text-based signage.
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.



SENSE OF PLACE+COMMUNITY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Support existing community facilities and their role within the wider community*
3. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
4. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Rejuvenate and transform existing assets to enable the Park to better address the Cooks River frontage
- Upgrade the existing Concordia Club and Croquet Club to consolidate services and provide new amenities
- Establish additional shady seating areas.



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Support local ecologies through landscaping and maintenance strategies, providing opportunities for visitors to engage with nature.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Naturalise the banks of the Cooks River and review stormwater strategy.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles and upgrade existing facilities with sustainable measures.



SAFETY

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Support safer interactions between vehicles, people and cyclists*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Redirect cycle path and rationalise car parking



SPORTS+RECREATION

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use.
- Review stormwater strategy on the southern edge of the park to limit flooding into the existing sports grounds
- Add new cricket practice nets and cricket pitch

PROPOSED METHODS OF PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The proposed methods of performance assessment for each of the strategies listed may be one, some or all of the following practical measures:

- Assessment of success through observation by Council staff generally
- The monitoring of use of implemented aspects of the masterplan by Council staff
- Implementation of visitor surveys
- Assessment of success through observation and feedback of maintenance staff
- Monitoring use of particular areas by park wardens and/ or CCTV
- For new lighting and buildings: Assessment of energy consumption rates and projected life cycle energy consumption
- Assessment through observation by Council ecologists
- Assessment through consultation with key sporting groups, licence and lease holders.



Access + Inclusiveness

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

- 1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
- 2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.*
- 3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Resurface existing car park with disabled access and retain connection to facilities + promote the use of graphic as opposed to text-based signage.
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities.
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.

Vehicular Access

All the vehicles enter the park from Richardsons Crescent and park perpendicular to the existing asphalt driveway, including services vehicles. This high traffic has resulted in a poor surface condition. It is proposed to resurface the whole extent of the parking lot for better access.

The Master Plan proposes formalising the car park for Mackey Park from unmarked to marked spaces, to increase safety, and maximise parking. It also proposes a turning area close to the Concordia Club entrance for vehicles to be able to exist the car park without encroaching on to pedestrian path. A private access for loading and service vehicles is also proposed with fold down bollards. Disabled parking spots should be retained with pedestrian access to the park and the Concordia club.

A shared zone should be indicated at the entrance of the park through the use of alternative paving to communicate that the area is to be shared with pedestrians.

The Master Plan suggests a configuration, however the plan of management recommends that a final design should seek advice from a Traffic Manangement Consultant to ensure that the configuration is viable.

Physical accessibility

The park and its facilities should be accessible to all members of the community. The master plan recommends a number of measures to improve access to the park for all visitors, including upgrades along the Cooks River and new amenities.

Amenities

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is in poor condition. Its access is restrained to a narrow alley near the Sydney Water plot.

The Master Plan proposes to add a new amenities block to include fully accessible male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, a storage area for sports teams and a community run

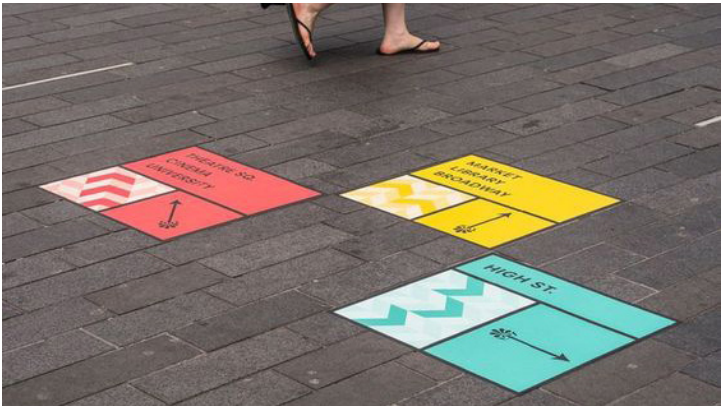
kiosk. It should also include water bubblers and a bin store. It is proposed to create a plaza in front of the amenities block to signify the entry to the park.

Playground Upgrades

The playground is in good condition and well used but offers a limited range of play experiences. The master plan recommends upgrading the playground to cater for a greater range of ages, abilities and interests with imaginative, inclusive and wild play elements. Additional specific community engagement on the expansion of the playground is to be undertaken. The expansion will be sympathetic to the parkland and consist of more nature play rather than hard surface, traditional play elements.

Signage

One of the signage strategies currently used by the park is graphic signage painted onto the ground. These signs are arguably the most effective in the park, due to their direct easily understood graphic messages in highly visible locations. The Master Plan recommends replacing the existing regulatory and way-finding text based signs with graphic printed signage where viable.



Unobtrusive way-finding system incorporated into paving. Stratford, London, UK. Thomas Matthews Design. Photography by Dashti Jahfar / Peter Clarkson.

Sense of Place + Community

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Support existing community facilities and their role within the wider community*
3. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
4. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Rejuvenate and transform existing assets to turn the park towards the Cooks river
- Upgrade the existing Clubs to consolidate services and provide new amenities
- Establish additional shady seating areas.

Identity

The identity of the park is in a large part derived from its active usage as a hub for games and exercise. It is proposed to maintain and monitor the existing sports grounds and floodlights.

The other key aspect to Mackey Park's identity is its location on the waterfront of the Cooks River. The waterfront is fairly protected and faces Gough Whitlam Park. This is a peaceful stretch of the park where visitors are able to pause in the shade of trees to rest and appreciate the outlook.

As such, the Master Plan proposes to naturalise the banks of the Cooks River (refer to *Master Plan Strategies - Sustainability*) to revitalise this area. The addition of a pedestrian plaza at the current rear of the Concordia Club which will open up on to the river will create a large pedestrian and community hub. Picnic tables and benches should be added in front of the plaza as well as an accessible path along the river. Connection between the carpark and the River Canoe Club should be improved.

Club Upgrades

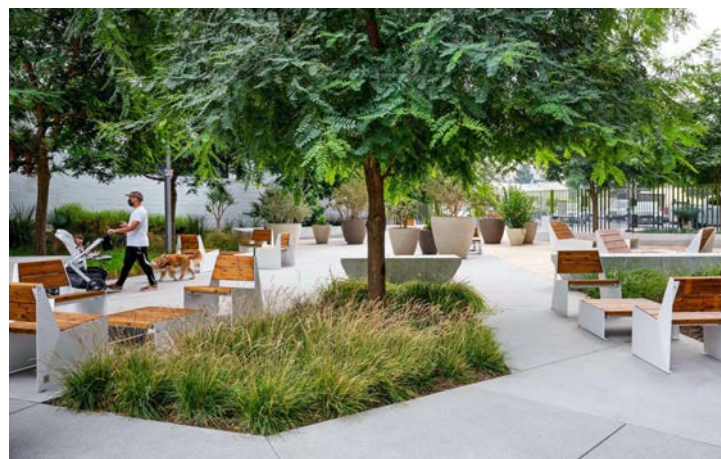
The Master Plan makes a number of recommendations to support the clubs' ongoing use. They will improve the overall operability and amenity of the Park as a cohesive public asset.

Improving the connectivity of the Clubs to the park and to the public space would allow their operation to better serve park users.

Alterations and additions include the consolidation of the services within the building footprint; the refurbishment of the Concordia Club kitchen, restaurant, bar and loading areas; new office space and amenities for the Cooks River Croquet Club, Croquet NSW, Marrickville Cricket Club and the Marrickville Football Club; new public amenities, sports equipment storage and changing rooms.

The Master Plan proposes also the creation of an accessible pedestrian plaza in front of the building including landscape pockets, public benches and tables as describe above. This

would be an opportunity for the Concordia Club restaurant to spill out into the public space and attract additional patrons.



Example of pedestrian plaza with fixed furniture - South Park Commons, Los Angeles USA
RIOS

Park furniture and facilities

New furniture and facilities are recommended to support passive enjoyment of the park. These are indicated to a number of areas including:

- Benches and picnic tables in the new Club plaza as mentioned above
- New amenities block and plaza at the north-western entry of the park (refer to *Access + Inclusiveness* of this section)
- New shaded bbq tables and seating around the Park, including a new wetland cantelivered deck in the south-western area of the park.
- Bins and water fountains near entrances and along key routes. These should be designed for convenience and to enhance the visitors' enjoyment of the park.

Sustainability

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Support local ecologies through landscaping and maintenance strategies, providing opportunities for visitors to engage with nature.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Naturalise the banks of the Cooks River and review stormwater strategy.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles and upgrade existing facilities with sustainable measures.

Water Management

Both the Site Analysis and the Community Engagement revealed that many of the turfed areas on the south west border of Mackey Park suffer from regular flooding.

The Master Plan proposes to enhance the existing naturalised stormwater garden on the site to cope with additional load. This is achieved through the development of a naturalised bio-detention basin, with storm water tolerant species, to simulate a natural wetland. The water could collect and drain gradually into the Cooks River through a drainage system underneath the shared path.

A cantelivered deck is proposed over the retention basin to allow the pedestrian route to continue safely. Bench seats and picnic tables could be added on this deck to give an opportunity to people to sit and appreciate the new landscape formed by the basin.

Review of the existing and proposed storm water drainage strategies should be undertaken by a specialist consultant prior to implementation.

Cooks River Naturalisation

The park is currently not taking advantage of its proximity to the river, but rather turns its back to it. It is proposed to naturalise the riparian zone of the Cooks River where the banks are in need of repair.

The Master Plan proposes to enlarge the existing sandstone banks, add native planting and create a boardwalk with new seatings along the edge of the river.

It is recognised that naturalising the banks of the river can help increasing the number and the diversity of native plants and vegetation as well as creating new habitats and feeding areas for native invertebrate, bird and fish species.

The creation of the boardwalk would provide a large opportunity for visitors to engage with nature. Strategies to integrate the

Cooks River banks as a part of the park are detailed in 'Sense of Place + Community' section.

Vegetation Management

Multiple species of large trees flank the edges of the park along the boundary roads and the river. A great majority of these trees are in good condition and their location offers an informal shaded path around the full perimeter of the park.

It is proposed to undertake a condition assessment of the existing trees and monitor them for potential renewal. This will ensure consistent continuous canopy cover along pedestrian paths and the river banks.

Approach to buildings + facilities

Upgrades should consider the environmental impact of design, construction and future maintenance of park facilities. The Plan of Management promotes progression towards sustainable practices in construction, building maintenance and overall life cycle. There is opportunity for the park to showcase sustainable approaches to visitors.

- Building upgrades should maximise adaptive reuse, water harvesting and reuse, and sustainable energy sources and materials;
- Sporting ground and park maintenance should consider watering requirements, replacement cycles, and eliminating the use of harmful products and practices;
- Lighting upgrades should consider sustainable energy sources and energy efficient fittings;
- Waste disposal facilities should incorporate recycling. Single use plastics should be banned from food and beverage outlets.



Pedestrian route over stormwater retention basin, RMIT Bundoora Campus, Melbourne
Taylor Cullity Lethlean Landscape Architects



Naturalised foreshore element as an interpretation of the original harbour edge -
Barangaroo Reserve by PWP Landscape Architects



Naturalised foreshore element as an interpretation of the original harbour edge -
Barangaroo Reserve by PWP Landscape Architects



Naturalised foreshore element allowing a connection with water - Detail of the Water Front,
Park Somerlust. Photo © Felixx.



A representation of Johnstons Creeknaturalisation

Safety

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Support safer interactions between vehicles, people and cyclists*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Redirect cycle path and rationalise car parking

Lighting

There was support for lighting upgrades to improve safety and to extend the hours that the park can be used. The Master Plan proposes an new low level consistent lighting along the perimeter path for increased safety of visitors after dark.

Consideration should be given that this area is a biodiverse environment and lighting should be directed to limit the effect of light pollution on sensitive nocturnal habitats.

Safer Interactions

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

- Re-direct the cycle path between Richardsons Crescent and the southern path of the park with a softer edge at the intersection between the paths and separate areas for pedestrians and cyclists. This would alleviate pressure on the existing blind corner, especially during high-traffic periods.
- Improved car park conditions with clearly de-marked parking areas, separated from surrounding areas with low impact vehicle barriers (such as low fencing, landscaping, boulders or bollards).



Example of low bollard path lighting. Lighting to be directional to target paths without light pollution into wildlife habitat.



Large shared path with different floor finishing in Barangaroo Reserve, PWP Landscape Architecture



Examples of low level path lighting

Sports + Recreation

Key Objectives and Performance Targets:

1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use.
- Review stormwater strategy on the southern edge of the park to limit flooding into the existing sports grounds
- Add new cricket practice nets and cricket pitch

Recreational use

As mentioned in the 'Access + Inclusiveness' section, the playground area is in good condition but it has been mentioned that it could be more inclusive of all ages.

The Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and playspaces, catering for children and teenagers, with better access to public amenities.

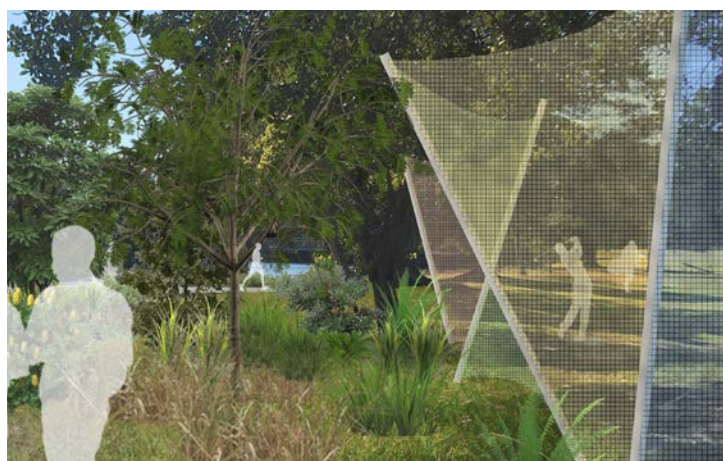
Organised Sports

Mackey Park has a long association with organised sporting activities. Arrangements with various sporting clubs should be developed, and their continued use of the grounds and facilities supported. The following measures are proposed:

- Upgrades and continued maintenance of sports grounds and lighting;
- Review of the stormwater strategy of the park to avoid floodings and for better utilisation of the sports grounds;
- Addition of cricket nets near the croquet club and installation of a permanent cricket pitch;
- New accessible public amenities, changing rooms, equipment store and kiosk.



Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major Architects

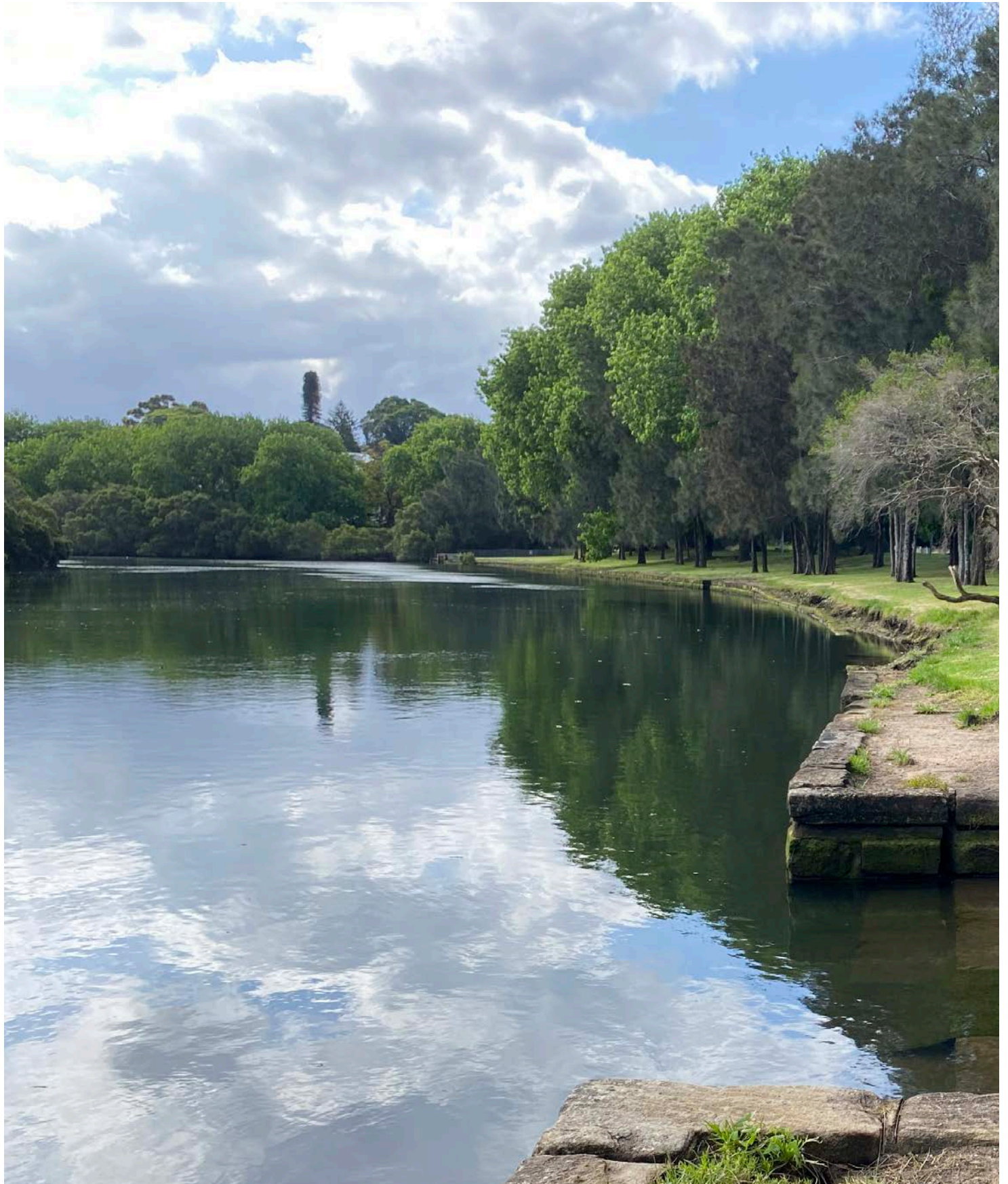


A playful and gentler alternative to a typical ball fence
Welsh + Major



Example of unobtrusive netting

5.0 Master Plan



Cooks River foreshore at Mackey Park. Photography by Welsh + Major.

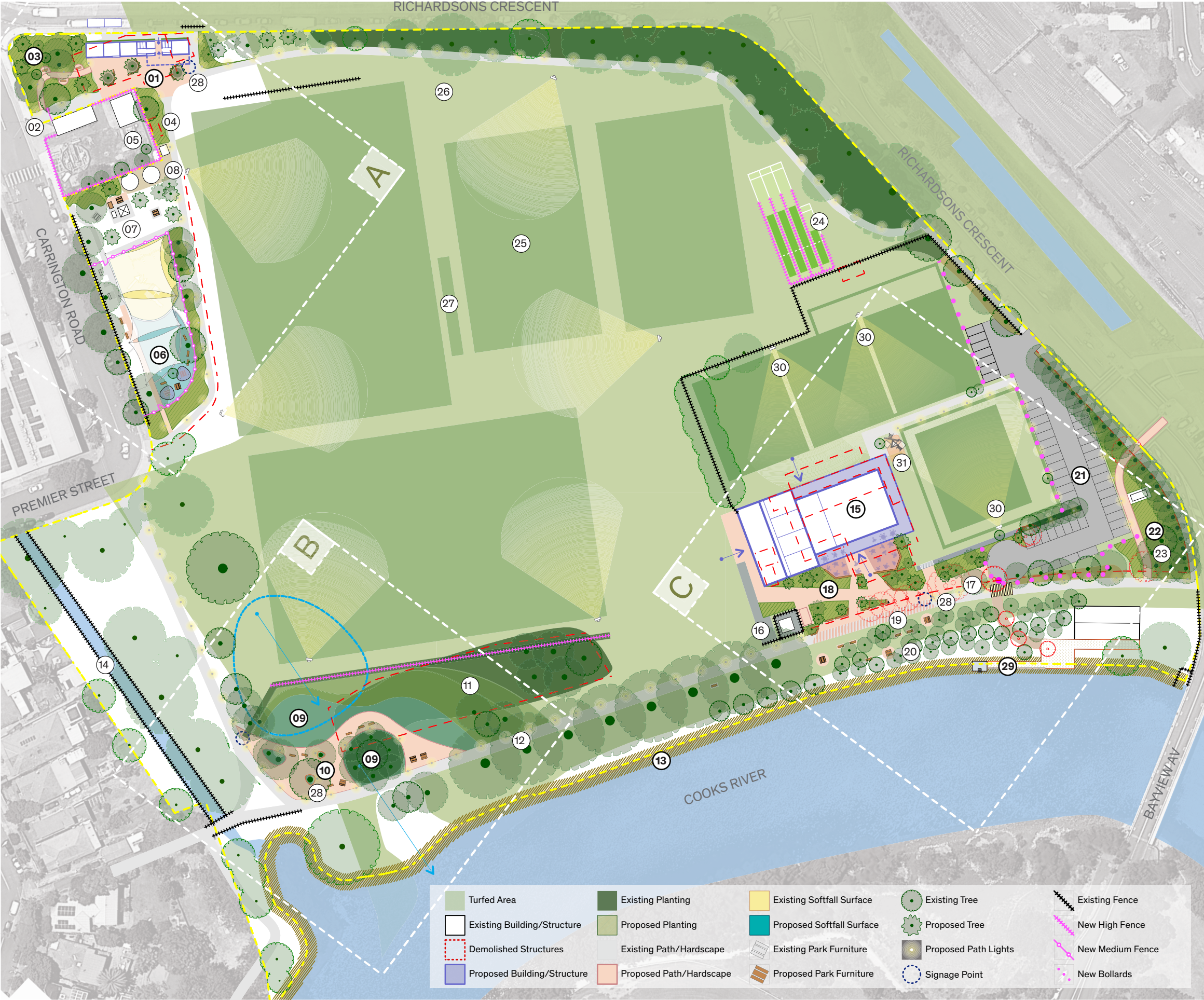
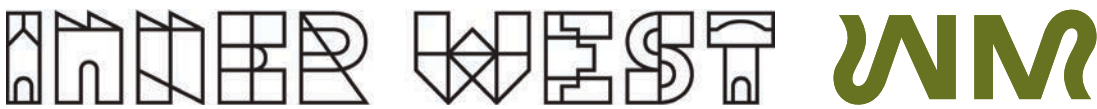


Master Plan
Mackey Park, Marrickville



Master Plan

Mackey Park, Marrickville



- 01 New amenities block + plaza**
Replace existing amenities with new facility oriented to invite entry to the park from Carrington Road; include planted screen to Richardsons Crescent for aesthetic and acoustic benefits and create plaza in front of amenities.
- 02** Amenities serviced via dropped kerb on Carrington Road.
- 03 Pocket parkland**
Native planting and benches tucked around existing trees
- 04** Remove shipping container, relocate storage to new amenities block
- 05** Replace untidy fence around Sydney Water plot with a neater and more permanent barrier
- 06 Expanded play park**
Increase the footprint of the play park, add shade structures, benches, extend footpath through play park, relocate the fence locally around the play area
- 07** Additional barbecue and table, new trees for shading
- 08** Existing water tanks and service shed retained in place
- 09 Retain existing Bush Care site/ Enhanced storm water solution**
Protect and preserve the existing Bush Care Site; assess the storm water solution in this area; consider whether a naturalised Bio-retention basin would provide a more successful outcome;
- 10 Wetland platform**
Cantilevered deck over the wetland with bench seats and picnic benches
- 11** Remove fixed fencing (shown red) around existing planted storm water zone, replace with continuous ball fence to edge of sports ground
- 12** Introduce low level consistent path lighting along footpaths across Mackey Park
- 13 Cooks River naturalisation**
Naturalise the riparian zone of Cooks River, as and when the banks are in need of repair
- 14** Consult with Sydney Water to assess whether adjacent storm water drain can be naturalised
- 15 Concordia Club building upgraded or replaced**
Upgrade or replace existing Concordia Club building to consolidate all services, new amenities and sports club office spaces within building footprint and create connections between sports ground and Cooks River
- 16** Service access retained to gas service enclosure. Check how much service required around etc.
- 17** Remove fence which separates Concordia Club from Cooks River path and sports ground
- 18 Pedestrian plaza**
Accessible public plaza with benches, landscaped pockets, shared hard surface provides service access.
- 19** Increase width of Cooks River Path in front of plaza
- 20** Add benches and public picnic spots in front of plaza
- 21 Rationalised car parking**
Resurface and remark car park area. Include lighting upgrades, turning circle, and improved access point to River Canoe Club.
- 22 Redirected cycle path**
At park entry point, separate cycle path from pedestrian path to alleviate pressure on existing 'blind' corner
- 23** Introduce native understorey planting
- 24** New cricket practice nets
- 25** Existing sports grounds monitored + maintained, upgraded as required
- 26** Existing floodlights maintained and upgraded if and when required
- 27** Permanent synthetic cricket pitch
- 28** Consolidated signage point at key park entry points, to include park map, instructional and statutory signage
- 29 Accessible canoe/ kayak launching ramp to Cooks River**
- 30** New lighting to Croquet Lawns
- 31** New Play Equipment adjacent to Concordia Club



Existing Plan

- ① Brick amenities block with kiosk and awning; home to Marrickville 'Red Devils' Football Club
- ② Sydney Water site
- ③ Shipping container for sports equipment storage
- ④ Water tanks
- ⑤ Barbecue area
- ⑥ Existing play park
- ⑦ Stormwater channel
- ⑧ Steps up to street level
- ⑨ Stormwater filtration system; outlet to Cooks River
- ⑩ Fenced stormwater garden
- ⑪ Cooks River shared foot and cycle path
- ⑫ Sandstone retaining wall to river bank
- ⑬ Concordia Club restaurant
- ⑭ Service access road
- ⑮ Substation
- ⑯ River Canoe Club clubhouse
- ⑰ Shipping container storage for croquet equipment
- ⑱ Croquet lawns
- ⑲ Car park
- ⑳ Natural turf floodlit sports ground
- ㉑ Synthetic turf cricket pitch
- ㉒ Steep embankment



Brick amenities block with kiosk and awning, Mackey Park, Marrickville
Photo by Welsh + Major



Flooding extending past stormwater garden, Mackey Park, Marrickville
Photo by Fabien Kramer via google maps



Concordia Club restaurant with croquet lawns in foreground, Mackey Park, Marrickville
Photo by Welsh + Major



Proposed Plan

01 New amenities block + plaza

Replace existing amenities with new facility oriented to invite entry to the park from Carrington Road; include planted screen to Richardsons Crescent for aesthetic and acoustic benefits and create plaza in front of amenities.

02 Amenities serviced via dropped kerb on Carrington Road.

03 Pocket parkland

Native planting and benches tucked around existing trees

04 Remove shipping container, relocate storage to new amenities block

05 Replace untidy fence around Sydney Water plot with a neater and more permanent barrier

06 Expanded playground

Increase the footprint of the playground, add shade structures, benches, extend footpath through playground, relocate the fence locally around the play area

07 Additional barbecue and table, new trees for shading

08 Existing water tanks and service shed retained in place

09 Retain existing Bush Care site/ Enhanced stormwater solution

Protect and preserve the existing Bush Care Site; Assess the storm water solution in this area; consider whether a naturalised Bio-retention basin would provide a more successful outcome;

10 Wetland platform

Cantilevered deck over the wetland with bench seats and picnic benches

11 Remove fixed fencing (shown red) around existing planted storm water zone, replace with continuous ball fence to edge of sports ground

12 Introduce low level consistent path lighting along footpaths across Mackey Park

13 Cooks River naturalisation

Naturalise the riparian zone of Cooks River, as and when the banks are in need of repair

14 Consult with Sydney Water to assess whether adjacent storm water drain can be naturalised

15 Concordia Club building upgraded or replaced

Upgrade or replace existing Concordia Club building to consolidate all services, new amenities and sports club office spaces within building footprint and create connections between sports ground and Cooks River

16 Service access retained to gas service enclosure. Check how much service required around etc.

17 Remove fence which separates Concordia Club from Cooks River path and sports ground

18 Pedestrian plaza

Accessible public plaza with benches, landscaped pockets, shared hard surface provides service access.

19 Increase width of Cooks River Path in front of plaza

20 Add benches and public picnic spots in front of plaza

21 Rationalised car parking

Resurface and remark car park area. Include turning circle, and retain access point to River Canoe Club.

22 Redirected cycle path

At park entry point, separate cycle path from pedestrian path to alleviate pressure on existing 'blind' corner

23 Introduce native understorey planting

24 New cricket practice nets

25 Existing sports grounds monitored + maintained, upgraded as required

26 Existing floodlights maintained and upgraded if and when required

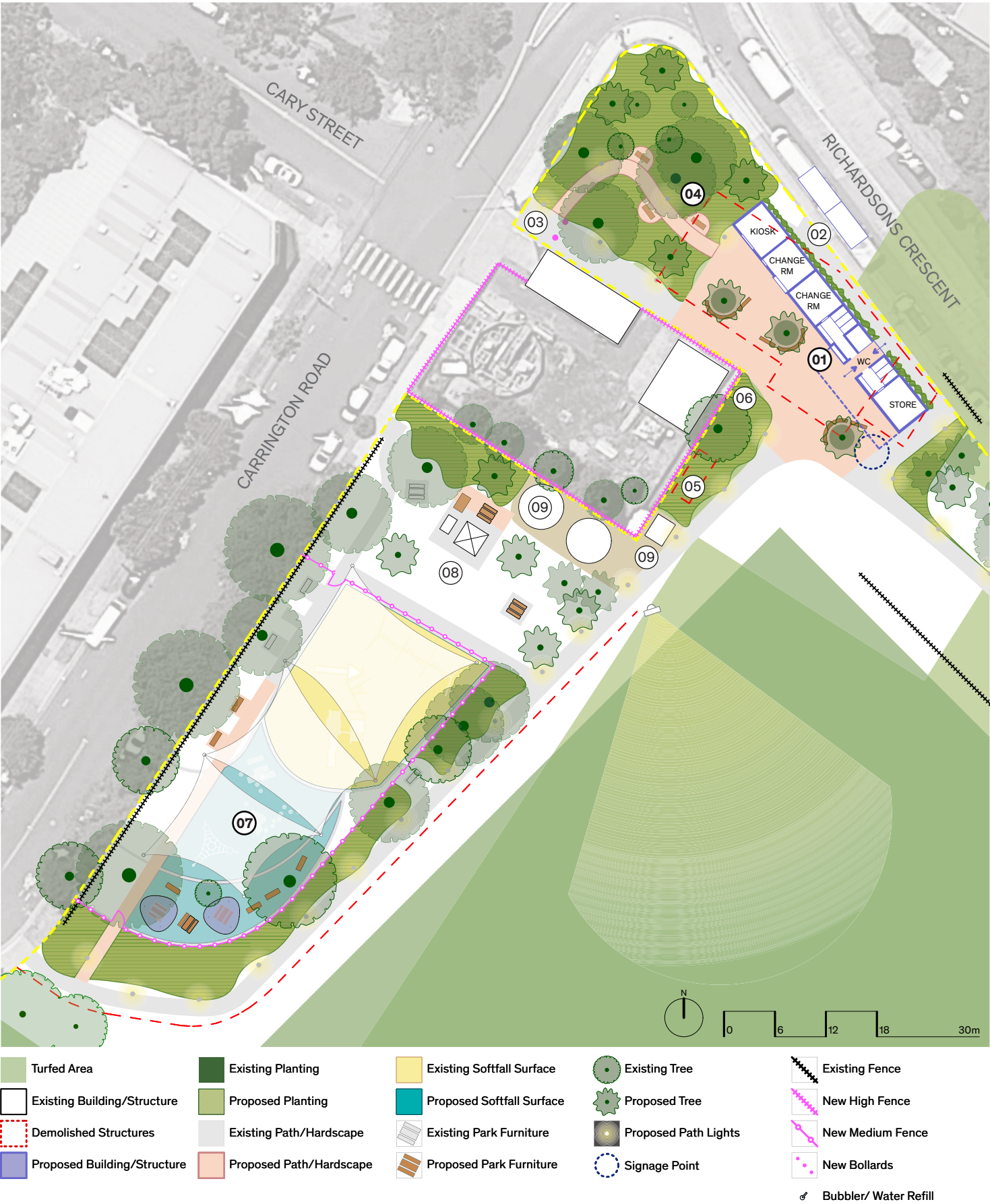
27 Permanent synthetic cricket pitch

28 Consolidated signage point at key park entry points, to include park map, instructional and statutory signage

29 Accessible canoe/ kayak launching ramp to Cooks River

30 New lighting to Croquet Lawns

31 New Play Equipment adjacent to Concordia Club



Precinct A

01 New amenities block + plaza

Replace existing amenities with new facility oriented to invite entry to the park from Carrington Road. Amenities to include toilets, changing rooms, kiosk, equipment store, water fountains, bin store, relocated defibrillator

