



Ku-ring-gai Council

ROBERT PYMBLE PARK
LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN





CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Part 1: Background | 2 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Location | 2 |
| History and Heritage | 3 |
| Part 2: Community Consultation | 4 |
| Community Consultation - 2018 | 4 |
| Community Engagement - 2019 | 4 |
| Part 3: Existing Condition | 5 |
| Landscape Character | 5 |
| Social and Cultural Character | 5 |
| Part 4: Analysis | 6 |
| Local Environment Plan | 7 |
| Public Domain Plan - Town Centres | 8 |
| Existing Park Functions | 10 |
| Existing Circulation & Views + Paths & Paving | 11 |
| Existing Structures and Furniture | 12 |
| Existing Services/Infrastructure + Lighting & Safety | 13 |
| Existing Trees and Vegetation | 14 |
| Playground | 15 |
| Opportunities and Constraints | 16 |
| Part 3: The Masterplan | 17 |
| Robert Pymble Park: Masterplan (Sheet 1) | 17 |
| Robert Pymble Park: Masterplan - Playground (Sheet 2) | 18 |
| Part 5: Financial Considerations | 19 |
| Project Budget | 19 |
| Indicative Project Staging | 19 |
| APPENDIX: Everyone Can Play | 20 |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.3 | March 2020 | Adopted by Council |
| 1.2 | February 2020 | Final for Internal Review |
| 1.1 | September 2019 | Draft for Councillor Briefing |
| 1.0 | August 2019 | Draft for Internal Review |
| Version | Date | Issue |

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Document distribution Internal | Document status Draft | TRIM container S11630 |
| Document owner Strategy and Environment | Contact Officer Senior Landscape Architect | TRIM file 2020/073633 |
| Approval date 17.03.2020 | Approval by Council | |
| Effective date 17.03.2020 | Review period 10 years | Review date Annually |

Introduction

Ku-ring-gai Council has developed a Landscape Masterplan for Robert Pymble Park which will prioritise works over the next 10 years.

Robert Pymble Park is classified as a District Park because of its size, location and large areas of public recreation space, and its unique landscape character and heritage.

The Landscape Masterplan aims to conserve, protect and enhance the landscape character of Robert Pymble Park while improving the amenity and aesthetics of the park.

The Landscape Masterplan gives consideration to:

- upholding good stewardship of the parkland;
- improving access to the park for all users and community groups;
- improving opportunities for community recreation, leisure and enjoyment;
- preserving and retaining the distinctive landscape character that acknowledges heritage and history;
- maintaining, improving and embellishing existing park facilities and buildings whilst balancing the demands on the facilities;
- integrating sustainable and environmental principles into park design;
- implementation of a risk assessment and crime prevention through environmental design;
- on-going maintenance of the park and long-term viability;
- providing an implementation program for the development of the park including resource implications, estimated costs and priorities;
- focussing Council resources to the areas that will deliver the greatest benefit to our residents, and;
- providing a holistic approach to design that allows for improvements to occur in stages as funding becomes available.

The Landscape Masterplan is a long-range document identifying priorities for improvements over the next 10 years. It will be monitored on an annual basis and reviewed as required.

What is a Landscape Masterplan?

A Landscape Masterplan is a plan that is developed after analysing existing site elements and features, considering community and stakeholder consultation and determining the functions of a site. Opportunities, conflicts and constraints are identified in the development of an overall plan to guide the long term management of the park. The Landscape Masterplan is a strategic document that enables Council to work in stages as funds become available to revitalise the parkland and make the most of the established landscape character and the area's rich history.

Council's Landscape Architects have prepared this plan in consultation with residents and stakeholders to determine the need for upgrade works and allocation of priorities for funding future staging of works.

Location

Robert Pymble Park comprises 2 hectares of parkland bordered by Park Crescent and Alma Street, approximately 100m north of Pacific Highway and Pymble Railway Station.

