

# PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTER PLAN

PETERSHAM PARK

JANUARY 2023

REVISION F





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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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Front cover image: View towards the rotunda  
Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



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# Document Control

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DATE:	REVISION NO:	REVISION DETAILS:	APPROVED:
25/08/20	-	Draft issue for client review	DW
16/02/21	A	Updated to reflect client comments Draft issue for client review / exhibition	DW
19/08/21	B	Draft for Public Exhibition	AC
16/02/22	C	Draft for Crown Lands	AC
29/04/22	D	Final review for Crown Lands approval	DW
14/10/2022	E	Crown Lands comments incorporated into document	DW
20/01/2023	F	Additional Crown Lands comments / clarifications incorporated into document	DW



# Introduction + Executive Summary

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

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

*This document contains a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Petersham Park. Petersham Park is bounded by Station, Lotos, Brighton, Wentworth and West Streets and covers an area of approximately 5 hectares.*

*The Plan of Management applies to land known as Petersham Park (D500070 & D500430) which is Crown Land for which Inner West Council is the land manager.*

## 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.

## Review of this plan

The Petersham Park Plan of Management is to be reviewed in ten years to ensure it aligns with Council's operational plans and objectives.

## 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 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 onto the Draft Master Plan.

Key features of the Master Plan:

- Pathway upgrades to provide a continuous circuit around the sporting ground, accessible and lit for evening use.
- Scoreboard building restored with new digital display located in-situ, or adjacent to existing structure.
- Station Street frontage enhanced with new garden beds and understorey planting
- New paved forecourt and ornamental landscaping to rotunda
- Community garden area with adjacent waste disposal area and storage shed
- Playground area upgraded to provide additional inclusive and diverse play opportunities
- Buffer area with new seating, low planting and low fencing to playground
- Rename the Petersham Park Grandstand 'The Hughes family Dudley Seddon Memorial Grandstand'
- Continued maintenance of public amenities, cafe and aquatic centre facilities. Further extension of aquatic centre season and opening hours to be investigated.
- Replaced fencing to enhance the pathway from the Brighton Street entry, and to provide security and privacy to preschool.
- Off-leash dog exercise area retained, with new seating and native planting to provide an attractive and hardy landscaped area.
- Rain garden to manage storm water run-off
- Fitness area with lighting for evening use
- Landscape frontages to enhance entries and provide a buffer to busy West Street.
- Upgrade structure adjacent to grandstand to provide an accessible, sheltered viewing platform with increased equipment storage areas beneath.
- Continued maintenance of natural playing surface. Upgrade lighting for evening sports and recreation, maintain community access and enable use for community events and activities.



# Plan of Management Stakeholder Targets and Activities

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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

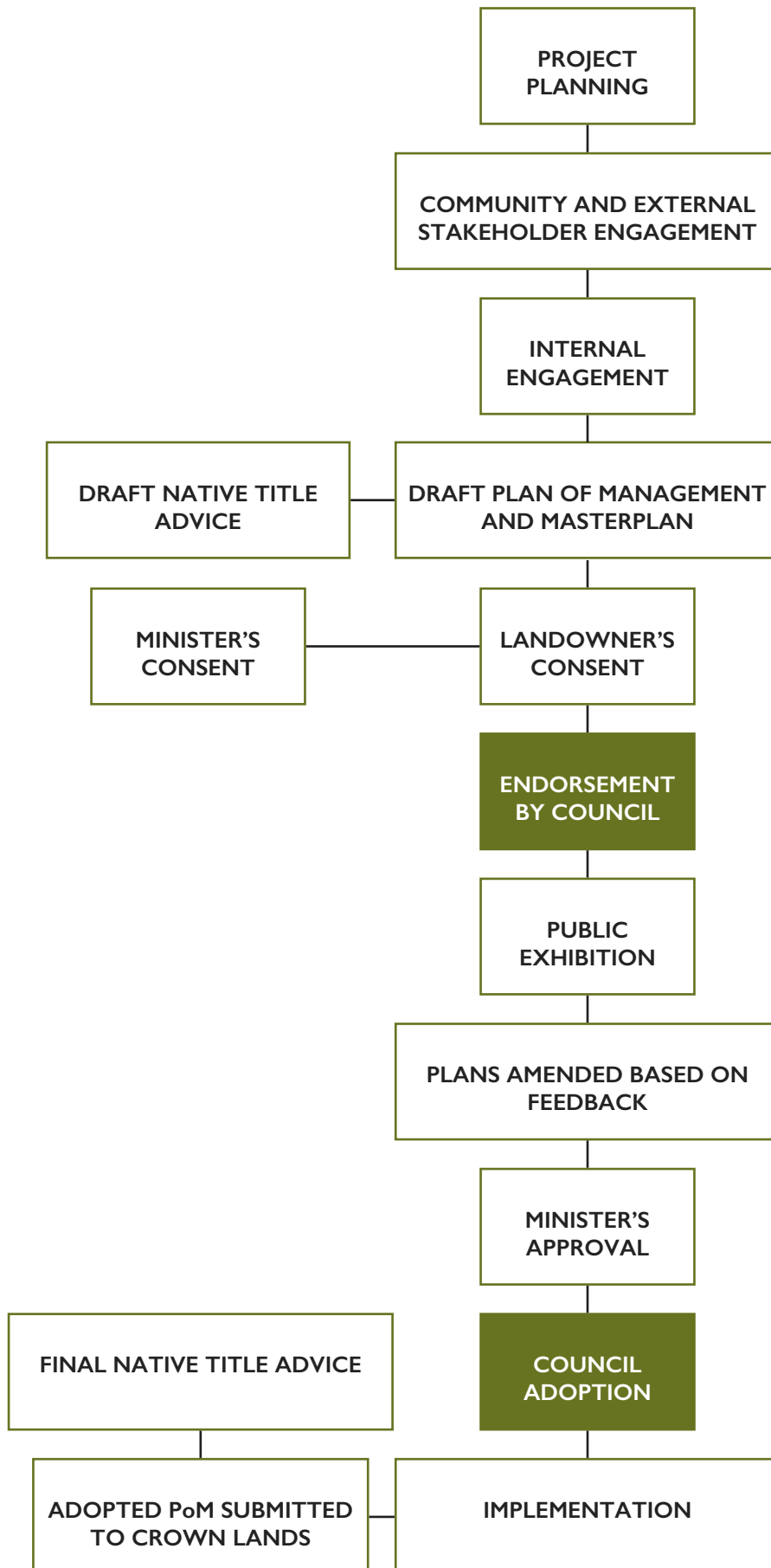
## **Internal (Council) Activities Include:**

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



# The Plan of Management Process: Stages

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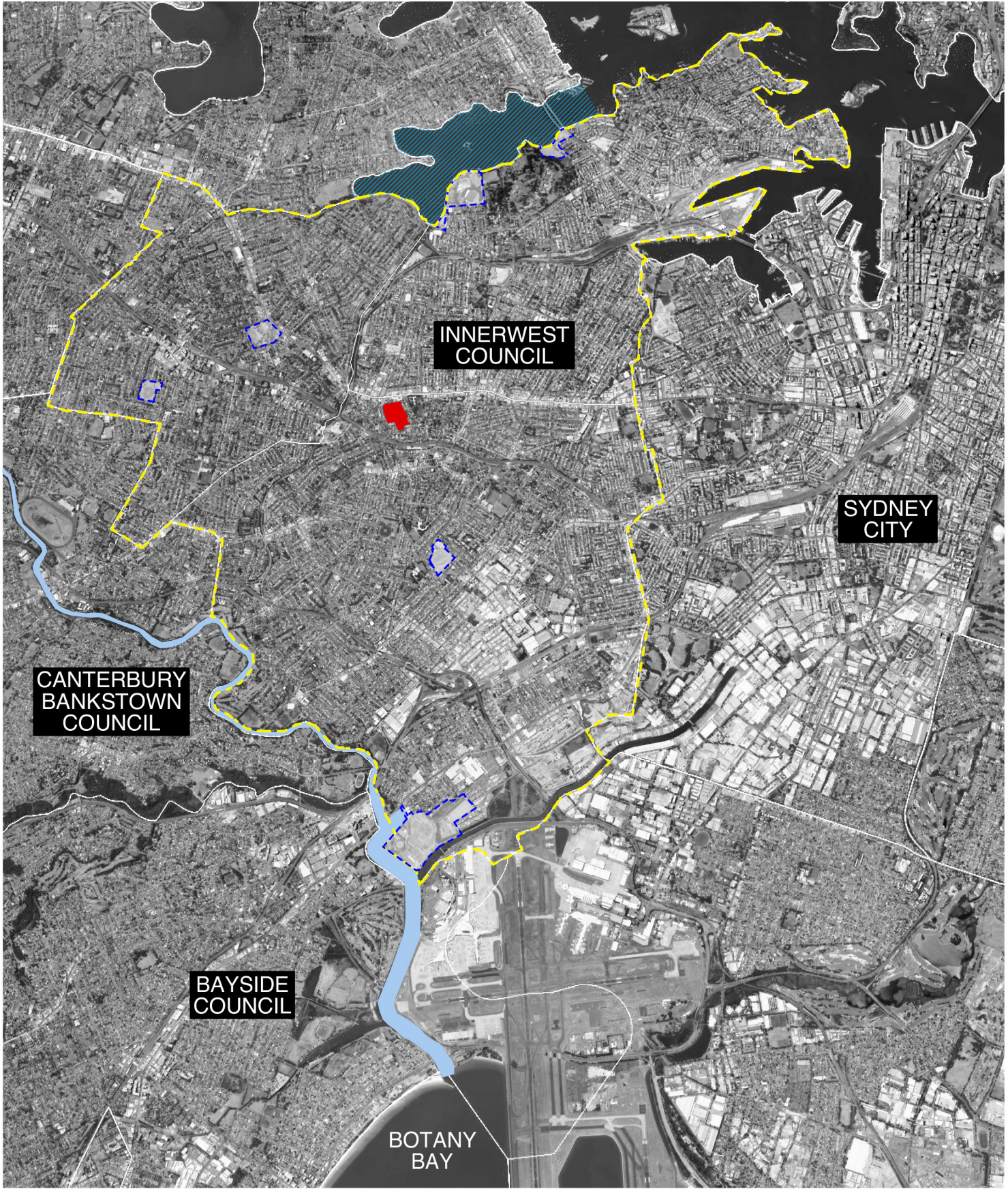


View looking north-east towards the sporting ground. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.











## REGIONAL CONTEXT

## Inner West Council

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

The council areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville were amalgamated pursuant to proclamation in May 2016, to become 'Inner West Council'.

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

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km<sup>2</sup> from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west

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

These include 31 Crown Reserves managed by Council and 238 Council owned parks and reserves.

## Existing Recreation Needs and Future Projections

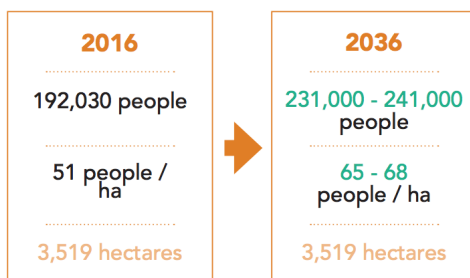
A recreational needs study, titled 'Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West' commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 provided an analysis of the existing parklands within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage.

The community is expected to grow with an additional 49,000 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 13.3m<sup>2</sup> to 10.6m<sup>2</sup> 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:

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



## INNER WEST PARTICIPATION

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

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in "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 4 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.



Figure 4 - 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 were:

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

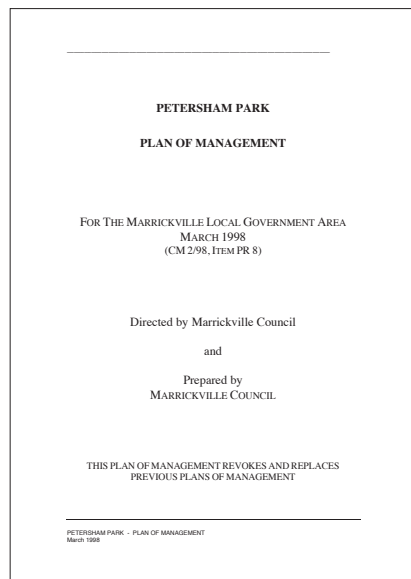
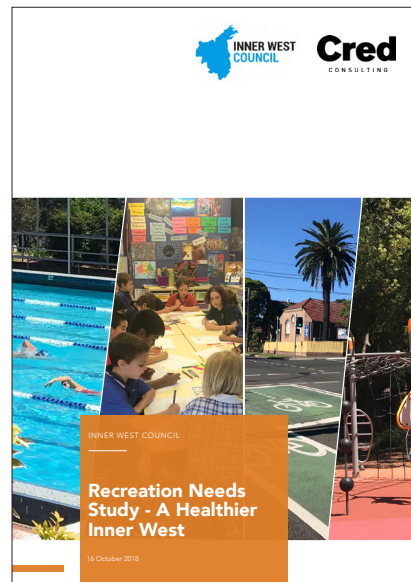
Key differences between different groups were that:

- 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 were:



Figure 5 - Most common types of facility that people used for recreation in the Inner West identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)



# REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

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

*Inner West Council, draft endorsed by council 06/2018*

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

The strategic directions set out are:

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

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

along with new planting and some pathway improvements.

#### Other documents reviewed

- Petersham Park - Masterplan by Phillips Marler - (former) Marrickville Council, April 2011
- Petersham Park - Conservation Management Plan by Mayne-Wilson & Associates - (former) Marrickville Council, May 2007
- Marrickville LEP 2011
- Marrickville DCP 2011
- Inner West Council - Inclusion Action Plan Petersham Park -
- Grandstand Upgrades Development Application - by Welsh + Major Architects - Inner West Council, May 2018
- Marrickville Bicycle Strategy - by Warren Salomon and Dick van den Dool - (former) Marrickville Council, August 2007
- Water Evolution - Stormwater Harvesting Feasibility Investigations for Off-River Parks by Equatica - (former) Marrickville Council, November 2011

### Recreation needs study - A healthier Inner West

*Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/ 2018*

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

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

### Petersham Park - Plan of Management

*by and for Marrickville Council, adopted 1998.*

*Not adopted by the Crown.*

Although completed in the late 1990's, some items identified in the plan are still applicable. These include the poor condition of some pathways, furniture, the grandstand and the scoreboard building. Other items with continued relevance include the pool operation hours/heating, maintenance of furniture and heritage elements, ensuring physical access for all community members, providing up to date facilities and developing a consistent treatment to all elements in the park.

A number of measures identified in the plan have been completed such as pool, public amenities, lighting and play equipment upgrades,

## OUR INNER WEST 2036 - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>1.1 The people and infrastructure of Inner West contribute positively to the environment and tackling climate change</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the support needed for people to live sustainably</li> <li>2. Reduce urban heat and manage its impact</li> <li>3. Create spaces for growing food</li> <li>4. Develop planning controls to provide ecosystem services*</li> <li>5. Provide green infrastructure that supports increased ecosystem services*</li> </ol>
<b>1.2 Biodiversity is rich, with connected habitats for flora and fauna</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support people to connect with nature in Inner West</li> <li>2. Create new biodiversity corridors and an urban forest across Inner West</li> <li>3. Maintain and protect existing bushland sites for species richness and diversity</li> </ol>
<b>1.3 The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate to make plans, designs and decisions that are water-sensitive</li> <li>2. Supply water from within Inner West catchments</li> </ol>
<b>1.4 Inner West is a zero emissions community that generates and owns clean energy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local adoption of clean renewable energy</li> <li>2. Develop a transport network that runs on clean renewable energy</li> </ol>
<b>1.5 Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support people to avoid waste, and reuse, repair recycle and share</li> <li>2. Provide local reuse and recycling infrastructure</li> <li>3. Divert organic material from landfill</li> <li>4. Advocate for comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility+</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>2.1 Development is designed for sustainability and makes life better</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to suit community needs</li> <li>2. Identify and pursue innovative and creative solutions to complex urban planning and transport issues</li> <li>3. Improve the quality, and investigate better access and use of existing community assets</li> <li>4. Develop planning controls that protect and support a sustainable environment and contribute to a zero emissions and zero waste community</li> </ol>
<b>2.2 The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide clear and consistent planning frameworks and processes that respect heritage and the distinct characters of urban villages</li> <li>2. Manage change with respect for place, community history and heritage</li> </ol>
<b>2.3 Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan and deliver public spaces that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life</li> <li>2. Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces</li> <li>3. Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces</li> </ol>
<b>2.4 Everyone has a roof over their head and a suitable place to call home</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure the expansion of social, community and affordable housing, distributed across Inner West, facilitated through proactive policies</li> <li>2. Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments</li> <li>3. Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough</li> </ol>
<b>2.5 Public transport is reliable, accessible, connected and enjoyable</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate for improved public transport services to, through and around Inner West</li> <li>2. Advocate for, and provide, transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth</li> </ol>
<b>2.6 People are walking, cycling and moving around Inner West with ease</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliver integrated networks and infrastructure for transport and active travel</li> <li>2. Pursue innovation in planning and providing new transport options</li> <li>3. Ensure transport infrastructure is safe, connected and well-maintained</li> </ol>



## REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>3.1 Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grow Inner West's reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub, celebrating and supporting diverse creative industries and the arts</li> <li>2. Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and cultural activities</li> </ol>
<b>3.2 Inner West is the home of creative industries and services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Position Inner West as a place of excellence for creative industries and services and support them to thrive</li> <li>2. Facilitate links to programs and services to help businesses grow, innovate and improve their competitiveness</li> <li>3. Encourage the establishment of new enterprises in Inner West</li> <li>4. Facilitate the availability of affordable spaces for creative industries and services</li> </ol>
<b>3.3 The local economy is thriving</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support business and industry to be socially and environmentally responsible</li> <li>2. Strengthen economic viability and connections beyond Inner West</li> <li>3. Promote Inner West as a great place to live, work, visit and invest in</li> </ol>
<b>3.4 Employment is diverse and accessible</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local job creation by protecting industrial and employment lands</li> <li>2. Encourage social enterprises and businesses to grow local employment</li> </ol>
<b>3.5 Urban hubs and main streets are distinct and enjoyable places to shop, eat, socialise and be entertained</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote unique, lively, safe and accessible urban hubs and main streets – day and night</li> <li>2. Enliven community life by delivering and supporting events, public art, cultural celebrations and entertainment</li> <li>3. Pursue a high standard of planning, urban design and development that supports urban centres</li> <li>4. Promote the diversity and quality of retail offerings and local products</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>4.1 Everyone feels welcome and connected to the community</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life</li> <li>2. Embrace, celebrate, respect and value difference by building awareness and appreciation of Inner West's diversity</li> <li>3. Empower and support vulnerable and disadvantaged community members to participate in community life</li> <li>4. Increase and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage</li> </ol>
<b>4.2 The Aboriginal community is flourishing, and its culture and heritage continues to strengthen and enrich Inner West</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history</li> <li>2. Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and businesses</li> <li>3. Acknowledge and support the rights of the Aboriginal community to self determination</li> <li>4. Actively engage Aboriginal people in the development of programs, policies and strategies</li> </ol>
<b>4.3 The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the facilities, spaces and programs that support wellbeing and active and healthy communities</li> <li>2. Provide opportunities for people to participate in recreational activities they enjoy</li> </ol>
<b>4.4 People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan and provide services and infrastructure for a changing and ageing population</li> <li>2. Ensure the community has access to a wide range of learning spaces, resources and activities</li> <li>3. Support children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>5.1 People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem-solving</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local democracy through transparent communication and inclusive participatory community engagement</li> </ol>
<b>5.2 Partnerships and collaboration are valued and recognised as vital for community leadership and making positive changes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support leadership and mentoring initiatives that build and strengthen the capacity of individuals, businesses and communities</li> <li>2. Support local capacity for advocacy</li> <li>3. Collaborate with partners to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment</li> </ol>
<b>5.3 Government makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision making, reflective of community needs and aspirations</li> <li>2. Ensure responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government</li> <li>3. Deliver innovation, excellence, efficiency and effectiveness and probity in Council processes and services</li> </ol>

# RECREATIONAL 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.

NEED
Additional Aquatic Centre
Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs
Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.
Picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings, as well as informal grassed passive recreation areas.
New facilities in parks including: table tennis tables; outdoor gyms including for seniors, and hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.
Lighting and design of parks to increase feelings of safety. Improved lighting to support evening and night time use of sporting grounds and provide recreation opportunities after work hours
Improved waste management and maintenance in parks and sporting grounds.

### 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 in conjunction with community engagement carried out specifically for Petersham Park 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. A number of these key opportunities which relate specifically to the scope of this Plan of Management and Master Plan have been summarised in this review.

OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase capacity at existing facilities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review provision of bins including recycling.</li><li>• Provide amenities in accordance with the Inner West Public Toilet Strategy</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In particular local parks in high density areas to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for residents.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport and other sporting facilities.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased maintenance resourcing</li><li>• Consider ongoing maintenance costs at the design stage of new/upgraded open space</li><li>• Consultation with outdoors staff at the design stage to identify possible future maintenance issues, and</li><li>• Self-cleaning BBQs.</li></ul>

## REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

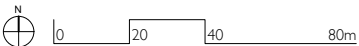
Improved sporting ground playing surfaces through upgrades to drainage, turf, soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current allocation data (Winter 2018 season) indicates that some sporting grounds are over capacity, but there is potential to increase the carrying capacity of the sporting ground through surface improvements</li> </ul>
Improving sporting building infrastructure, amenities blocks to increase usability and support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport. Spectator infrastructure, courts surfaces, lighting, allocation and booking processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade sporting grounds throughout the LGA.</li> </ul>
Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review throughout the LGA.</li> </ul>
Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.</li> </ul>
Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes</li> <li>Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.</li> <li>Include inclusive play equipment in all playgrounds, rather than only in some dedicated inclusive playgrounds.</li> </ul>
Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footpath improvements, bushcare programs,</li> <li>More affordable recreation opportunities for older people</li> <li>Support with transport to recreation opportunities.</li> </ul>
Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable night time use including for organised and informal activities</li> <li>Encourage recreation providers (e.g. sports clubs, fitness providers) to provide recreation opportunities in the evening eg social versions of sport</li> </ul>
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability including organised sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities and parks, for example in new amenities buildings.</li> <li>Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible.</li> </ul>
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcoming change and bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.</li> </ul>
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation opportunities located close to public transport and promoted in community languages</li> <li>Recreation programs targeting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</li> <li>Recreation opportunities that reflect popular activities (eg informal sports, badminton, volleyball, table tennis, basketball, Tai Chi), and</li> <li>Working with sporting clubs to support inclusiveness and increased participation.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement.</li> <li>Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict e.g. planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.</li> </ul>



DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS MAP



- Dog on-leash area
- Dog off-leash area
- Dog off-leash area - timed
- Dogs prohibited



SCALE 1:2000 @ A4



## REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

### Dog Exercise Areas within Petersham Park

The use of Petersham Park for dog walking is encouraged and recognised by council as creating a positive sense of community if conducted in a responsible manner. Dog walkers must ensure their dog is under effective control at all times and does not become a nuisance or impede on the enjoyment of other park users.

Petersham and parts of the inner west are home to an endangered and protected population of long-nosed bandicoots.

Council aims to balance dog owners' needs to exercise and socialise their dogs with the requirement to protect bandicoots that are under threat from dogs, cats and foxes. The time restriction on off-leash dog exercise in part of the park in could potentially minimise conflicts with other park users and the endangered bandicoot population.

Dog walkers must clean up and properly dispose their dog's faeces. Although the majority of dog walkers are responsible, uncollected faeces in the off-leash area make the park experience less enjoyable. Signage directly within this area reminding owners of their responsibilities and of the need to watch their dogs could be beneficial.

Current signage locations and areas for on and off leash dog exercise are indicated by the map adjacent.

### Dog On-Leash Areas

- Dogs must remain on a leash in the area surrounding the vintage bandstand, the children's playground and the entrance to the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre

### Dog Off-Leash Areas

- A designated area on the southern side of Petersham Park – adjacent to Wentworth Street and Brighton Street – is available for leash-free dog exercise any time of the day. Care should be taken to ensure compliance around the playground and palm grove as these areas are not fenced.

### Dog Off-Leash Areas - Timed

- An additional designated area is available for leash-free dog exercise between the hours of 6am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm (5pm to 8pm during daylight savings).

### Dogs Prohibited

- Dogs are not permitted at any time on the sporting ground, or within 10 metres of the children's playground. Dog tethering poles are located near the children's playground to assist dog owners to comply.