Create plaza in front of amenities block to signify entry to park. Option to include alternative paving strategy, planters, water fountains, benches

02 Planted screen to Richardsons Crescent presents an attractive face of the park to passing traffic, while providing a buffer from the road, which is very loud at this junction

03 Use existing dropped kerb in front of Sydney Water Plot for vehicular service access to park and amenities. Fold down bollards restrict public access

04 Pocket parkland

Introduce native planting and benches tucked around existing trees to create a parkland 'pocket' in contrast to the sports focussed character of Mackey Park

05 Remove shipping container, relocate storage to new amenities block

06 Replace fabric fence mesh around Sydney Water plot with a more attractive, permanent looking solution such as timber paling, metal fence, brick wall

07 Expanded playground

Increase the footprint of the playground, introducing equipment with a nature play focus, benches and under cover tables; new shade sails where required; extend a footpath through the playground and relocate the fence to bound the play and seating areas only; consider using natural fencing material to counter the severity of a physical barrier

08 Additional barbecue and table, new trees for shading, soften edge to Sydney Water site, and water tanks while maintaining required access

09 Existing water tanks and service shed retained in place



Citizen Garden, Monterrey Mexico
Práctica Arquitectura



Mesh screen with climbing plants at Cedar Creek Garden, Texas USA
Hocker Design Group



Nature play park with timber branch fence at Naracoorte Memorial Oval, SA
Nature Play Landscaping



Precinct B

01 Enhanced storm water solution

Reassess the storm water solution in this area; consider whether a naturalised Bio-retention basin would provide a more successful outcome;

Note : Accurate survey and consultation with hydraulic engineer will be required.

- Survey and map areas which flood persistently. Observed flood area indicated with dashed blue line;
- Adjust levels around sports ground to direct excess water to into bio-retention basin;
- Develop a naturalised bio-retention system, with storm water tolerant species to simulate a natural wetland;
- Allow water to collect and gradually filter into Cooks River via drainage system underneath shared path.

02 Wetland platform

Introduce cantilevered deck over the wetland to relieve pressure on intersection and give back parkland lost to the wetland; shape deck around existing trees, and introduce bench seats and picnic benches

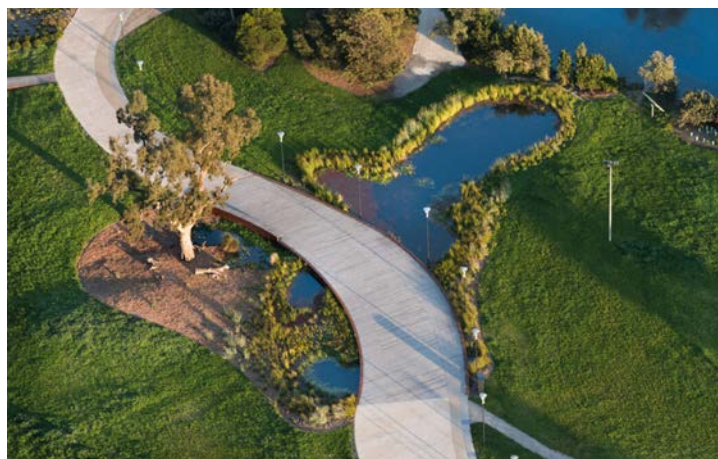
03 Remove fixed fencing (shown red) around existing planted storm water zone, replace with continuous ball fence to edge of sports ground to increase safety for shared path users

04 Introduce low level consistent path lighting along Cooks River path

05 Cooks River naturalisation

Naturalise the riparian zone of Cooks River, as and when the banks are in need of repair

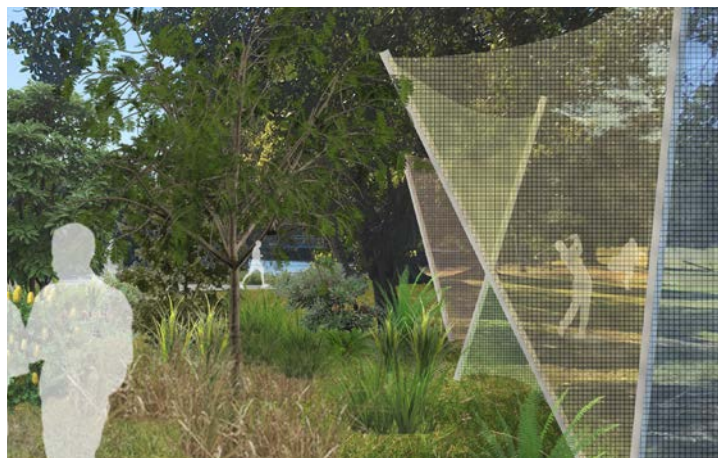
06 Protect and Preserve existing Bush Care site.



Pedestrian route over stormwater retention basin, RMIT Bundoora Campus, Melbourne
Taylor Cullity Lethlean Landscape Architects



Naturalisation project, a site further upstream on Cooks River, Sydney
Sydney Water



A playful and gentler alternative to a typical ball fence
Welsh + Major



Precinct C

01 Connect Concordia club with public space

Replace or renovate existing Concordia Club building to consolidate all services within building footprint and create connections between sports ground and Cooks River Footprint of new (or renovated) building to include:

- Concordia Club restaurant and bar, including associated kitchen services and loading areas
- Office and amenity spaces for Cooks River Croquet Club, Croquet NSW, Marrickville Cricket Club, Marrickville Football Club
- New public amenities, sports equipment storage and changing rooms

02 Service access retained to gas service enclosure. Check how much service required around etc.

03 Remove fence which separates Concordia Club from Cooks River path and sports ground

04 Pedestrian plaza

Accessible public plaza with benches, landscaped pockets, shared hard surface provides service access. Plaza connects sports ground, Concordia Club and Cooks River frontage, presenting a more vibrant and inviting face to the public. Option for Club restaurant to spill out into public space.

05 Increase width of Cooks River Path in front of plaza, introduce bollards and contrasting surface treatment emphasising intersection to increase user safety

06 Add benches and public picnic spots in front of plaza

07 Rationalised car parking

Resurface and remark car park area. Include turning circle, and new access point to River Canoe Club. Use fixed or fold down bollards to prevent vehicular access to shared path

08 Redirected cycle path

At park entry point, separate cycle path from pedestrian path to alleviate pressure on existing 'blind' corner, increasing safety of park users

09 Introduce planting at corner of park around existing substation. Retain service access

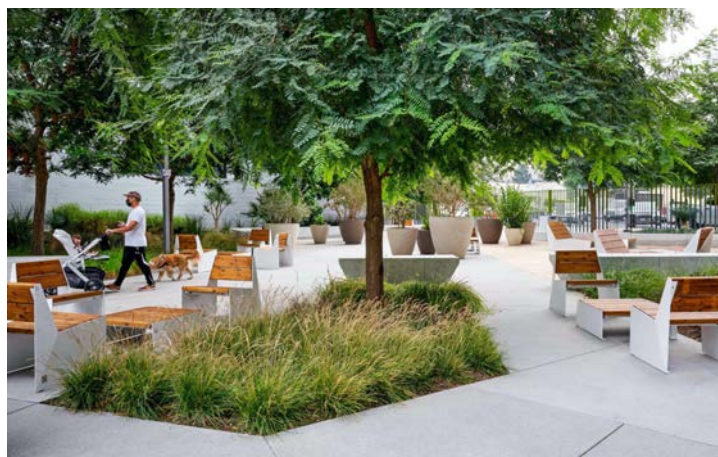
10 Accessible canoe/ kayak launching ramp to Cooks River

11 New lighting to Croquet Lawns

12 New Play Equipment adjacent to Concordia Club



Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major



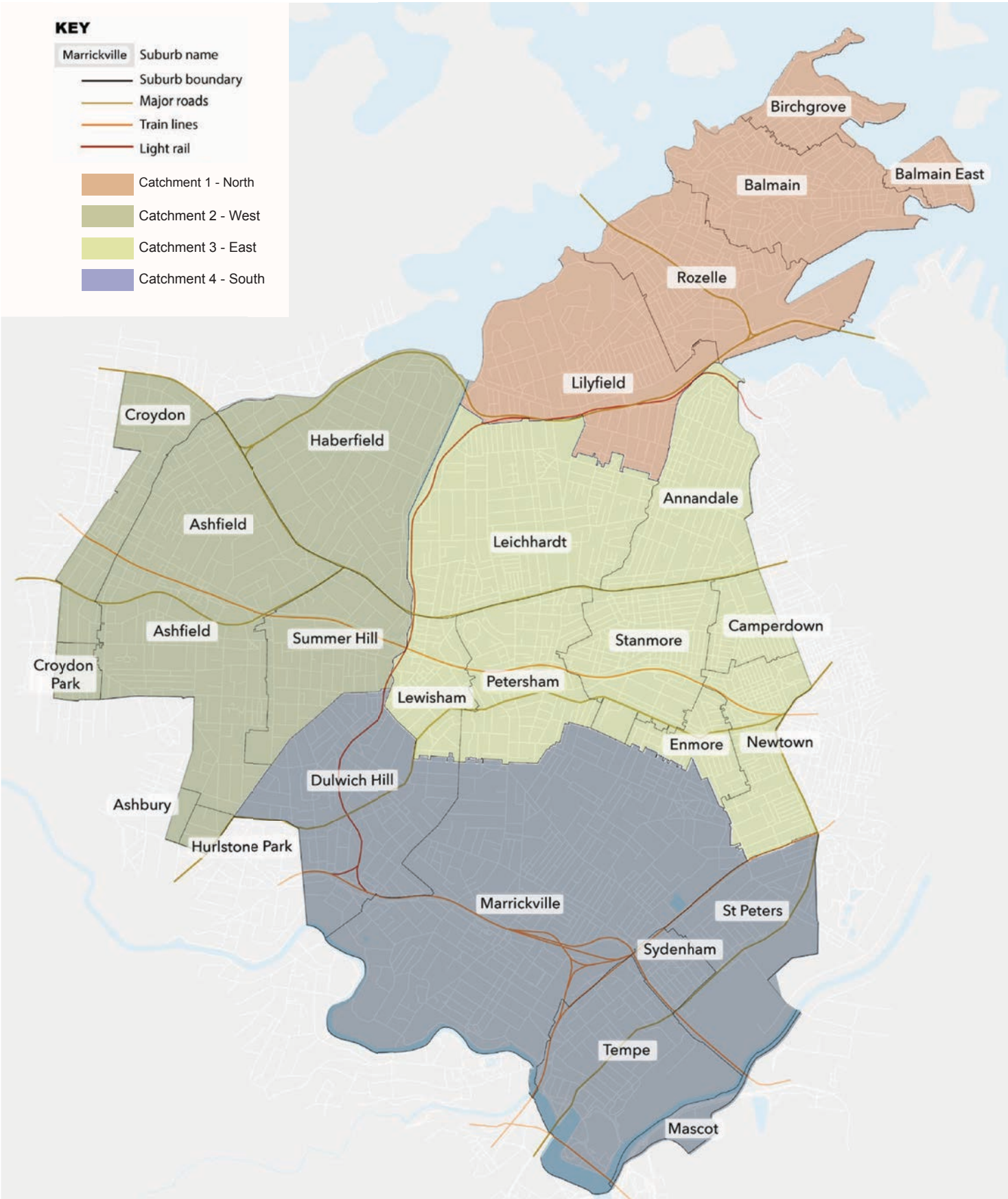
South Park Commons, Los Angeles USA
RIOS



Installation at Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, Germany
Kristina Buch



Mural on Canoe Club building along Cooks River. 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 Marrickville using data from the 2021 ABS Census from Profile i.d. as well as future projections outlined in Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, Updated 2021 (Cred Consulting). This study breaks down the Inner West area into 4 catchment areas. Marrickville falls into catchment 4.

The population of Marrickville and the area within its catchment is characterised by higher levels of relative social disadvantage, particularly in Marrickville South which has the lowest score Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) in the LGA, highest levels of youth disengagement, highest number of households without internet and high levels of social housing. The catchment has the second highest forecast residential growth of all the catchments and is also facing challenges of loss of industrial and creative spaces to residential renewal and gentrification.

Population growth

In 2021, the estimated resident population of the Inner West was 183 772 people. The population decreased by 7422 people or 3.8% between 2016 and 2021. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 7.8%. Marrickville has experienced a steady population between 2016-2021.

Despite this short term dip, Inner West Council estimates significant population growth by 2036.

Open space provision

The Inner West has an estimated 321.6 hectares a of open space which equates to 9.1% of the total land area.

In 2016 the provision of open space per person was 16.4m². To further analyse this data, the LGA was broken down into 4 catchment areas. Balmain falls into catchment 1, which has the highest provision of open space per person. In 2016 Catchment 4 had a provision of open space per person of 20.7m² with an estimated 16.9m² by 2036.

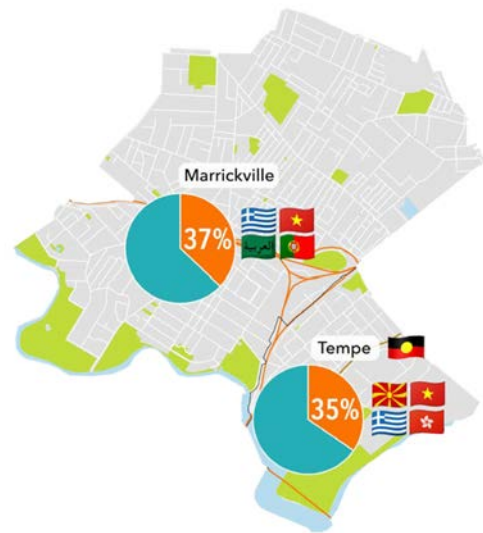


KEY

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)

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



KEY

- % speaking English at home
- % speaking a language other than English at home
- >1.5 % Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Languages spoken by more than 2% of the population:

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Greek
- Italian
- Macedonian
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

*In Leichhardt, while the proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home is relatively low, the number of speakers is very high: >2,000

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



KEY

Median weekly household income:

- \$1,500 - \$1,749
- \$1,750 - \$1,999
- \$2,000 - \$2,499
- \$2,500 - \$2,999
- > \$3,000

% of households with cars:

- Under 75%
- 75% - 80%
- 80% - 85%
- 85% - 90%
- Over 90%

Dominant dwelling type:

- Low density
- Medium density
- High density

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.

