

4. Historical Context

4.1 War Memorial Park

War Memorial Park was established during World War Two on the site of a former dairy. The RTA photograph below shows the site of the future park in 1943, cleared other than for a few small buildings along Moore Street. Also evident from the photograph is the drainage line cutting through to the site from Ainsworth Street.

The "Report of the Activities of the Council of the Municipality of Leichhardt 1942, 1943 and 1944" dated 30 September 1944, states that the land was owned at the time "by the Estate of the late J. A. Kinkade, at the corner of Catherine and Moore Streets, [known as Kinkade's Model Dairy] was resumed by Council for park purposes", with notification given on 17 December 1943. At the time of the report Council advised that it had had difficulty ejecting the tenants of the land, "but is hopeful in the near future to put the necessary work in hand".



Aerial Photograph of War Memorial Park in 1943. (Source: NSW Department of Lands, Spatial Information Exchange: SKM 2007 from RTA photography)




5. Present Use and Future Opportunities





5.1 Condition and Use of the Land and Existing Structures






The tables below outline the key site elements of War Memorial Park, their condition and present use. A brief description and summary outline of the condition of the elements is provided in the table below, incorporating a summary outline of the priority for improvements (having regard for their suitability and condition, and the masterplan incorporated in Section 8).

The priorities for improvements as set out in the table below have been categorised in accordance with the following:

Priority	Timeframe
High (H)	Short (0 - 5 Years)
Medium (M)	Medium term (5 - 15 Years)
Low (L)	Long term (15+ Years)
Regular Maintenance	Ongoing
Not Applicable (N/a)	-

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Buildings 	Concrete block, painted public toilet and amenities building fronting Catherine Street	Poor.	H
Footpaths  	Concrete footpaths diagonally intersecting the park	Fair	L

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
Fences			
	Fencing comprises rear boundary fencing to adjacent residential properties	Fair – except covered in graffiti Recommend rapid graffiti removal in accordance with Council's Graffiti Management Policy	M.
Signage			
	Signage marking main entry to park	Fair.	M
	Signage showing dog access restrictions that mark entries to the park		
Park furniture			
	Single post, aluminium slatted seating. No arm rests.	Fair. Does not meet AS1428 standards for accessibility Recommend removal of seats that face fences Recommend insertion of new seating more appropriately sited	H.

Item	Description	Condition	Priority for improvement
	Large wheeled bins, attached to fixing posts.	Fair	M - H. Refer Section 7.
	Seating, placed facing the rear fence of residences		H. See above
Children's playground			
	Children's play equipment comprising swing and slide	Fair Residents would like additional play equipment	M - H.
Passive open space			
	Well maintained open space, dissected by pedestrian paths, and incorporating pedestrian lighting.	Grass cover requires regular maintenance following winter.	Ongoing.
Lighting			
	Existing lighting standard	Good - Additional lighting is recommended to footpaths	M.

5.2 Description of Proposed Future Development and Permissible Uses

The tables below describe the purposes for which land at War Memorial Park may be used; the purpose as relates to future development of the land; and the scale and intensity of the development.

Area/Item	Purposes for which land or buildings are permitted to be used	Purpose for which further development of land will be permitted (lease or licence)	Scale and intensity of permitted use or development
Open Space	Continue use for passive/informal recreation, childrens play	General park furniture and landscape improvements including new paths. Improvement and expansion of the children's play area and equipment.	Refer to Masterplan
Amenities Building	Public toilets ; baby change facilities	Redevelop new amenities building closer to corner of Moore Street and Catherine Street and demolish existing	Refer to Masterplan and concept plans attached

5.3 Site Accessibility and Operation

Public Transport

A bus stop is located in front of the War Memorial Park to Moore Street. This road is served by bus routes 370 and 470. Refer to the figure below for bus route information.

Service	Description of Bus Route
370	Leichhardt Market Place to Coogee via Annandale Post Office, Glebe, Sydney Park Road, Green Square and University of NSW.
470	Lilyfield to Circular Quay via Annandale, Forest Lodge, Pyrmont Bridge Road and Railway Square.