View through the palm grove looking towards West Street. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



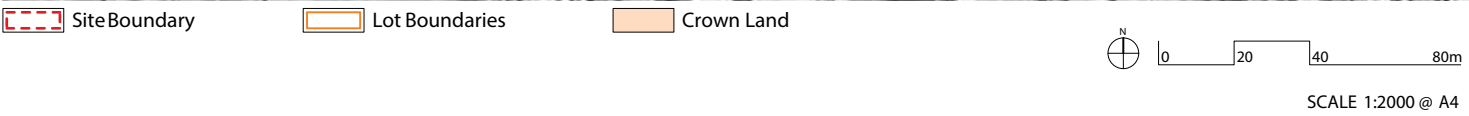
## 2.0 Categorisation + Ownership

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LAND OWNERSHIP MAP



### LAND TO WHICH THIS PLAN APPLIES

The plan refers to Petersham Park which is bounded by Station, Lotos, Brighton, Wentworth and West Streets and covers an area of approximately 5 hectares.

The park was established in the late 1880's, on parcels of land purchased and resumed by the Crown. It sits opposite the former Lewisham Hospital and convent, now a complex of nursing homes, retirement accommodation, religious and not for profit organisations along busy West Street. It is otherwise surrounded by quieter streets with largely 19th century low to medium density housing

Prior to European settlement the local area was inhabited by the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation, and was the food source and core habitat for their social gatherings. Aboriginal heritage items have been identified within the LGA.

#### Owner of this land

Petersham Park occupies land owned by the Crown. It is managed by the Inner West Council as Crown Land Manager of Petersham Park (D500070 & D500430) under the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

At the time of writing, Marrickville LEP 2011 applies to the land. The land zoning map clarifies that the entirety of Petersham Park is zoned for 'Public Recreation'.

#### Native Title

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,

- Grandstands and barbecues,
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings,
- the construction of new roads or tracks,
- installation of infrastructure such as powerlines, sewerage pipes, etc.,
- the creation of an easement
- the issue of a lease or licence,
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

When proposing any act that may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.

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.

Any leases, licences, easements and other estates on crown land (a use agreement) on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests.

Any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and in accordance with Part 8 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 unless native title is extinguished.

For Crown land which is not excluded land this will require written advice of one of Council's native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation. Refer to native title advice.

Lot/DP	Reserve No.	Name / Location	Date Gazetted	Ownership/ Purpose	Area
7025 / 1060136	500070	Petersham Park Includes sporting ground, equipment store, grandstand, palm grove, scoreboard, rotunda, playground, bbq facilities and preschool.	12/12/2014	Crown Land/ Public Recreation, Community Purposes	46,300 m <sup>2</sup>
7026 / 1060136	500430	Petersham Park Includes public amenities, Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre and cafe	7/5/1920	Crown Land/ Public Recreation	3,165 m <sup>2</sup>
7048 / 1060137	500430	Petersham Park	7/5/1920	Crown Land/ Public Recreation	195 m <sup>2</sup>



CROWN LAND CATEGORISATION MAP





**CROWN LAND CATEGORISATION****Crown Land Reserves**

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

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

A council manager is authorised to classify and manage the dedicated or reserved Crown land as if it were public land within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993. Public Land must be classified as either 'community' or 'operational'. The Crown Land within Petersham Park is classified as 'community' land and as such, must be managed by a Plan of Management.

The Crown Land within Petersham Park falls into the categories listed in the table below.

**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, licenced or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

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).





Ornamental planting at path junction. Photography by Welsh + Major







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**CURRENT LEASES + LICENCES****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 (Act) requires a lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of management (PoM). The lease or licence must be for a purpose consistent with core objectives of its categorisation and zoning of the land. In addition, leases and licences of Crown land must be consistent with the dedication or reservation.

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.

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to be permissible under this PoM, the Local Government Act, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (CLMA), Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018, Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011 and any subsequent LEP adopted by Inner West Council, and pursuant to a development consent if required.

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

Any proposed lease, licence other than short term or casual public notice must be given and be in accordance with section 46 and 47 of the Local Government Act.

Any leases, licences on Crown land (a use agreement) on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests.

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

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council as land manager of Petersham Park (D500070 & D500430) to undertake works as outlined in this plan of management or 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 permitted on this land align with original gazetted purpose of "Public Recreation".

**Current Leases + Licences**

Location	Purpose
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	Recreational facility service agreement to Belgravia Leisure until 2022
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre Cafe	Cafe Leased to Bread & Stone
92a Brighton St	Childcare Centre (KU Children's Services)

Under current leases, the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre pool operates around 10 hours daily during the summer season and is closed during the winter season, and the preschool opens for 8 hours daily on weekdays.

**Future Leases + Licences**

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences of Petersham Park for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and Table 1.02 (refer overleaf).

Table I.01 Petersham Park - Long Term Use for up to 30 years.

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Categorisation and Facilities	Purpose for which licensing / leasing will be granted
Licence	Sportsground	Organised sport including but not limited to baseball, soccer, rugby, cricket, oz tag
Licence	Sportsground	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence	General Community Use - Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	Recreational purposes.
Licence	General Community Use Building - Grandstand	Organised sport and associated uses
Lease	General Community Use Building - Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	Café/kiosk attached to Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre
Licence	General Community Use	School and community group recreation and education use
Lease	General Community Use Building/Land	Recreation facility including aquatics facility and associated uses including but not limited to training, events, storage.
Lease	General Community Use Building/Land - current childcare centre building	Childcare centre/daycare facility and associated uses including but not limited to training, events, storage.
Licence/Deed	Park	Community garden and associated uses including minimal storage, compost facilities, worm farms.



**FUTURE LEASES + LICENCES**

Table I.02 Petersham Park - Permissible Short Term Uses up to 12 months

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Categorisation and Facilities	Purpose for which short term casual licences up to 12 months will be granted
Licence	Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal licences</li> <li>Sporting fixtures and events</li> <li>Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events</li> <li>Commercial fitness trainers</li> </ul>
Licence	Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and community group recreation and education use</li> </ul>
Licence	Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational purposes</li> </ul>
Licence	Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and community group recreation and education use</li> </ul>
Licence	General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and community group recreation and education use</li> </ul>
Licence	General Community Use Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial fitness trainers</li> <li>Casual hire of facilities</li> </ul>
Licence	General Community Use / Sportsground / Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairs, markets, auctions and similar events</li> <li>engaging in trade or business</li> <li>Delivering a public address</li> <li>Public performances</li> <li>Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings</li> <li>Conducting a commercial photography session</li> <li>Filming including film / television</li> <li>Community events and festivals including the sale of alcohol</li> <li>Outdoor cinema</li> <li>Making art, playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward</li> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Catering</li> <li>Community, training or education</li> <li>Environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies</li> <li>Exhibitions</li> <li>Functions</li> <li>Hiring of equipment</li> <li>Meetings</li> <li>Site investigations</li> <li>Sporting and organised recreational activities</li> <li>Storage</li> <li>Emergency purposes including training</li> <li>ATM</li> <li>Temporary hygiene facilities</li> </ul>



View across the sporting ground. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.










## 4.0 Statutory Conditions + Legislation

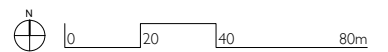
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- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Stormwater line |  Telstra infrastructure |  Electrical infrastructure |
|  Water main line |  High pressure gas line |   |
|  Sewer line      |  Sydney Trains hv line  |   |



SCALE 1:2000 @ A4



### Zoning + Classification

Marrickville LEP : RE1 'Public recreation'

### Telstra infrastructure

Telstra pits and underground cabling are located within the park, for facilities such as the grandstand, aquatic centre, cafe and preschool. Works within the vicinity of these assets would require consultation and approval by Telstra.

### Electrical infrastructure

Electrical infrastructure is located adjacent to the entry located mid-way along Station Street - to the north-western edge of the park. This includes a substation, high and low voltage underground cables.

Work within the vicinity of these assets would require consultation and approval by Ausgrid.

There is a pole mounted switchboard located close to the south-eastern Station Street entry. It is unclear what restrictions this asset poses. Underground cabling for lighting is also located throughout the park.

### Stormwater and sewer infrastructure

Stormwater and sewer pipes and infrastructure are located within the park. These connect through to adjacent streets and properties. Work within the vicinity of these assets may require consultation and approval by Sydney Water.

### Gas pipelines

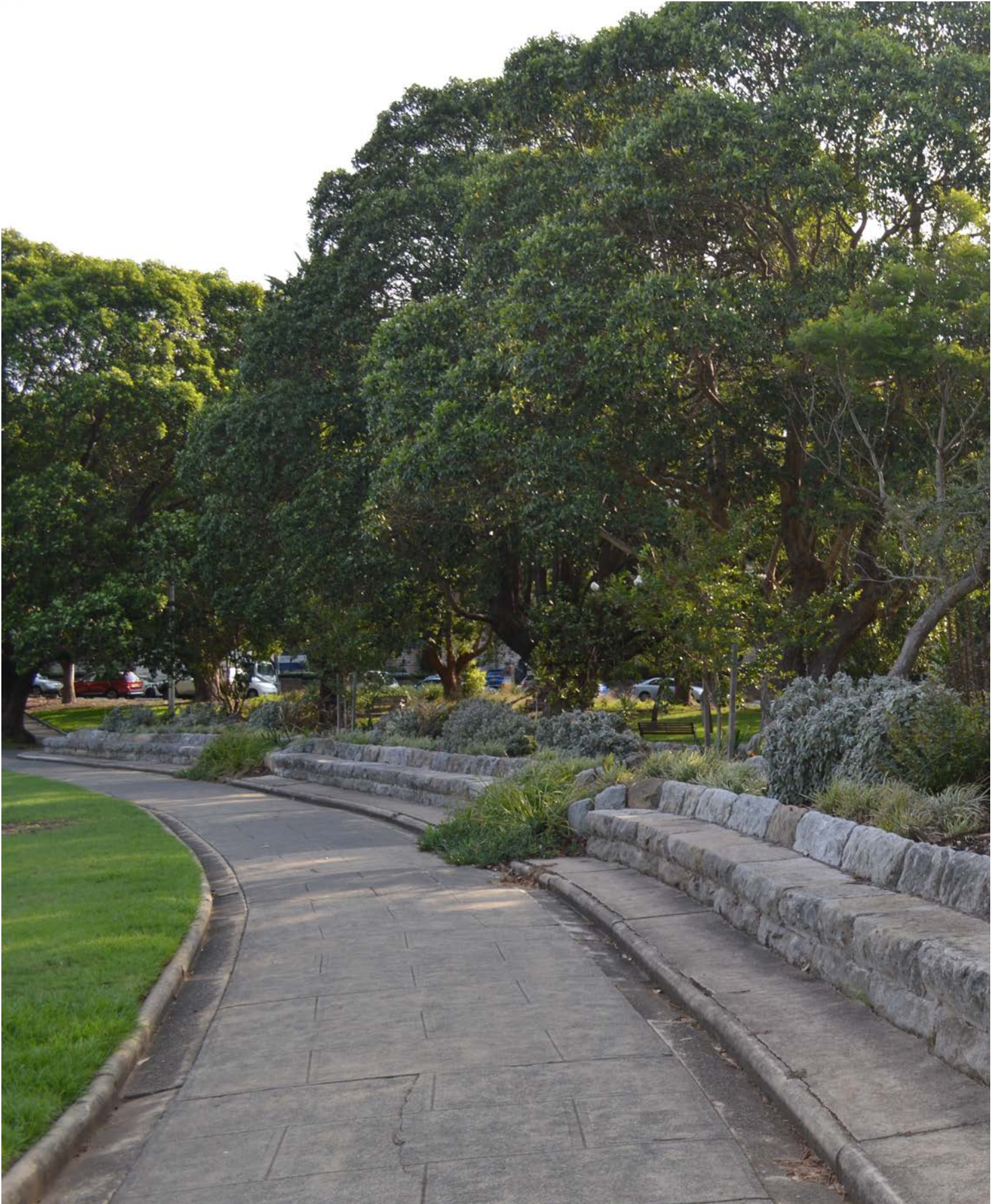
There are signs to indicate the presence of high pressure gas pipelines adjacent to the West Street boundary. It is unclear what restrictions these assets pose.

### Sydney Trains infrastructure

High voltage lines are located adjacent to the Brighton Street boundary. It is unclear what restrictions these assets pose.

### Other Relevant Legislation

- Native Title Act 1993 (commonwealth)
- 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.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP



Sandstone seating and planters adjacent to the sporting ground. Photography by Welsh + Major







# 5.0 Master Plan Strategies

## OVERVIEW

Key objectives for the future of the park have been derived from the opportunities outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes in conjunction with the land categories identified in the Local Government Act 1993. They have also been informed through precedent studies of successful local, national and international park-land projects.

Key strategies have been outlined to accompany these objectives. The Strategies suggest, in broad terms, how the objectives can be achieved within the Master Plan.



### ACCESS

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Provide welcoming and accessible entry points.*
2. *Improve access to the site for all users*
3. *Create a simple signage and way-finding strategy*
4. *Improve car access and parking while reducing the impact of vehicles on surrounding parkland.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Define access points into the park
- Introduce an accessible circuit around the park
- Develop a way finding strategy for the park, and consolidate all way-finding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format
- Establish dual purpose pathways and service vehicle access routes and loading areas.



### INCLUSIVE

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure accessibility to the park for all visitors*
2. *Integrate activities 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:

- Upgrade the existing playground with additional elements which facilitate inclusive, accessible and imaginative play.
- Balance provision of activities to consider visitors of multiple generations and abilities
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within new facilities.
- Retain off-leash dog areas and provide additional facilities for pet owners.



### SENSE OF PLACE

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Educate, inform, and entertain visitors with stories from the history of the park and the local area, and the ecology of the place*
2. *Maintain the heritage charm and character of the park*
3. *Preserve and protect successful spaces, and revive underutilised areas*
4. *Develop a cohesive site identity which builds upon the unique qualities of the park.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Develop an identity for currently underutilised spaces. Maintain and restore park elements which are of heritage value and contribute to the sense of place.
- Integrate explanatory signage where appropriate into the wider way-finding strategy
- Consider interpretation strategies for new park elements to inform visitors about the parks rich history.
- Ensure new additions contribute to Petersham Park's unique character, and do not detract from the relaxed, historic sports ground vibe which is so highly valued.





### COMMUNITY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
2. *Maintain public use of the park and its facilities*
3. *Provide high quality and cohesive furniture and facilities*
4. *Support flexible use for events*
5. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and upgrade under-utilised spaces and facilities so that they offer more value to the community.
- Increase enjoyment of the park with additional seating areas
- Ensure the park and its facilities are well maintained to encourage respectful use.



### SUSTAINABILITY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*
2. *Support local ecologies through landscaping and maintenance strategies*
3. *Retain and enhance green spaces*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Plant new trees and green areas where possible to increase shade and habitat.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles, upgrade existing facilities and maintenance strategies with sustainable measures.
- Promote awareness of sustainability upgrades and interventions.
- Incorporate more sustainable measures to assist with stormwater management.



### SAFETY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the perceived sense of safety and discourage antisocial behaviour through design elements*
2. *Support safer interactions between vehicles, people and dogs*
3. *Manage the risk of injury to park users by stray base balls and cricket balls.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes and facilities
- Provide buffers to busy streets and off-leash dog areas.
- Implement traffic calming measures along West Street to improve pedestrian safety at crossings
- Provide signage, maintain and upgrade protective netting and barriers



### SPORTS + RECREATION

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Enhance the quality of existing sports facilities and amenities.*
2. *Provide opportunities for informal recreation to encourage active and healthy communities*
3. *Enable flexibility of spaces, to be shared across a range of activities*
4. *Balance community and organisation use of the park and its facilities.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground as a natural turf surface, upgrade storage areas and implement measures to assist with maintenance
- Provide player, spectator and public facilities that are accessible and fitting of a premier sporting ground
- Create new areas and facilities to support a broader range of activities and mobility requirements. Implement measures such as improved lighting to extend the hours of use.
- Maintain shared community access to park assets.



5.0 Master Plan Strategies

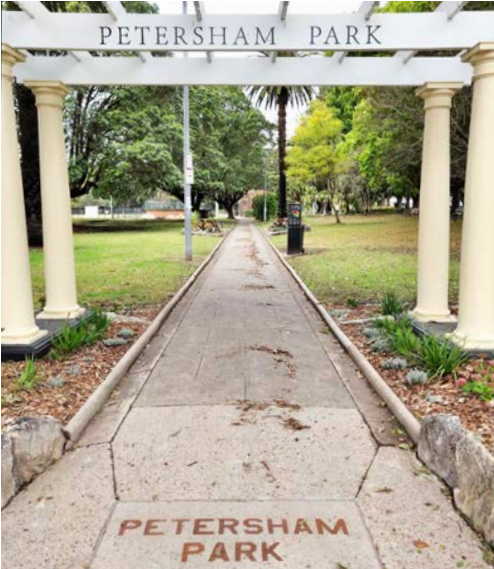
ACCESS



Integrated signage and wayfinding<sup>1</sup>



Example of fencing to enhance a boundary while providing security<sup>2</sup>



Existing gateway with pink 'Petersham Park' lettering and pergola<sup>3</sup>



Consolidated instructional signage<sup>4</sup>



Different materials, colours and signage incorporated into paving to assist with way-finding and path sharing<sup>5,6,7</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Pityrilla Park, Adelaide by Aspect Studios. Photo © SweetLime.  
<sup>2</sup> Glebe Public School fence, Sydney by Nuha Saad. Photo © Jamie Williams.  
<sup>3</sup> Petersham Park. Photo © Welsh + Major Architects  
<sup>4</sup> New York Parks Department, USA by Pentagram. Photo © Pentagram.  
<sup>5,6</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Neeson Murcutt Architects, Sue Barnsley Design + Frost® collective. Photos © Brett Boardman  
<sup>7</sup> Box Hill Gardens, Melbourne. Photo © Weekend Notes



**Key Objectives:**

1. Provide welcoming and accessible entry points.
2. Improve access to the site for all users
3. Create a simple signage and way-finding strategy
4. Improve car access and parking while reducing the impact of vehicles on surrounding parkland.

**Park Gateways**

Petersham Park has multiple entry points along each frontage, these range in scale and popularity. Primary entrances are generally well defined and conveniently located, many have been recently upgraded. New signage is required focusing on primary entrances, along with the removal of randomly located, out of date signage scattered through the park.

Additional improvements are proposed through the following measures:

**Street south eastern entry** - This is the primary entrance for visitors to the playground, cafe and aquatic centre. The entrance portico and sandstone edged garden beds create a strong sense of arrival, however this entrance is compromised by detractive elements. Upgrades to this entry should create an attractive and inviting gateway and include:

- Repair paving incorporating pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries. Replace patchy asphalt areas with concrete to match adjacent surfaces.
- Bins relocated to new waste disposal area adjacent to public amenities
- Investigate locating power connection underground and relocating meter box.
- Grassy area re-purposed as a community garden space with raised planters and perimeter planting.

**Street north western entry** - Upgrades are proposed to incorporate this secondary entry as part of a continuous park circuit. These include:

- Widen the entry to provide a smoother transition between the footpath and park pathways
- Enhance adjacent garden beds by increasing planting

**Street sporting ground entry** - This entry provides level access to the sporting ground and is primarily used for maintenance vehicles. Upgrades should enable this entry to provide level sporting ground access for visitors with reduced mobility, and enhance this section of the park. Proposed upgrades include:

- Resurface damaged pathway for wheelchair and service vehicle access
- Reconfigure gates if needed to meet access requirements.
- Landscaping improvements with new ornamental garden beds alongside entry

**West Street western entry** - This was once a primary park entrance, and although less frequented, it should be upgraded to create an attractive and inviting gateway once more. This will help to deter antisocial behaviour by countering the 'back of house' atmosphere, and complement the adjacent palm grove area. Proposed upgrades here include:

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Define access points into the park
- Introduce an accessible circuit around the park
- Develop a way finding strategy for the park, and consolidate all way-finding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format
- Establish dual purpose pathways and service vehicle access routes and loading areas.
- New ornamental garden beds alongside entry, new lighting and low planting along boundaries
- Repair paving to incorporate pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries
- Investigate and remove redundant services along this frontage as they detract from the park.

**Brighton Street entry**

The 'Anzac Gates' contribute to the character of the park, and have strong heritage significance as the former Town Hall gates, relocated and repurposed as a war memorial. Upgrades should be subservient to the gates, and maintain the quiet, contemplative atmosphere intended for this entrance to the park. Subtle site interpretation is proposed along the fence that bounds the preschool and could also be incorporated in the paving surface, to educate visitors and commemorate all of those who contributed to the war effort. Park rules, way-finding signage and bins should be set away from the gates. These may be located at the secondary entry on the corner of Brighton and Wentworth Streets, and at the busy intersection with the shared pedestrian and cycleway that links West Street and Street.

**Vehicle Access, Parking + Shared Spaces**

Petersham Park has no on site parking, and vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles only. The driveway with removable bollards off Wentworth Street allows vehicles typically associated with park maintenance to enter the park. Vehicles are also able to access the sporting ground via the street sporting ground entry described above.

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlighted the damage service vehicles have caused to new pathways, and the lack of provisions for loading and parking areas for volunteers associated with organised sporting activities. Further upgrades are proposed to pathways, with widening and removing sections of raised curbs to allow service vehicles to negotiate the park without causing damage.

A traffic, pedestrian and cycle study is required to inform connections to the park and vehicle parking on surrounding streets.

Only on street parking is available for visitors arriving by car. There are two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the entry at the southern end of Street - this is also the closest entry point to the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre. Input from a traffic management consultant is recommended to balance the parking needs of visitors and residents, and to investigate the provision of accessible parking spaces and a timed preschool drop-off area.

## 5.0 Master Plan Strategies



### ACCESS

#### Park Gateways

Petersham Park has multiple entry points along each frontage, these range in scale and popularity. Primary entrances are generally well defined and conveniently located, many have been recently upgraded. New signage is required focusing on primary entrances, along with the removal of randomly located, out of date signage scattered through the park.

Additional improvements are proposed through the following measures:

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- Bins relocated to new waste disposal area adjacent to public amenities
- Investigate locating power connection underground and relocating meter box.
- Grassy area re-purposed as a community garden space with raised planters and perimeter planting.

**Street north western entry** - Upgrades are proposed to incorporate this secondary entry as part of a continuous park circuit. These include:

- Widen the entry to provide a smoother transition between the footpath and park pathways
- Enhance adjacent garden beds by increasing planting

**Street sporting ground entry** - This entry provides level access to the sporting ground and is primarily used for maintenance vehicles. Upgrades should enable this entry to provide level sporting ground access for visitors with reduced mobility, and enhance this section of the park. Proposed upgrades include:

- Resurface damaged pathway for wheelchair and service vehicle access
- Reconfigure gates if needed to meet access requirements.
- Landscaping improvements with new ornamental garden beds alongside entry

**West Street western entry** - This was once a primary park entrance,

and although less frequented, it should be upgraded to create an attractive and inviting gateway once more. This will help to deter antisocial behaviour by countering the 'back of house' atmosphere, and complement the adjacent palm grove area. Proposed upgrades here include:

- New ornamental garden beds alongside entry, new lighting and low planting along boundaries
- Repair paving to incorporate pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries
- Investigate and remove redundant services along this frontage as they detract from the park.

#### Brighton Street entry

The 'Anzac Gates' contribute to the character of the park, and have strong heritage significance as the former Town Hall gates, relocated and repurposed as a war memorial. Upgrades should be subservient to the gates, and maintain the quiet, contemplative atmosphere intended for this entrance to the park. Subtle site interpretation is proposed along the fence that bounds the preschool and could also be incorporated in the paving surface, to educate visitors and commemorate all of those who contributed to the war effort. Park rules, way-finding signage and bins should be set away from the gates. These may be located at the secondary entry on the corner of Brighton and Wentworth Streets, and at the busy intersection with the shared pedestrian and cycleway that links West Street and Street.

#### Vehicle Access, Parking + Shared Spaces

Petersham Park has no on site parking, and vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles only. The driveway with removable bollards off Wentworth Street allows vehicles typically associated with park maintenance to enter the park. Vehicles are also able to access the sporting ground via the street sporting ground entity described above.

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlighted the damage service vehicles have caused to new pathways, and the lack of provisions for loading and parking areas for volunteers associated with organised sporting activities. Further upgrades are proposed to pathways, with widening and removing sections of raised curbs to allow service vehicles to negotiate the park without causing damage.

A traffic, pedestrian and cycle study is required to inform connections to the park and vehicle parking on surrounding streets.



Unobtrusive way-finding signage incorporated into walls<sup>1</sup>, paving<sup>2</sup> and posts<sup>3</sup>

Discrete pole mounted signage.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cockatoo Island, Sydney by Collider Studio. Photo © Collider Studio.

<sup>2</sup> Stratford, UK by Thomas Mathews Communication Design. Photo © Dashti Jahfar / Peter Clarkson

<sup>3</sup> Causeway Coastal Route, UK by Tandem Design © Tandem Design

<sup>4</sup> Modular orientation system © nowakteufelknyrim Design





Only on street parking is available for visitors arriving by car. There are two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the entry at the southern end of Street - this is also the closest entry point to the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre. Input from a traffic management consultant is recommended to balance the parking needs of visitors and residents, and to investigate the provision of accessible parking spaces and a timed preschool drop-off area.