Marrickville has an above average proportion of babies and children (0-12yrs), young people (12-24yrs) and older people (65+yrs). Marrickville has the third highest rate of people reporting a need for assistance at 6.5%.

Tempe also has an above average proportion of babies and children (0-12yrs), young people (12-24yrs) and people reporting a need for assistance.

Cultural Profile

Marrickville, and its neighbouring suburbs are culturally diverse. Marrickville has a high proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, identified as 37% of the population. The primary languages identified included Greek, Vietnamese, Arabic and Portuguese.

35% of the Croydon population also identify as speaking a non-English language at home, speaking primarily Macedonian, Greek, Vietnamese and Cantonese.

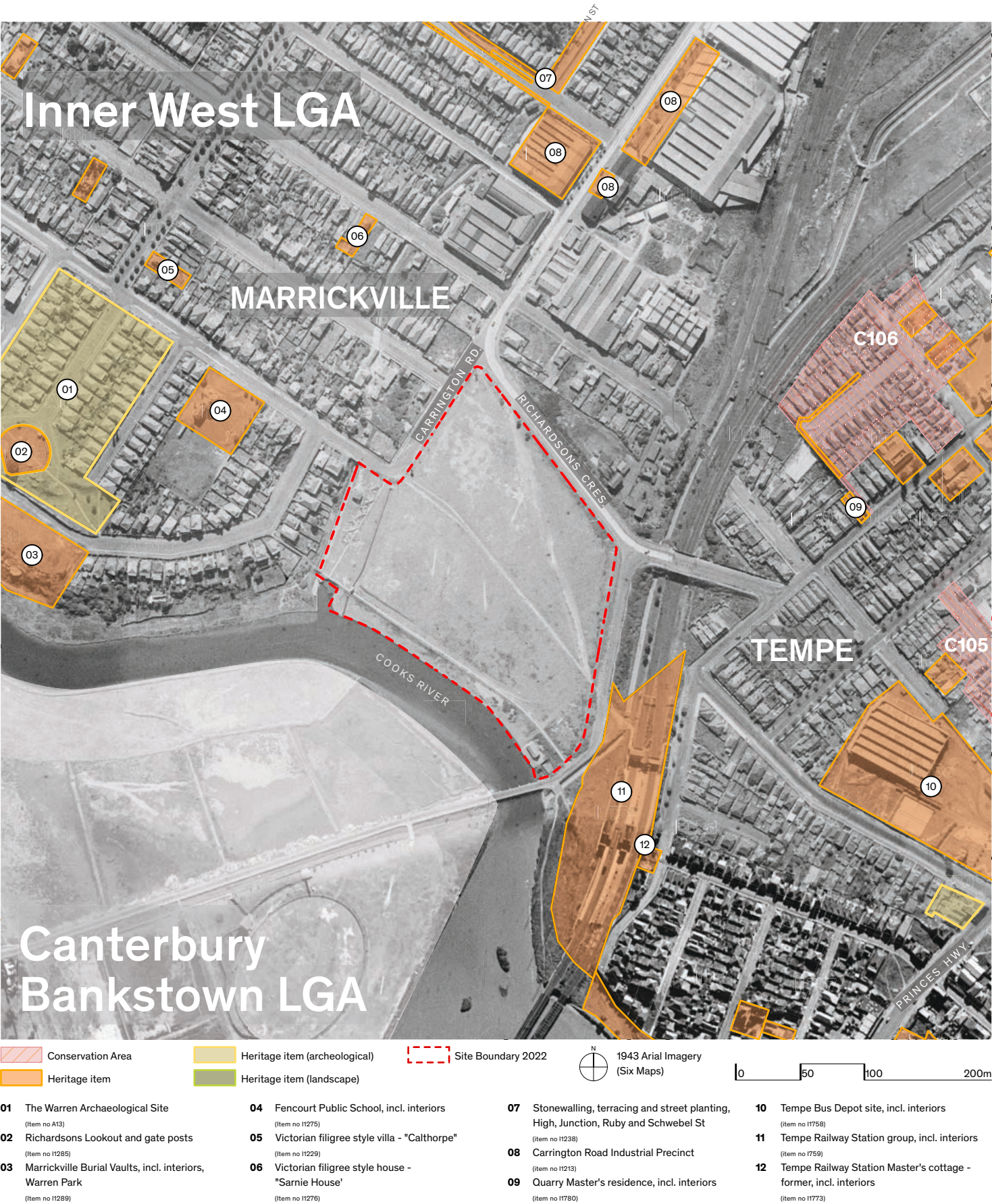
Tempe also recorded an Aboriginal + Torres Strait Islander population of above 1.5%.

Density, income + housing profile

Marrickville records one of the highest number of high-density dwellings in the LGA at 31%. Although, low density housing is still dominant. Tempe also has a high proportion of people living in low-density housing.

Marrickville and Tempe have a below average median household income, between \$1,750 - \$1,999. Marrickville South had a high proportion of low-income (less than \$650 per week) households at 16%.

Marrickville and Tempe have an average number of households with cars. Tempe has the fifth highest proportion of houses with two or more cars at 35%.



Mackey Park - An Historic Summary

The Mackey Park site is bound by two stormwater channels feeding into the Cooks River to the south. The channel to the east, which separates the park from Tempe Station, follows the path of the Gumbramorra Creek, which ran from Gumbramorra Swamp to the north of the site.

The Origin of the name 'Marrickville'

The name Marrickville comes from the 24.3 ha 'Marrick' estate of Thomas Chalder, which was subdivided on 24 February 1855. He named it after his native village Marrick, North Yorkshire, England. The estate centred on the intersection of Victoria Road and Chapel Street. William Dean, the publican of the Marrick Hotel, in Illawarra Road (now the site of the Henson Park Hotel) is credited with adding the "ville" to Marrick when it was gazetted in 1861.¹ - Historical Encounters

First Nations

The wetlands created by the Gumbramorra Swamp, alongside the abundancies of Cooks River were core to Aboriginal people as a source of food and resources, with plants and animals aplenty. The area was inhabited by the Cadigal band, who identified as Eora. Supporting the dense growth of thatch reed, the swamp was abundant with native birds, including swamp hens, moorhens, ducks and gulls. Mounds of middens still found along the shore of Cooks River are evidence of the fish and shellfish which provided food for the Cadigal people.

Bulanaming was the Aboriginal name of the area and the Cooks River was known as Goolay'yari. The proximity of the Cooks River to the Sydney penal camp had an enormous impact on the Cadigal people. Disease, competition for food and land grants soon created a European landscape of isolated farms and paddocks, pushing the remaining indigenous people out of the area or making them dependent on Europeans. The last known sighting of Aboriginal people in this area was in 1835 when a visiting missionary called Backhouse noted a couple fishing from a bark canoe on the Cook's River ⁰¹.

Post European

Following European settlement, Marrickville was a place where runaway convicts could easily hide out in the bush or disappear quietly into the Gumbramorra swamp, which was a natural boundary between Marrickville and what now comprises the suburbs of St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe. The swamp was almost always impassable.

After European settlement its role in the ecological system was not fully understood or appreciated, and the swamp was drained in the 1890s to facilitate the industrialisation of the suburb.

In 1859, Thomas Holt, a wealthy wool merchant, financier and politician, with investments in gold mining, purchased a 130 acre estate, within which the future Mackey Park site was located.

The Warren

At the time the land was purchased by Holt, the area still held its undeveloped, picturesque character. Architect George Mansfield designed the craggy stone 'Victorian Gothic' mansion which was built circa 1866.

The mansion itself, of noble extent and standing on the summit of a hill, is the most prominent feature in the view...The scenery of 'the Warren' is bold and fine. Nature has done much, but she has been materially 'assisted' by art. The sight of a rabbit or two scampering off now and then towards their burrows gives life to the scene...Mr Holt has erected a very picturesque little building for a 'Turkish Bath', near the river and opposite to this building stands a small bathing house, belonging to Mr Campbell. [33]

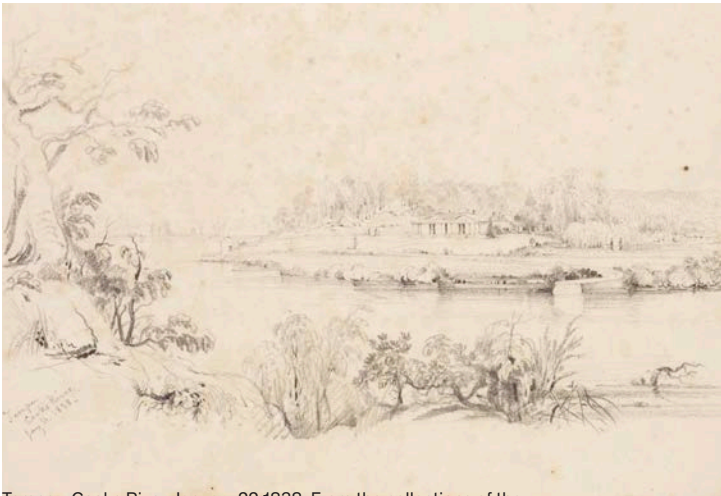
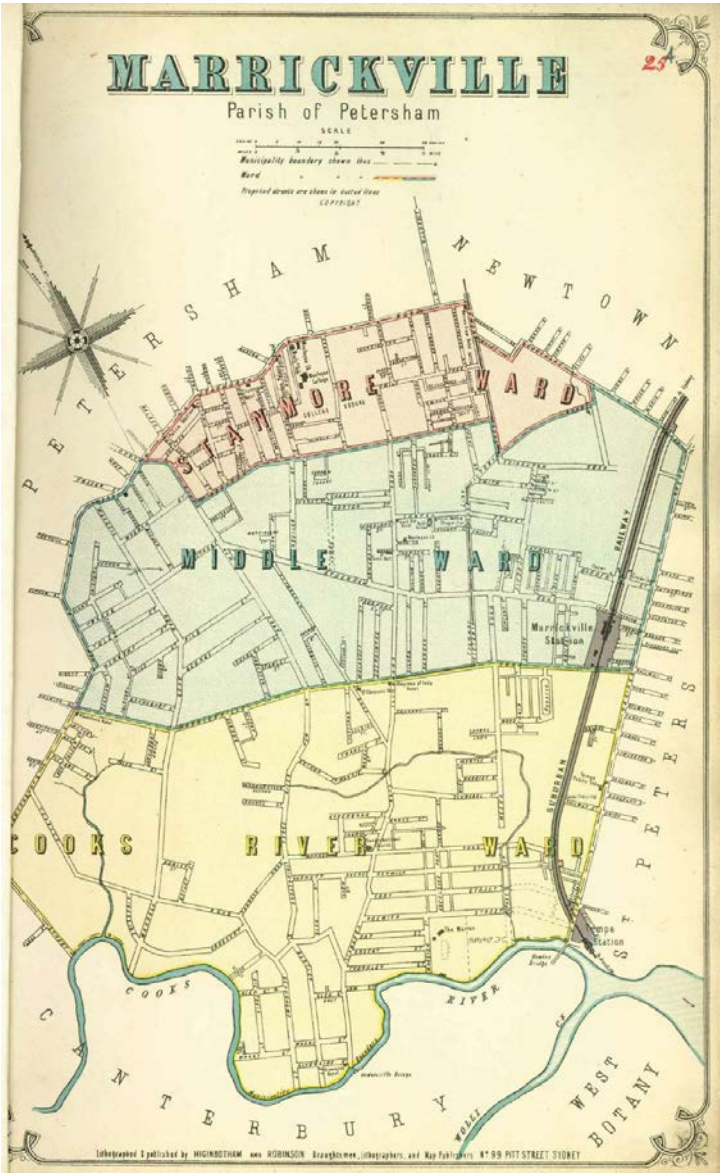
The Warren was built from stone quarried on the property and had 30 rooms, including a dining room which could seat 50 to 60 and a picture gallery 30 metres long and five metres wide. Schoolchildren were encouraged to come to the house to view the sculptures and paintings and to picnic in the grounds. Holt had burial vaults cut from the sandstone beside the river.

When Holt planned to return to England, he tried to sell the house to governor Augustus Loftus as his country residence, but the government acquired Hillview in the Southern Highlands for Loftus and his family instead. Eventually the house became a Carmelite convent, then during World War I it was used as an artillery camp. It was demolished in 1919 and Sir John Sulman was engaged to build a housing estate for returned soldiers on the site.

Cooks River Dam

Three months later The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser gave extensive copy to the issue, outlining in detail the reclamation plan for the 800 acres (3.2 kilometres sq) of mangrove swamps at the Cooks River dam. This plan had a threefold aim: to fix river sanitation, to create a navigable channel with deep water to enable vessels to reach the dam's government wharf and to create local work for the unemployed. Reclamation work began on the marshy land in December 1886 and soon 50-60 acres (20-24 hectares) had been cleared

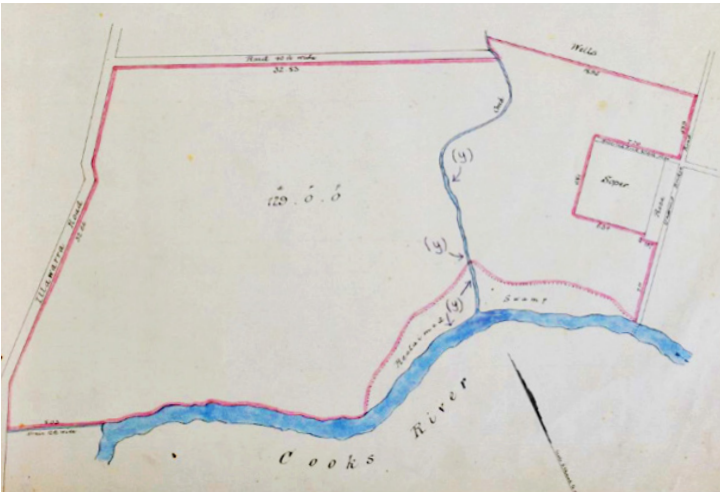
xx (NOTE: Acknowledgments to be confirmed)



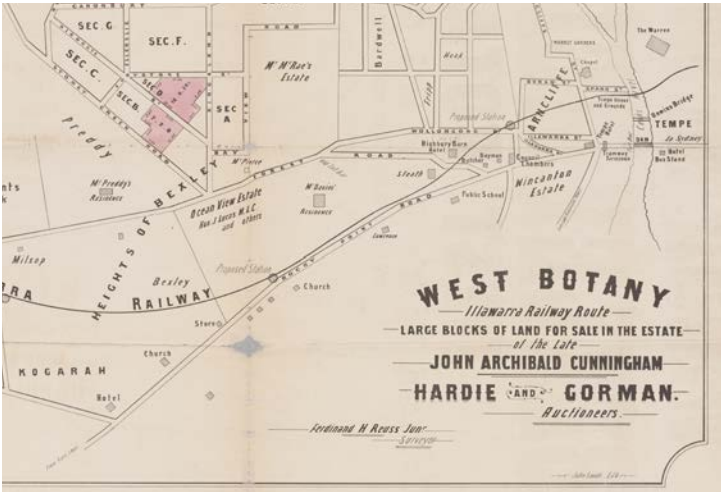
Tempe - Cooks River, January 22 1838, From the collections of the State Library of New South Wales [a996016 / PXC 295, 14] (Mitchell Library)



From the Warren, Botany in distance, 8 August 1883 , By Henry Grant Lloyd From the collections of the State Library of New South Wales [a5894074 / DL PX 42] (Dixon Library)



Map which appears on a Certificate of Title from 1864 when Holt purchased the land. Source: Marrickville Historical Society



West Botany, Illawarra Railway route: large blocks of land for sale in the estate of the late John Archibald Cunningham 1881, By Hardie & Gorman Pty Ltd Contributed By National Library of Australia [nla.map-lfsp340-s1]

under the supervision of Alfred Williams, the Assistant Engineer for Harbours and Rivers. It was believed that this work would transform the Cooks River flats into valuable areas. 120 men worked at the dam, with 35 others engaged cutting ti-tree for the embankments at Georges River. [33]

Although the dam's completion in 1842 gave a new solid transport link to the city, allowing a road to Illawarra through the forest (Forest Road), [22] it quickly caused problems of pollution and flooding. The river was said to flood every time there was a heavy downpour. After a rainy, windy night in April 1841, Spark wrote: 'the river has overflown the dam, and the whole of the lower ground is underwater.' [23] It was to flood many times over the next decades, causing destruction to property, poisoning of the river's rich marine life and creating menacing health hazards from the deposition of sewerage from cesspits.