Parking

There is parallel on-street parking permitted along Moore Street and Catherine Street adjacent to the park.

Pedestrian

There are constructed footpaths located along the street verges to Moore Street and Catherine Street adjacent the park. Internal to the park there are constructed footpaths that reflect key desire lines. There are no additional footpaths proposed in the Landscape Masterplan.

Bicycle

Leichhardt Bicycle Strategy identifies Moore Street and Catherine Street as “strategic bicycle routes”.

5.5 Trees and Vegetation

Existing Trees and Vegetation

Leichhardt Council does not currently have a Significant Trees Register. The Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council’s Heritage and Significant Trees (March 2008) identifies War Memorial Park as containing one significant tree comprising a large Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*). Unlike most other parks in Leichhardt containing significant trees, War Memorial Park is not registered as a “landscape” heritage item in the Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000.

All trees in Leichhardt LGA are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Leichhardt Significant Heritage Tree Management Plan

The Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council’s Heritage and Significant Trees (March 2008) categorises War Memorial Park as a “District Park”. It is not cited whether the park has any level of heritage significance attributed to its significant tree.

The table below sets out the recommended maintenance regimes for specific trees across all of the open space areas the subject of the plan and sets out specific management recommendations relating to War Memorial Park.

Tree	General Maintenance Requirement	Common pests and diseases
Moreton Bay Fig	Remove dead wood/prune rubbing and heavily end weighted limbs and mulch	Fungal pathogens (airborne & soil borne)/ foliar insects

Tree Summary of Observations (Source: Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage and Significant Trees 2008)

Degree of Soil Compaction	Number of Species and Trees	Tree Age	Tree Health	Tree Condition	Description of Site Specific Works required
Low	1 x Ficus macrophylla	S - Semi-mature refers to a tree between immaturity and full size	Good	Fair	Apply mulch within CRZ/ PRZ, apply Seasol ® remove dead wood and rubbing limbs as required.

Site Specific Tree Management Plan – War Memorial Park (Source: Tree Management Plan for Leichhardt Council's Heritage and Significant Trees 2008)

Notes to the latter table:

- "Condition" refers to the tree's form and growth habit
- "Health" refers to the tree's vigour
- It is recommended these maintenance works occur within one year for Punch Park

5.6 Current and Projected Recreational and Open Space Needs

Leichhardt Recreational and Open Space Needs Study

Open Space

The NSW benchmark for open space provision has historically been 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people. When this is applied to the Leichhardt LGA, no suburb in the LGA is in excess of this standard. The average provision of open space in Leichhardt LGA is 1.60 ha /1,000 people (refer to Figure 10 below) or 1.65ha/1,000 people based on 2001 population figures that were used in the Leichhardt Recreational and Open Space Needs Study. When this outcome (based on the 2001 population figure) was compared against other Sydney LGAs the result was low. The highest provision in Leichhardt was Lilyfield (2.56 hectares / 1,000 people) while the lowest is Annandale (0.73 hectares / 1,000 people).

Open Space Provision in Leichhardt LGA

2008/9	
Open space Acquisition (ha)	0
Total open space (ha)	85.57
Total open space (m2)	855700
Population	53,217
Open space per person (m2)	16.08

Source: State of the Environment (SoE) report 2008-09

War Memorial Park is located in the suburb of Leichhardt. Open space provision in this suburb averages at 1.35 hectares / 1,000 people which is less than the Leichhardt LGA average.

The report mentions that there are a large number of pocket parks in the LGA that are highly valued by residents. However it was noted that they are limited in their flexibility and should be promoted for 'multi-use'.

Recreational Facilities

Provision of outdoor recreational areas/facilities for young people (aged 14 to 24 years) is lacking across the LGA and is limited to five informal basketball courts and 1 skate facility.

Field surveys conducted of playground facilities revealed that while there was an equitable distribution of playgrounds across the LGA that they were limited to catering for 2-7 years. It was concluded that older primary (7-12 years) and teenagers are not well provided for. The study called for a large-scale "all abilities" playground in the LGA.