#### Signage + way-finding

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

Signage related to key assets should contribute to the character of the asset and the identity of the park overall. Signage can also inform the public as to what is occurring within the park. For example:

Signage near the grandstand and sporting ground should be sympathetic to the heritage nature of these assets and consistent with signage to park entries. Signage here should inform visitors of park opening hours, expected behaviours, and upcoming sporting events, especially those which will impact residents and regular park visitors.

Signage around the aquatic centre, playground, cafe and community garden should be updated to inform visitors on the multiple uses of the park, and include a community notice board area, along with a space to inform visitors of upcoming community events.

Additional signage noting the dog off-leash area to be included at Wentworth Street.

#### Pedestrian connections

While paths are plentiful, there is no continuous accessible circuit around the park. This limits access for visitors with prams, wheelchairs and mobility requirements. Upgrades are proposed to improve pedestrian amenity by establishing a circuit which allows these groups to access park facilities such as the grandstand, sporting ground and fitness area, while also providing a continuous exercise route. Enhanced lighting is proposed around the circuit for evening use. The concrete pathway surface is proposed to be retained and patched while still serviceable, and eventually replaced, and widened along narrow sections. Subtle signage should be incorporated into new pathway surfaces to assist with way-finding and identifying the circuit route.

Existing raised curbs are proposed to be removed where they intersect with service vehicle routes, and repaired where they have been damaged. The inclusion of raised curbs on new sections of paths should be carefully considered - they provide safety when adjoining sloping terrain, but can be a trip hazard and nuisance to park users.

Pedestrian connections via park entrances are detailed in 'park gateways' above.

New Informal pathways are proposed linking West Street through to the south western side of the grandstand, and also linking the off-leash dog exercise area back to the main pathway from Brighton Street. These are located along existing desire lines and are proposed to improve connectivity between areas of the park. They replace muddy tracks so the impact on tree roots and grassy areas is minimal.

#### Public transport

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlighted the fact that most visitors arrive on foot or by private vehicle, despite the proximity of public transport links. Visitors should be encouraged to use public transport. Marked pedestrian routes between train, tram and bus stops could assist, along with improvements to footpaths and pedestrian crossings along these routes. Route information should also be made available online and within published information about the park. **Park Gateways**

Petersham Park has multiple entry points along each frontage, these range in scale and popularity. Primary entrances are generally well defined and conveniently located, many have been recently upgraded. New signage is required focusing on primary entrances, along with the removal of randomly located, out of date signage scattered through the park.

Additional improvements are proposed through the following measures:

**Street south eastern entry** - This is the primary entrance for visitors to the playground, cafe and aquatic centre. The entrance portico and sandstone edged garden beds create a strong sense of arrival, however this entrance is compromised by detractive elements. Upgrades to this entry should create an attractive and inviting gateway and include:

- Repair paving incorporating pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries. Replace patchy asphalt areas with concrete to match adjacent surfaces.
- Bins relocated to new waste disposal area adjacent to public amenities
- Investigate locating power connection underground and relocating meter box.
- Grassy area re-purposed as a community garden space with raised planters and perimeter planting.

**Street north western entry** - Upgrades are proposed to incorporate this secondary entry as part of a continuous park circuit. These include:

- Widen the entry to provide a smoother transition between the footpath and park pathways
- Enhance adjacent garden beds by increasing planting

**Street sporting ground entry** - This entry provides level access to the sporting ground and is primarily used for maintenance vehicles. Upgrades should enable this entry to provide level sporting ground access for visitors with reduced mobility, and enhance this section of the park. Proposed upgrades include:

- Resurface damaged pathway for wheelchair and service vehicle access
- Reconfigure gates if needed to meet access requirements.
- Landscaping improvements with new ornamental garden beds alongside entry

**West Street western entry** - This was once a primary park entrance, and although less frequented, it should be upgraded to create an attractive and inviting gateway once n antisocial behaviour by countering the



## ACCESS

and complement the adjacent palm grove area. Proposed upgrades here include:

- New ornamental garden beds alongside entry, new lighting and low planting along boundaries
- Repair paving to incorporate pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries
- Investigate and remove redundant services along this frontage as they detract from the park.

### *Brighton Street entry*

The 'Anzac Gates' contribute to the character of the park, and have strong heritage significance as the former Town Hall gates, relocated and repurposed as a war memorial. Upgrades should be subservient to the gates, and maintain the quiet, contemplative atmosphere intended for this entrance to the park. Subtle site interpretation is proposed along the fence that bounds the preschool and could also be incorporated in the paving surface, to educate visitors and commemorate all of those who contributed to the war effort. Park rules, way-finding signage and bins should be set away from the gates. These may be located at the secondary entry on the corner of Brighton and Wentworth Streets, and at the busy intersection with the shared pedestrian and cycleway that links West Street and Street.

### **Vehicle Access, Parking + Shared Spaces**

Petersham Park has no on site parking, and vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles only. The driveway with removable bollards off Wentworth Street allows vehicles typically associated with park maintenance to enter the park. Vehicles are also able to access the sporting ground via the street sporting ground entity described above.

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlighted the damage service vehicles have caused to new pathways, and the lack of provisions for loading and parking areas for volunteers associated with organised sporting activities. Further upgrades are proposed to pathways, with widening and removing sections of raised curbs to allow service vehicles to negotiate the park without causing damage.

A traffic, pedestrian and cycle study is required to inform connections to the park and vehicle parking on surrounding streets.

Only on street parking is available for visitors arriving by car. There are two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the entry at the southern end of Street - this is also the closest entry point to the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre. Input from a traffic management consultant is recommended to balance the parking needs of visitors and residents, and to investigate the provision of accessible parking spaces and a timed preschool drop-off area.

### **Signage + way-finding**

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

Signage related to key assets should contribute to the character of the asset and the identity of the park overall. Signage can also inform the public as to what is occurring within the park. For example:





#### Key Objectives:

1. Ensure accessibility to the park for all visitors
2. Integrate activities 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:

- Balance provision of activities to consider visitors of multiple generations and abilities
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within new facilities.
- Retain off-leash dog areas and provide additional facilities for pet owners.

#### Public access

Protecting Petersham Park as a large, open and unrestricted public parkland, with a mix of activities and free for any visitor to use was reinforced as a key priority of the Community Engagement Outcomes.

The Master Plan proposes a balanced approach to upgrades, to meet stakeholder requirements, while allowing for casual use and non-sporting events. Spaces should be shared so that one function or user group should not take precedence over all others and monopolise the park.

Stakeholder arrangements and park facilities must be managed to maintain the public ethos and inclusivity of the park.

#### 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 around gateways and pathways within and around the park as highlighted in Access.

#### Playground Upgrades

The playground is well used but offers a limited range of play experiences as highlighted in the Community Engagement Outcomes. The master plan recommends upgrading or replacing 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.

#### Public Toilets

Council to investigate provision of toilets in the park.

#### Dogs

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified some visitors have concerns over the lack of fencing and the proximity of the off-leash area to the playground, while others felt sectioning off areas would be detrimental to the openness and flexibility of the park, and their enjoyment of it.

Areas for off leash dog exercise are limited and therefore highly valued by dog owners in Petersham. Existing on and off-leash dog exercise areas are proposed to be retained, with additional measures to improve interactions between dogs and other park visitors.

- Low fencing and planting to the south western edge of the playground and barbecue area. This is intended to provide a subtle buffer to discourage dogs entering from the adjacent grassy area which is used for off leash dog exercise.
- Greater provision of drinking fountains, bag dispensers and bins for dog waste. These are recommended near all park entries, along with in-situ signage to off leash areas to encourage self-policing by reminding owners of their responsibilities.
- Improved landscaping and maintenance strategies to address areas of patchy grass in the off leash area, and to provide an attractive and hardy interface with adjacent areas.
- Include discrete dog agility and play elements such as logs for jumping over to encourage owners to use the dedicated off-leash area, and provide more opportunities to enjoy the park. This could be extended to including dog training and agility classes in the park.
- Maintenance of the dog off leash area is a priority and may include temporary closure of the off-leash area to allow for establishment of the turf.



Example of a sandpit designed for inclusive play.<sup>1</sup>



Off-leash dog areas<sup>2</sup> enhanced with planting<sup>3</sup> + discrete agility elements



<sup>1</sup> Sydney Park playground area by JMD design. Photo © Brett Boardman + Steve Black

<sup>2</sup> Pelzer Park, Adelaide by ASPECT Studios. Photo © Dave Walsh, Weekend Notes

<sup>3</sup> Shale Hills Dog Park, Sydney © Western Sydney Parklands.



## 5.0 Master Plan Strategies



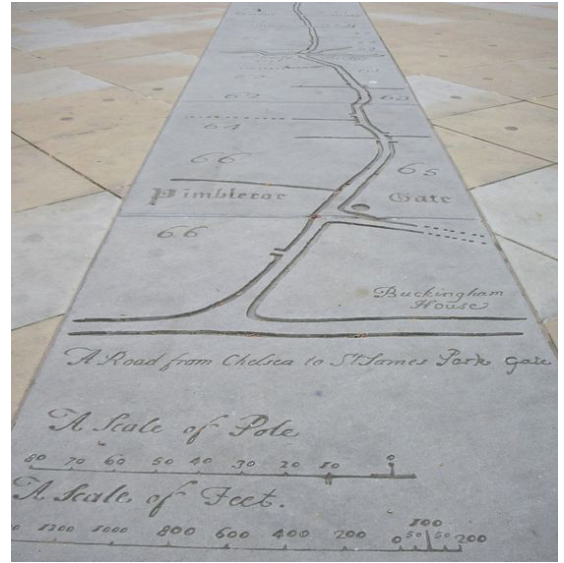
### SENSE OF PLACE



Seating which doubles as an interpretive element.<sup>1</sup>



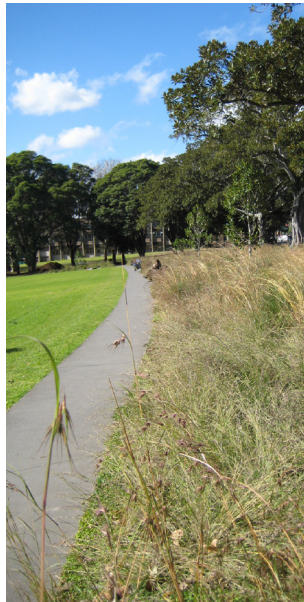
Sculptural rain garden elements could incorporate site interpretation.<sup>2</sup>



Paving doubling as an interpretive element referencing a historic route.<sup>3</sup>



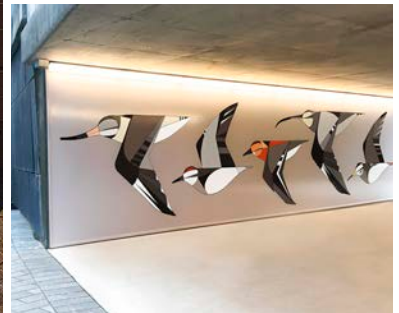
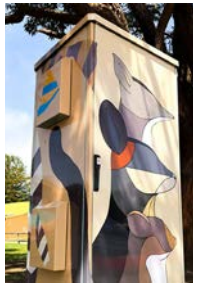
Plant identification signage.<sup>4</sup>



Planting selections linking with the site's history.<sup>5</sup>



Wall murals enhancing blank surfaces and contributing to a sense of place.<sup>6</sup>



Rotunda enhanced with planting, historic photograph of rotunda below.<sup>8</sup>



Ornamental garden beds featuring natives contribute to a sense of place.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chemin-qui-Marche Lookout, Canada by Group IBI-CHBA. Photo © Alexis Nollet.

<sup>2</sup> Hassett Park, Canberra by Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture. Photo © JILA

<sup>3</sup> Duke of York Square, UK by Davis Landscape Architecture + Elizabeth Banks Associates. Photo © davisla

<sup>4</sup> Signs © by Gecko Group, USA (top) + Pic Bois, France (bottom)

<sup>5</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Sue Barnsley Design. Photo © Emily Simpson

<sup>6</sup> Murals (clockwise from left) © by Pastel, Spain, Scott Albrecht, USA + Eggpinic, Sydney

<sup>7</sup> Harold Park, Sydney by JMD Design. Photos © Emerdyn / Brett Boardman

<sup>8</sup> Singapore Botanic Gardens Bandstand (top) + Petersham Park Rotunda in 1926 (bottom).

<sup>9</sup> Petersham Park. Photo © Welsh + Major Architects



**Key Objectives:**

1. *Educate, inform, and entertain visitors with stories from the history of the park and the local area, and the ecology of the place*
2. *Maintain the relaxed and unstructured character of the park*
3. *Preserve and protect successful spaces*
4. *Develop a cohesive site identity which builds upon the unique qualities of the park.*

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Develop an identity for currently undefined spaces. Maintain and restore park elements which are of heritage value and contribute to the sense of place.
- Integrate explanatory signage where appropriate into the wider way-finding strategy
- Consider interpretation strategies for new park elements to inform visitors about the parks rich history.
- Ensure new additions contribute to Petersham Park's unique character; and do not detract from the relaxed, historic sports ground vibe which is so highly valued.

**Unique History**

Petersham Park is a historical sports ground with a number of unique assets which contribute to the character of the park and it's strong sense of place. The master plan recommends restoration of these assets to ensure that they can be experienced and enjoyed by the community.

**Grandstand**

The grandstand has significant heritage value, and complimentary upgrades are underway. In addition the master plan recommends to:

- Continue to protect historic qualities of the grandstand, in particular the brickwork, structure and seating
- Continue maintenance and work to improve sustainability.
- Improve the spectator experience by replacing the demolished public amenities with new facilities.
- Improve presentation of back of house areas with new landscaping and paving. Remove elements that detract from the grandstand such as the above ground water tank.
- 
- Access to the grandstand is closed when sport is not in play due to vandalism and safety issues.

**Rotunda**

The rotunda is a very significant heritage asset. It was restored in 1992 and is in reasonable condition. The master plan recommends improving the interface between the rotunda and the rest of the park. Quality paving to create a level forecourt, along with perimeter drainage, and low ornamental planting will allow the rotunda to be better utilised by the community, while enhancing its scenic qualities

**Scoreboard**

The scoreboard requires manual operation and is no longer used. Upgrades are proposed to improve the player and spectator experience while retaining the scoreboard building as a unique heritage item and landmark within the park. A feasibility study should be conducted to determine whether a new scoreboard should be freestanding or incorporated in the existing building. The new scoreboard should be designed and located so that it does not detract from the original scoreboard building. There is an opportunity to collaborate with local artists to replace brown paint to the rear of the scoreboard building with public art. A separate Conservation Management Plan

is to be sought prior to proposing any changes or additions to the scoreboard. A new scoreboard next to the existing scoreboard will not be considered without engaging a Heritage Architect.

**Scenic Elements**

Features such as the 'Anzac Gates', pergolas, sandstone seats, edging, and pink 'Petersham Park' paving lettering contribute to the parks history and character. Retention and enhancement of these features is proposed along with upgrades to improve the presentation and amenity of entrances as detailed in Access.

**Trees and planting**

Petersham Park has a huge variety of established plants and trees which are heritage significant, and which contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the park while also providing shade and habitat. Trees should be maintained and protected during their serviceable life. Guidelines for new plantings should maintain the scenic qualities of the park, provide arboricultural diversity, shade and habitat. Signage could be incorporated to identify particularly important specimens.

**Historical Interpretation and Identity**

Few visitors are aware of Petersham Parks rich history. Some historical information is conveyed in commemorative plaques, however these are often overlooked and they are not cohesive or compelling.

There is an opportunity for a historical interpretation strategy to be developed in collaboration with local historians and artists and integrated into new park elements. This strategy could reference the former creek and 'Kangaroo Grounds', First Nations history, early European farming, sporting history, aboricultural diversity and the establishment of different areas of the park. This could be incorporated in new park elements such as fencing, signage, paving, walls, furniture, lighting and in murals on existing built elements. The design of these should be contemporary and complementary to elements already present within Petersham Park to provide a cohesive identity.

Existing park furniture styles should also be consolidated, with gradual replacement of singular items for increased consistency.



5.0 Master Plan Strategies

**COMMUNITY**



Community notice board <sup>1</sup>



Raised seating area around trees. <sup>2</sup>



An area incorporating a variety of seating types. <sup>3</sup>



Continuous bench seating along edge of planted area. <sup>4</sup>



Informal seating along edge of planted area. <sup>5</sup>



Community garden area with raised planters. <sup>6</sup>



Example of a community park movie night. <sup>7</sup>



Example of a community concert. <sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sydney Park community noticeboard. Photos © Welsh + Major Architects.  
<sup>2</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Neeson Murcutt Architects + Sue Barnsley Design. Photos © Brett Boardman  
<sup>3</sup> Sydney Park playground area by JMD design. Photo © Welsh + Major Architects.  
<sup>4</sup> Activity Landscape Kastrup, Denmark by MASU Planning. Photo © Kirstine Autzen

<sup>5</sup> Riedpark, Switzerland by Fontana Landschaftsarchitektur. Photo © Fontana Landschaftsarchitektur.  
<sup>6</sup> Movies Night. Photo © University City District / Phillyvoice.  
<sup>7</sup> Music in the Park at Godalming Bandstand, UK. Photo © Rotary Godalming Woolsack.



**Key Objectives:**

1. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
2. *Maintain public use of the park and its facilities*
3. *Provide high quality and cohesive furniture and facilities*
4. *Support flexible use for events*

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Maintain open green spaces for flexible recreation
- Improve the quality, visibility and maintenance of the park and its facilities so that they offer more value to the community.
- Increase enjoyment of the park with additional seating areas
- Investigate strategies to assist in the management of events to better serve the needs and interests of the community

**Park events and programs**

Petersham Park hosts cricket matches during the summer season and baseball matches during the winter season. Events outside of organised weekend sport are rare. The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that visitors want the park to be activated with occasional family friendly festivals and events. A diverse programme should be developed and supported. This could include music events making use of the rotunda, along with movie nights and social sports in the evening. A new scoreboard suitable for displaying movies should be considered, and a feasibility study completed to compare this option with portable alternatives.

The master plan recommends the development of a cohesive plan for managing planned events to minimise negative impacts on the park, residents and visitors. The plan should include strategies for parking, waste disposal, locating event infrastructure, and communications. The proposed community notice board and new entry signage could assist with the communication strategy, a park webpage could also be considered.

Closure and restrictions for ticketed events and bookings should be minimised, maintaining public access to the park should be prioritised.

and bin area are provided nearby, along with a seating platform around the base of an adjacent tree. These facilities will support increased use, interaction and enjoyment of this underutilised area of the park.

- Bins and water fountains near entrances and along key routes. These should be designed for convenience, and to enhance visitors enjoyment of the park..

**Open green spaces**

The open grassed areas of the park are highly valued by the community for unstructured recreation and relaxation. These areas should be protected and maintained into the future. Development within the park, such as amenities and sports and recreation upgrades should be limited to existing built areas or areas which are currently under-utilised by the community.

**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:

- Platform seats between the playground and off leash dog exercise area. These provide an informal place for people to rest and meet, and to supervise children in the playground, and dogs in the off leash area. The platforms are informal, elevated and flexible. They can be used for reclining, sitting or as a table for picnicking.
- Picnic tables and edge seating to off leash dog area adjoining Brighton Street and Wentworth Street. This is a popular spot for resting, meeting friends and picnicking within the off-leash dog area. The picnic tables are elevated to deter scavenging dogs, the edge seating provides a more casual seating option.
- Community garden area adjacent to the south eastern Street entry. The Community Engagement Outcomes identified the desire for a garden area for use by the community and the KU Petersham Preschool. This master plan includes garden beds to enhance boundaries, and raised planters to accommodate visitors with reduced mobility, while reducing the risk of soil contamination and damage from trampling. A shed, compost

## 5.0 Master Plan Strategies



### SUSTAINABILITY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*
2. *Support local ecologies through landscaping and maintenance strategies*
3. *Retain and enhance green spaces*

#### Water Management

Improved water management will allow council to provide a better playing surface and grounds.

Water harvested from the grandstand roof should continue to be used for maintaining the sporting ground. A new underground water tank is proposed, which provides the opportunity to assess and increase the current storage capacity

Stormwater runoff and flooding was identified as an issue along the intersection of the shared pathway and off leash dog area. The master plan proposes a rain garden to capture and treat stormwater here, while providing an attractive landscaped area.

Review of existing and proposed stormwater systems should be undertaken by a specialist consultant prior to implementation.



Landscaped water detention area.<sup>1</sup>



Native grassland meadow.<sup>2</sup>



Informal feature plantings with low native trees.<sup>3</sup>

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Plant new trees and green areas where possible to increase shade and habitat
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles and upgrade existing facilities with sustainable measures.
- Promote awareness of sustainability upgrades and interventions.
- Continue to encourage wildlife
- Develop strategies to improve the condition of green spaces

#### Biodiversity + wildlife

Visitors expressed their enjoyment of the wildlife that Petersham Park attracts, particularly birds. Strategies to support biodiversity and wildlife need to be carefully considered and appropriate within the context of regular sporting, spectator and off-leash dog activity. The master plan proposes retaining grassed areas, along with providing new areas with low planting and trees to encourage greater ecological diversity. The planting palette includes a mix of species suitable for new planting and replacement of existing trees. Species selections focus on providing food and habitat, along with ornamental qualities, drought tolerance and arboricultural diversity.

While lighting throughout the park is required in places for visitors' physical and perceived safety, the Master Plan recommends that dark zones should be preserved to accommodate wildlife. Lighting has been restricted to primary footpaths and facilities. A specialist consultant should be appointed to undertake lighting design.

#### 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.

#### Wellness + well-being

Petersham Park plays an important role in supporting the mental and physical well being of visitors. The large green spaces were identified as highly valued areas. The relaxed atmosphere, variety and unstructured quality of these areas should be retained and enhanced.

<sup>1</sup> Ladywell Fields, UK by BDP. Photo © David Barbour

<sup>2</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Sue Barnsley Design. Photo © Sue Stubbs

<sup>3</sup> Sydney Park village green area by JMD design. Photo © Welsh + Major Architects.

<sup>4</sup> The Woody Meadow Project, Melbourne, University of Sheffield, University of Melbourne and City of Melbourne research collaboration. Photo © Yoko Whyte





### Key Objectives:

1. Increase the perceived sense of safety and discourage antisocial behaviour through design elements
2. Support safer interactions between vehicles, people and dogs
3. Address slippery and uneven surfaces along pathways.

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes and facilities
- Reconfigure pedestrian and vehicle entries and through routes, delineate parking spaces, provide buffers to off-leash dog areas.
- Improve pathway connections and reduce trip and slip hazards

### Safer interactions

All users should be able to safely access and navigate the park.

A traffic, pedestrian and cycle study is required to inform connections to the park and vehicle parking on surrounding streets.

The master plan proposes traffic calming measures along busy West Street to improve pedestrian safety at crossings. This is detailed in Access.

Measures to facilitate safer interactions between dogs and other park visitors are detailed in Inclusive. These include improved signage and buffer areas between off leash areas, the playground and streets. Instructions for using the park should include not letting dogs that could be considered dangerous off leash. New park furniture and facilities should also be designed and located to provide some separation from dogs and dog related activities.

Petersham Park hosts regular baseball and cricket matches. Stray balls have the potential to cause injury, and measures should be incorporated to reduce the risk to the community. The park has chainwire fencing and high netting adjacent to the spectator area. Continued maintenance of these is needed to protect visitors. Additional measures such as warning signs and baseball netting should be considered for temporary installation on game days.

### Lighting

There was support for lighting upgrades to improve safety, and to extend the hours that the park can be used. The master plan recommends:

- New lighting focused on the sporting ground, pedestrian routes and facilities to enable early morning and evening use. Sporting ground lighting should be sufficient for evening recreational use, and potentially for junior baseball and cricket training sessions if suitable levels of light and visitor safety can be achieved.
- Assess lighting strategy to mitigate impact on neighbours and wildlife, and to deter antisocial activities.
- Use of energy efficient fittings.

### Passive Surveillance

Activities are proposed in less utilised areas of the park to increase opportunities for passive surveillance and to deter antisocial behaviours. These are detailed in Sports + Recreation.



Examples of crosswalk safety improvements.<sup>1,2</sup>



Baseball netting with removable posts for temporary installation.<sup>3</sup>



Discrete low level path lighting.<sup>6</sup>



Outdoor gym activating less utilised park area along pathway.<sup>7</sup>



Low fencing and planting to playground.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Crosswalks of Additive Color, Miami Beach, USA by Carlos Cruz-Diez. Photo © Atelier Cruz-Diez Paris

<sup>2</sup> Raised zebra crossing. Photo © Ingolfson, Wikimedia Commons

<sup>3</sup> Stop That Ball System, by Net World Sports. Photo © Net World Sports.