The flood on Queen Victoria's 70th birthday on 24 May 1889 was memorable for the 17 inches (43.1 centimetres) of rain over one weekend, which caused the workmen and artisans of Tramvale estate to be rescued in rowing boats. Chinese market gardeners working terraces along the riverbanks became homeless after their houses were destroyed. [24]

The Sydney Morning Herald reported the deaths of a fare boy and four horses after George Coleman's omnibus containing passengers was dragged into the flooded river at Prout's bridge. The body of the fare boy was discovered the next day, 200 yards (182.8 metres) from the bridge, with his fare bag still attached to his body. [25] This flood was significant as it caused the river to rise as high as ten feet (three metres) above the Cooks River dam. [26]

The Cooks River Improvement Act of 1897 targeted the Cooks River dam but pollution and flooding continued unabated. [42] Finally a bridge with tide gates was constructed [43] and the Cooks River dam drew its last fetid breath when it was demolished between 1896 and 1899

The area now called Richardson Lookout, adjacent to Ferncourt Public School, sits on a knoll and is said to have been a significant vantage point for the local Aboriginal people³. This area affords district views to Botany Bay and the River catchment. Ferncourt Public School is also on this knoll and has a similar outlook.

Gumbramorra swamp

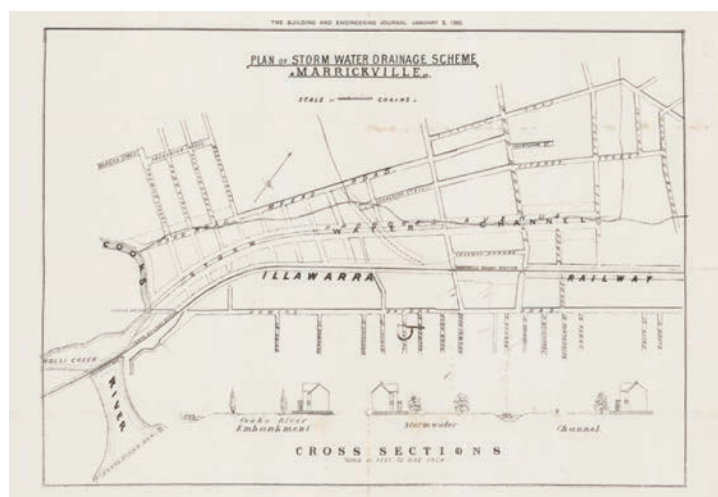
The previously mentioned Gumbramorra swamp was a natural boundary between Marrickville and what now comprises the suburbs of St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe. The swamp was almost always impassable.

After European settlement its role in the ecological system was not fully understood or appreciated, and the swamp was drained in the 1890s to facilitate the industrialisation of the suburb.

(NOTE: Acknowledgments to be confirmed)



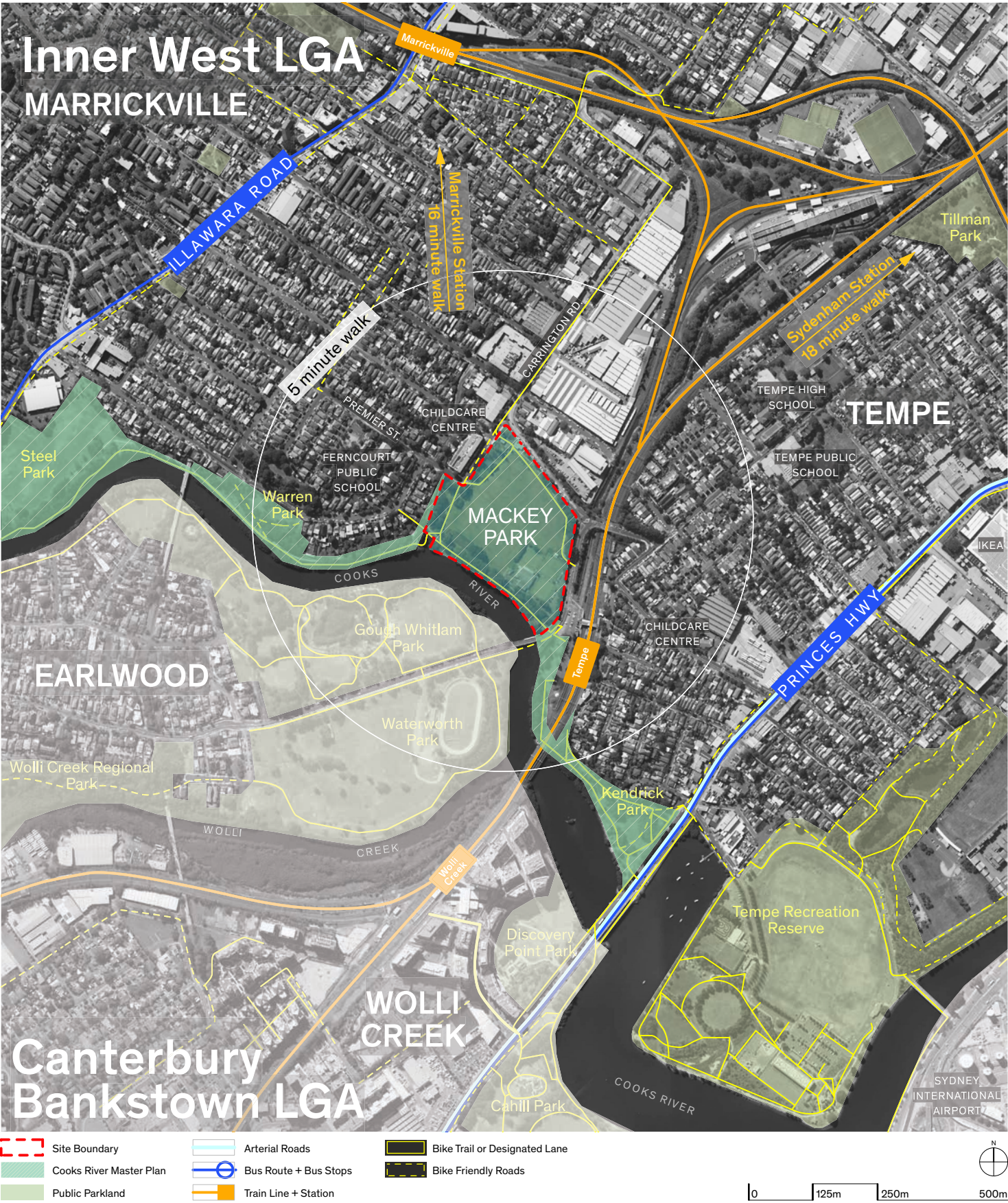
Artillery camp at The Warren, Marrickville during World War I, 1914-1918, Contributed By Flickr [Gosford Library MACD4/099] (CC BY-NC 2.0)



Stormwater cross sections from The Building and Engineering Journal 1892. Mackey Park site is at the top left



Patrons at the bar in the Concordia Club. Established in 1883, the club moved to its current location in Mackey Park in 2003. Image Source to be identified.



Neighbourhood Context

Local Character

Mackey Park is located in the south of Marrickville, neighbouring Tempe to the east, separated by the railway line. Tempe Station is located adjacent to the park, less than two minutes walk away. To the south, the Mackey Park has 280m of foreshore along the Cooks River. Following the river, the park is part of a larger network of green spaces within the Cooks River Parklands Masterplan. As part of this network, the park is within walking distance from Warren Park, Kendrick Park, as well as Gough Whitlam Park and Wentworth Park in Earlwood via a bridge over the river.

To the west, the Fencourt Public School and other childcare facilities sit amongst low density detached dwellings. These houses vary in style and period. North of the site, along Carington Road, large mixed-use warehouses form the urban landscape. Many of these are important to the history of the area.

A bohemian vibe has been cultivated and some say Marrickville is “the new Newtown”. Recently, Marrickville has been referred to as the number one emerging “Sydney hipster suburbs of 2017”, due to its youthful population, increasing numbers of liquor licences and numerous “foodie” eateries.

Major Roads

With its close proximity to the rail way, the park is not bound by any major roads. Princes Highway is located 600m to the south east. Illawara Road runs 750m to the north west.

Public Transport

Tempe Station, serviced by the T4 Line (Bondi Junction to Waterfall), sits to the south east corner of Mackey Park, within 2 minutes walk.

Bus services following Princes Highway and Illawara Road have stops within a 10 minute walking distance to the site.

These include:

- Bus Route 348, with stops from Wolli Creek to Prince of Wales Hospital
- Bus Route 422, with stops from Kogarah to Central Pitt St
- Bus Route 423/423X, with stops from Kingsgrove to Martin Place

Cycle Routes

The area is particularly well catered to cyclists as part of the Cooks River Parklands Masterplan. Only small breaks appear in a continuous network following the river. Mackey Park has bike friendly paths along three sides. Residential areas leading into Marrickville and Tempe lack specific paths for cyclists to connect residents to the Cooks River network.

Local Parklands

Following Cooks River to the west, Mackey Park joins Warren Park, just 5 minutes walk along the foreshore. Steel Park is located 5 minutes further along the river.

Crossing the river via Bayview Ave, the Gough Whitlam Park and Waterworth Park are also within a 5 minute walk. The Wolli Creek Regional Park links to Waterworth Park and follows the creek down to Kingsgrove in the south west.

To the south in Tempe, Kendrick Park is within 5 minutes walking distance, accessed along the foreshore, below the overhead train line. The Tempe Recreation Reserve is beyond Kendrick Park, to the south east.



Existing Conditions

Character

To the north of Mackey Park, the park is characterised by vast open space and sports. Along Carrington Road and Premier Street, large trees provide shade which creates spaces for relaxation and play.

The character of the foreshore contrasts the rest of the park. Densely planted trees frame a shady strip of scenic views over the river. Planting separates the foreshore from the sports field creating two vastly different conditions.

Built amenity in the park is in poor condition and does not reflect the pleasant character of the parks natural assets. Buildings in the park feel isolated from the surrounding environment.

Activity

The park 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 field is utilised for both summer and winter sports, soccer and cricket. With large sports clubs at Mackey park, the facilities are used to capacity.

The croquet lawns are used by Cooks River Croquet club and are in high demand.

The popular Concordia Club remains busy from members of ancillary sporting clubs in the park as well as members and guests visiting the park specifically for the club.

Furniture

Most furniture in Mackey Park is located within the picnic area to the northern corner of the park along Carrington Road. This furniture is in average condition, consisting of varying styles/materials. The picnic area includes a sheltered park bench, bbq, two uncovered picnic tables and a number of bench seats facing the playground and sports field.

The park has minimal furniture along the foreshore. Several bench seats in average condition are located along the foreshore pathway facing the river. No variation in seating types are offered.

Bins throughout the park are in fixed stainless steel sleeves with hoods and are in good condition. A number of additional wheelie bins used by the sports club are stored in a chain mesh storage cage alongside the entrance of the park from Richardsons Cres to the north. These bins consist of a combination of general waste and recycling bins. All fixed bins observed throughout the

park were general waste only.

Lighting

Lighting throughout the park is in poor condition and does not meet the needs of park users. The existing flood lighting to the sports fields requires an upgrade to provide adequate light for use by the sports clubs. The croquet lawns also lack suitable light for extended use.

The existing light poles along the foreshore pathway are infrequently placed and do not provide enough light for safety in the early morning/evening.

Approximately 12 smaller light poles follow the existing pathway along the north eastern boundary from Marrickville to Tempe Station. These light's provide very little light, creating unsafe conditions for users passing through the park outside of daylight hours.

Signage & Wayfinding

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

To the corner of Richardsons Cres and Carrington Road is an out-of-date park sign with the Marrickville Council logo.

A map of Cooks River Parklands is located on the foreshore path alongside the Canoe Club building. This sign is old and inconsistent with other signage throughout the park. The scale of the map does not clearly identify amenity in Mackey Park and its location does not promote users to utilise the park.

The park lacks a map or signage which directs users to park amenities, which are concealed from most aspects of the park.

There is signage indicating high pressure gas pipes below ground under the foreshore path. These signs are clear and in good condition.

Tree Cover + Planting

Multiple species of large trees flank the park boundaries. Along the Cooks River foreshore Poplar Trees, Populus

deltoides and scattered She-oak, Casuarina glauca, shade the pathway and popular picnic locations along the river.



Tree Cover & Understorey Planting



Existing Structures + Facilities



Lighting



Fence + Enclosure



Pedestrian Access Points & Existing Pathways



Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Carparking



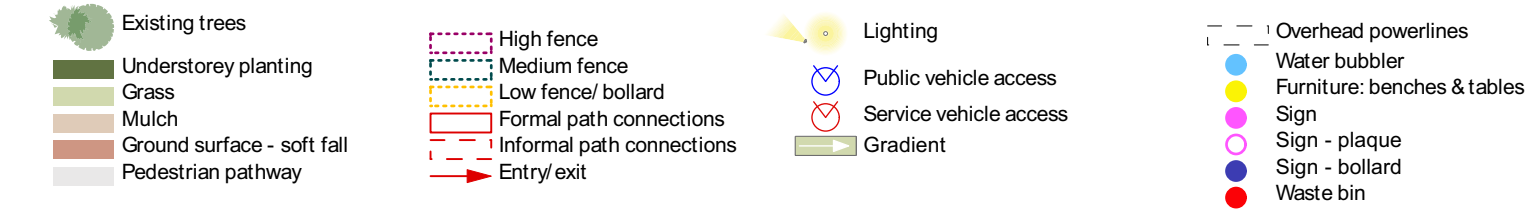
Sports + Recreation Grounds



Contours



Services



A narrow strip of trees follows an existing fence line between the Concordia Club and the foreshore. These trees include Umbrella Trees, Schefflera actinophylla and Oliander, Nerium oleander.

A strip of established trees and dense planting covers the embankment between the park and Richardsons Cres to the north eastern boundary. This planting screens the road beyond and acts as an accoustic buffer from noise pollution from the busy roadway.

To the west boundary of the site many species of established trees including Eucalyptus spp; Plane Trees, Platanus acerifolia; and Calistemon spp. provide shade and screening of the neighbourhood beyond.

Fauna Linkages

Despite the large trees throughout the site, there is an overall lack of understorey planting to provide habitat for more diverse wildlife. The strip of dense planting to the north eastern boundary provides low groundcover habitat but is disconnected from any greater network, bound by the road and open sports field.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

The existing concrete paths throughout the park are in good condition. A concrete apron wraps around the amenities building to the north to provide increased hardscaping at high traffic/ congregation areas.

The surface condition of the asphalt carpark in the southern corner is very poor.

Grass areas throughout the park are typically in good condition.

Playground equipment in the park is surrounded by an area of softfall which is in fair condition.