Due to its close proximity to the Railway Station, shops, and high density residential, Robert Pymble Park has a large catchment of users including residents that live adjacent and also those passing through on their way to Pacific Highway and the Station. As more high density development occurs nearby, patronage of the park is expected to increase.

The parks lies within the Park Estate Heritage Conservation Area which is of historical significance as a late nineteenth century subdivision which retains largely intact development from the Federation and Inter-war periods. This setting provides an important cultural and built heritage context that contributes to the park's 'sense of place'.



Location Map

The Vision for Robert Pymble Park

Robert Pymble Park will maintain its character as a generously treed District Park with a range of active and passive recreation opportunities. The fabric of the park will respect and maintain the area's rich cultural heritage and ecology.



History and Heritage

Aboriginal Heritage¹

For thousands of years the Ku-ring-gai area was home to the Durrumurragal people. Aboriginal people fished and hunted in the waters and hinterlands of the area, and all clans harvested food from their surrounding bush. Self-sufficient and with strong connections to neighbouring clans, they had no need to travel far from their lands, since the resources about them were so abundant, and trade with other tribal groups was well established. Moving throughout their country in accordance with the seasons, they spent perhaps only 4-5 hours per day working to ensure their survival. With such a large amount of leisure time available, they developed a rich and complex ritual life through their language, customs, spirituality, and law at the very heart of which was their continued connection to land.

The area of Ku-ring-gai Council is the site of a number of historical notations relating to the early contact between the encroaching Europeans and local Aboriginal people.

The Pymble family, settlers in the area, provide a limited record of their contact with local clans. Robert Pymble recalled that Aboriginal people brought him fresh fish and oysters (Halstead 1982). He also refers to Aboriginal people travelling from Cowan Creek (Bobbin Head), camping on the hill above his orchard near the present reservoir (Thorne 1968:105) and then continuing their Journey along the ridge to the west across the area now occupied by the Presbyterian Ladies College.

Robert Pymble notes that by 1856 most Aboriginal people of the area had 'faded out', having, in his opinion, fallen to the ravages of smallpox (Thorne 1968: 39).

European Heritage

The park and suburb in which it is located are named after the first European settlers of the area - Robert Pymble and his family.

Born in Hentland, England circa 1776, Robert Pymble arrived in Australia with his wife and six children as free settlers aboard the ship 'Marshal Wellington' on the 24th of July 1821.

In 1823, Robert acquired a land grant by Governor Brisbane, comprising of around 600 acres - approximately half of the land of the region. The Pymble family homestead was built just south of the current Pymble Railway Station. Robert began the cultivation of crops including oats, barley, wheat and maize and the raising of sheep, cattle and pigs. Robert was also a successful fruit farmer and owned a large orange grove as well as vineyards, and orchards containing nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, apricots, and apples. Robert planted the district's first orchard in 1826. The fertile soils of the area, combined with plentiful irrigation from local creeks and permanent springs, allowed Robert to become a successful farmer.

Robert was also a master sawyer providing blackbutt, ironbark, stringybark, redgum, apple, mahogany, and turpentine for naval purposes, slip-rails, housing, bridges, and wharves. He used bullock wagons to transport the timber to Joseph Fidden's wharf, in modern day Killara, to be rowed down the Lane Cove River to Sydney Harbour.⁶

The need for a public park in Pymble had been discussed at a Pymble Progress Association meeting from at least as early as February 1901.

Portions of private granted land that make up the current park were used throughout the early 1900's as places of public gathering and for sporting events on occasions. On the 8th of November 1902, Dr Knottmann, who was a member of the Pymble Progress Association, made the land in the current park location available for a fête in aid of the North Shore Hospital, then under construction. The land was also in regular use for cricket matches and the occasional horse race.



Pymble family c.1865²



Robert Pymble's homestead c.1881³

Land acquisition by Council for the creation of the park was ongoing through the early years of the twentieth century. The breakout of World War I slowed down the acquisition of land as attentions were directed elsewhere to support the war effort. In 1928, Council acquired all the land required to create the current park, which was then named Pymble Park.