<sup>4</sup> Sydney Park playground area by JMD design. Photo © Welsh + Major Architects.

<sup>5</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Neeson Murcutt Architects + Sue Barnsley Design. Photo © Australian Institute of Architects

<sup>6</sup> Millau pedestrian path lighting, France. Photo © Flux Lighting

<sup>7</sup> Sydney Park Fitness Equipment by Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture. Photo © JILA



5.0 Master Plan Strategies



SPORTS + RECREATION



Playground incorporating planting and sculptural elements, designed to encourage imaginative and spontaneous play.<sup>1</sup>



Low impact informal play elements.<sup>2</sup>



Sheltered viewing area.<sup>3</sup>



New scoreboard sitting alongside the restored original scoreboard.<sup>4</sup>



Park fitness circuit signage.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1+2</sup> Garden City Play Environment, USA by space2place. Photo © space2place  
<sup>3</sup> Ballast Point Park, Sydney by CHROFI + McGregor Coxall. Photo © Leonard Grosch  
<sup>4</sup> Adelaide Oval. Photo © DreamTeamImaging  
<sup>5</sup> Prince Alfred Park, Sydney by Neeson Murcutt Architects + Sue Barnsley Design. Photo © Brett Boardman  
<sup>6</sup> Cambourne Park Fitness Trail © Sportsequip UK



**Key Objectives:**

1. *Enhance the quality of existing sports facilities and amenities.*
2. *Provide opportunities for informal recreation to encourage active and healthy communities*
3. *Enable flexibility of spaces, to be shared across a range of activities*
4. *Balance community and organisation use of the park and its facilities.*

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Maintain the sporting ground as a natural turf surface, implement measures to increase its durability, improve the surface condition and reduce maintenance
- Provide player, spectator and public facilities fitting of a premier sporting ground.
- Create new areas and facilities to support a broader range of activities. Improve lighting to extend the hours of use.
- Maintain shared community access to park assets.

**Supporting Healthy Lifestyles**

Petersham Park is well used by the community for informal sports and recreation. The master plan recognises the importance of facilitating sports and exercise for all.

New and upgraded recreation spaces are recommended to support a broader range of informal recreational pursuits and to activate underutilised areas of the park.

*Outdoor exercise / mobility equipment area*

Proposed adjacent to the grandstand for easy access to public amenities and accessible paths nearby. This activates the often dormant grandstand area and forms a fitness circuit with the perimeter track and grandstand stairs. Exercise equipment should be fixed, low impact in appearance, and should cater to a range of age groups and abilities. Additional community engagement to be undertaken prior to the installation of any outdoor exercise / mobility equipment.

*Playground area upgrades / replacement*

Proposed to support a greater range of age groups, abilities and opportunities for play. This is detailed in Inclusive

*New accessible park circuit*

The park has no continuous accessible circuit, the current route requires navigation around the grandstand area and flights of stairs which is inconvenient. The master plan proposes formation of a continuous accessible circuit incorporating a section of the footpath along Street. This is detailed in Access and Inclusive.

*Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre*

The aquatic centre is open for 6 months each year, and opening hours vary during the swimming season. The Community Engagement Outcomes indicated a strong desire for extension of the swimming season and opening hours. Further trials should be considered, along with possible upgrades to include evening lighting and heating.

Provisions for dogs and passive recreation are highlighted in Inclusive and Community.

Lighting upgrades are proposed to improve safety and to extend the hours of use for the park. These are detailed in Safety

**Organised Sports**

Petersham 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 grandstand upgrades are underway, the master plan includes a number of additional recommendations to improve the parks hosting capabilities including:

- Upgrades to pathways to cater to players and spectators with mobility requirements - Access and Inclusive
- Lighting improvements to suit different sporting events including evening training, and to deter antisocial behaviour - Safety
- Upgrades and continued maintenance of nets and screens to protect park visitors from stray balls - Safety
- New scoreboard, public amenities and accessible covered seating area to improve the spectator experience - Access and Inclusive.
- New underground water tank and refurbished storage area to assist with maintaining the sporting ground.



View across sporting ground looking towards the grandstand. Photography by Welsh + Major.





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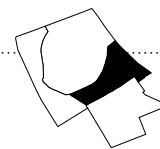


MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW





# ZONE 1



## LEGEND

	Removed item		Natural grass		Community garden planter		Existing seating
	Existing structure		Existing tree		Hardstand / formal pathway		New seating
	Zone for proposed structure		Existing tree - future canopy		Accessible circuit		Existing bike racks
	Existing barrier		New tree		Informal pathway		Site contour @ approx. 1m interval
	New barrier		Screening planting		Playground area		Master Plan boundary
	Existing removable bollards		Existing garden / understorey planting		Waste disposal area		Zone boundary
	Raingarden		Native grasses / groundcover		Outdoor sports court / gym		
	Playing surface		Native / ornamental understorey planting		Water fountain		



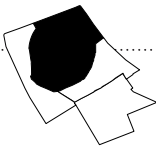


### NOTES

- 01 Enhance the rotunda while protecting its heritage significance and maintaining its availability for community use.
  - Extended forecourt area with new paving and flush transition from adjacent pathway
  - Remove perimeter band of paving which detracts from the rotunda structure. Provide gravel and drainage if required to address any moisture issues
  - Establish perimeter garden beds with low planting to provide an attractive 'garden' setting also referencing the garden area which previously surrounded the rotunda
- 02 Develop and implement a consistent furniture palette through the park including a mix of picnic tables, platform and bench seating. Relocate 'Heritage' styled picnic table from Zone 4 adjacent to rotunda.
- 03 Proposed under storey planting and mulch areas to enhance Station Street frontage and replace patchy grass.
- 04 Station Street southern entry upgraded to create an attractive and inviting gateway
  - Repaired paving incorporating pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries. Replace patchy asphalt areas with concrete to match adjacent surfaces.
  - Bins relocated to new waste disposal area - refer 07
  - Additional waste facilities to be provided at Station Street
- 06 Community garden area with raised planters and perimeter planting to screen adjacent residential fence, and provide a buffer to Station Street. Provide elevated platform around the base of existing tree to provide seating, and to prevent damage from mowers and soil compaction.
- 07 Hardstand area incorporating waste disposal, along with shed and composting facilities for community garden. Provide bins for general waste and recycling along with bag dispensers for dog waste.
- 08 Investigate relocating meter box and providing underground power connection as the existing meter box and power pole detract from the park entrance.
- 09 New community notice board to inform visitors of upcoming events and community happenings. Adjacent area to incorporate low planting and new wild play areas.
- 10 Existing playground area to remain with upgrades for inclusive and diverse play opportunities.
- 11 Barbecues and picnic tables to remain
- 12 Planting incorporating wild play areas and low fencing to provide a subtle buffer to adjacent grassy area which is popular for dog exercise. Investigate installing removable netting and posts during the baseball season for increased protection from stray balls. This would require agreement from the baseball club to set up and take down the nets each game day.
- 13 New seating to address demand for additional facilities, and to accommodate visitors with dogs and children.
- 14 Retain grassy area for timed off leash dog use, and retain extent of existing dog on and off leash areas throughout the park. Consider in-situ signage to encourage self-policing by reminding owners of their responsibilities.
- 15 Remove redundant, outdated and unattractive signage and establish a clear and unified signage strategy for the park (throughout) focusing on key entrances and routes. Signage is to be minimal, well located and well designed to suit the character of the park.

Collaborate with local historians and artists to develop a strategy for park identity and interpretation to increase awareness of the park and its history. This could incorporate the former creek, 'Kangaroo Grounds' and First Nations history, early European farming, the parks aboriginal diversity and the establishment of different areas such as the palm grove, war memorials, and Petersham Park's rich sporting history
- 16 Develop guidelines for replacing trees as they reach the end of life.

ZONE 2



**LEGEND**

Removed item	Natural grass	Community garden planter	Existing seating
Existing structure	Existing tree	Hardstand / formal pathway	New seating
Zone for proposed structure	Existing tree - future canopy	Accessible circuit	Existing bike racks
Existing barrier	New tree	Informal pathway	Site contour @ approx. 1m interval
New barrier	Screening planting	Playground area	Master Plan boundary
Existing removable bollards	Existing garden / understorey planting	Waste disposal area	Zone boundary
Raingarden	Native grasses / groundcover	Outdoor sports court / gym	
Playing surface	Native / ornamental understorey planting	Water fountain	

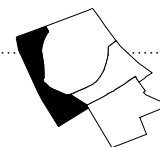
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### NOTES

- 01 Scoreboard upgrades to improve the player and spectator experience while retaining the scoreboard building as a unique heritage item and landmark within the park.
  - Provide new digital scoreboard with flexible display settings suitable for cricket and baseball.
  - Conduct a feasibility study to determine whether to incorporate new scoreboard in the existing building, or as a freestanding structure - possible locations indicated in orange.
  - Consider providing a display suitable for community events i.e. outdoor cinema
  - Restore and protect scoreboard building (and scoreboard mechanisms if retained.) Remove or replace brown paint to rear facade with mural in collaboration with local artists. Investigate options for any future use of the building so that it has a practical use while also retaining its heritage significance.
- 02 Passive recreation upgrades incorporating platform seating, benches and picnic tables. Develop and implement a consistent furniture palette through the park.
- 03 Upgrade pathways to create a continuous circuit, accessible and lit for recreational activities such as walking and running. Retain existing concrete and asphalt surfaces and replace uneven sections while still serviceable. Consider eventual replacement with concrete or permeable paving, and widening narrow sections adjacent to the sporting ground. Incorporate subtle signage in the pathway surface to assist with way finding and identifying the circuit route. Enhance adjacent garden beds by increasing planting
- 04 Proposed understorey planting and mulch areas to enhance Station Street frontage and replace patchy grass.
- 05 Assess potential for sporting ground lighting upgrades to enable evening use. Ensure that the sporting ground is available for public use outside of sporting fixtures. Investigate non-sporting community events on the sporting ground such as evening movies during the summer.
- 06 Repair and maintain existing timber bench spectator seating. Low planting and low fencing, site interpretation, additional community garden or exercise space could be incorporated in south eastern area where seating bays have been removed. Fencing adjoining pathway demolished to improve cross-park connectivity
- 07 Replace damaged baseball netting, and maintain sliding cricket screens to ensure they are operational
- 08 New high netting adjacent to sporting ground
- 09 New accessible seating area included in grandstand upgrades.
- 10 New water fountain and dog bowl area.
- 11 Grandstand upgrades complete. Consider future installation of solar panels to roof. Rename grandstand 'The Hughes family Dudley Seddon Memorial Grandstand'
- 12 New waste disposal area included in grandstand upgrades. Provide bins for general waste and recycling along with bag dispensers for dog waste.
- 13 Rainwater tank to be replaced with underground model, and landscaping over to enhance grandstand setting. Investigate the performance of the existing tank and assess whether any additional capacity or improvements are required.
- 14 Upgrade storage and viewing structure to improve the spectator experience and provide additional storage
  - Ramped access to viewing platform, with adjacent landscaping, hardstand area and additional storage beneath
  - New roof structure providing filtered light and shelter
  - Modify metal railings for access and safety compliance.
  - Surfaces painted as part of site identity and interpretation strategy
  - Demolish derelict steel storage enclosure and rebuild. Consider extending area facing the sporting ground to include storage for baseball dirt mounds used to patch the sporting ground. Salvage removed sandstone for reuse in park.
- 15 Station Street western entry enhanced with new ornamental garden beds alongside pathway. The conifer tree blocks the vista to the sporting ground and should not be replaced. Resurface damaged pathway for wheelchair and service vehicle access. Reconfigure gates if needed to meet access requirements.
- 16 Footpath to form part of a continuous circuit around the park - refer 03 above and 16 below.
- 17 Station Street eastern entry widened and incorporated as part of continuous park circuit. Enhance adjacent garden bed by increasing planting.

# ZONE 3



## LEGEND

Removed item	Natural grass	Community garden planter	Existing seating
Existing structure	Existing tree	Hardstand / formal pathway	New seating
Zone for proposed structure	Existing tree - future canopy	Accessible circuit	Existing bike racks
Existing barrier	New tree	Informal pathway	Site contour @ approx. 1m interval
New barrier	Screening planting	Playground area	Master Plan boundary
Existing removable bollards	Existing garden / understorey planting	Waste disposal area	Zone boundary
Raingarden	Native grasses / groundcover	Outdoor sports court / gym	
Playing surface	Native / ornamental understorey planting	Water fountain	

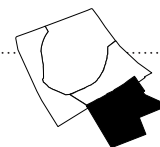




### NOTES

- 01 *West Street northern entry upgraded to create an attractive and inviting gateway. -  
- Provide new ornamental garden beds alongside entry  
- Repaired paving incorporating pink 'Petersham Park' lettering to coincide with other entries.*
- 02 *Enhance and extend understorey planting to screen West Street*
- 03 *Develop and implement a consistent furniture palette through the park including a mix of picnic tables, platform and bench seating.*
- 04 *Footpath to form part of a continuous circuit around the park - refer 05 below.*
- 05 *Upgrade pathways to create a continuous circuit, accessible and lit for recreational activities such as walking and running. Retain existing concrete surfaces and replace uneven sections while still serviceable. Consider eventual replacement with concrete, and widening narrow sections adjacent to the sporting ground. Incorporate subtle signage in the pathway surface to assist with way finding and identifying the circuit route. Remove damaged raised curb edging on sections of pathway used for service vehicle access*
- 06 *Native meadow planting introduced to screen West Street, with ornamental grasses and low shrubs. Include new pathway following existing desire line route through to grandstand. Investigate and remove redundant services along this frontage as they detract from the park.*
- 07 *New permeable hardstand area including exercise / mobility equipment with lighting for evening use. Ensure that equipment is versatile and can appeal to a range of park visitors. Incorporate seating area to provide a place to stop and rest.*
- 08 *New landscaping alongside pathway to screen boundary and enhance southern West Street gateway. Incorporate native plantings to reduce maintenance requirements while providing food and habitat for birds and wildlife*
- 09 *Incorporate traffic calming measures along West Street to improve pedestrian safety around the park, especially at pedestrian crossings. Options include speed bumps, implementing a 40km/hr speed limit, and changing the road surface adjacent to crossings.*

# ZONE 4



## LEGEND

Removed item	Natural grass	Community garden planter	Existing seating
Existing structure	Existing tree	Hardstand / formal pathway	New seating
Zone for proposed structure	Existing tree - future canopy	Accessible circuit	Existing bike racks
Existing barrier	New tree	Informal pathway	Site contour @ approx. 1m interval
New barrier	Screening planting	Playground area	Master Plan boundary
Existing removable bollards	Existing garden / understorey planting	Waste disposal area	Zone boundary
Raingarden	Native grasses / groundcover	Outdoor sports court / gym	
Playing surface	Native / ornamental understorey planting	Water fountain	





## NOTES

- 01 *Incorporate rain garden into low lying, flood prone area of site. Provide planting and drainage to manage stormwater runoff and enhance this area. Consider including educational signage relating to environmentally sensitive stormwater management, and site interpretation signage relating to the creek that previously ran through the site and the 'Kangaroo Grounds'.*
- 02 *Landscaping to address areas of patchy grass and to provide an attractive and hardy interface between the off-leash dog area and the adjacent avenue of trees. Incorporate native grasses and shrubs to provide understorey planting and habitat, with informal pedestrian routes connecting to main pathway. Replace palm planters with groups of small colourful flowering native trees. Incorporate discrete dog agility and play elements such as logs for jumping over.*
- 03 *Develop and implement a consistent furniture palette through the park including a mix of picnic tables, platform and bench seating. Relocate 'heritage' styled picnic table adjacent to rotunda in Zone 1.*
- 04 *Enhance planting along pathway, maintain existing trees and plan for their gradual replacement. Extend areas of bark chips to bases linking to areas of understorey planting where sunlight is sufficient. Retain area as a contemplative space, acknowledging its presence as the 'soldiers avenue'.*
- 05 *Retain extent of existing dog on and off leash areas. Provide additional dog bag dispensers throughout the park and consider in-situ signage to encourage self-policing by reminding owners of their responsibilities. Low boundary planting could be incorporated to this section of the park to provide a subtle buffer to deter dogs from running towards the street.*
- 06 *New perimeter fencing to improve appearance of this section of the park, and provide the preschool with privacy. This could be incorporated as part of the site identity and interpretation strategy.*
- 07 *Maintain the heritage significant Brighton Street 'Anzac Gates' which contribute to the character of the park, while memorialising Petersham residents who fought in WWI.*
- 08 *Consult with KU Petersham Preschool regarding the community garden and a shared composting facility. The compost facility is proposed adjacent to the new community garden in Zone 1. A shared compost facility within the preschool grounds could also be considered.*
- 09 *Ensure pool and cafe facilities are well maintained. Explore potential for installation of solar panels to the roof of buildings, along with further measures to reduce resource use, maintenance and costs.*
- 10 *Respond to community requests for increased availability of swimming facilities with further trials to extend the swimming season and morning and evening opening hours. Consider future lighting and heating upgrades*
- 11 *Ensure that the existing public amenities are regularly cleaned and maintained. Provide additional capacity by completing new public amenities as part of grandstand upgrades. Refer to Zone 2.*
- 12 *Remove redundant, outdated and unattractive signage and establish a clear and unified signage strategy for the park (throughout) focusing on key entrances and routes. Signage is to be minimal, well located and well designed to suit the character of the park.*  
  
*Collaborate with local historians and artists to develop a strategy for park identity and interpretation to increase awareness of the park and its history. This could incorporate the former creek, 'Kangaroo Grounds' and First Nations history, early European farming, the parks aboriginal diversity and the establishment of different areas such as the palm grove, war memorials, and Petersham Park's rich sporting history*
- 13 *Develop guidelines for replacing trees and plants (throughout) as they reach the end of their serviceable life.*
- 14 *Retain and improve seating along the Wentworth Street boundary.*





Station Street Entry, Petersham Park. Photography by Welsh + Major.



## 7.0 Objectives + Performance Targets

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### Overview

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Management Issues</b>	Broad issues listed here, derived from Inner West Council Community Strategic Plan and community engagement outcomes
<b>Objectives and Performance Targets</b>	List objectives and targets associated with consistent with local government act
<b>Means of Achievement of Objectives</b>	A list of practical steps that will be taken to achieve the objectives
<b>Manner of Assessment of Performance</b>	Practical measure of assessment of the recommendation
<b>Priority</b>	Advises time-scale for implementing for the recommendation
• High	Short term: 1 to 3 years
• Medium	Medium term: 4 to 6 years
• Low	Long term: 7 to 10 years
• Ongoing	Continually considered during implementation of works and maintenance strategies

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Park Gateways	<p>Provide inviting, welcoming and accessible entry points into Petersham Park</p> <p>—</p> <p>Use gateways to convey the character and identity of the park</p> <p>—</p> <p>Consider a more discreet upgrade to the 'Anzac Gates' war memorial at the Brighton Street entry</p>	<p>Upgrade existing gateways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all entry points are accessible, increase width and gate operation as required to accommodate access for all users</li> <li>• Install 'Petersham Park' lettering to gateways where not already present</li> <li>• Repair 'Petersham Park' lettering where damaged</li> <li>• Enhance gateways with ornamental planting where appropriate</li> <li>• Improve condition and consistency of ground treatment where required</li> <li>• Relocate overhead services underground, relocate boxed services to discreet accessible locations, remove redundant services</li> </ul>	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med
Public Transport	Encourage use of public transport to access park	Install signage at local public transport stops to direct visitors towards the park, and promote public transport options on website and promotional materials	Monitor use of public transport by park visitors through observation and survey	High



**Key Objectives:**

1. *Provide welcoming and accessible entry points.*
2. *Improve access to the site for all users*
3. *Create a simple signage and way-finding strategy*
4. *Improve car access and parking while reducing the impact of vehicles on surrounding parkland.*

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Define access points into the park
- Introduce an accessible circuit around the park
- Develop a way finding strategy for the park, and consolidate all way-finding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format
- Establish dual purpose pathways and service vehicle access routes and loading areas.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
<b>Signage</b>	Clearly communicate wayfinding, location and availability of facilities and what is permitted within the park — Use concise visual communication where possible; minimise quantity of physical signs within the park	Replace all existing signage with new, simple and informative signage around the primary entry points/ gateways and key internal junctions — Consider a modular system which information can easily be added to or replaced — Periodically review and edit information on display, to avoid build up of outdated signage	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	<b>Med</b>
<b>Service Vehicles</b>	Eliminate damage to park vegetation and paths caused by service vehicle access	Increase width of pathways at select service vehicle access points, and drop kerbs locally to allow access without causing damage — Provide small area of hard-standing near kiosk for loading/ unloading stock and sports equipment — Retain bollarded entry to prevent non- service vehicles from entering park grounds	Assess success through observation and feedback from maintenance personnel	<b>On</b>
<b>Car parking</b>	Balance requirements of visitors arriving by car, and resident parking on streets adjacent to the park	Consult with Traffic Management specialist to review potential for provision of accessible parking, drop off zones, and balance between visitor and resident parking	Monitor use of area through observation by park wardens, and/ or CCTV	<b>On</b>

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#### Key Objectives:

1. Ensure accessibility to the park for all visitors
2. Integrate activities 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:

- Upgrade the existing playground with additional elements which facilitate inclusive, accessible and imaginative play.
- Balance provision of activities to consider visitors of multiple generations and abilities
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and within new facilities.
- Retain off-leash dog areas and provide additional facilities for pet owners.
- Construct new public amenities adjoining grandstand

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Public Access	Retain Petersham Park as a shared outdoor public space	Manage use of the sports ground to balance access between various stakeholders and visiting public — Continue to provide free unrestricted access to the public	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On
Physical accessibility	Ensure all areas of the park are accessible to less able users — Continual evolution of park spaces to facilitate accessibility	Adapt all existing access points, paths, amenities which are not currently accessible. Where this is not feasible, offer an accessible alternative — Consider physical accessibility when undertaking any future works to the parkland	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Playground Upgrades	Provide stimulating, inclusive and diverse active play opportunities for a range of ages	Increase range of activities available including wild play and nature play — Continue to maintain play equipment and area, periodically review condition and renew as required	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On
Pets - dogs	Address visitor concerns about proximity of off leash dog area to playground	Install discrete low fencing and planted buffer where off leash area meets playground area — Encourage owners to keep their dogs in the off leash area by including discrete play and agility elements, and increased provision of dog bowls, bag dispensers and bins	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Historic Assets	Retain and restore historic assets of Petersham Park	<p><b>Grandstand</b> Complement the recent grandstand upgrades with new landscaping and paving to the back of house areas —</p> <p><b>Rotunda</b> Enhance the interface to the rotunda with improved paving, perimeter drainage, planting and seating —</p> <p><b>Scoreboard</b> Retain existing scoreboard as a heritage asset, undertake a feasibility study to determine whether to install new scoreboard in an alternative location, or integrate with existing building. Consider opportunity to incorporate artwork into existing building — Facilitate longevity of existing assets through continued upkeep and maintenance</p>	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On
Connection to place - Trees and planting	Maintain, acknowledge and protect significant trees	<p>Use understorey planting to protect the significant trees —</p> <p>Use imaginative interpretation strategies to identify significant specimens —</p> <p>Provide guidelines for planting new species</p>	Assess success through observation/ visual survey by ecologist	High





#### Key Objectives:

1. Educate, inform, and entertain visitors with stories from the history of the park and the local area, and the ecology of the place
2. Maintain the heritage charm and character of the park
3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and revive underutilised areas
4. Develop a cohesive site identity which builds upon the unique qualities of the park.