Services & Drainage

The site has ongoing drainage issues which have major implications on use of the fields by local sports clubs. Areas to the western boundary frequently flood as a result of localised rainfall. Flood water has implications on the playground area and onto the sports field, frequently impacting the two full sized sports fields.

High pressure gas and oil pipelines run along the foreshore alongside the existing foreshore pathway.

The centre of the park has underground electrical cables which provide power to floodlights in the centre of the open field.

Boundary Conditions

The park is bound by the Cooks River along the southern boarder. A low sandstone retaining wall separates the foreshore from the water. This wall is in varying condition, showing signs of dilapidation in some areas.

Towards Premier St to the west, a number of residential yards face the park following the stormwater channel. The grass area alongside the concrete drain is fenced with wire mesh fence and is in good condition.

The existing public toilets and sports club building sits to the north at the corner of Carrington Rd and Richardsons Cres. This building is very close to the road and lacks boundary fences at the entry to the public toilets.

Fencing along Richardsons Cres following the northern and eastern boundary is wire mesh and in poor condition.

The Concordia Club is bound by densely planted trees and a wire mesh fence in very poor condition.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

There is not a continuous loop in circulation around Mackey Park. The clubs and carpark to the south prohibit a connection point where a path should otherwise exist. Route of travel when leaving the park at the southern corner is convoluted and dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists heading towards Tempe Station and Kendrick Park.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

The capacity of the carpark at Mackey Park does not meet the demand of those who use it. The existing entrance from Richardsons Cres is also poorly positioned, with users finding it dangerous. At the corner of Premier and Carrington Rd, a locked gate is used for service vehicles to enter the park, but prohibits general cars.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

There is little evidence of park history throughout Mackey Park.

Public toilets, locked change rooms, clubhouse, canteen and storage space is consolidated into a building to the north of the park for MCC and MFC. This building is unattractive, inaccessible, uninclusive and does not meet the needs of the clubs who use it. An additional shipping container alongside this building provides extra storage.

The Concordia Club building to the south is also dilapidated and struggles to meet the needs of those who use it. The club offer function spaces and facilities to sports clubs as required, but the existing facilities are poor and require an upgrade.

The freestanding canoe Club building is in fair condition, but also requires ongoing upgrades and maintenance to serve the club effectively into the future.



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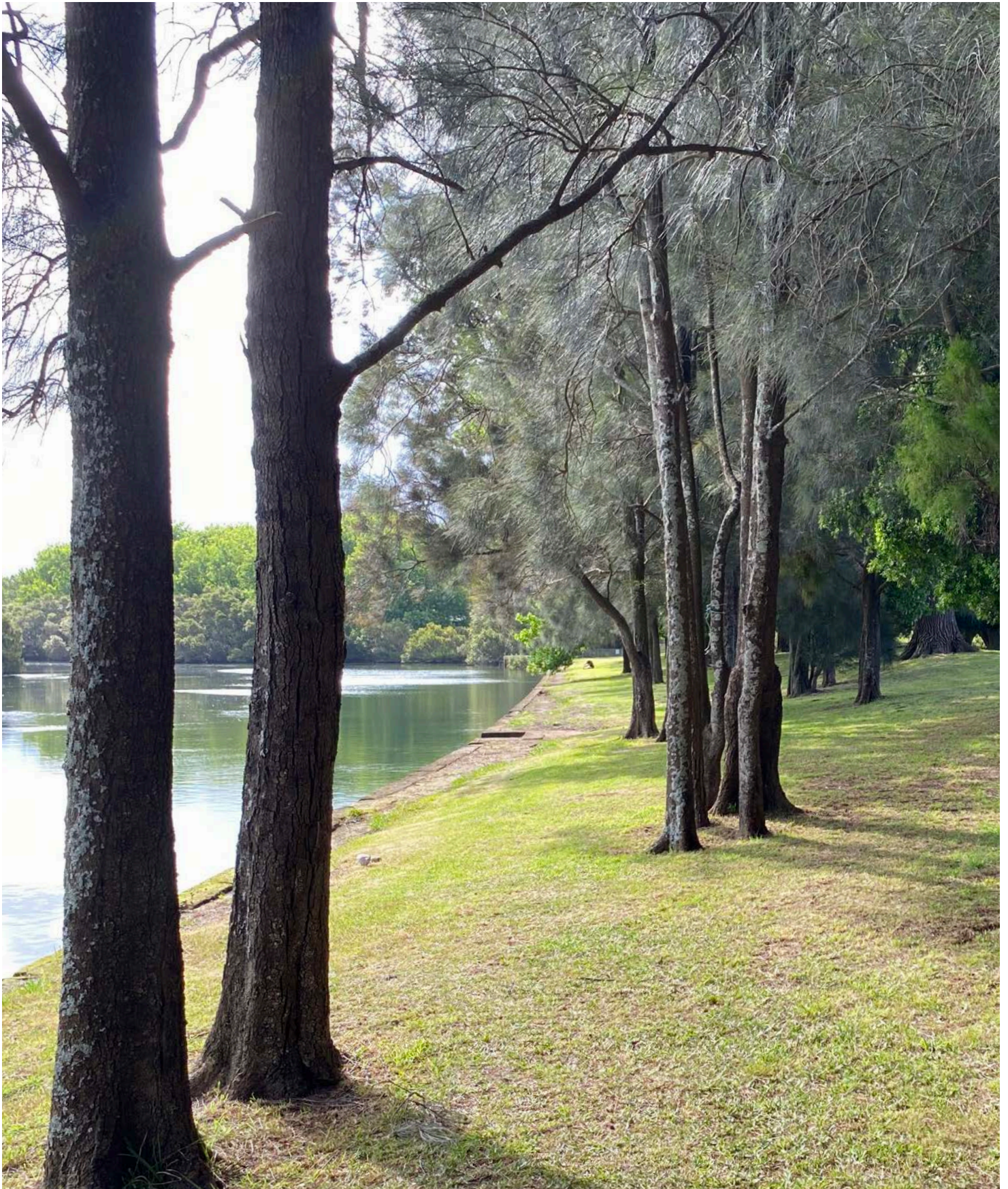
Constraints + Opportunities

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

There are opportunities to:

- Provide improved and accessible park amenities, with clear signage for casual park users.
- Upgrade club facilities for all sports clubs who use the park.
- Provide additional sporting facilities for park users in underutilised areas.
- Investigate solutions to drainage issues which frequently impact use of the facilities.
- Improve signage consistency throughout 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.
- Upgrade flood lighting to the sporting fields/lawns to maximise use of existing facilities.
- Upgrade path lighting along major thoroughfares to increase safety of users at night and early morning.
- Investigate options to screen and separate unattractive and smelly Sydney Water facilities which have negative impacts on the park and neighbouring houses.
- Increase biodiversity with extended understorey planting.
- Provide separation of club facilities from the busy road to the north for increased safety. Investigate planting options to screen park facilities from the road.
- Upgrade play areas to provide a diverse range of equipment for all age groups.
- Provide safety and amenity to playground areas for parents and children.
- Investigate areas to renaturalise the river foreshore to promote biodiversity and decrease pollutants into the river.
- Improve car parking for the benefit of park users and neighbours.

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).



View of Community Consultation in Progress. Photography by Welsh + Major.

Overview + Engagement Strategies

1.0 Summary

Inner West Council engaged the community on their enjoyment of Mackey Park, with a view to the preparation of a 10-year plan, which includes a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out with two drop-in sessions at Mackey Park and via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW).

1.1 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 council endorsement of the final document

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

The purpose of engagement was to establish key issues that the community have in relation to Mackey 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 and user posts
- Drop-in sessions held in the park

1.3 Promotion

The engagement initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- 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.

2.0 Engagement Outcomes

Outcomes of community engagement have been separated into feedback received at the drop-sessions and feedback received through the online survey.

The project page received 520 visits, with 101 visitors contributing to online forms + discussion.

2.1 Drop-in sessions

Inner West Council's held two drop in engagement sessions at Mackey Park, one on Saturday afternoon 10.09.22, 2pm-4pm, and the other on Saturday morning 17.09.22, 11am-1pm.

The material consisted of two A1 panels, which displayed an overall map of the park and some images of existing or proposed park features in order to prompt discussion.

2.2 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 graphs. Written responses have been themed to create word maps accompanied by summarised responses.

2.3 Online 'Share your visions'

The YSIW website also offered the opportunity for members of the community to post a public comment on the page, to which other users could like, dislike and comment in response. Posts to the page have been collated and summarised in this document.

2.4 Stakeholder meetings

Input was sought from a number of key stakeholders who are currently involved with Mackey Park. Stakeholders were invited to submit written responses to Mackey Park planning as well as voicing concerns at a meeting conducted by Council on Oct 12, 2022. These stakeholders included:

- Croquet NSW
- Cooks River Croquet Club
- Cooks River Canoe Club
- Marrickville Cricket Club (MCC)
- Marrickville Football Club (MFC)
- Concordia Club

2.1 Drop In Sessions

Overview

To engage park users during the drop-in sessions, two A1 sized printed boards were used. The first panel highlighted with labels the existing features of the park, shown on a map. The second panel presented eight image prompts of both existing and proposed features of the park. Park visitors were asked to identify the facilities and areas they liked the most, and which facilities and areas they felt had room for improvement, through coloured stickers on the panels. Further comments were welcomed through post-it-notes on the panels and A4 forms which participants could fill in.

The sessions were productive with a number of park visitors approaching the team and engaging with the material to have their say. The comments have been themed and are presented without hierarchy.

Have your say on 10 - year plans for Mackey Park

- What facilities / areas of the park do you like most?
put a red sticker on the map
- Where are there opportunities for improvements in the park?
put a green sticker on the map
- I'd like to make a comment about this facility
put a yellow sticker on the map + your comments on a post-it



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put a yellow sticker on the map + your comments on a post-it



2.1 Drop In Sessions

Outcomes

Community feedback has been themed for ease of reference:

Biodiversity

- Users made comments about the significance of the large existing trees and requested that tree cover be maintained or increased.
- A number of users were keen to see the foreshore re-naturalised in areas to alleviate drainage issues and promote plant and animal life.
- One user suggested to reinstate the native hedge around the Concordia Club to promote bird life. Other users were also keen to see habitat for birds increased throughout the park.
- Some users commented on rubbish in the parks waterways and other concerns about the look, smell and function of the drainage channel to the west.
- Users expressed desire to see more native planting and tree species throughout the park. One user suggested 'bush tucker' species specifically.

Movement and parking

- Some users highlighted safety concerns at entry points of the park related to traffic management. Residents sought improvements at the south eastern corner of the park, where the pathway crosses Richardsons Cres.
- Users had concerns about parking congestion and the lack of a drop off area on Carrington Rd.
- Some users suggested a separated cycle path and pedestrian path along the Cooks River foreshore.
- Users felt the pathways around the perimeter were inconsistent and broken, suggesting a wide unified pathway around the park.
- Some users raised concern about the poor surface condition and insufficient capacity of the existing car park to the south corner of the park.
- Users wondered if it were possible to have vehicular access down to the canoe club.

Recreational use

- Users requested lighting, safety and access improvements to enable early morning and evening use, particularly along the foreshore and path along Richardsons Cres.
- One user suggested a designated off-leash dog area.

- There was small support for outdoor fitness equipment throughout the park.
- Users saw opportunity to connect the Concordia Club with the rest of the park. One user suggested the southern fence be removed and other felt the club could open to the park at the rear.
- There was suggestion that the existing playground needed replacing. Users raised drainage issues which frequently have implications on the playground.
- Some users wanted to see increased diversity in types of play equipment offered, including nature play style items.
- There was a suggestion to have some play equipment closer to the Concordia Club and foreshore.
- One user suggested a water play space in the park.
- Having a bookable multi-purpose community space alongside the river was suggested.

Playing fields and organised sport

- The dilapidated fencing around the croquet lawns were raised by the community.
- There was a push for cricket nets on site for training and recreational use.
- Comments were made to improve the overall aesthetic of sporting facilities.

Lighting

- A number of users wanted to see improvements to lighting along perimeter pathways for night time use and thoroughfare.
- Users expressed concern about the strength of the floodlights not being adequate for competitive sports games at night.

Facilities and furniture

- Users wanted to see more bins throughout the park, specifically bins with dog poo bag dispensers.
- One user requested for an upgraded bubbler with an integrated dog bowl and tap.
- One user suggested new park furniture and BBQ are should be located along the foreshore.
- Some users wanted more structured picnic space and sheltered seating areas throughout the park.

2.2 Online Survey

Overview

An online survey was conducted in September and October 2022 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Mackey Park. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for five weeks from 05.09.22 to 12.10.22.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in graphs and word cloud diagrams below. Text based responses to the essay style questions have been grouped into themes, and issues which featured the most prominently have been summarised below.

Of all participants to the site, 83 submissions were made to the online survey. Participants could choose to skip questions if they preferred. The percentage of participants who answered the question is stated alongside the figure diagrams throughout this document.

Demographics of Participants

Q1: Age Group

See figure 1

Of the 83 participants who contributed to the online survey only one was below 18 years of age and no contributions were made by persons between 18-24 years old. The 25-34 age bracket was also smaller in comparison, contributing to only 5% of members. 35-74 year olds held the majority of contributions, with the largest bracket specifically 45-54 year olds at 32% of the total number of participants. One contributor preferred not to state their age.

Q2: Gender

See figure 2

39 participants, 47%, identified as female, while 42, 50.6%, identified as male. No participants identified themselves as non-binary, although one user stated that they use different pronouns. One user preferred not to comment on gender.

Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

See figure 3

All participants answered no to identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

See figure 4

When asked about disability status, 3 users, 3.6%, identified as having a disability. One person preferred not to say and the other 80 users answered no.

Q5: Suburb

See figure 5

Participants were asked to state their suburb/place of residence in the survey. Five people opted to skip this question. Of the 78 responses, the majority, 45% of users, were from Marrickville. Tempe, at 8%, was the second largest bracket of users, followed by Newtown and Stanmore. Users from neighbouring suburbs made contributions, as well as a number of users from outside of Sydney.

Q6: How do you get to Mackey Park?

See figure 6

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, but allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable. 6 people surveyed skipped this question.

The majority of park users who were surveyed drive to Mackey Park as their primary mode of transport, 61%. Walking to the park was the second highest result with 51%. 25% of respondents cycle to the park and 11% run. Only 7 people surveyed, 9%, use public transport to get to the park. Less than 3% identified another means of transport to travel to the park.