6. Classification of Land

6.1 Categorisation and Objectives for Land

Clause 36(4) of the Local Government Act requires that land subject of a plan of management be categorised as one or more of:

- a natural area
- a sportsground
- a park
- an area of cultural significance
- general community use

According to these classifications, the War Memorial Park can be categorised as “a park”.

6.2 Core Objectives

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park (Clause 36G) are:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

7. Strategy and Action Plan

The following strategies and actions aim to address key ongoing management issues relating to War Memorial Park and also to outline a long term vision (as incorporated in the masterplan - Refer Section 8) for the park. That vision seeks to address accessibility, useability and amenity issues identified through the consultation phases.

7.1 Specific Objectives

The priorities for improvements as set out in the table below have been categorised in accordance with the following:

Priority	Timeframe
Short term	0 - 5 years
Medium term	5 - 15 years
Long term	15+ years
Ongoing	Ongoing

The figure below sets out the objectives and performance targets for War Memorial Park; strategies to achieve the objectives and performance targets; ranks their priority; and provides performance monitoring criteria.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Context			
Value and maintain War Memorial Park in its current predominance of passive open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain War Memorial Park in accordance with the existing prevailing character and the Master Plan principles (Refer Part 8). 	Ongoing	Maintenance and management of access and use.
Ownership			
In accordance with Council ownership, promote broad community access to facilities and open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and upgrade paths, facilities and amenities. 	Ongoing	Greater range of people using the park of all access abilities, providing a range of quality recreational experiences and opportunities for park users.
Use			
Maintain the park only for passive recreation provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove existing toilet block and develop new facility closer to Moore Street to maximise passive surveillance and discourage anti-social behaviour that has been associated with the existing toilets. 	Long term	Completion of redevelopment works in accordance with the Master plan.
Remove existing toilet block and develop a new toilet block.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing playground in current location; upgrade equipment where necessary, and supplement with new play equipment. 	Ongoing	

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Access and Circulation			
Maintain all pedestrian paths that reflect key desire lines. Consider the accessibility needs of the full spectrum of the community in terms of the design of facilities/landscape improvements. Introduce appropriate directional signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the current path system in the park.• Remove existing bubbler and replace with an accessible bubbler closer to the playground.• Provide directional signage in accordance with Council's signage strategy.• Provide new minor path to enable pram access to playground.	Ongoing Short term Medium term Medium term	Completion of redevelopment works that are provided to disability standards.
Traffic and Parking			
Improve traffic management for those streets adjacent to the Park including Wortley Street to enable and encourage pedestrian and cycle accessibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate restricting times to ensure adjacent on-street parking is available.	Long term	Completion of redevelopment works that are provided to disability standards.
Landscape Character and Visual Amenity			
Recognise that the community values the existing landscape character of the park and its open and simple nature. Improve the visual presentation of the park to the street frontages and western edge. Provide a consistent landscape palette across the park and sportsground that would unify it as one park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain existing mature trees.• Ensure that the grassed open park areas are maintained.• Provide expanded planter bed at western edge.• Remove Oleanders to street frontages.• Develop a consistent design approach to new elements including signs, fences, lighting, seats and alike that reflects the Park's existing qualities.	Long term	Completion of Master Plan recommended improvements. Monitor and maintain grassed areas as required.

Objectives and Performance Targets	Strategies to achieve objectives and performance targets	Priority	Performance Monitoring
Management and Maintenance			
<p>Promote design improvements and management practices that would reduce maintenance costs and promote cost efficiencies.</p> <p>Promote access that reflects the location of the Park within a residential neighbourhood.</p> <p>Provide dog access to park but not at the expense of human needs and safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the current dog access arrangement to the park. Ensure the dog bag dispensers have a constant supply of dog litter bags and are checked on a regular basis. 	Ongoing	<p>Council does not increase annual maintenance costs/budget. Council receives positive comments.</p> <p>Increase in frequency of dog enforcement visits by Council officers recorded.</p>