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Develop an identity for currently underutilised spaces. Maintain and restore park elements which are of heritage value and contribute to the sense of place.
- Integrate explanatory signage where appropriate into the wider way-finding strategy
- Consider interpretation strategies for new park elements to inform visitors about the parks rich history.
- Ensure new additions contribute to Petersham Park's unique character, and do not detract from the relaxed, historic sports ground vibe which is so highly valued.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
<b>Connection to place - Interpretation Strategy</b>	Develop an inclusive park-wide interpretation strategy which engages and informs interested visitors about the historic assets of the park — Ensure interpretation strategies or artworks span a wide range of reference points including history, place, environment	Use an imaginative range of low impact interpretation strategies including visual or tactile installations - minimise use of exclusively text based information plaques — Engage with local First Nations artists and community members before planning and undertaking interpretation strategies or artworks — Connect features with an 'interpretation trail' with elements of interest mapped on park signage	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	<b>Med</b>
<b>Character + Identity</b>	Preserve elements which contribute to the identity and character of the park — Consider park character when making decisions about new works to the park	Retain, reinstate and maintain elements which are unique to the park, including but not limited to: • Pink 'Petersham Park' lettering integrated into paving • Sandstone seating and edging • Anzac Gates memorial and boulevard/ walk — Design and assess proposals with reference to cultural, historic and aesthetic context	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	<b>On</b>



## COMMUNITY

### Key Objectives:

1. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
2. *Maintain public use of the park and its facilities*
3. *Provide high quality and cohesive furniture and facilities*
4. *Support flexible use for events*
5. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and upgrade under-utilised spaces and facilities so that they offer more value to the community.
- Increase enjoyment of the park with additional seating areas
- Ensure the park and its facilities are well maintained to encourage respectful use.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
<b>Events</b>	Respond to community interest to activate the park with family friendly events — Continue to keep the park open to all visitors/ public	Offer parts of the park as venues for community events — Take advantage of existing elements, for example by using the rotunda as a stage, or the scoreboard as a screen — Develop a plan for managing the organisation of events, to minimise negative impacts on the park and prioritise public access and enjoyment	Assess success through observation and visitor survey, and popularity of events	<b>On</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	For visitors to feel satisfied with condition of park and amenities and comfortable to use them	Implement maintenance works to the existing toilets, followed by an ongoing cleaning and maintenance programme	Assess success through observation, maintenance records and visitor survey	<b>On</b>
<b>Park Furniture</b>	Respond to community demand for picnic tables, bench seats — Use furniture as a cohesive element	Increase provision and range of furniture elements, specifically seating, as per Master Plan — Establish a consistent furniture palette for the park, gradually upgrading elements to the palette as they reach the end of their lifespan	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	<b>High</b>
<b>Community Garden</b>	Respond to interest in a community garden to be cared for by the local preschool and wider community	Install raised garden beds, shed and compost bin in an underutilised area of the park — Develop a plan for managing the community garden to allocate system for upkeep	Assess success through observation and survey of cyclists and other park visitors	<b>High</b>





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*
2. *Support local ecologies through landscaping and maintenance strategies*
3. *Retain and enhance green spaces*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Plant new trees and green areas where possible to increase shade and habitat.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles, upgrade existing facilities and maintenance strategies with sustainable measures.
- Promote awareness of sustainability upgrades and interventions.
- Incorporate more sustainable measures to assist with storm-water management.

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
<b>Approach to building</b>	Prioritise sustainable practices when considering any building work — Prioritise use of natural elements over built structures	Use sustainable energy sources to power amenities around the park including barbecues, toilets, lighting — Approach design of new buildings with sustainable practices at the forefront of design approach	Assessment of energy consumption rates and projected life cycle energy consumption of projected new buildings	<b>On</b>
<b>Water Management</b>	Address storm-water runoff and flooding	Create a rain garden which double as wild gardens to capture and treat rainwater from problem areas — Coordinate with storm-water and landscape consultants for design and implementation	Assess success through observation/ visual survey of park after storm events	<b>High</b>
<b>Biodiversity + Wildlife</b>	Encourage greater ecological diversity within the park — Avoid interventions which could disturb bird life in and around the park — Preserve darker zones to accommodate nocturnal wildlife	Build on existing pockets of fauna — Incorporate new pockets of low planting and trees, using a researched and considered species selection — Consult with Landscape Architect as required — Limit lighting levels and locations to pedestrian pathways	Assess success through observation/ visual survey by ecologist	<b>On</b>
<b>Wellness + Wellbeing</b>	Continue to provide spaces which benefit visitors' physical and mental well being	Retain large areas of unstructured grassed areas which are highly valued by many visitors	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Risk of injury	Limit risk of injury to park visitors from stray cricket and base balls thrown or hit out from the sports ground — Maintain views and sight lines across the sports ground	Replace damaged baseball netting adjacent to spectator seating — Review condition of cricket screens adjacent to spectator seating, upgrade as required — Install new visually permeable netting between sports ground and play park — Continued maintenance of nets to ensure ongoing functionality — Consider using demountable warning signage for game days	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Road safety	Facilitate safer access to the park, specifically around pedestrian crossing	Implement traffic calming measures on West Street — Introduce 40km/h speed limit — Use signage to inform motor vehicles of the high volume of pedestrian traffic necessitating increased awareness and reduced travel speeds	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the perceived sense of safety and discourage antisocial behaviour through design elements*
2. *Support safer interactions between vehicles, people and dogs*
3. *Manage the risk of injury to park users by stray base balls and cricket balls.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes and facilities
- Provide buffers to busy streets and off-leash dog areas.
- Implement traffic calming measures along West Street to improve pedestrian safety at crossings
- Provide signage, maintain and upgrade protective netting and barriers

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Lighting	For visitors to feel safe and secure in the park after dark	Low level lighting to primary pathways and cycle path	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	High
Passive surveillance	Help visitors to the park feel safe and deter anti social behaviour; by creating opportunities for passive surveillance	<p>Reinstate West Street entry as a formal access point, to counter the 'back of house' character of this edge of the park, encouraging foot traffic and therefore passive surveillance of this edge</p> <p>—</p> <p>Introduce exercise stations at the less used edge of the sports ground, to draw more visitors into this area, increasing passive surveillance</p> <p>—</p> <p>Improve connectivity and passive surveillance by adding low impact surface treatment and low level lighting to existing desire line paths</p>	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On

Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Supporting healthy lifestyles	Provide opportunities for non- organised, casual recreation within the park	Make the sports ground available for public use outside of organised sporting fixtures	Assess success through observation, monitoring use of facilities and visitor survey	On
Outdoor exercise mobility equipment	Introduce outdoor exercise equipment which caters for a wide range of users, to facilitate health, fitness and mobility of the community — Provide consistent and reliable access to the exercise stations	Install clusters of fixed, robust exercise equipment on areas of permeable hard standing — Diversify range of exercise stations to attract older users and less abled users — Incorporate sustainably powered low level lighting at exercise stations to facilitate use after dark — Provide accessible pathway to exercise stations, seating and water stations nearby — Once installed, allow for maintenance and regular servicing of equipment	Assess success through observation, monitoring use of facilities and regularly reviewing condition of equipment	Med
Circuit track	Provide a loop track around the sports ground for uninterrupted running and walking	Upgrade pathways around sports ground to provide level, even surfaces — Connect these pathways together to create continuous loop track which avoids the grandstand and stairs — Longer term, replace concrete and asphalt surfaces with a consistent permeable surface treatment, and widen any pinch points on the track	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	Med



**Key Objectives:**

1. Enhance the quality of existing sports facilities and amenities.
2. Provide opportunities for informal recreation to encourage active and healthy communities
3. Enable flexibility of spaces, to be shared across a range of activities
4. Balance community and organisation use of the park and its facilities.

**Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:**

- Maintain the sports field as a natural turf surface, upgrade storage areas and implement measures to assist with maintenance
- Provide player, spectator and public facilities that are accessible and fitting of a premier sporting ground
- Create new areas and facilities to support a broader range of activities and mobility requirements. Implement measures such as improved lighting to extend the hours of use.
- Maintain shared community access to park assets.

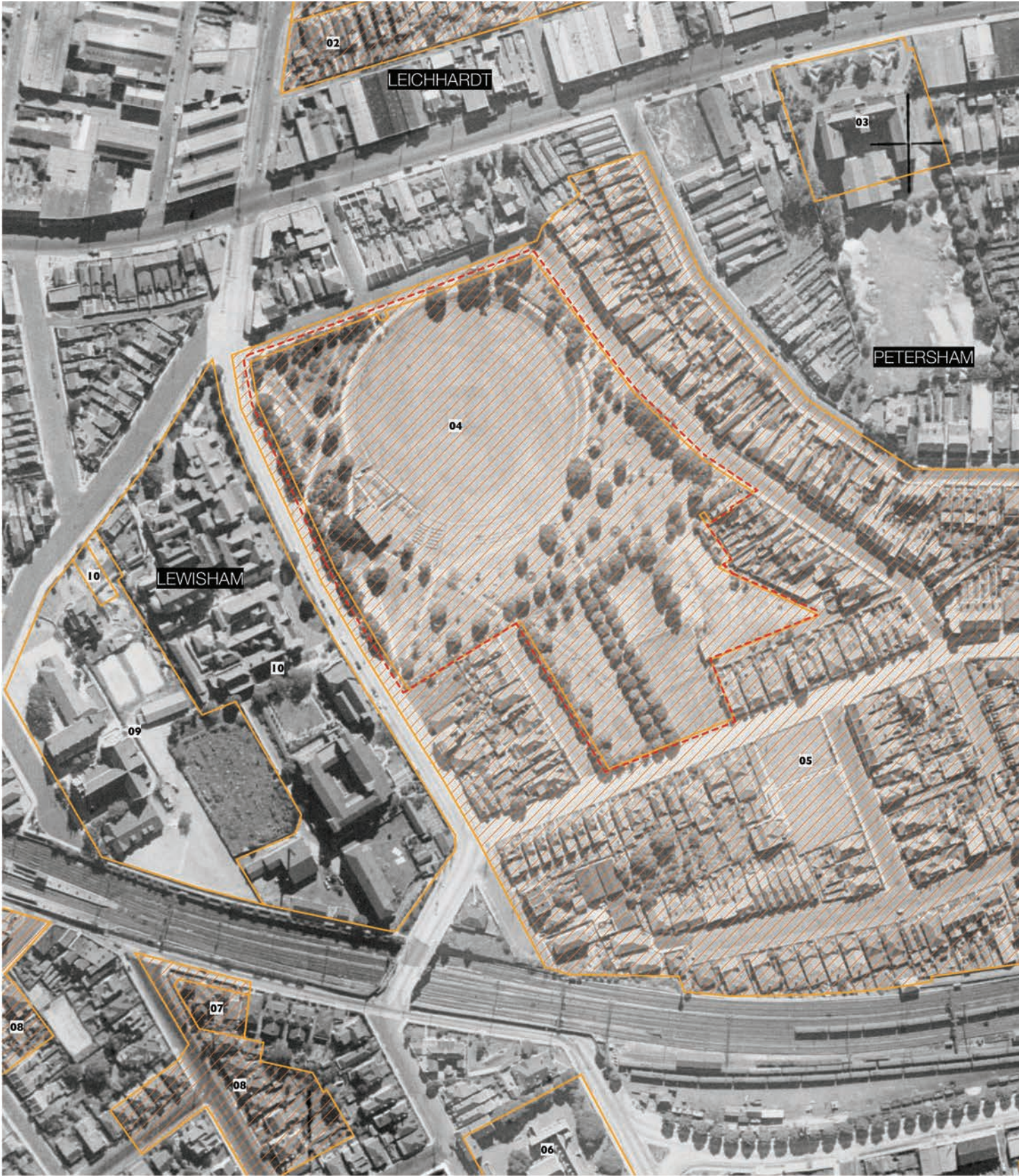
Management Issues	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of Achievement of Objectives	Manner of Assessment of Performance	Priority
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	Extend the swimming season and opening hours of the Aquatic Centre	Coordinate with Belgravia Leisure (operators of the Aquatic Centre) to assess viability and logistics of facilitating extended opening hours — Suggest and facilitate trials to assess popularity of extended opening hours, and community consultation to determine appetite for upgrades to pool heating and after dark lighting	Assess success through observation and visitor survey	On
Sports ground	Provide high quality sports grounds for sports teams — Maintain condition of sports ground during extreme weather events — Limit over use of sports ground, to maximise usability and longevity — Enhance both player and spectator experience — Replace lighting to facilitate games after dark	Maintain natural turf sports ground, renew surface as and when required — Check capacity and condition of existing rainwater tank to ensure it can hold enough water to irrigate the sports ground. — Replace and/or subsidise existing tank with underground rainwater tank for irrigation of sports ground — Manage capacity of sports ground by observation and rotation of high impact sports Install — Install new digital scoreboard with flexible display to suit a range of sports	Assess success through observation, consultation with sports teams and visitor survey	High



View across spectator seating looking towards Wentworth Street. Photography by Welsh + Major.



Appendix A



1943 Aerial Imagery [six maps]    Site boundary 2019    Heritage listed items    Heritage conservation area

HERITAGE LISTED ITEMS + CONSERVATION AREAS

- 01** Street trees - avenue of Brush Box  
(Item no 1617)

**02** Albert Street Heritage Conservation Area  
(Item no C9)

**03** William Wilkins Building - Fort Street High School  
| Lot 3, DP 826604  
(Item no 211)

**04** Petersham Park | Lots 7025 + 7026, DP 1060136  
Lot 7048, DP 1060137  
(Item no 125)

**05** Petersham North Heritage Conservation Area  
(Item no C3)

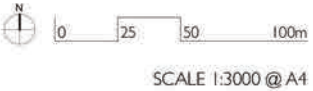
**06** Petersham Girls' High School (former) | Lot 1, DP 835049  
(Item no 1230)

**07** Two-storey Federation Queen Anne style residence |  
Lot 1, DP 132383; Lot 2, DP 5052  
(Item no 1324)

**08** Lewisham Estate Heritage Conservation Area  
(Item no C26)

**09** St Thomas's Catholic Church School and Presbytery |  
Lot 22, DP 827632  
(Item no 164)

**10** Former Lewisham Hospital, Convent and grounds |  
Lot 1, DP 565617; Lots 1 and 2, DP 1116995  
(Item no 163)





## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

### First Nations History

The original owners of the land within the Marrickville Council area were the Cadigal and Wangal clans of the coastal Eora people. The Aboriginal name for the area is Bulamaning. The Cadigal clan is believed to have stretched along the south side of Port Jackson from South Head to about Petersham. The Wangal people were believed to have occupied the area along the southern shore of the Parramatta River, from about Petersham to about Rosehill. [1]

Artefacts found within the LGA show that Aboriginal people were hunting land animals as well as fishing along the rivers. These artefacts include stone axes, which were likely used to remove bark from trees to make canoes, containers, shields and other resources. Axes were also used to cut toe-holds in tree trunks for climbing to catch possums. [2]

The area now known as Petersham was likely a significant hunting ground for Aboriginal people. It came to be known by European settlers as 'Kangaroo Grounds', and kangaroo grass and many kangaroos were observed here.

With the establishment of the penal colony at Sydney Cove in 1788 the dispossession of the original inhabitants was begun. In 1789 a smallpox plague decimated the Aboriginal population, though descendants of the Cadigal and Wangal people still reside within the Sydney metropolitan area. [3]

### Early European Settlement

Petersham was founded in 1793 by the Lieutenant Governor Major Francis Grose, and was named after his native village on the Thames near Richmond, England. The settlement was established in the early colonial days to encourage farming to alleviate severe food scarcity.

The first land grant in the area was as early as 1789, and by 1809 all land in the district had been granted. Early land grants were mostly 30 acres or less, and made to approximately thirty individuals. These formed a series of farms along Parramatta Road. Taverns and inns also emerged along this section of the route, and contributed to the development of the area.

The initial impetus for Petersham's growth was the quality of its farming land, and its location along Parramatta Road - a convenient rest point at the end of a day's journey from Sydney. Parramatta Road was established as early as 1789, and by 1794 was widened sufficiently to accommodate carriages.

By the early 1800's the majority of the early land grants had been acquired by four land owners - Thomas Moore, George Johnston, Thomas Rowley and Thomas Smyth. Substantial country estates were established in the following decades, notably Dr Robert Wardell's "Petersham Estate" and his house "Sara Dell" located on Parramatta Road, on the site now occupied by Fort Street High School. The Australian explorer, journalist, politician and author William Wentworth acquired 'Petersham' as his country seat in 1826, and later purchased a 25 acre lot in 1848. Petersham Park was later laid out on the northern section of this lot.



Excerpt from 1793 map of areas explored near Port Jackson. The Petersham area is described as 'Kangaroo Ground' and 'good land'. Source: Dixon Library, State Library of NSW



Left: c1880's undated, mostly unrealised plan showing allotments over and adjoining the park site. Source: InnerWest Council Library and History



Right: c1880's undated plan showing allotments adjoining the park site  
Source: National Library of Australia

Subdivision of the Petersham Estate began in 1848. A portion of the Petersham estate was subdivided as the "Sydenham Estate" in anticipation of the opening of the Sydney to Parramatta railway. The train line eventually opened in 1855, and trains stopped at Petersham from 1857. Villas and cottages were built and it formed the core of the Municipality of Petersham, which was incorporated in 1871. Petersham emerged as a desirable suburb of the elite, and building in the area peaked in the 1880's. [4]+[5]

### Petersham Park - Present

The formation of Petersham Park began with the Crown purchasing allotments from a number of owners including Hastings Dairy. These were consolidated into two parcels bisected by Wentworth Street. On 28th September 1887, the park was proclaimed following the resumption of a large portion of Charles Wentworth's former estate.



# Appendix A



Map c1892 showing the line of a drain construction connecting to a creek flowing through the park. Source: taken from Conservation Plan for Petersham Park, 1988



Map c1889 showing the park perimeter overlaid with the original proclamation line and original extent of Wentworth Street. Source: taken from Conservation Plan for Petersham Park, 1988



Petersham Park in 1926 showing the rotunda and recently completed grandstand. Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW



Petersham Park in 1948 showing the southern portion of the park looking towards Station Street. Source: Inner West Council Library and History



Petersham Park oval showing the T. J. E. Andrews scoreboard, date unknown. Source: Inner West Council Library and History



The Anzac Gates entry in the 1940's (former tennis courts to the left). Source: Inner West Council Library and History

## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

The park had a creek flowing to the north west and extending through the area now occupied by the oval. Soon after proclamation the creek was covered over by the Water and Sewerage Board.

Formal commencement of park planning works occurred in 1891. In the period from the late 1880's to the mid 1920's, the park's size was finalised and its composition and layout were determined. Key developments during this period include:

- The acquisition of Wentworth Street in 1890, installation picket fencing around the park's perimeter; and later acquisition of parcels of land adjoining Lotos Street in 1921.
- Placement of 36 seats throughout the park, and the resolution to plant a tree behind each seat. Around 600 trees were sourced from Gosford nursery and planted throughout the park.
- The laying of a small path from each gate, construction of two entrances, and installation of lamps
- Construction of a pavilion and dressing rooms in 1899, and the rotunda in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.
- Construction of a fountain on the Brighton Street frontage in 1899 to commemorate Queen Victoria's record reign - and later removal of this to make way for the former Petersham Town Hall gates. These were installed as the ANZAC Memorial Gates in 1921, along with the 'soliders memorial' avenue of trees.
- Setting out and fencing of the oval, and the laying of a turf wicket.
- The establishment of a bowling green and tennis court in the south east corner of the park.

By 1900 the park was a regular venue for community activities including Petersham district band concerts, a children's playground, regular cricket matches and after 1901 football matches.

The second main period of the park's development occurred from the 1920's to the 1940's. This period saw park beautification works, along with proposals and construction of new sporting infrastructure. Key developments during this period include:

- Construction of the new pavilion and grandstand. This opened in 1924 and was named the D. Seddon Pavilion after local cricket and rugby player Dudley Seddon. The oval was made available to other groups to boost funding for the grandstand and improvement works. From the early 1920's it became a regular venue for the Petersham Baseball Club.
- Construction of the T.J. E. Andrews scoreboard. This opened in 1937 and is named after local cricket player Tommy Andrews.
- Proposals for large developments like the swimming pool complex and preschool.
- Construction of rustic stone elements including boundary walls, edging and seats. These were added in the 1930's during the Depression years, most likely as a Depression relief scheme.
- Planting and laying out of garden beds with roses, annuals, and palm trees.



Aerial view c1930's over Petersham park looking west. Source: Mitchell library, State Library of NSW



Aerial view c1940's over Petersham park looking north-west showing the former Brighton Street diagonal path, tennis and bowling lawns. Source: Mitchell library, State Library of NSW

Since the late 1940's the park has remained much the same, with only a few significant developments including:

- Closure of the tennis club in 1942 to make way for construction of the kindergarten in 1948, and the Fanny Durack swimming pool complex in the 1960's.
- Removal of the diagonal path which ran from Brighton Street towards the grandstand.
- Restoration of the rotunda in 1992.
- Upgrades to the pool complex (2012-2014) and adjacent playground including a seating area and barbeques.
- Grandstand upgrades are currently underway.

[4]+[5]

[1] Inner West Council. Aboriginal Community. [ONLINE] [Accessed December 2020]

[2] The Newtown Project. Archaeological and Early Contact History. [ONLINE] [Accessed December 2020]

[3] Dr Paul Irish - Cooks River Alliance. Aboriginal History Along The Cooks River [ONLINE] [Accessed December 2020]

[4] Mayne-Wilson & Associates. Conservation Management Plan for Petersham Park. May 2007

[5] Matthew Taylor. Conservation Plan for Petersham Park. November 1988





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

**Overview**

This section outlines the current community profile of Petersham using data from the 2016 ABS Census from Profile i.d.

**Population growth**

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

Between 2016 and 2036 the population of the IWC is forecast to increase by 49,049 people, bringing the total to 241,001 people.

Within this period, 2,217 new residents are anticipated in Petersham, with 2,105 of these arriving between 2016 and 2026.

**Open space provision**

The Inner West has 323.4ha of open space which equates to 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m<sup>2</sup> per person. Of this, council owns 256ha, which equates to 7.3% of total land area, or 13.3m<sup>2</sup> per person.

The provision of open space in Petersham is below average, with 8m<sup>2</sup> of council owned open space per person in 2016.





**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 Petersham - 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:

ArabicCantoneseGreekItalianMacedonianMandarinNepaliPortugueseSpanishTagalogVietnamese\*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 Petersham - 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 Petersham - Density, income + housing profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

**Age + disability profile**

Petersham has a high proportion of young people aged 12-24 years. Spaces suited to this age group should be prioritised to cater for current and future population needs

**Cultural profile**

Petersham has a relatively low proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, with 22% compared to the IWC average of 28.4%. Park facilities, wayfinding and site interpretation strategies should be inclusive despite this lower representation.

**Density, income + housing profile**

Petersham is characterised by medium density housing which is typical of the LGA.

Lewisham, Leichhardt and Marrickville, are three of the five IWC suburbs with the greatest projected increase in population density from 2016 to 2036. Bounded by these suburbs, the increased demand for open space may extend to Petersham too.

Income levels are just below average, and car ownership is high. The majority of households have cars. Encouraging residents to use active or public transport would help to reduce local road congestion.







## NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT

### Site Overview

Petersham is a smaller suburb in the Inner West local government area. It is bordered by the suburbs of Leichhardt to the north, Stanmore to the east, Marrickville to the south and Lewisham to the west. Retail and civic functions are concentrated along Audley Street, Parramatta Road and New Canterbury Roads. Corner shops are also dispersed throughout the suburb.

There is no direct connection linking these areas and Petersham Park. Although signage in adjacent streets indicates the direction to the Aquatic Centre, there is no signage specially for Petersham Park.

The park is generally surrounded by residential dwellings along Station, Wentworth and Brighton Streets. These include detached and semi-detached two-storey terrace-style dwellings, detached houses and rows of modest Victorian and Federation period terraces and houses, along with a few low density inter-war apartments. Opposite the park on busy West Street is the former Lewisham Hospital and convent, now the site of aged care accommodation, religious and not for profit organisations. The south western park boundary is flanked by a recent five storey apartment building.

### Major Roads

Parramatta Road is major thoroughfare linking the Sydney CBD to Parramatta and is located one block to the north of the park. Adjacent to the Park is West Street which bridges the railway tracks to connect Parramatta Road to the north with busy New Canterbury Road to the south.

### Public Transport

Petersham Park is close to bus stops along a number of routes, and has train and light rail stations nearby.

There are many options for getting to the park via public transport, however all require a short final leg of walking except for the 413 which stops on West Street. This can be prohibitive for some members of the community such as parents with small children, the elderly and those with accessibility requirements. Some of the walking routes are along busy roads, with steep gradients, narrow footpaths and limited pedestrian crossings. There is also no wayfinding signage to indicate the direction of Petersham Park from the key public transport stops.

It is approximately a 6 minute walk from the park to the closest train station Leisham Station, and approximately a 10 minute walk from nearby Petersham Station. These are both connected to the T2 line.

The closest bus stops are:

West Street, opposite the park (Route 413)

Parramatta Road (Routes 461, 480, 483), approximately 2 mins walk to park entrances.

There are also bus stops to the south of the park which are less than 10 mins walk to park entrances.

New Canterbury Road (Routes L28, 428),

Gordon Street (Route 412)

Trafalgar Street (Route 445)

The nearest light rail stop is Taverners Hill, located on the L1 line and an 8 minute walk from the park.

### Cycle Routes

There have been efforts to establish and improve local cycle networks as indicated in the “2007 Marrickville Bicycle Strategy” and “Staying Active Map”, prepared by the former Marrickville Council.

West Street is indicated as a cycle route running north to south. The shared path running through Petersham Park links West Street to local streets to the east which are used by cyclists.

The routes are predominately unmarked, on road and unseparated from traffic. There is potential to link the park to the nearby Greenway which will offer cyclists a dedicated cycleway.

### Local Parklands, Community Spaces and Schools

Petersham Park is one of the larger parks in the Inner West Council area. There are a number of smaller —local parklands, community spaces and schools nearby that also contribute to the overall network of open spaces and facilities.