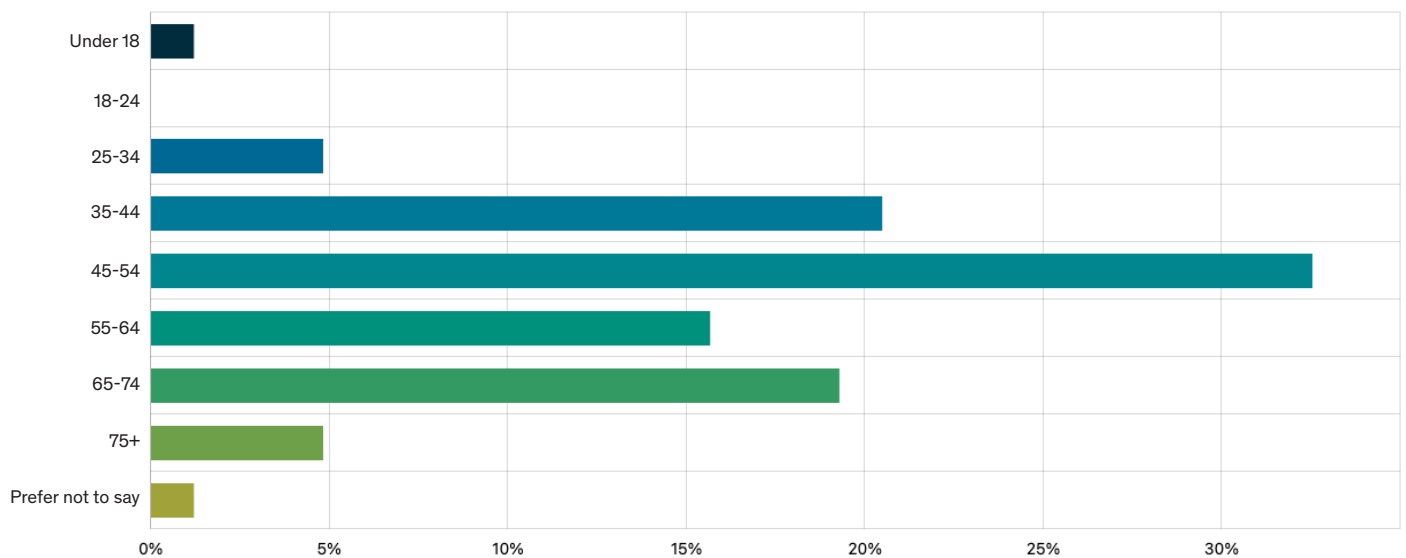
Q7: How often do you visit Mackey Park?

See figure 7

Most surveyed users frequently visit Mackey Park. Of the 77 users who answered this question, 30 people, 39%, visit the park daily or several times a week. An additional 30 users visit weekly. 14% of users found themselves at Mackey Park a few times a month, while 8% rarely visit.

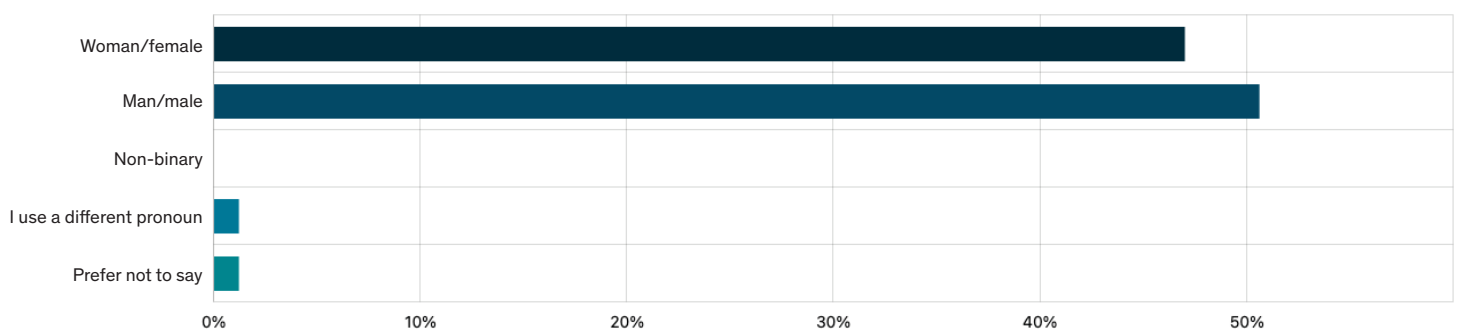
Q1: Age Group

Figure 1. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 83 (100%)



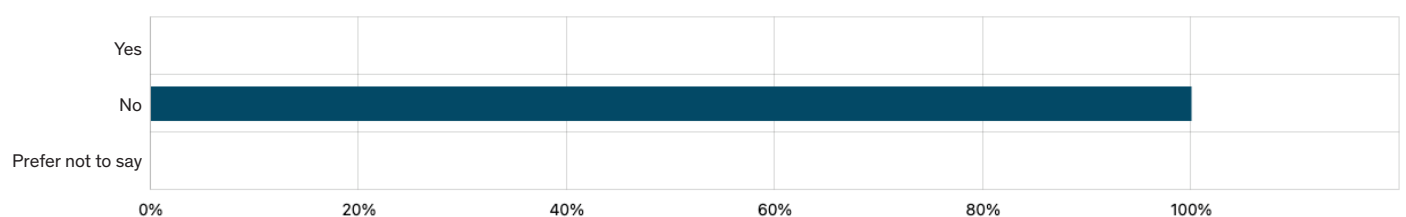
Q2: Gender

Figure 2. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 83 (100%)



Q3: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

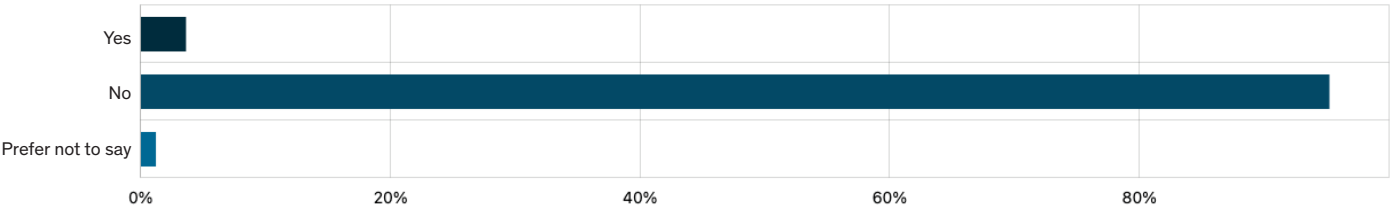
Figure 3. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 83 (100%)



2.2 Online Survey

Q4: Do you identify as having a disability?

Figure 4. Skipped: 0 | Answered: 83 (100%)



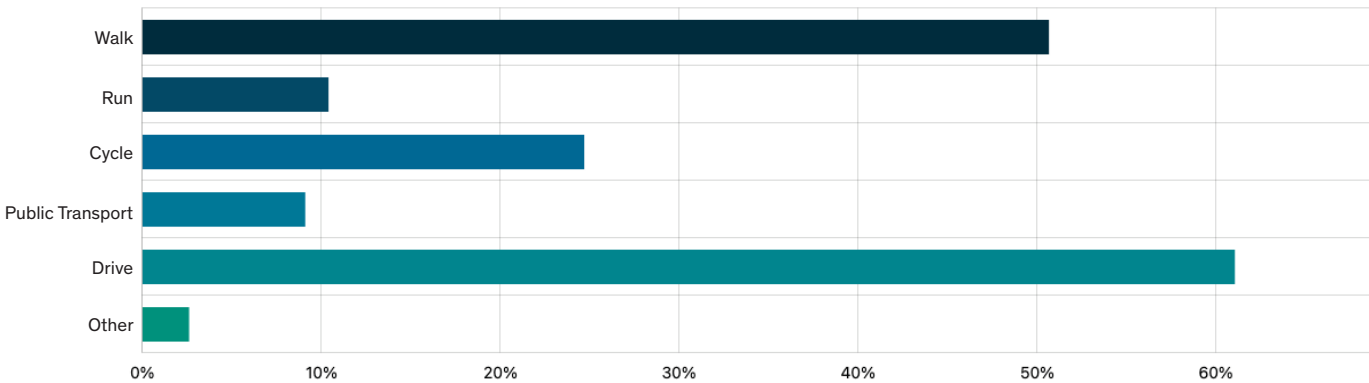
Q5: Suburb

Figure 5. Skipped: 5 | Answered: 78 (93.98%)



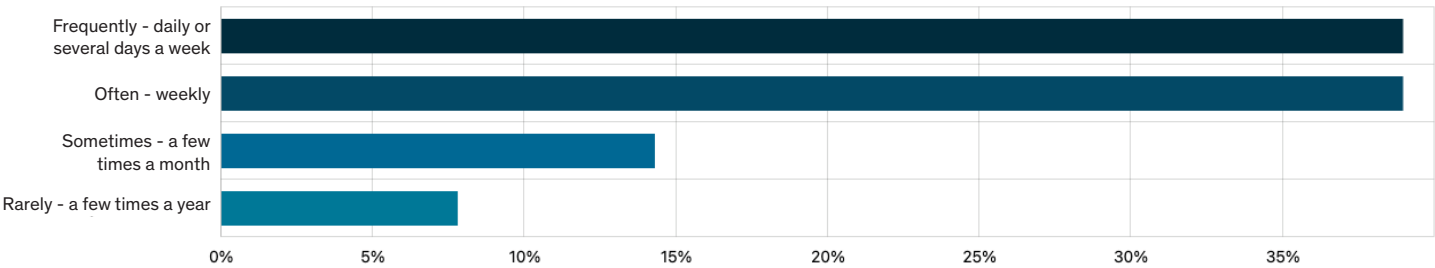
Q6: How do you get to Mackey Park?

Figure 6. Skipped: 6 | Answered: 77 (92.77%)



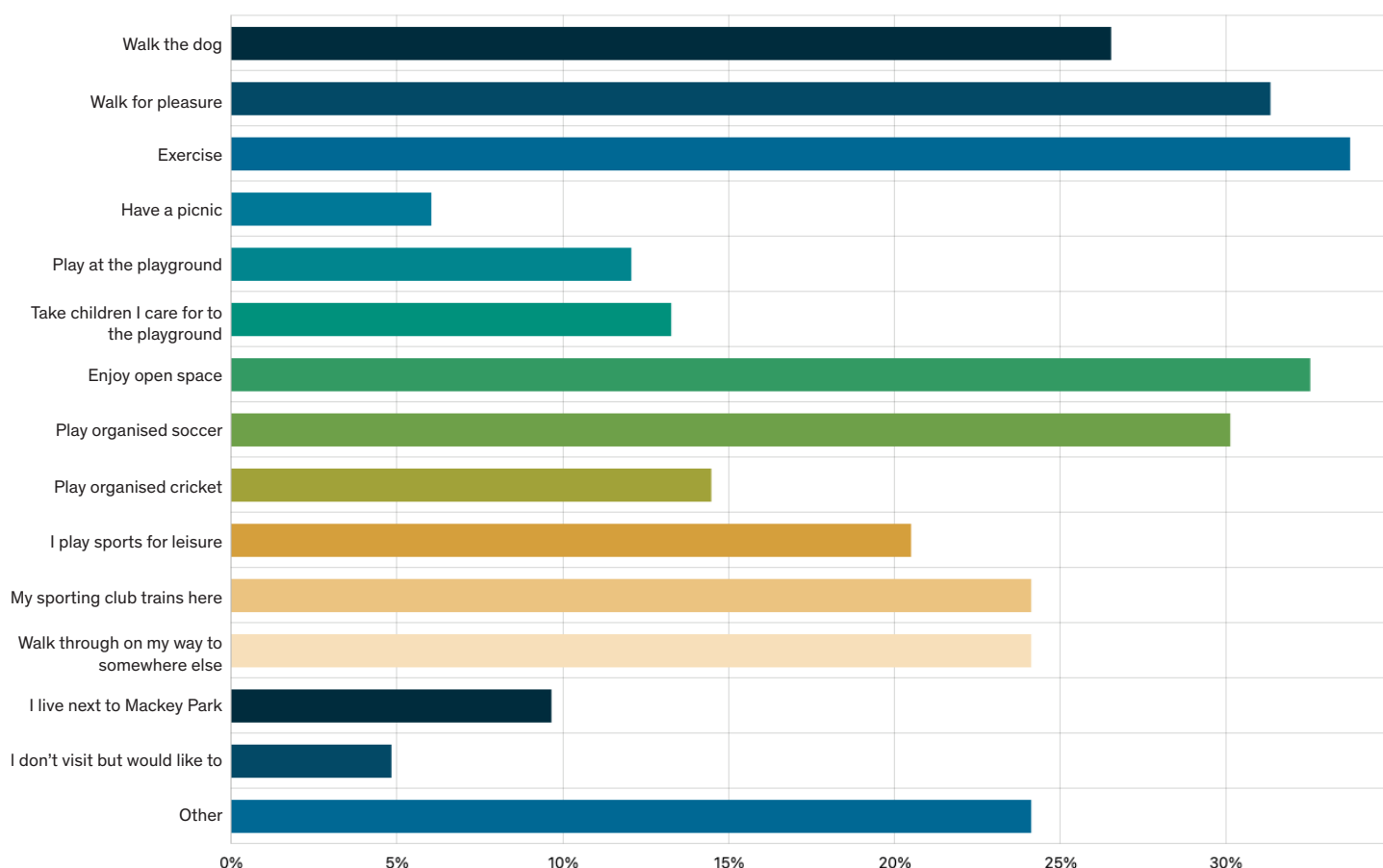
Q7: How often do you visit Mackey Park?

Figure 7. Skipped: 6 | Answered: 77 (92.77%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Mackey Park?

Figure 8. Skipped: 0 / Answered: 83 (100%)



Q8: What are the main reasons you visit Mackey Park?

See figure 8

Responses to this question were gathered in a multiple choice format, but allowed users to select multiple answers if applicable. On average, each user selected three responses to the question, highlighting the diversity of park use + activity.

The most frequently recorded answer was 'Exercise' at 34% of surveyed users. To 'Enjoy open space' was the second highest at 32.5%. Walking for pleasure, 31%, and walking the dog, 26.5%, were also common answers.

Many users also identified organised sports as a reason to visit the park. Approximately half as many surveyed users currently visit the park for organised cricket as they do soccer.

24% of users used the park as a thoroughfare on their way to somewhere else. Almost 10% identified that they use the park due to its close proximity to their home. 24% of the pool selected another purpose for visiting the park.

2.2 Online Survey

Q9: What stops you from visiting Mackey Park?

See figure 9

The first essay style question received only four responses, with 79 users opting to skip the question. As highlighted in the stark word map, the answer of all four respondents was the lack of cricket nets in the park. These four users identified that the lack of cricket nets forced them to go elsewhere, despite Mackey Park being more convenient for them.

Q10: Please describe what you value about Mackey Park, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

See figure 10

Most participants engagement with this question, many of whom left thorough responses and highlighted a number of positive attributes of the park within their responses. As highlighted in the word map, 'Open Green Space' was identified as the parks biggest asset. Other comments with reference to the parks environmental character were common.

- Users valued the open space and diversity of activities offered within the park;
- The family friendly character of the park;
- The croquet club and significance of the lawns to the local club and CNSW;
- The Concordia Club;
- The connection of the park to the Cooks River and the ability of the park to maintain and restore the shoreline;
- Biodiversity in the park, particularly the plant and animal life which flourishes alongside the river;
- Convenience of getting to the park by car and also public transport;
- Shade provided by large existing trees;
- Sense of local community;
- Connection to Country and celebration of the site's Aboriginal history;
- It's connection to the existing network of paths and green spaces along the Cooks River. As such, the pathways for passive exercise including walking, running and cycling;
- Social interactions with dogs, their owners and the community;
- Cricket in the park and the affiliation of the park with the Marrickville Cricket Club;
- Organised sports for the well-being of the community;
- Affiliation with the Marrickville Football Club.

Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Figure 11

Successful aspects of Mackey Park were highlighted by responses to this question:

- All users feel safe when they visit Mackey Park during the day;
- 85% of users think Mackey Park is easy to walk around;
- The majority of users, 92%, feel apart of the community when they visit.
- 80% of users agreed that the park has a nice character;
- 75% of users agreed that Mackey Park catered to all ages.

Less successful aspects of Blackmore Oval were also highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day;
- Only 42% of users agreed that it's easy to find information about Mackey Park, many users felt unsure about the question or disagreed.
- Only 50% of users felt as though Mackey Park meets the needs of the community.
- Only 52% felt that the park was well maintained.

Q12: What don't you like about Mackey Park?