The park retained the name Pymble Park until 1978, when it was agreed by the then Council Mayor, that this park's name should be changed to Robert Pymble Park to commemorate the notable former local resident.

Heritage Conservation

Robert Pymble Park resides within the Park Estate Conservation Area (HCA C7), with its conservation significance described as;

The Park Estate Heritage Conservation Area is historically and aesthetically significant as an intact portion of the Park Estate subdivision associated with Robert Pymble and his descendants, for Robert Pymble Park, and as an area of fine substantial houses of the Federation and the Inter-war period, in a variety of architectural styles, many of which are listed heritage items and exemplars of their various architectural styles.

In order to maintain the character of the Park, it is important to balance the retention of trees in combination with open spaces. The park's history of sporting and leisure activities within its flexible open spaces is a legacy that should be continued. Robert Pymble Park is characteristic of large parks within the Local Government Area (LGA), being well treed (including remnant Blue Gum High Forest species). Whilst there is significant tree cover across the park the density is such that it allows for extensive views across the park from surrounding properties. This includes properties further afield (i.e. not fronting the park) due to the sloping topography.



Fête at Pymble Park 1902⁴



Children at Robert Pymble Park c.1930⁵

1. Aboriginal Heritage and History Within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area, 2015 (extract from the Ku-ring-gai Council Aboriginal Site Management Report 2015), prepared by the Aboriginal Heritage Office for Council

2. Pymble family [1865] photograph. Ku-ring-gai Historical Society collection, Ku-ring-gai Library record BRN 148091.

3. Robert Pymble's old homestead, occupied by Edwin McIntosh and family, c.1881. Malcolm O'Reilly collection. Ku-ring-gai Library record.

4. Fête held on Dr. Knottman's Paddock (now Robert Pymble Park) photograph, 1902. Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Collection. Ku-ring-gai Library record.

5. The 'Morgans' children on swing at Park (one being Enid Morgans) photograph, c.1930. Photographer- David Morgans. Enid Fenwick collection. Ku-ring-gai Library record.

6. <http://australianroyalty.net.au/individual.php?pid=I56197&ged=purnellmccord.ged> (Accessed 04.08.2017)

Community Consultation - 2018

In February 2018, Council sought feedback from the local community to help prepare the draft Landscape Masterplan for Robert Pymble Park. Notification letters and feedback surveys were sent to 1425 local residents. The feedback survey was also available online via the Council website.

A total of 70 feedback surveys and 8 email submissions were received. The insights from the feedback survey and submissions are summarised below.

The majority of respondents use the park for exercise and visit the park with family. The park provides a welcome escape from the noise and activity of the nearby Pacific Highway. Respondents most valued the open spaces and trees, in addition to the tennis courts and peaceful aspect of the park.