Quinn Playground is a small fenced playground located 900m to the north east. It contains play equipment, seating and some established shade trees.

Brighton Street Reserve is a fenced local park located 350m to the east. It contains a playground, basketball halfcourt, seating, barbecue area, picnic tables, established shade trees and grassy areas.

Cadigal Reserve is a leafy area located 500m west, which sits between the Hawthorne stormwater canal and the light rail. It is part of the Greenway corridor which will eventually link the Cooks River and Iron Cove. Popular activities include cycling, walking, bird watching and dog walking in designated on and off leash areas.

Wangal Nura Park is a small fenced local park located 900m north. It contains a shaded playground, basketball half court and soccer goal, seats, shelters and grassy areas for on leash dog exercise.

Marr Reserve is located 800m to the north east. It contains two playgrounds, seats, shelters and grassy areas for on leash dog exercise.

The Petersham Bowling Club is located 50m to the south east, on the opposite side of Brighton Street. It contains bowling greens, amenities, and a clubhouse with restaurant, bar and stage area. The club is open every day except Monday and often functions as a performance venue.

Fort Street High School is within close proximity. It contains a large grass playing field, 2x multi-purpose basketball courts, 2x tennis courts and 2x cricket nets.

Complexes containing nursing homes, retirement accommodation, religious and not for profit organisations are located opposite the park on West Street. There is a pedestrian crossing at each end of the West Street boundary to enable residents to cross the street and access the park.






SCALE 1:2000 @ A4

## CONDITION OF LAND + STRUCTURE

	Use of land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Condition of the land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Future Condition (targeted following adoption of the PoM)
01	Brighton Street gates	Good	Maintain
02	Scoreboard building	Poor	Restore + maintain building. Replace or upgrade scoreboard in situ, or in new location tbc
03	Public recreation	Good	Upgrade + maintain
04	Playing field	Good	Maintain playing field, update lighting for evening use.
05	Spectator seating	Fair	Maintain
06	Entrance pergolas	Fair	Restore + maintain
07	Public amenities, pool entry, pool changerooms + cafe building	Good	Maintain. Upgrades including pool heating and external lighting tbc
08	Grandstand building	Poor - restoration and upgrades underway	Restore, upgrade + maintain
09	Storage building adjacent to playing field	Poor	Upgrade
10	Playground and adjacent seating platform, picnic and barbeque area	Fair	Replace or upgrade playground, maintain seating platform, picnic and barbeque area
11	Rotunda	Fair	Restore + maintain, upgrade adjacent landscaping and paving
12	Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre grounds including shade structures, pools and service building	Good	Maintain
13	Palm grove	Fair	Restore + maintain
14	KU Petersham Preschool building	Fair	Maintain
15	KU Petersham Preschool grounds including storage sheds, shade structures and play areas	Fair	Maintain





 Zone Boundary



SCALE 1:2000 @ A4



## ZONE IDENTIFICATION

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

### Zone 1 - PLAYGROUND PRECINCT *Crown Land*

Zone 1 wraps around the south eastern edge of the oval and extends east towards Station Street. It is characterised by gently sloped terrain which forms a grassed amphitheatre around the playing field. The zone contains playground equipment, barbeques, and picnic tables. There are two pedestrian entrances along Station Street, and the rotunda which provides shelter and heritage charm.

### Zone 2 - PLAYING FIELD + GRANDSTAND *Crown Land*

Zone 2 contains the playing field, perimeter fencing and pathway, grandstand, spectator seating and scoreboard. The playing field is the low point of the site and is predominantly used for cricket in summer and baseball in winter. There are two minor entrances along Station Street, one of these allows level access to the playing field for maintenance. The grandstand is currently closed for upgrades and the scoreboard is not operational.

### Zone 3 - WEST STREET PARKLANDS *Crown Land*

Zone 3 is located along the western boundary of the site. It includes four of the park entrances, along with the dedicated service vehicle entrance at the end of Wentworth Street. The northern portion of this zone is internally focused, and is enhanced with the palm grove, bays of sandstone seating, and established trees. The southern portion is more exposed; plantings along pathways and vistas towards the playing field create a sense of arrival.

### Zone 4 - BRIGHTON STREET + AQUATIC CENTRE *Crown Land*

Zone 4 is located to the south of the site, and is bounded by residential streets and properties. It contains the Fanny Durack aquatic centre, cafe, public amenities, KU Petersham preschool, and a large area of landscaped parkland adjoining Brighton and Wentworth Streets. The parkland area is characterised by an avenue of established trees, and adjoining grassland with palm planters through the centre.



Zone 1 - view east across playground



Zone 2 - view west towards grandstand

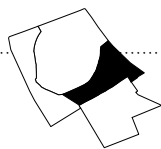


Zone 3 - view north from palm grove



Zone 4 - view south towards Brighton Street





 Zone Boundary     Adjacent zones     Outside of site boundary



SCALE 1:1000 @ A4



## ZONE 1

### Overview

Zone 1 wraps around the south eastern edge of the oval and extends east towards Station Street. It is characterised by gently sloped terrain which forms a grassed amphitheatre around the playing field. The zone contains playground equipment, barbeques, and picnic tables.

There are two pedestrian entrances along Station Street, and the rotunda which provides shelter and heritage charm.

### Character

Zone 1 is the informal hub of the site and a place where people meet. It is well frequented at all times, particularly by groups using the playground, picnicing, visiting the aquatic centre, and exercising dogs when and where permitted. The grassy areas have shade and provide a social space for enjoying the park.

### Signage

There is no signage along nearby streets to direct visitors to the entry gates along Station Street. The gazebo and paving with 'Petersham Park' lettering signify the main entry to the park at the southern end of Station Street.

Within the park there is no cohesive signage or information regarding future events, sporting use, opening and closing times or interpretation. There is just a mish mash of signage from different eras.

'Pets in Parks' signage is located at both of the Station Street entries - this delineates dog on/off leash areas and associated rules.

This is accompanied by old Marrickville Council signage.

Old Marrickville Council signage to inform visitors of the possible presence of long nosed bandicoots is displayed through this zone, and sometimes duplicated near entries.

There is signage to indicate the pathway linking Station Street to West Street is shared.

Advertisements for community events, classes, and missing pets are fixed to light poles and other surfaces throughout the park. These give an untidy appearance, a community notice board should be considered.

### Built structures

There is a historic rotunda adjacent to the playing field perimeter track. The rotunda dates from 1902 and is octagonal in plan, with timber and iron framed structure, a slate roof, sandstone foundations and a tiled floor. Decorative elements include ornate iron columns and lacework, terracotta roof finials, stone and patterned tile flooring, and commemorative plaques. The structure appears to be generally in good condition. The iron lacework has some rust, and the timber handrail has some rot, the sandstone foundations have some signs of flaking, and mortar missing at junctions.

Paving runs around the perimeter of the perimeter of the rotunda

and links the entry to the playing field perimeter track. The paving was installed in 1992 as part of restoration works. This has subsided and is damaged in some areas.

The Station Street entry adjacent to the aquatic centre is demarcated with a portico structure. The structure consists of four concrete columns with timber beams above and 'Petersham Park' lettering. It is in good condition, requiring only minor touch ups to fix damaged paint and to remove graffiti.

The playground area is located towards the south-eastern corner of this zone, and is directly opposite the aquatic centre entry. It contains a large timber seating platform, retaining walls, play equipment and shade sail structures. The area was upgraded in 2013, and shade structures were added in 2018 - it receives heavy use and is generally in good working condition. The playground has surfaces and equipment that are not able to be used or accessed by less mobile visitors.

### Lighting

This zone is relatively well lit for evening use and safety. Directional post mounted lights illuminate the shared pedestrian path and cycleway which is a major through route. These fittings limit spill over to tree canopies so that dark spots are maintained for wildlife.

Non-directional post mounted lights are located close to pathways. These are concentrated towards the playing field perimeter track which visitors often use for evening running and walking. The spill-over from these fittings provide some general illumination to the playing field.

The playground and barbeque area is not lit, most likely to discourage antisocial evening use.

### Facilities

There are two barbecues, three picnic tables, and a water fountain located on the hardstand area adjoining the playground. There are no bins in the immediate vicinity which is inconvenient for visitors using this area.

The playground is described in built structures. It contains retaining walls and a large timber platform for informal seating, along with two contemporary bench seats.

A single bench seat is located on the grassy slopes behind the rotunda. This is a retro styled seat, one of two remaining in the park.

The rotunda is described in built structures. This provides shelter from the elements and can be booked for events - there is no signage to indicate this.

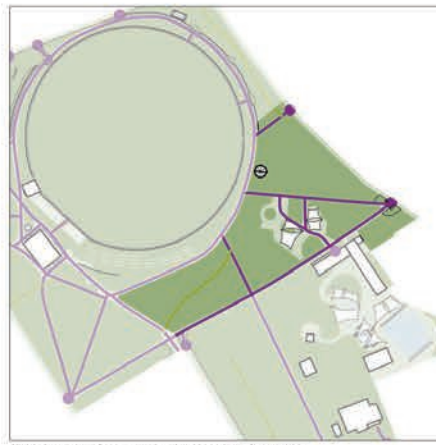
General waste bins are located adjacent to the Station Street portico entry. These are locked to a metal frame. There are no dog waste dispensers here, and there are no recycling bins within public areas of the park.

Dogs are not permitted in the vicinity of the playground area. To assist visitors council has provided dog tie up poles at a suitable distance away.

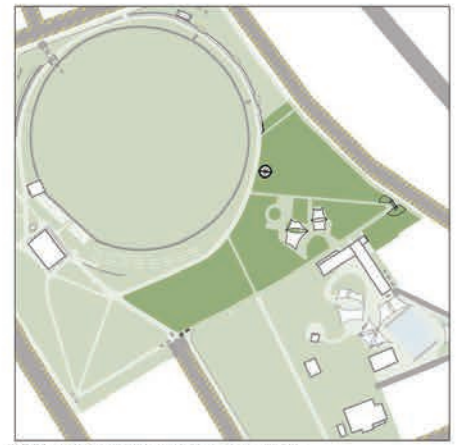




Facilities



Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



Fence + enclosure



Lighting



Tree cover



Sports + recreation grounds



Gradient



Services

Existing structure	Formal foot path	Playground	Electrical	High fence	Bench
Existing hardstanding	Informal foot path	Lighting	High pressure gas	Medium fence	Toilets
Car parking	Site contour line	Pool	Sewer	Low fence/ bollards	Water fountain
Road	Sportsground	Stormwater	Water mains	BBQ facilities	Bike racks
Service access route	Lawn	Telstra	Sydney trains hv line	Canteen / Cafe	

## ZONE 1

Street library boxes are located on either side of the Station Street entry at the northern end of this zone.

### Fences + enclosure

The Station Street boundary is very permeable, there are no fences and only the footpath separates the park from the road.

A portion of the park adjoins a residential property at 6 Station Street. The boundary is formed by the side wall of the house, planting and a timber paling fence to the rear. Windows along the side wall directly overlook this seldom used section of the park.

### Access points + existing pathways

There are two formal park entrances within Zone 1, both located along Station Street.

The northern entry is flanked by dense planting providing a framed view of the park. The pathway is concrete, and looks to be recently replaced and in good condition. It links to the playing field perimeter path.

The southern entry is a major park entry point, located close to accessible parking spots, the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre, playground area, shared pedestrian and cycle path, and the playing field perimeter track. The portico structure and attractive sandstone edged garden beds create a strong sense of arrival. The pathway here is older style jointed concrete. Areas of the adjacent footpath have been infilled with bitumen which detracts for the appearance of this entry. The grassy area to the south of this entry feels like leftover space, has no purpose and is fairly isolated from the rest of the park.

The shared pedestrian and cycle path is a recently completed concrete path which provides an accessible route through the park and to the aquatic centre. It is the major site thoroughfare and is wide and well lit to cater for park visitors.

Other paths within this zone provide links through grassy areas to the playing field perimeter path.

There is also a path through the playground.

Muddy desire line track through grassy area, These pathways are evident from the worn away turf and muddy areas.

Mixture of new and older style paths with jointed concrete and curved kerb side. There is evidence of cracking to older paths, and some damage to kerbs from service vehicles.

Predominantly formal pathways, formal nature of park, planting and grassy areas are in good condition.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

There are no vehicle access points or parking areas in this zone.

Zone 3 contains a driveway with removable bollards off Wentworth Street for service vehicle access. Service vehicles entering this Zone 2 are typically associated with park maintenance. These vehicles

generally drive along the shared pedestrian and cycleway, and through grassy areas. Muddy vehicle tracks are visible in some of the grassy areas, along with damaged edging along the narrower paths.

Only street parking is available for visitors arriving by car. There are two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the entry at the southern end of Station Street - this is also the closest entry point to the Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre.

It is unclear whether vehicles are permitted to enter and park in this zone for special events.

### Sports + recreation grounds

The playground area is described in built structures. The play equipment caters to a range of age groups with swings, slides, climbing, and balance structures. It contains a combination of rubberised soft fall areas and bark chips. Unfortunately the area is not designed as an inclusive playground, and has limited options for very young children and older children.

This zone contains grassy areas which are popular for informal and passive recreation. The area to the south-west of this zone is frequented for off-leash dog exercise.

Areas to the north of this zone are used for picnics and casually enjoying the park. Shady spots close to the aquatic centre and playground are most popular. Uncollected litter reduces enjoyment of these areas

### Ground cover + tree cover

There are a number of tree species within the zone, and tree cover is most notable along the main pathways and at the park entry points. There is scattered tree cover through the grassy areas with established and recent plantings.

The shared pedestrian and cycleway is flanked with established camphor laurel and box brush trees. Other pathways linking to the playing field perimeter track are flanked with phoenix palms.

There are areas of understorey planting, some new and some established. These are typically at the base of trees and at path intersections. There are no large, continuous areas of low planting.

Grassy areas are generally in good condition, with some bare areas along desire line paths and under tree canopies where it is replaced by mulch or bare dirt and leaf litter.

Planting runs along the boundary shared with 6 Station Street to disguise the fence and provide separation from the park. The planting is not particularly attractive or consistent with the rest of the park.

### Fauna linkages

The park does not form part of a continuous network of green spaces. It is located in the midst of an urban residential neighbourhood, and is close to busy roads.





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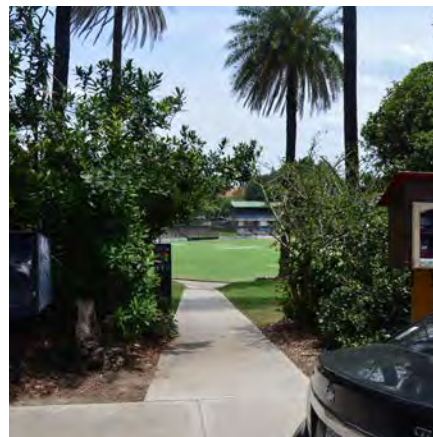
08



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01. View towards southern Station Street entry / 02. Rotunda and grassy areas beyond / 03. View across grassy areas towards playground / 04. Dog tie-up pole / 05. Oval perimeter pathway / 06. Barbeque area adjacent to playground / 07. Mixture of new and older style paths / 08. Playground area / 09. View from playground towards timber seating platform and pool entry / 10. Underutilised grassy area adjacent to southern Station Street entry / 11. Northern Station Street entry / 12. Rotunda with subsiding paving linking to oval perimeter pathway

## ZONE 1

There are a few large sites nearby where the endangered and protected long nosed bandicoot has been identified. These sites include Fort Street High School, and the complex of schools, offices, nursing homes and retirement accommodation on West Street. Petersham Park may provide habitat for these creatures too, however the proximity to busy roads, lack of low planting, and conflict with dogs and roaming cats likely limits their spread, and general biodiversity in the park.

Tree dwelling birds and possums frequent the park, and make use of nesting hollows in the established trees. There is an opportunity to provide additional planting scale and diversity to increase biodiversity within the park. Continuous stretches of low planting, and fruiting and flowering plants would help to support insects, birds and wildlife.

### Services

Stormwater lines run beneath the playground area and alongside public pathways in this zone. These are areas with well established trees, so development is unlikely to be proposed in these areas.

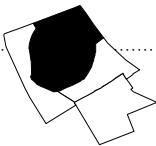
A post mounted power board is located adjacent to the southern entry off Station Street. The box is mounted low and in a visually prominent spot, relocation should be considered.

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

There are opportunities to:

- Enhance the heritage charm of the rotunda and improve its interface with the rest of the park
- Provide facilities for the community such as a notice board and garden areas
- Develop and implement a cohesive furniture palette
- Improve the interface between the playground, sporting activities and dog exercise areas.
- Provide play areas that cater to a range of ages and abilities and that support imaginative play.
- Provide facilities and furniture to support a greater range of activities in the park
- Increase planting around the perimeter to provide shade and habitat and to enhance entrances and frontages.
- Improve disposal of rubbish and dog waste with more bins in more locations, and sorted waste to reduce the amount of landfill.
- Encourage people to visit the park by bike and by public transport
- Increase awareness of the park, what it has to offer, and when it is in use for sporting and other events
- Consolidate and screen bins adjacent to the southern Station Street entry





Zone Boundary    Adjacent zones    Outside of site boundary



SCALE 1:1000 @ A4



## Overview

Zone 2 contains the playing field, perimeter fencing and pathway, grandstand, spectator seating and scoreboard. The playing field is the low point of the site and is predominantly used for cricket in summer and baseball in winter. There are two minor entrances along Station Street, one of these allows level access to the playing field for maintenance. The grandstand is currently closed for upgrades and the scoreboard is not operational.

## Character

Zone 2 is characterised by the playing field located at the park's centre. During sports matches it is the focus of activity, at other times visitors can be seen kicking a ball on the field or jogging around the perimeter track.

The grandstand, spectator seating and scoreboard contribute to the heritage nostalgia of the park, and the grandstand area will be reinvigorated once the upgrades are complete.

## Signage

Various signage here notifies visitors that dogs are not permitted on the playing field under any circumstances. 'Pets in Parks' signage features as the only signage at the pedestrian entry off Station Street.

There are no signs indicating who owns and runs the playing fields, which clubs use them, when matches are scheduled, who can use them and if they can be booked.

There is a brass plaque mounted on a low concrete plinth adjacent to the oval player entrance. This is a tribute to Sir Donald Bradman and commemorates his debut appearance in Sydney playing at Petersham Park.

There is a mixture of old, sometimes illegible signage scattered through the grassy area behind the scoreboard. This is leftover from the former Marrickville Council and includes park rules, signs for no camping, no vehicles and no consumption of alcohol.

The side of the substation has a plastic advertising pocket with a flyer for classes in the park. This looks to have been added informally, and suggests a community noticeboard would be a worthwhile addition to the park.

## Built Structures

The grandstand is a two storey building constructed in 1924 in the Interwar style. It is a brick, steel and timber framed structure, with concrete seating level and a corrugated metal roof. It is currently closed while undergoing upgrades.

The grandstand contains a raised covered seating area which is accessed by external staircases located on either side of the building.

Once upgrades are complete the ground floor will include public amenities, club room, verandah area, canteen, player amenities and change room including accessible amenities.

The grandstand is identified in the CMP as having moderate heritage significance.

Alongside the grandstand there is a large concrete water tank. This detracts from the visual appeal of the grandstand and blocks vistas and access. Underground options should be considered.

The to north of the grandstand and adjoining the playing field is a single storey red brick structure and storage bunker which sits alongside it. The structures have doors opening onto the playing field and are used for storage. The brick structure has a flat concrete roof which is accessed via a set of stairs and can be used as a viewing platform. Although unattractive the brick structure appears to be in reasonable condition. The storage structure alongside is concrete with a flat plate of metal above. This has almost rusted through and presents a safety risk.

The scoreboard building is located in the northernmost corner of the park, across the playing field from the grandstand. It is a tall brick building with terracotta tiled roof, and was constructed in 1937 and named the T.J. Andrews Memorial Scoreboard. The scoreboard building is identified in the CMP as having moderate heritage significance.

The scoreboard was considered an important technical innovation when built, and the building now lends to the historic sportsground charm of the park. It is unclear whether the scoreboard is still in working order. It requires manual operation and is only set up for cricket, so is not ideal for current times. Any upgrades to the scoreboard should be sensitive to the existing heritage significant structure.

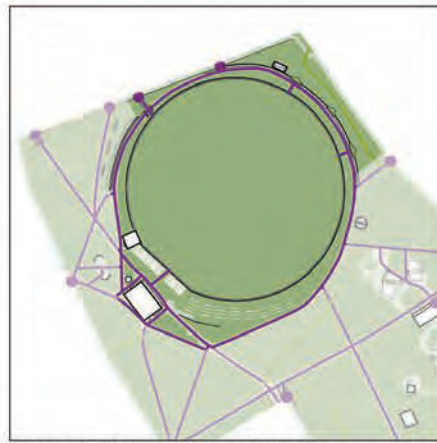
A number of elements constructed from sandstone are present in this zone. These were built within the Depression relief works program:

- low sandstone bench seat and planters to the north-west and north east of the oval.. These are attractive long seating bays interrupted by curved planters. Located on the edge of the playing field perimeter path, these provide spectator and general seating affording views over the oval and across the park. they are not shaded, provide a place to stop, are attractive element although not extensively used.
- sandstone seating around the oval abutting the picket fence: this seating ring is recessed into the lawn slope that surrounds the oval, providing the closest formal viewing location for spectators. decorative element, attractive but not used as unshaded and safety concerns.
- sandstone stairs to eastern side of the oval - provide access to the oval from the Station Street side of the park. In good condition. steep.
- castellated sandstone boundary edging - castellated stone work along the boundaries along northern Station Street
- sandstone edging and concrete stairs to the north-west of the oval - in fair condition, where playing field perimeter path intersects the vehicle entry with oval.





Facilities



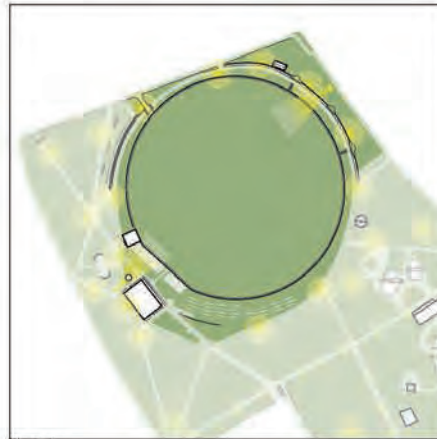
Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



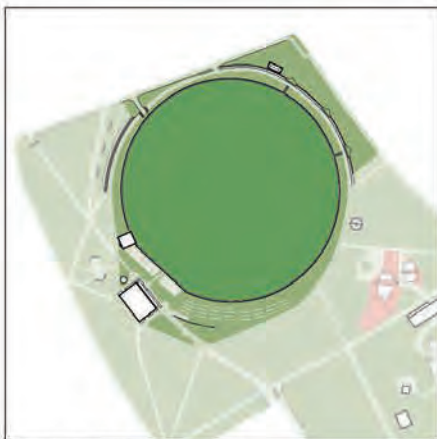
Fence + enclosure



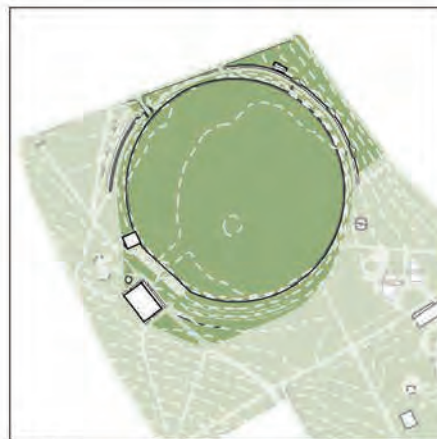
Lighting



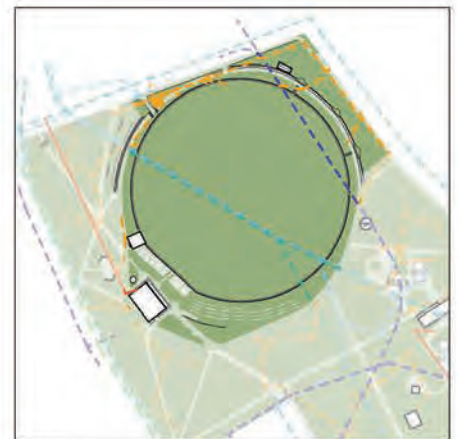
Tree cover



Sports + recreation grounds



Gradient



Services

Existing structure	Formal foot path	Playground	Electrical	High fence	Bench
Existing hardstanding	Informal foot path	Lighting	High pressure gas	Medium fence	Toilets
Car parking	Site contour line	Pool	Sewer	Low fence/ bollards	Water fountain
Road	Sportsground	Stormwater	Water mains	BBQ facilities	Bike racks
Service access route	Lawn	Telstra	Sydney trains hv line	Canteen / Cafe	

### Lighting

There are two lighting towers to illuminate the sportsfield, however these do not provide sufficient light for evening use.