See figure 12

- Drainage issues which impact organised sports during periods of rain;
- Vehicular access into the club carparking difficult during heavy traffic;
- Lack of parking capacity during bust periods;
- Surface condition of the carpark;
- The disconnection of the Concordia Club from the rest of the park and the unattractive rear of the club which faces the park;
- Conflicts between different sports users;
- Poor quality of the Concordia Club building;
- Poor quality of park toilet facilities and the lack of visibility of the toilets from the playground;
- Build up of rubbish and smell at stormwater channel into the Cook River;
- Lack of lighting servicing the croquet lawns;

Q9: What stops you from visiting Mackey Park?

Figure 9. Skipped: 79 | Answered: 4 (4.82%)

Lack of Cricket Nets

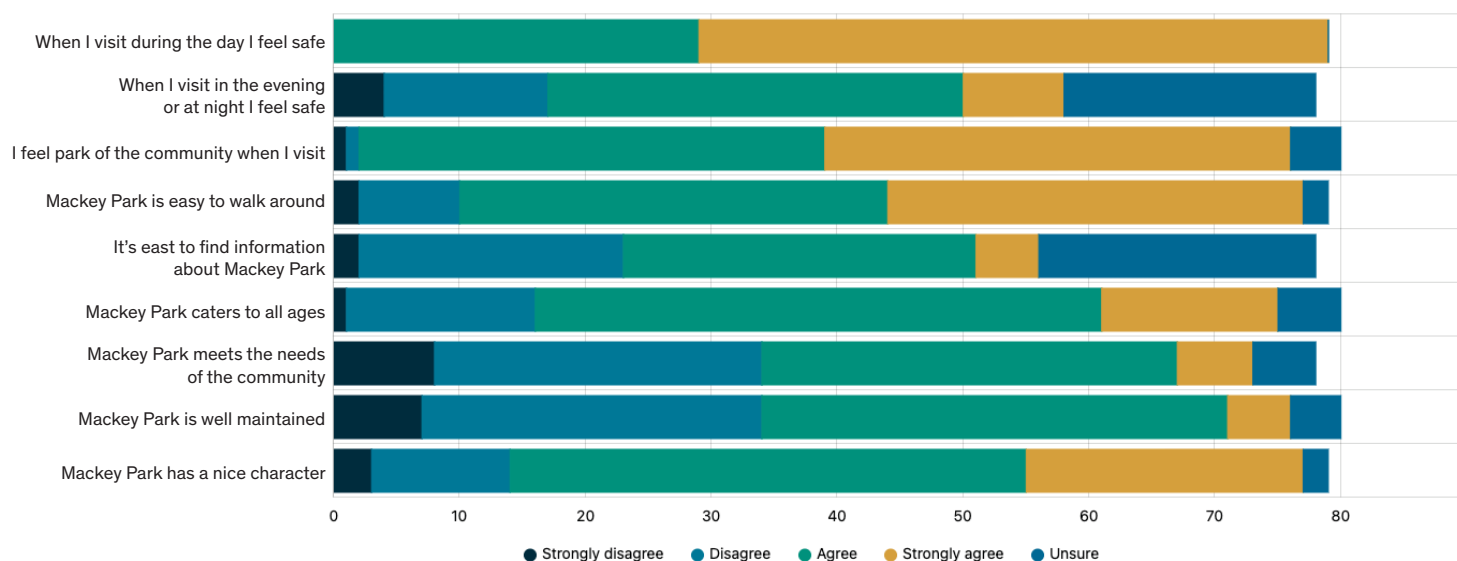
Q10: Please describe what you value about Mackey Park, e.g. what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.

Figure 10. Skipped: 7 | Answered: 76 (91.57%)



Q11: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Figure 11. Skipped: 3 | Answered: 80 (96.39%)



2.2 Online Survey

- Lack of lighting along the path to the north east boundary of the park and the safety implications on that pathway at night;
- Strict dog leash rules, even outside of scheduled sport usage;
- Passive use of the park becomes difficult during peak sporting periods;
- Poor access into and from the park for pedestrians, specifically persons with limited mobility/prams.
- Convoluted crossing to Tempe at the southern corner of the park;
- Lack of cricket nets in the park;
- Unattractive Sydney Water site adjacent to the playground area;
- Overall disconnection between park infrastructure;
- Lack of clear signage;
- Rubbish left in the park;
- One defibrillator unit is inadequate in a park of this scale;
- Lack of diversity in playground equipment, specifically equipment catering to older kids;
- Condition of the cricket pitch;
- Small sports club house and lack of cover surrounding the club house;
- Lack of lighting, furniture and bins along the foreshore;
- Sports spectators encroaching onto and sitting on pedestrian pathways;
- Lack of planting;
- Lack of storage for sports club;
- Embracing the waters edge and reinstating natural mangrove shorelines to parts of the foreshore.
- Exploring solutions to improve condition of the sports field which don't add artificial lawns to the park which impact biodiversity;
- More amenity along the river, including dog poo bag dispensers;
- Improve pedestrian access into the park;
- Improve lighting throughout
- Integrating the Concordia Club into the park
- Protect and increase existing shade and native planting throughout the park;
- Add cricket nets to the park;
- Signage which reflects the history of the site;
- Promoting creative community outlets;
- Covered seating for spectators.

Q13: What should be the main priority for the park?

see figure 13

- Improvements which benefit the whole community who use the park;
- Maintaining and increasing social aspects and family friendly values of the park;
- Increased parking for busy periods;
- Improved sporting facilities and buildings;
- Improve the look and function of the stormwater channel. Consider naturalising the channel opening;
- Implementing sustainable design decisions in the park;
- Investigating toilet facilities closer to the river;
- Expansion of the croquet club, including lighting for use at night;

Q14: Do you have any other comments about Mackey Park?

See figure 14

- Open space should not be overdeveloped;
- Could have a boat ramp near the Canoe Club;
- Would be great to see these trees protected and maintained with new trees planted where the older ones have not survived;
- User requested garden landscaping as per Mahoney Oval;
- There are many solutions to assist drainage in the park. I don't believe plastic turf is one of these. I hope IWC will explore alternative solutions so that everyone's happy;
- Give the Cooks River Croquet Club responsibility for the area rather than Croquet NSW;
- Bodyweight and gymnastic exercise stations!
- Could be more planting in the park;
- Please install a basketball court!
- Toilets could do with an upgrade;
- Entry points to the park are poorly defined, they need to be made into pleasant well defined entry portals;
- More water fountains would also be good with inbuilt dog bowls;
- There should be more support provided to community sporting clubs.

2.3 Share Your Visions

Overview

The Community were also encouraged to make a post on the YSIW website. These posts, in the structure of a social media platform, could be liked and commented on to encourage community members to engage with one others views on the park.

The page received 26 posts which received a number of likes/ comments from other users. The outcomes of the ‘Shared Visions’ for Mackey Park are summarised below:

Outcomes

“Drainage and no artificial turf”

This post compelled against a synthetic sports field as a solution to drainage issues, due to the negative implications it would have on the Cooks River eco-system.

“Off leash dog Park”

This post highlighted the opportunity for dog rules to allow off-leash activities outside of organised sporting use, in contrast to the current on-leash rules. The user also requested more dog poo bag dispensers to promote users to keep the park clean. One user liked this post and another commented in agreement.

“No synthetic grass please”

This post highlights the impacts of synthetic turf on the wetland environment. It urges against making such a drastic change to the site, only for the interest of one user group. Two likes and a comment support the post.

“Play in style”

This user referenced Marrickville Oval as a precedent for what Mackey Park could be. They suggested cricket nets, upgrades to sporting facilities and new planting and public art. Two people liked this post.

“Mackey park”

This user urges council to consider a synthetic field, due to the reduced maintenance and longevity of the field. They comment that it would serve the ever growing football community for years to come.

“Shaded green space and Community gardens”

This user argues that we should prioritise community gardens and shaded green spaces, not just sports fields for the few who wish only to play sport. Two users liked this post.

“The unfinished Mackey Park wetland”

This post urges council to complete the regeneration of the natural wetlands as per the Cooks River Masterplan, by extending the existing fenced garden.

“Skatepark”

This user posted to request a skatepark alongside the Concordia club. One user liked and another disliked the post.

“Drainage”

This highlights the impacts of drainage issues on local sports and requests additional parking to relieve parking congestion for locals, during sporting events. Two people liked the post.

“Pathway”

The user posted to highlight their concern of safety due to the lack of path beyond the playground following Carrington Road.

“Lighting and River Frontage”

This user suggests additional lighting along footpaths for the safety of users at night. They raise concerns of the impact a



Lighting and River Frontage

Posted by AndyL | a month ago

Mackey Park is a great amenity for many people living in the area. I think that more could be done to make it accessible at all times. Better lighting on paths around and park and alongside the river would go a long way to making people other than confident blokes like myself able to use the area at night. We should remember that the park does front onto a river. So any change in the grass make-up could affect the biodiversity of the area and the Cooks river. For that reason, I'd say don't...

5 Likes 0 Comments

synthetic field will have on the local environment and push for rejuvenated wetland areas. Five people liked this post.

“Lighting and Amenity”

This user comments that lighting along the perimeter and river path is required 24/7 for the safety of users. The user also requests additional seating and fencing towards the playground area and raises concern about the unsightly Sydney Water pump station site. Three other users liked the post.

“Parking, child-safe drop off, quagmire play area, awful utility structures.”

The post requests additional short term parking options and a drop off zone on Carrington Road, in response to current parking congestion. The post highlights the implications of drainage issues on the playground area. It also suggests public art or planting be used to screen the Sydney Water pump station.

“Shared Grass and Synthetic”

This post suggested that a combination of natural grass and synthetic field would be the best outcome for the longevity of sports use while keeping some natural areas for the local environment. The post received two likes and one dislike.

“Dangerous Parking & Flooding”

This post draws to light dangerous traffic conditions along Carrington Rd and Premiere St due to organised sports, as well as the drainage issues frequently impacting the park and surrounding areas. The post received a like from another user.

“Parking?”

This users shares that they are frequently held up trying to find a park during sporting games, requesting additional car parking.

“Paddling on Cooks River”

A user from The Mulletts canoe club, raises concern of ongoing rubbish in the waterways, advocating for various groups within the park to become involved in the maintenance of the waters edge. The post suggests more bins in the park, with information to help users dispose of rubbish properly. The user does not believe a synthetic field would be beneficial to the park due to its affect on the environment. Five people liked the post.

“Greenspace (with less mud!)”

This user does not believe that a synthetic field would solve the more pressing drainage issues on site. The user suggests the drainage issues be looked. Four people liked the post.

“We love Mackey”

This user urges against synthetic fields due to the environmental costs, but does see a huge need for development of sporting facilities within the park.

“Field upgrades desperately needed”

This users suggests synthetic fields as the best way to ensure fields are optimised and young people remain active. Three people liked and two disliked the post.

“Drainage”

This post places drainage as the number one priority for the park and suggests that a synthetic field or two might be a solution. One user disliked the post.

“Get synthetic field asap!”

This post calls for a synthetic field to reduce impacts of rain on games and injuries of players as a result of holes/uneven surface conditions of the fields. Three users disliked the post.

“Field markings”

This post raises the issue that fields are marked too closely together, causing overlap and safety issues.

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“Field markings”

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“Ground Surface issues”

This user suggests a synthetic field as necessary to ensure sporting use during rain. It also calls for additional undercover areas for spectators and park users. The post received one like and one dislike.

“Improvements to Mackey Park”

This post calls for a synthetic field and upgraded toilet/changing facilities in the park. The post received one dislike.

“Condition of sporting grounds”

This post comments on the drainage issues and condition of the fields, highlighting the unfair implications these issues have on players. Two other users liked the post.

2.4 Other Input

Input was sought from a number of key stakeholders who are currently involved with Mackey Park. Stakeholders were invited to submit written responses to Mackey Park planning as well as voicing concerns at a meeting conducted by Council on Oct 12, 2022. These stakeholders included:

- Croquet NSW
- Cooks River Croquet Club
- Cooks River Canoe Club
- Marrickville Cricket Club (MCC)
- Marrickville Football Club (MFC)
- Concordia Club

Croquet NSW (CNSW)

Croquet NSW has had its headquarters at MacKey Park for almost 30 years, since 1993. In 2022 membership comprised of over 3,000 players in 67 clubs throughout the state. Croquet NSW has made significant investment in the Mackey Park croquet lawns to convert them from unused bowling greens into the best competition quality venue for croquet in the State. They continue to fund improvements to the lawns and their surrounds, and work together with Cooks River Croquet Club to maintain and improve the venue for Croquet at all levels.

The club is looking to renew a 10 year licence on the grounds, with the following comments for improvement:

- New multi-user Clubhouse with the capacity for competition players, training seminars, meetings, as well as social functions and events. The club is happy to share facilities with other clubs and organisations so long as it meets their specific needs.
- Improvements to signage: signage for croquet on the corner of Richardsons Crescent, as well as on the street opposite Tempe Station.
- Directions for soccer and cricket players to pathway along Richardson's Crescent.
- Good quality fence between croquet lawns and soccer field. Could be mesh fence with plantings along the edge or upgrade existing fence.
- Improvements to carpark on Richardson's Crescent, to make it safer to drive in, and ideally to accommodate additional vehicles. The carpark is used by the players and officials participating in Tournaments, by Club members

and other visitors. The lawns are available from 7am until 6pm (or later with lights) seven days per week.

- Improved accessibility into buildings + facilities associated with the croquet club.

Cooks River Croquet Club

The Cooks River Croquet Club share the four existing croquet lawns with CNSW. The club also have a long history at Mackey Park and seek to renew their lease at the park. The following comments were presented by the club for Mackey Park planning:

- More access to the lawns for the rapidly expanding club.
- Flood lighting to the lawns to allow extended hours of use and improve participation.
- Access to a clubroom. Happily shared with other clubs at Mackey Park.

Cooks River Canoe Club

- Club is keen to see a reorientation of the park and park assets towards the river, with more seating arrangements, water bubblers, bike facilities and landscaping along the foreshore.
- Address ugly broken fence which disconnects the canoe club from other park clubs.
- Address the dilapidating stone river wall through re-naturalisation of areas of foreshore.
- Address litter in the river and introduce recycling throughout the park.
- Upgrades to carpark surface.
- Upgrades to public toilets in the park.
- Better access to Tempe station and Kendrick Park.
- Increased public art strategy along the river, connected to greater park network.
- Increase safety of users with improved access to canoe club and reduced speed of bike path along foreshore.
- Ongoing improvements to the clubhouse.

Marrickville Cricket Club (MCC)

- Retain the centre wicket so that cricket matches can

continue to be played at Mackey Park.

- Upgrade the drainage at Mackey Park so that fewer matches are lost to wet weather
- Install 3 or 4 cricket nets for training, particularly to support the development of junior players.
- Develop a shared sports club and a storage facility for use by Marrickville Cricket Club and other sport and recreation clubs that use Mackey Park.
- Upgrade the toilets at Mackey Park.

Marrickville Football Club (MFC)

- The MFC suggest a retractable fence between the sports field and croquet lawns.
- Address drainage issues, particularly bad at corner or Carrington Rd and Richardsons Cres.
- Requests a drop off 'kiss and drive' area for parents dropping players to the park.
- Improve lighting along path connecting the existing club to the Concordia club, along the north eastern boundary.
- Existing toilets are hard to find and in a poor condition.
- Lack of recreational seating throughout the park.
- Club rooms are not inclusive or accessible.
- New clubhouse needed to replace existing. MFC is happy to share a club space with other users of Mackey Park.
- Upgrades to floodlighting required.

Concordia Club

The German Concordia Club has an ongoing history at Mackey Park. The club hosts over 2000 German speaking members. Club suggestions for the planning of Mackey Park include:

- More play spaces for children and older kids throughout the park, particularly within close proximity to the club and river foreshore.
- Increased connection between the club and the river. The club would be happy to see the existing boundary fence removed on the river side.
- Upgrades to existing car park to increase surface condition and possibly increase capacity.