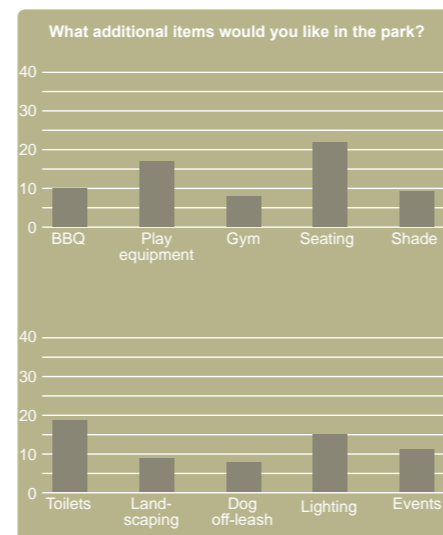
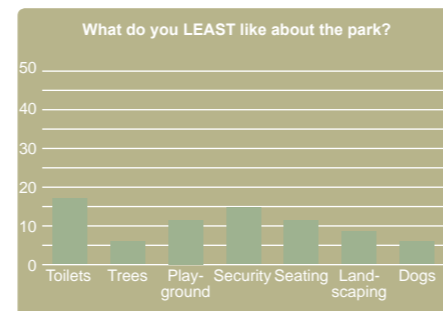
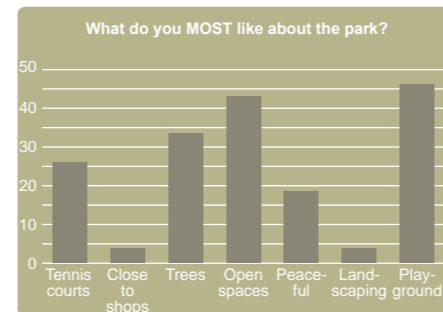
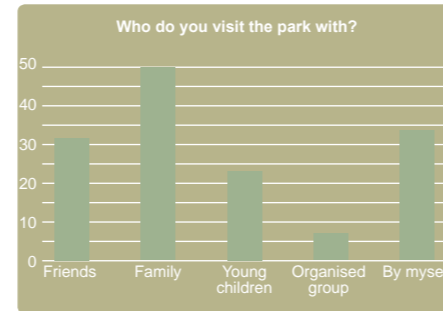
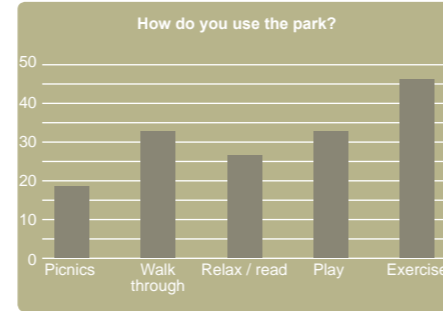
A number of respondents expressed concern about the toilet facilities, remarking that the toilet block was outdated, prone to vandalism and graffiti, and often dirty. Security was another area of concern, with a number of respondents commenting that the park did not feel safe at night due to poor lighting, lack of visibility due to large trees, and antisocial behaviour near the toilet block. Other areas of concern included outdated play equipment, inadequate seating, and negative interactions with dogs around the children's playground.

Respondents would like to see additional seating, tables and covered areas, as well as an upgrade of the existing toilet block and children's playground to improve accessibility and inclusivity.

There was also interest in the addition of BBQ facilities, adult exercise equipment, and areas for events. Respondents also suggested a bike path / jogging track around the perimeter of the park to improve pedestrian safety and provide a safe area for children to practice riding bikes and scooters.

Improving accessibility to toilet facilities, seating areas and parking spaces was also suggested by a number of respondents.

The responses to the user survey were reviewed and analysed helping to inform the preparation of the Opportunities and Constraints mapping, and the draft Landscape Masterplan.



Word cloud generated from 2018 community feedback. The size of the word indicates frequency of use.

Community Engagement - 2019

The Draft Landscape Masterplan document was exhibited for public review and comment in November 2019. This was supported by an on-site event in the Park on Sunday 3rd November.

The nature of the Masterplan project is such that it has the potential to have a moderate to high local impact on the community. As such, a range of engagement and communications tools were employed to ensure the local community were informed about the Masterplan and had the opportunity to have a say.

Council decided that actively engaging the community in situ was an important part of the engagement process and the resulting community event captured opinions of a wide range of local people, many of who may not have participated in other more passive approaches to engagement.

Community engagement mechanisms employed

- Community event
- Survey (online and paper copy)
- Online discussion forum
- Social media

Communications mechanisms

- E-newsletter
- Direct mail
- Information Sheet
- Signage and information boards in the park
- Social media
- Notice in mayor's column in North Shore Times.
- Corporate Ad in NST
- KMC Website
- Email to local people involved in Phase 1 engagement.

Phase 2 engagement showed strong support for the Masterplan. The community indicated that the playground should remain in its current location that improving the amenities block a top priority for the any upgrades. More detailed work will be undertaken in relation to managing traffic flows on Park Crescent due to some concerns raised by the public about the conversion to a one way street.