The rest of this zone is well lit with non-directional post mounted lights located close to pathways. These are concentrated towards the playing field perimeter track which visitors often use for evening running and walking. The spill-over from these fittings provide some general illumination to the playing field.

The grandstand upgrades incorporate lighting to illuminate the perimeter of the building which should help to deter antisocial behavior here.

### Facilities

There are a myriad of different seating styles throughout this zone. Traditionally styled timber slatted bench seats with simple scrollwork have been recently installed to spectator seating areas. A few bays of early concrete framed bleacher seating remain in adjacent bays.

There are two bench seats located on the grassy slopes behind the scoreboard. These provide elevated views across the park. The seats are each of completely different style, and are unique within the park.

Sandstone seating throughout this zone is described under built structures

The grandstand is described in built structures

As part of the grandstand upgrades, the area adjacent will include bike racks and a new bin store area. There are currently no bins in this area for general public use.

There is one bin in this zone, located behind the scoreboard building in the north eastern corner. Bins elsewhere are located near entrances and along major intersections.

There are no recycling bins in the park for public use, and there are no dog waste bag dispensers in this area.

### Fences + enclosure

There is a white metal picket fence around the playing field, which is in reasonable condition. This has replaced the original timber picket fencing. There are a number of gates linked to staircases or pathways which provide access to the playing field.

The fence is surrounded by a low sandstone retaining wall. To the north and south of the oval there are sliding screens, and low chain wire fencing and high netting near the baseball batting area to protect spectators, and to protect visitors using the playing field perimeter track.

The chain wire fencing is in reasonable condition, however the high baseball netting is in need of repair, and the sliding screens are beginning to show signs of rust.

Construction fencing surrounds the grandstand area while upgrades are underway, there is no public access to this area.

There is no perimeter fencing to road boundaries, only areas of low sandstone edging as described in built structures.

Sandstone seating and planters are also described in built structures. These are located to the north east and north west of the oval, and separate these areas from grassy areas beyond.

### Access points + existing pathways

There is a loop track around the oval, however this is cut-off by construction fencing around the grandstand while upgrades are underway. To the north west the loop is interrupted by staircases to either side of the level access point to the playing field. Visitors with prams, bikes, scooters and restricted mobility are unable to use this path with ease and must take a detour via the footpath along the perimeter of this section of the park.

There are two entry points within this zone, both from Station Street. The western entry is the level access point to the playing field described above. The eastern entry is demarcated by a break in the low sandstone boundary fencing, and a 'Pets in Parks' sign as described in signage

Pathways within this zone have a raised concrete kerb and flagstone patterning. While attractive, the edging is damaged in parts, and the pathways are narrow

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

Zone 3 contains a driveway with removable bollards off Wentworth Street for service vehicle access. Service vehicles entering Zone 2 are typically associated with park maintenance. These vehicles generally drive along the shared pedestrian and cycleway, and through grassy areas. Muddy vehicle tracks are visible in some of the grassy areas, along with damaged edging along the narrower paths.

Only street parking is available for visitors arriving by car. Some parking is time restricted.

It is unclear whether vehicles are permitted to enter and park in this zone for special events.

The cul-de-sac end of Station Street in the north eastern corner contains a crossover where vehicle access is possible. Bollards have been removed, however signage indicates that unauthorised vehicle access is not permitted here. Given the sloped terrain, there is little reason for vehicles to access this area, with the exception of grounds and scoreboard maintenance teams.

There is another vehicle access point located midway along the north-western Station Street frontage. This allows service vehicles to access the playing field for maintenance.

### Sports + recreation grounds

The turf playing field is used throughout winter for baseball, and throughout summer for cricket. The playing field is maintained to a high standard by a private contractor, and is open six days a week.





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01. Grandstand viewed from oval prior to upgrades / 02. Scoreboard building / 03. Vehicle access to oval from Station Street / 04. Stone seating adjoining pathway / 05. Sliding screens and stone seating to perimeter of oval / 06. Substation / 07. Storage building adjacent to oval / 08. Spectator seating area shielded by nets and sliding screens, grandstand undergoing upgrades beyond / 09. Playing field fencing with adjacent stone seating and storage building beyond / 10. Eastern Station street entry / 11. Underutilised area adjacent to north eastern Station Street frontage / 12. Player entry to oval with Donald Bradman commemorative plaque

## ZONE 2

Areas around the pitcher and bases need time to recover after the baseball season, as do areas around the wicket and pitch after cricket.

Access to the playing field is poor for players with mobility requirements. The path from the grandstand is unsuitable as it is very steep and contains a step. Level access is only possible via the playing field surface vehicle access described previously in access points + existing pathways, and vehicle access roads and car parks,

### Ground cover + tree cover

The playing field surface is predominantly natural turf and is described in sports + recreation grounds. When not in use for sports matches it is a popular spot for birds to feed on insects, and for the community to exercise.

Planting is limited, with the exception of a few trees adjacent to the scoreboard and to the east of the grandstand. Species here include fig trees, along with some eucalypts, brush boxes and a conifer

There are a few sandstone edged garden beds with agaves and adjacent agapanthus. The plantings are sparse and provide little food or habitat for birds and wildlife.

The area adjoining Station Street has sections of bare or damaged grass, presumably from pedestrian foot traffic and insufficient watering.

### Services

There is a substation adjacent to the service vehicle entry on Station Street. Paving here indicates there are electrical lines running beneath. Presumably there is a right of way and easement for electricity purposes here.

Stormwater pipes run beneath the oval from the north western corner to the south east. These roughly follow the line of a creek that ran through the site prior to development. The pipes were originally installed in the late 1800's, and the condition and age of sections of the current pipeline may vary significantly. Old sections may need upgrades or replacement in the future.

There is a large concrete water tank adjoining the northern side of the grandstand. Further input is required to confirm whether this collects water from the grandstand roof, whether the current capacity is sufficient, and whether the water is used for areas of the park other than the playing field.

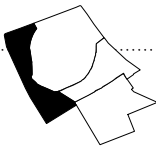
Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 2.

There are opportunities to:

- Upgrade lighting to enable morning and evening use of the playing field.
- Assess and improve the sustainability of the grandstand, the playing field, associated infrastructure and maintenance regimes.
- Improve the condition of the playing surface and explore the potential for increased use for summertime sports, school sports, casual and non-sporting community events

- Develop a continuous and accessible perimeter circuit with appropriate lighting for recreational use.
- Build upon the strong identity of Petersham Park, as a unique heritage sporting venue
- Develop a system to inform visitors when the park will be used for sporting and other events
- Explore lighting and security measures to deter antisocial behaviour around the grandstand
- Accessibility upgrades to paths, entries, amenities and sporting facilities to suit wheelchair users
- Scoreboard building restored with new digital display located in-situ, or adjacent to existing structure.
- Complete grandstand upgrades to improve the spectator experience, and provide facilities to suit all user groups. Incorporate new public amenities, underground rainwater tank, screened waste disposal area and extend hardstand for loading.
- Upgrade the derelict structure adjacent to grandstand to provide an accessible, sheltered viewing platform with increased equipment storage areas beneath.





## Overview

Zone 3 is located along the western boundary of the site. It includes four of the park entrances, along with the dedicated service vehicle entrance at the end of Wentworth Street. The northern portion of this zone is internally focused, and is enhanced with the palm grove, bays of sandstone seating, and established trees. The southern portion is more exposed; plantings along pathways and vistas towards the playing field create a sense of arrival.

## Character

Zone 3 is characterised by large grassy areas bounded by established trees. This area is less frequented by visitors, given its proximity to busy roads, the back of the grandstand, and away from the popular aquatic centre, playground and picnic areas. The lack of visitors gives these spaces a relaxed and contemplative atmosphere. At times they feel totally deserted and forgotten.

## Signage

Signage in this zone is old, inconsistent, randomly located and at times illegible. The gazebos and paving with 'Petersham Park' lettering signify entrances to the park along West Street and Station Street.

The Pets in Parks signage features at three of the five entries in this zone. This delineates dog on/off leash areas and associated rules, but doesn't provide visitors with any other information about the park.

There is a low brass plaque adjacent to the palm grove. The plaque details European settlement in Petersham, with farming activity to alleviate food shortages in the colony. There is no acknowledgement of the first nations history of the site or description of its attributes prior to European settlement. There is also not

As with other zones there is no signage along nearby roads to direct visitors to the entry gates. Within the park there is no cohesive signage or information regarding future events, sporting use, opening and closing times or interpretation.

There is an old Marrickville Council sign at the end of Wentworth Street, this includes a long list of conditions of entry to the park.

Signage dispersed along West Street includes park rules, signs for no camping, no vehicles or bikes, no consumption of alcohol and to inform visitors of the possible presence of long nosed bandicoots within the park. All of this signage is former Marrickville Council signage, is out of date, and in some instances illegible.

## Built structures

The palm grove is located to the north of the grandstand. Surrounded by palm trees it contains two curved arbour structures, paved areas and planters, all in reasonable condition. This space has a formal and contemplative character.

A series of sandstone seats are built into the mound adjoining the north-west corner of Zone 2. These provide a place to stop, and are

an attractive element although they are not used extensively.

## Lighting

This zone primarily has non-directional post mounted lights along paths which provide some general illumination. Some of these lights are not operational which results in dark areas.

Directional post mounted lights are installed along the shared pedestrian path and cycleway. These provide a greater level of illumination which is necessary as this is a major through route.

## Facilities

Bench seats are located along the north and western edges of this zone. The seats face into the park, and are located a quieter portion of the park which is removed from the action of the sports field and playground area. These are predominately traditionally styled timber slatted bench seats with simple scrollwork.

Two bench seats are located within the palm arbour, providing a peaceful spot to pause and reflect.

The western edge of this zone includes three built in sandstone seats which are described under built structures.

One of the retro concrete and timber bench seats is located adjacent to the northern Station Street entry. This is one of two of these seats remaining in the park. It is shaded by a tree planted just behind, and has a general waste bin to the side.

Another general waste bin is located along the pathway leading from the northern Station Street entry. This has one of the two dog waste bag dispensers installed within the park.

A new bin store area is included as part of the grandstand upgrades. These bins will be attractively shielded and conveniently located adjacent to the pathway. As with the rest of the park no public recycling bins are included.

## Fences + enclosure

The West Street boundary is very permeable, there are no fences, just rows of established trees, and only the footpath separates the park from the road.

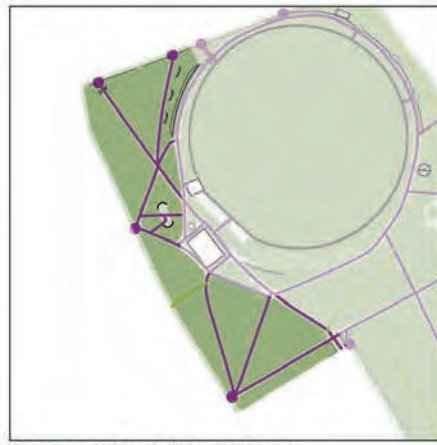
The Station Street boundary is demarcated with low castellated stone edging, this gives a sense of enclosure and helps to direct visitors to use the formal park entries.

A south-western portion of this zone adjoins the side boundary of an apartment complex on West Street, and of a house on Wentworth Street. The boundary is formed by the masonry fence of the apartment complex and the sidewall of the house. Planting provides a buffer but is inconsistent, patchy and not particularly attractive. Windows along the side wall directly overlook this section of the park.





Facilities



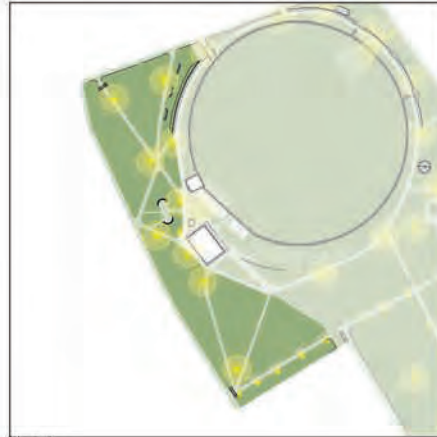
Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



Fence + enclosure



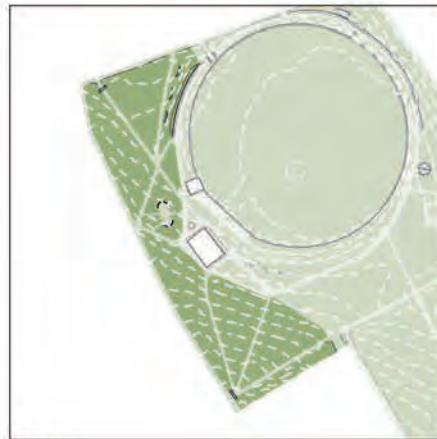
Lighting



Tree cover



Sports + recreation grounds



Gradient



Services

Existing structure	Formal foot path	Playground	Electrical	High fence	Bench
Existing hardstanding	Informal foot path	Lighting	High pressure gas	Medium fence	Toilets
Car parking	Site contour line	Pool	Sewer	Low fence/ bollards	Water fountain
Road	Sportsground	Stormwater	Water mains	BBQ facilities	Bike racks
Service access route	Lawn	Telstra	Sydney trains hv line	Canteen / Cafe	

### Access points + existing pathways

There are two entrances from West Street and two from Station Street.

The first entrance is demarcated with a portico structure and attractive garden beds. Located at one end of the shared pedestrian and cycle route, it is a well used entry. A pedestrian crossing is located directly adjacent, this is conveniently located close to the bus stop, and to the aged care facilities across the street.

The second West Street entrance is located midway along the street and brings visitors through to the park via the back of the grandstand and the palm grove. The back of house appearance, dark sparsely planted areas behind the grandstand, and messy collection of services detract from the palm grove and diminish the visual appeal of this entry. The red pavement lettering is in poor condition and needs to be repaired.

The northern Station Street entry is flanked by a portico structure, and has vistas through an attractive, sheltered section of the park. This entry links to a pedestrian crossing from West Street. This is not a direct connection so visitors must manoeuvre from West Street around the corner to Station Street.

The second Station Street entry is a lower key entry, signified with a break in the castellated sandstone boundary edging. This entry connects through to the grandstand area. A planted hillock restricts views to the playing field and parkland beyond.

Cracks and uneven areas are apparent in older sections of pathway throughout this zone. Sections of pathways have been replaced to match, and are attractive, however as these are fairly narrow, the curb detail makes it difficult for visitors to pass one another. As noted in vehicle access roads + car parks, the curb is also vulnerable to damage from service vehicles.

The new concrete shared pathway is in good condition and is sufficiently wide for park visitors and service vehicles.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

There are no designated service vehicle access points within this zone, and there is no on-site parking. Service vehicles are able to access this zone via the service entry from Wentworth Street. Pathways vary in width, some are too narrow and vehicles are forced to drive over the grassy areas. Portions of the pathway edging are damaged, presumably from vehicles driving over them.

### Sports + recreation grounds

There are no formal sports and recreation grounds in this zone. The stretches of grass between to the north and south of the grandstand are used for informal, predominantly passive recreation.

Although off leash dog exercise is possible here in the morning and early evening, it is less popular than other areas. Dog walkers are likely deterred by the lack of fencing and proximity to busy roads.

There are a few areas to sit, including the palm grove. These are

generally less frequented, more contemplative spaces.

### Ground cover + tree cover

Established trees are situated along street frontages and major pathways, with some feature plantings in the middle of grassy areas. The grassy area to the south of the grandstand has a number of newer plantings which are becoming more established. Species here include box brushes, camphor laurels, figs and some phoenix palms.

Trees behind the grandstand include kaffir plums, a phoenix palm, a hills fig and a cedar. Some of these have burnt sections to their trunks, but otherwise appear to be in reasonable condition.

The palm grove area contains an assortment of palm species including a central phoenix palm, and two cocos palms. This space has a lush, exotic atmosphere, and feels like an oasis within the park.

There are no continuous areas of low planting. Most trees have leaf litter and bark chips around their trunks.

Alongside pathways there are a few established and more recently planted garden beds. These provide limited habitat, but are attractive and well maintained.

### Services

A water meter and sewer vent are located behind the grandstand along the West Street frontage.

Markers in this area also indicate the presence of a high pressure gas line.





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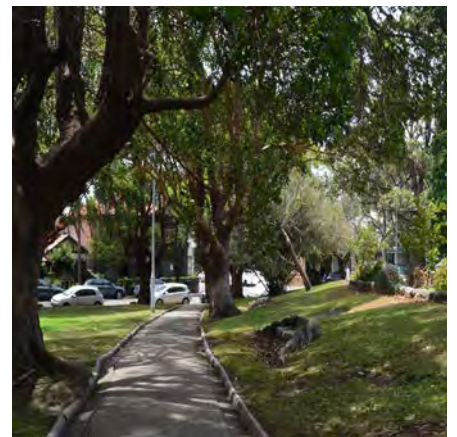
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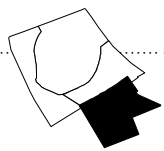
01. Southern West Street entry / 02. View from shared pathway towards West Street entry / 03. Planter at pathway intersection / 04. View towards grandstand along West Street frontage / 05. Outdated and illegible signage / 06. West Street entry adjacent to grandstand and palm grove / 07. Palm grove / 08. Grassy area along West Street frontage / 09. Footpath and frontage along Station Street / 10. Northern Station Street entry / 11. View from pathway towards grandstand area / 12. Pathway connecting to north eastern Station Street entry




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

There are opportunities to:

- Develop an interpretive signage and art strategy to engage visitors with Petersham Park's rich history.
- Improve pedestrian safety for visitors coming via West Street with traffic slowing measures
- Create inviting gateways to the park
- Improve the presentation of the West Street frontage and the back of the grandstand by increasing landscaping and removing redundant services,
- Support a greater range of activities in this precinct to foster use on non-game days.
- Develop a cohesive strategy for replacement of deteriorating boundary fencing, and for screening with landscaping.
- Incorporate informal pathways along existing desire lines





 Zone Boundary     Adjacent zones     Outside of site boundary



SCALE 1:1000 @ A4



## ZONE 4

### Overview

Zone 4 is located to the south of the site, and is bounded by residential streets and properties. It contains the Fanny Durack aquatic centre, cafe, public amenities, KU Petersham preschool, and a large area of landscaped parkland adjoining Brighton and Wentworth Streets

The parkland area is characterised by an avenue of established trees, and adjoining grassland with palm planters through the centre.

### Character

Zone 4 has three distinct spaces which are disconnected from each other. The aquatic centre is a hub of activity while open through the summer months. It draws visitors, and its open entrance and cafe area activate the park.

The kindergarten is completely separated from the park, and shares only boundary fencing. Within, it provides a nurturing environment for young children with indoor and outdoor learning areas.

The Brighton Street gates and avenue of trees are a landmark within the park. The trees create a natural shady arbour, and give this area a contemplative atmosphere. The adjacent landscaped area is a haven of open space, and is designated for off-leash dog exercise. It feels somewhat underutilised and neglected.

### Signage

The Brighton Street gates have two plaques, one memorialises the gates in honour of the ANZAC soldiers from Petersham who fought in the Great War of 1914 to 1919. The second plaque details the history of the gates, which were relocated from the entrance of the former Petersham Town Hall. There is an interpretative sign at the opposite end of this pathway. It consists of a pole mounted plaque with a historic photograph of the oval opening and text briefing detailing the park's history and evolution. While contemporary in style, it is not particularly attractive, engaging or consistent with any of the signage in the park.

The 'Pets in Park' signage features at the informal entrance at the intersection of Wentworth and Brighton Street. This signage seems to have been placed at almost every entry and used in lieu of developing cohesive park signage. Information on the facilities and rules for use of the rest of the park is lacking, randomly located and outdated.

Posters for community happenings have been placed around the bases of lighting poles throughout this zone. A noticeboard could be considered to provide the community with a fixed and tidy location for notices.

The cafe has glass balustrades facing the park. These have been decorated with images and text to inform visitors about the aquatic centre's namesake, Fanny Durack.

The aquatic centre has large lettering near the entry to assist with wayfinding. This was installed prior to the council amalgamation and includes lettering for Marrickville Council which needs to be updated.

Just inside the aquatic centre there is signage including the pool rules, entry fees and operating hours. Similar concise signage would be useful for the park in general.

There is a 'swimming pool' street sign at the junction of Brighton Street and Station Street. Aside from this there is no signage in any of the streets beyond to indicate the direction of travel to the park and its facilities.

The Preschool has a fixed sign and a fence banner along Brighton Street. These are in good condition and convey all the necessary information, such as contact details, age groups and opening hours.

### Built Structures

The Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre was upgraded in 2013, and is in good condition. The main building is a painted brick structure, with concrete slab and corrugated metal roof. The building includes new public amenities, a cafe, entry area with shop, and upgraded swimmer amenities and change rooms. The entrance, cafe and public amenities face the park, and adjoin the primary pedestrian and bicycle through route described in Zone 1. With the pool complex there are recently upgraded change rooms and amenities,

Within the landscaped ground of the aquatic centre there is a small shade structure over the barbeque area, along with a series of shade sails over the pools.

There is a timber clad services building in the rear corner of the aquatic centre. This faces Lotos Street and is in good condition.

The preschool was built in 1948 on the former tennis club site. It is an unobtrusive masonry building with parapet roofs. Council's facilities team is required to identify the condition of all infrastructure and buildings. If works have been identified and are required they can be completed. (either by Council or the lease).

Within the preschool grounds there is a large metal shed, presumably used for storage. This is in reasonable condition and is visible from within the park. The overall appearance of the shed and graffiti tagging detracts from the avenue of trees adjoining the Brighton Street entry. The purpose of the shed is unknown. Maintenance required for example; undertaking graffiti coating.

The Brighton Street gates provide an attractive entrance to the park. They consist of two stone pillars with decorative iron gates and commemorative plaques. The gates are kept in the open position, so are purely an ornamental feature.

### Lighting

Public areas of this zone are appropriately and sufficiently lit, with a combination of post mounted directional and non-directional lights as used throughout the park.

Directional post mounted lights illuminate the main pathway which connects to Brighton Street. The adjacent grassy area features non-directional post mounted lights. These provide general illumination for safety, but not enough light to encourage evening use of this area.





Facilities



Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



Fence + enclosure



Lighting



Tree cover



Sports + recreation grounds



Gradient



Services

Existing structure	Formal foot path	Playground	Electrical	High fence	Bench
Existing hardstanding	Informal foot path	Lighting	High pressure gas	Medium fence	Toilets
Car parking	Site contour line	Pool	Sewer	Low fence/ bollards	Water fountain
Road	Sportsground	Stormwater	Water mains	BBQ facilities	Bike racks
Service access route	Lawn	Telstra	Sydney trains hv line	Canteen / Cafe	

Lighting provisions within the preschool and aquatic centre are unknown. The aquatic centre entry is well lit to deter antisocial evening activity. If the opening hours of the aquatic centre are extended, lighting upgrades may be required within the complex.

### Facilities

There is a drinking fountain with dog bowl, and a bin with dog-bag dispenser alongside the shared pedestrian and cycle path. These are conveniently located adjacent to popular off leash dog exercise areas. Whilst other areas are used for dog exercise, there are only two dog waste bag dispensers within the park.

Bench seating is provided along the pathway from Brighton Street. The seats are in good condition and are a simplified decorative style.

The grassy area adjacent to Wentworth Street includes a picnic table and a double bench seat. These are in good condition, and have bins in close proximity. The picnic table includes a draughts board and is a more elaborate style with metal work somewhat reminiscent of the Brighton Street gates.

The Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre is covered in Built structures and Sports + recreation grounds. The centre contains a cafe, and public amenities which face the park, along with amenities and change rooms for swimmers. The public amenities are open during daylight hours and include accessible facilities. The aquatic centre is open from October through to March. The cafe is open mornings through to the afternoon seven days a week.

In addition to swimming and water play facilities, the aquatic centre includes landscaped grounds with seating and a sheltered barbeque area. Both the cafe and the barbeque area are able to be booked. Details for booking the barbeque area and the cafe are provided on the swimming pool website.

There are three bike lock up points adjacent to the aquatic centre entry and public amenities.

The preschool is described in Built structures. It is open weekdays and caters to 3 to 6 year olds.

### Fences + enclosure

The Brighton Street entry gates are described in Built Structures. The park frontages along Brighton and Wentworth Streets are demarcated with low castellated stone edging. The edging gives a slight sense of enclosure, is attractive, and is in reasonable condition.

The aquatic centre building provides the interface between the park and pool grounds. A combination of unobtrusive timber paling and black metal security fencing forms the pool boundaries elsewhere.

The preschool has low metal fencing to its Brighton Street frontage, while not particularly attractive the fencing is in reasonable condition. Boundaries adjoining the park are fenced with high chain wire fencing screened with shade cloth. This gives a very messy appearance and detracts from the ambience of the park.

### Access points + existing pathways

The Brighton Street entrance gates link to an avenue of trees with a wide concrete pathway. This pathway is a major access route, and it connects to the shared pedestrian and cycleway described in Zone 1.

There is an entry on the corner of Wentworth and Brighton Streets. This provides access to the large grassy area that runs parallel to Wentworth Street. There are no formal paths in this area, only muddy desire line tracks.

Access to the aquatic centre, cafe and public amenities is all via the shared pedestrian and cycleway describe in Zone 1. Ramps are provided to enable all visitors to access these facilities.

Access to the preschool is via a separate entry on Brighton Street, there is no direct connection between the preschool and the park.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

As with the rest of the park, there is no on-site parking. Visitors must search for spaces in the surrounding residential streets. Some parking has time restrictions to prevent long-stay parking by non-residents. There are two accessible spots described in Zone 1 which are well located for aquatic centre visitors. There are no provisions for preschool drop-off and short stay parking along Brighton Street.

There are no vehicle access points within this zone. Service vehicles are able to enter the park via an entry with removable bollards at the end of Wentworth Street, in Zone 3. From here vehicles drive along the wide concrete paths where possible, or across the grass as needed to service this zone.

The aquatic centre has a gate on Lotos Street to enable service access via the back of the complex. It is unclear whether the cafe and public amenities make use of this service access point too.

The preschool has large gates to the western boundary, indicating service access may be possible here.

### Sports + recreation grounds

The western portion of this zone is somewhat isolated from the activity of the rest of the park. The grassy areas are designated for untimed off-leash dog exercise. They are mostly used for informal and passive recreation. The tree lined path from Brighton Street forms a link in a walking and running circuit for some visitors.

The Fanny Durack Aquatic centre is described in built structures and facilities. The centre was upgraded in 2013 and contains a 25m pool with ramp and hoist, fenced children's pool, kids splash and toddler pool along with landscaped grounds. The pool is not heated, and is open only from the beginning of October through to the end of March.

The preschool contains private landscaped grounds, with shaded play areas.





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01. Shared pathway with adjacent public amenities, pool and playground / 02. Brighton Street gates / 03. Preschool / 04. Informal entry at the Wentworth and Brighton Street intersection / 05. Preschool storage shed and fencing adjoining park / 06. Avenue of trees connecting to Brighton Street gates / 07. View towards Brighton Street gates / 08. Wentworth Street service vehicle entry / 09. Picnic table and adjacent areas with patchy grass / 10. Palm tree planters centred within grassy area / 11. Interpretative signage / 12. Drinking fountain along shared pathway



for dogs and their walkers

### **Ground cover + tree cover**

The Wentworth Street boundary, and the main pathway from Brighton Street are flanked by established camphor laurel and brush box trees. These create a formal yet contemplative atmosphere, while also providing shade and habitat. Unfortunately trees throughout the park were pollarded in the mid 19th century and have a deformed 'candelabra' shape. Replacement could be considered however it would take many years for the trees to establish, the existing trees also have hollows which are valuable nesting spots for birds and wildlife. There is no understorey planting, only expanses of bark chips and leaf litter.

The grassy area is patchy and in poor condition. It has phoenix palms and mass plantings of smaller palm species running through the middle. These provide some definition to this space, which otherwise seems like a leftover space disconnected from the park.

The aquatic centre and preschool have landscaped areas with large areas of grass, and pockets of low planting and some shade trees. Shade sails have been installed to both areas to increase the amount of shade. The aquatic centre has an abundance of hard surfaces around the pools, these get very hot in summer.

### **Services**

Stormwater lines run alongside public pathways in this zone. These are areas with well established trees, so development is unlikely to be proposed in these areas.

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

There are opportunities to:

- Inform visitors of the history of the park and specific features such as the 'soldiers avenue of trees' and former creek.
- Replace fencing along the preschool side boundary to improve the presentation of the park. This could be designed to incorporate site interpretation elements.
- Trial further extension of the aquatic centre operating hours and season
- Collaborate with the preschool to develop programs and share facilities
- Develop a consistent signage strategy, furniture palette and identity
- Incorporate planting and WSUD strategies into low lying areas
- Address bare and underutilised areas with landscaping to provide habitat to support urban ecology
- Develop a replacement strategy for established trees which incorporates a diverse mix of ornamental and native species
- Enhance off leash dog areas with resilient planting, subtle play and agility elements, perimeter buffer landscaping, seating and facilities





View across the oval towards the rotunda. Photography by Welsh + Major

## Appendix B

# OVERVIEW + ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

## 1.0 Summary

InnerWest Council engaged the community on their enjoyment of Petersham Park, with a view to the preparation of a ten-year plan for the Reserve, which includes a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW), and individual responses via phone, email or post. The face to face drop-in sessions were cancelled in response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

## 1.1 Background

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. InnerWest 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. Petersham Park has been nominated as high priority within the InnerWest Council area. The previous Plan of Management was adopted in 1998, and is well beyond the 10 year validity period for a Plan of Management.

## 1.2 Promotion

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

- Council website
- Social media
- E-news via the Your Say Inner West (YSIW) monthly update
- Council Column in the InnerWest Courier
- Email to identified groups
- On-site signage

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 through the Your Say Inner West online survey, other input received via email, phone and post, and input received from stakeholders and organisations.

Two drop in sessions were scheduled to be held at Petersham Park, one on Wednesday afternoon 18.03.20, 4-5.30pm, and the other on Saturday morning 21.03.20, 11-12.30pm.

Given the quickly moving situation relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Council made the decision to cancel these sessions. On-site signage was installed within the park to notify the community of the cancellation, and to direct them to alternative methods to provide their feedback.



Above: One of the cancellation of community consultation drop-in sessions signs installed within the park



## 2.1 Online survey

An online survey was conducted in March 2020 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Petersham Park. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for four weeks from 02.03.20 to 30.03.20.

The project page received 618 visits. 221 visitors participated in viewing documents and information, of whom 156 visitors contributed to the online submission form.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in the Engagement Outcomes section 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.

A number of essay style questions were asked, to establish community opinion of Petersham Park in more detail.

Q1: *'What are the main reasons you visit Petersham Park?' Please tick all that apply'* (see figure 1 below)

Q2: *'How often do you visit Petersham Park?'* (see figure 2 overleaf)

Q3: *'How do you get to Petersham Park?'* (see figure 3 overleaf)

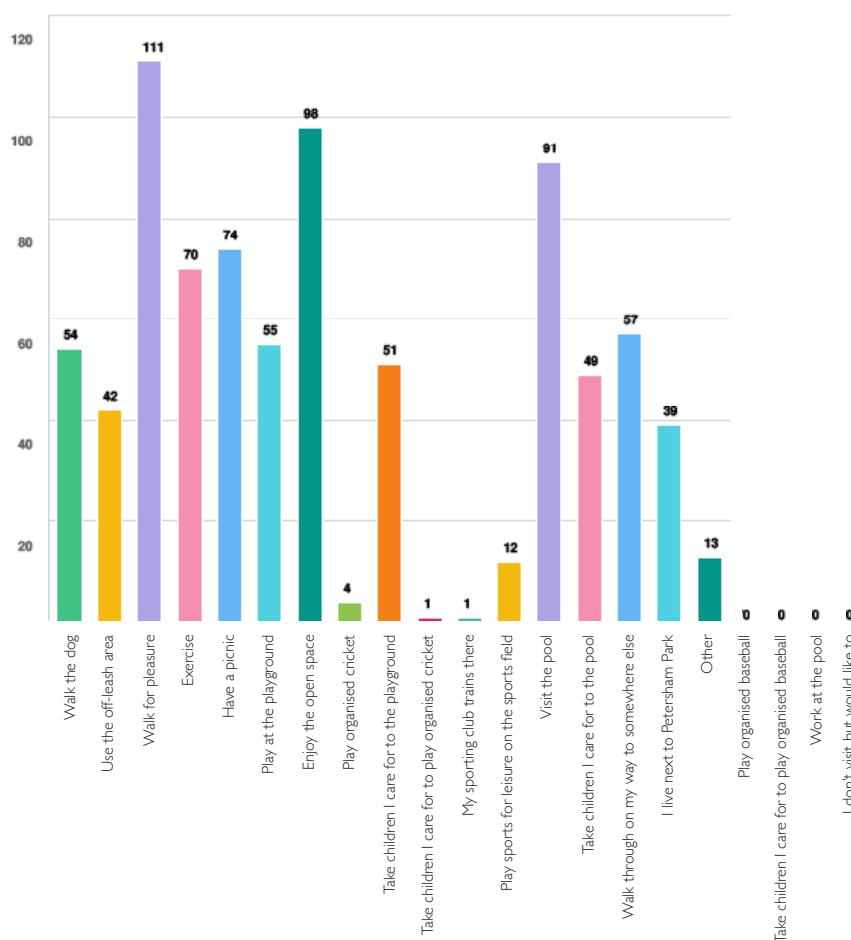


Figure 1. Responses to Q1: 'What are the main reasons you visit Petersham Park?'

ONLINE SURVEY

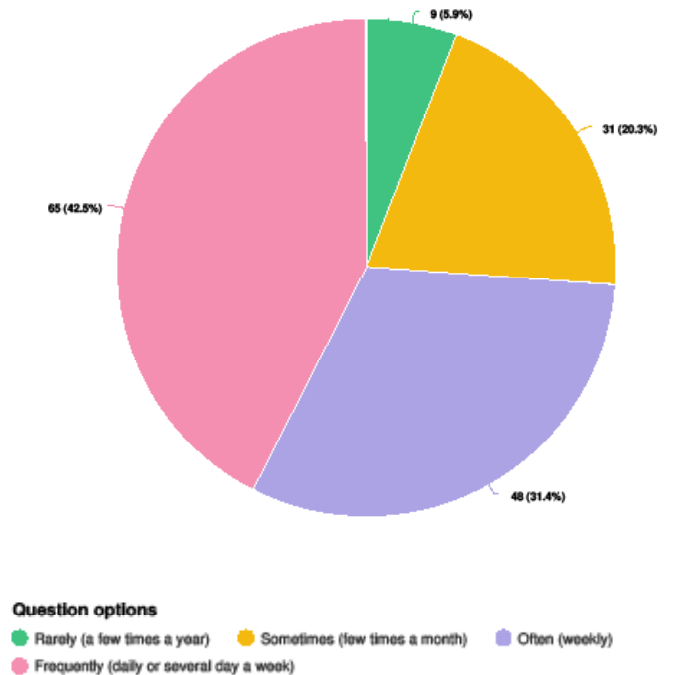


Figure 2. Responses to Q2: 'How often do you visit Petersham Park?'

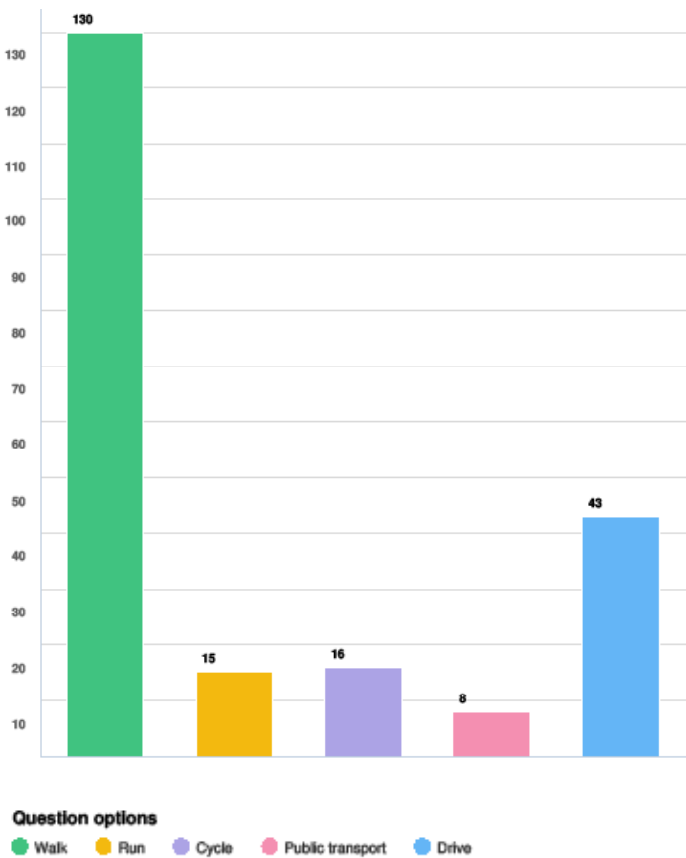


Figure 3. Responses to Q3: 'How do you get to Petersham Park?'

Q4: 'Please describe what you value about Petersham Park. You may like to describe what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.'

Responses to this question were extremely positive, focusing on users' appreciation of the green space which they interact with when using Petersham Park. A number of users commented on the beauty of the park, it's mature trees and heritage charm. Many users also noted the benefit of this open space on both their physical and mental health and well-being.

The root of what users valued most about Petersham Park was also repeatedly attributed to:

- The large and well maintained open spaces with trees and shade
- The natural beauty of the park, the trees, and the birds and wildlife they attract
- The mix of activities and people visiting the park.
- Interaction with the community
- Specific areas and facilities such as the pool, playground, cafe, barbeque and picnic areas . The proximity of these facilities to one another was particularly valued by families
- The relaxing atmosphere, and sense of freedom, safety and openness
- Dog walking, and interaction with dogs and their owners
- Activities such as watching sport, exercising, picnicking and visits by the Magic Yellow Bus.
- Walking and cycling routes
- The history of the park and heritage elements including established trees, the rotunda and scoreboard.
- The oval and the quality of the pitches and the playing surface
- The close proximity of the park

Q5: 'What don't you like about Petersham Park?'

- A number of respondents expressed that there is nothing they dislike about the park
- The lack of public toilets, and the need for more frequent cleaning of existing facilities
- The poor amenity of paths. Respondents commented on the condition and narrow width of paths; poor wayfinding signage; the lack of a continuous circuit within the park; and the concrete edging, specifically that it is a trip hazard and is prone to damage especially from service vehicles;
- Safety issues associated with the busy adjacent roads, and poor pedestrian access and priority to reach the park, especially at the West Street pedestrian crossings
- Safety issues associated with night time lighting, specifically areas where there are no lights, or the lights are not turned on



- The lack of non-sporting community events in the park.
- Barriers that reduce access to sections of the park such as the chain wire fencing behind the spectator seating.
- Crowds and activities that take over sections of the park and impede access, specifically sporting teams, spectators and commercially operated fitness groups
- Sporting and spectator facilities that need maintenance such as the baseball netting and seating.
- The lack of gender equitable access to green space, specifically the oval, which is underutilised for organised sport and is mostly used by male groups.
- Antisocial behaviours such as drinking in the rotunda, activities in the male toilets, and drunk patrons from the bowling club.
- Difficulty finding parking for both residents and visitors
- Waste management issues, specifically the amount of litter and frequency of collection; the need for more dog waste bag dispensers and for more bins, including recycling. Some respondents were concerned that sustainable measures to deal with organic waste have not been adopted, and that dog waste bags are not biodegradable.
- Dogs and owners not abiding by regulations
- Safety issues to do with off leash dog areas, specifically the lack of fencing, and the proximity to busy roads, the playground and the barbeque area
- The limited size of the playground area and the lack of wild and water play areas and equipment to cater to all ages and abilities
- The lack of covered areas and rentable spaces for parties and community activities
- The lack of options for older children, teenagers, adults and the elderly
- The shortage of facilities such as water fountains, tables, seating and barbeque areas, and the current concentration of these around the playground area.
- The untidy appearance of Loftus Street and the lack of paving here.
- Issues to do with trees and gardens and maintenance of these Respondents would like to see more trees and bushes including native species to provide habitat, screen busy roads, and to enhance areas of the park.
- Issues to do with the grandstand, specifically the extended duration of the upgrades; the impact of the construction site on access and the appearance of the park; disappointment over the proposed new grandstand name; and concern that new public toilets won't be included
- The poor condition of the storage shed next to the grandstand, and the disuse and decay of the old scoreboard.
- Issues to do with the pool, specifically the restricted opening hours and season, overcrowding, the cost of entry, and the management and quality of food served at the adjacent cafe.

**Q6: 'What do you think should be the main priority of the parks plans?'**

Responses to this question mirrored many of the themes which had been highlighted as 'dislikes' in the previous question, and reinforced themes which had been 'liked' in the first essay question.

- Facilities such as more toilets, picnic tables, seats and barbeques, and providing a simple system to prebook some of these facilities.
- A number of participants expressed a desire for more shade and shelter around seating areas, provided either by trees or fixed structures.
- Waste management, more bins including recycling, and emptying bins more frequently.
- There were a number of comments relating to dog exercise areas. The vast majority were in support of off leash dog areas. Some felt a review of regulations and better policing of them was needed, along with fencing, and designated on leash only areas. Other suggestions included facilities for dogs such as a dog splashing area and play equipment.
- Keeping the oval open for organised sport and maintaining the condition of the playing field
- Managing traffic and improving pedestrian and cycle access to the park and within it
- Improving evening lighting and the spread of this through the park
- Making better use of underutilised areas adjacent to the grandstand and along Brighton Street.
- Ensuring the grounds and facilities are well maintained
- Extending and upgrading the playground area
- Keeping the park open to all and reducing conflicts between different park users and activities
- Providing facilities for older children, teenagers, adults and the elderly such as basketball hoops, a circuit track, athletics markings to the oval, fitness equipment, tai chi, yoga and community garden areas.
- Finishing the grandstand upgrades so this area of the park can be reopened
- Fixing the storage shed next to grandstand
- Communicating the history and first nations significance of the park, along with providing the community with information on events, sporting schedules and notices.
- Keeping it the same
- Maintaining the beauty and openness of the park
- Community interaction, events and leisure - ensuring there is a mix of uses, not just organised sport.
- Passive recreation and places to relax and enjoy
- Increase planting and improving maintenance of gardens, trees and grassy areas.

OTHER INPUT

- Providing habitat, food and water for native flora and fauna
- Keeping the pool open throughout the year
- Improving stormwater management to address flooding to the pathway adjoining the cafe, and stormwater surges through Wentworth Street.
- Maintaining historic features and ensuring that new work is in keeping with the parks character
- Preventing commercialisation and development of the park, and limiting crowds so that it remains an enjoyable place to visit

Q7: *‘To what extent do you agree with the following statements?’*  
(see figure 4 adjacent)

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

- Users feel part of the community when they visit Petersham Park;
- Users feel safe when they visit Petersham Park during the day;
- Users think Petersham Park has a nice character;
- Users find it easy to walk around Petersham Park;
- Less successful aspects of Petersham Park were also highlighted by responses to this question:
- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day;
- Although not the majority, a number of users feel that it is hard to find information about Petersham Park, that it is not well maintained, and that it does not meet the needs of the community.

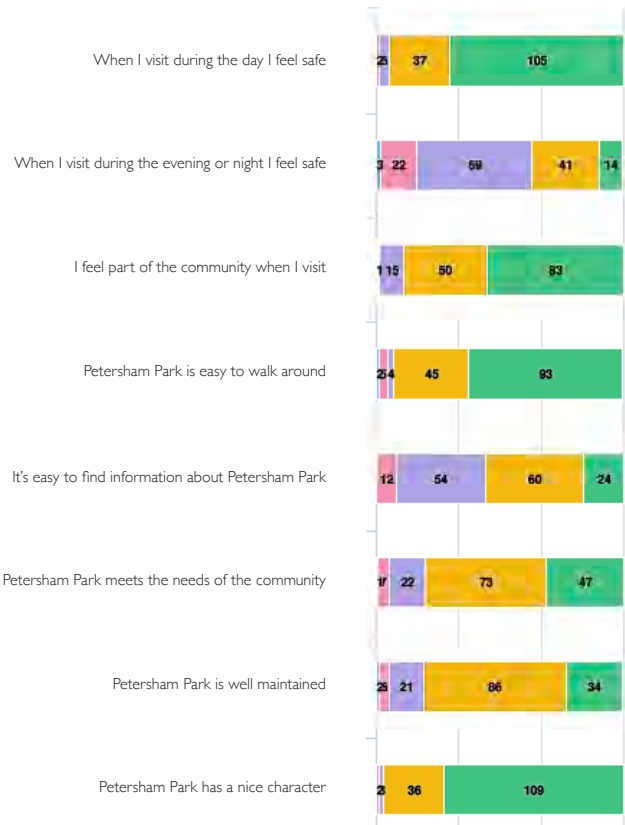
Q8: *‘Do you have any other comments on Petersham Park?’*

- Concern that more structures and fencing will compartmentalise the park, and compromise open space for the community.
- Praise for the park, it’s established trees, and a desire to keep it at it is.
- Desire for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety and amenity throughout the Inner West to improve uptake of parks and reduce dependency on vehicles.
- Emphasis on the importance of off leash dog exercise areas
- Acknowledgement of need to treasure, maintain and respect the park for the amazing community asset it is.

2.2 Other input

Council received a number of responses from individuals via email, phone and post. Key points are summarised below.

- Provide outdoor fitness equipment for adults including chin up bars
- The playground area would benefit from wild play areas that allow children to interact with nature and use their imagination. More shade over the playground would be good too.
- Provide another barbeque area as there aren’t enough facilities to meet demand especially on weekends
- Include a fenced garden with herbs and vegetables to bring the community together.
- Consider more effective energy management strategies such as biodigestors, along with fully biodegradable dog waste bags, and clearly marked waste bins with provisions for recycling.
- More community events, specifically a “Jazz and Cricket Picnic in the Park” to promote cricket, bring the community together and make use of the rotunda as traditionally intended.



Question options  
● strongly agree ● agree ● unsure / Not applicable ● disagree ● strongly disagree

Figure 4. Responses to Q7: *‘To what extent do you agree with the following statements?’*



## STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANISATIONS

## 2.3 Stakeholders and organisations

An online meeting was held on 08.04.20 with representatives from Inner West Council, Randwick Petersham Cricket Club and Sydney Baseball to gather their feedback. Written responses were also received from Randwick Petersham Cricket Club, Sydney Baseball and KU Petersham Preschool.

Key points raised by each of the participating groups are summarised below.

## 1. Randwick Petersham Cricket Club

- The club has a total 121 years of playing history and use of Petersham Park. In 2018/2019 there were approx 180 current members, 106 Legends Society members, and 49 life members. Numbers steadily increase each year and members range from 12 to 80+ years old.
- The field is used from September to March for Premier Cricket on Saturdays and Sundays. Both men's and women's change rooms are required for these matches.
- The playing surface performs well throughout the season. The club seeks confirmation that an irrigation issue at the northern quadrant of the field has been addressed.
- Issues with access to the canteen on games days, and the security of supplies and equipment need to be addressed. Allowing the club manager and volunteers to drive to the grandstand in their vehicles would be beneficial as they have heavy equipment and goods to unload.
- Fixing or providing a new scoreboard was flagged as a priority. The club supports dual use of the scoreboard for sporting and community events such as outdoor cinema.
- Maintaining the condition of seats is important. The seating area in front of the grandstand is especially well used and replacing seating in this area could be considered to improve accessibility.
- The area in front of the grandstand and kiosk needs shade from the morning sun. This is also the usual scorers area. The club currently has temporary awnings which provide some relief.
- Lights for evening junior training and other non-cricket activities on the oval would be beneficial. The club supports social play on the outfield (but not on the wickets) during weekday evenings.
- The accessibility of the oval for players is not currently an issue. Cricket NSW runs an all athletes programme, with access improvements Petersham Park could be considered as a suitable venue.
- Clarity is sought around what clubs will be allowed to do going forward in terms of access to the field and facilities, along with provisions for volunteers and sponsor signage.

## 2. Sydney Baseball

- Winter baseball started at Petersham Park in the 1890's and has been played continually since then. The ground is used by 8 clubs and is the primary inner city winter baseball venue. Club numbers are limited to around 60 based on the number of games that can be played on weekends. Members range from teenagers to 40+ years old.
- Retention of chainwire fencing around the spectator seating area is important to ensure the safety of other park users
- There is a risk of stray balls from left hand batters going into the playground area. The fig tree provides some protection, however high netting is suggested here to improve safety.
- The playing surface is excellent. A place to store dirt mounds for patching the field during the season would be beneficial. The dirt is currently stored on the oval which looks messy. Access to on-field water would also be helpful for watering the baseball diamond throughout the day, between games
- Limited parking and warm-up areas are issues, the club acknowledges these are difficult to resolve.
- Improved lighting would allow for games to finish later, and for evening training sessions.
- Other suggestions include a shaded seating area to accommodate spectators with mobility requirements, and a workable electrified scoreboard.

## 3. KU Petersham Preschool

- The preschool takes 3-5 year old children to the park for excursions. During these excursions they investigate birds, plant life, possums and bees.
- There are some concerns over the proximity of off leash dogs.
- The preschool does not use the playground equipment within the park as it is not inclusive or suitable for younger children.
- Suggestions include: a community garden area, with possible sharing of compost; areas to explore plants, especially natives; a secluded cubby space, and opportunities for water play.