Communications and engagement snapshot



Communications reach

- 11K+ e-newsletter subscribers - 4144 e-news opens (35.82%) and 77 clicks on RPP article
- 66K + reach via traditional media
- 6.7k+ Facebook reach, 380 engagements
- Information sheet and letter sent to 1365 local residents

Community participation

- 96 responses to survey (38 online and 58 at community event)
- 30 visitors to online forum -7 ideas and 3 comments submitted
- 150+ attendees at community event
- 56 Facebook likes/ comments/shares
- 1 written submission

Support for masterplan (survey participants)

- 83% rated the Masterplan excellent, very good or good
- 7% rated Masterplan poor, very poor or terrible
- 10% indicated a neutral view

Feature upgrade priorities

- Most Important
- A new amenities block including accessible toilets and picnic shelter
 - New furniture including seating
 - Retention and enhancement of existing open grassed area
- Least important
- Improved park entry and exit points
 - Improved stormwater infrastructure

Landscape Character

Landscape character is defined as the distinct elements and features of a landscape. Landscapes evolve over time as a result of both natural and cultural processes.

Robert Pymble Park is a typically traditional public park with an established character. It borrows from both the pleasure ground and urban park palettes, with many of the ubiquitous elements of a park of its time including trees and expansive turfed open space, sport facilities, children’s play, garden beds, hedging, lighting and a path network. Pedestrian entry to the park is predominantly from the western edge of Park Crescent, which is unfenced along the boundary. A steel barrier rail interspersed with openings exists along the two northern most sides of Park Crescent up to the intersection with Alma Street. Upon entering the park, the terrain slopes down toward the centre of the park with steep grades along most boundaries. A stone wall defines the tennis courts along the southern boundary, the top of which is fenced. The sloped topography of the site also assists to establish a unique sense of place for this park, providing a dynamic experience of movement throughout the space comparative to a flat urban park site.

The park is characterised by a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities. A large open space within the centre of the park is flanked by active recreation opportunities to the south which include four tennis courts and a children’s playground. To the periphery of the central open space, and north east of the active recreation zone, open treed areas interspersed with seating provide space for passive recreation and socialising. This informal space also allows for users to stroll around the park, however the lack of a formal path restricts the range of areas that people with limited mobility can traverse.

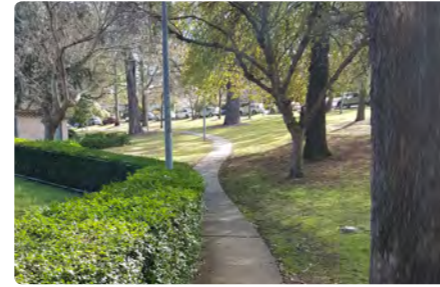
Associated with the active recreation zone is the amenities building which provides toilet facilities as well as an enclosed seating shelter. The building also houses two maintenance storage rooms which are not currently utilised. The toilet facilities have provision for male and female usage, but do not offer baby change facilities or an accessible toilet. The seating shelter has had security screens installed and is locked due to reports of antisocial behaviour in the evenings. This is resultant of the limited passive surveillance available due to the enclosed nature of the building and inadequate lighting within the park. Park lighting is limited to pathways and is at a low luminance level. The area around the amenities block is a key gathering space for those using the sport and playground facilities as well as spectators, and qualifies as the main activation node of the park.

Robert Pymble Park contains a number of significant remnant ecological features as well as pockets of formalised garden beds and hedges. The majority of the parks ground plane is grass with extensive tree planting. Tree planting is a mixture of native and exotic species, with a high proportion of deciduous species. This balance provides significant amounts of sun in winter and extensive shade in the summer. Within the park, visual permeability is adequate however long range views are somewhat restricted by the density of trees in combination with the sloping terrain. Maintained garden beds are limited to two locations - at the corner of Alma Street and around the activity areas. The beds around the activity area are complemented by hedge planting providing screening to fencing. These are planted with hardy perennials exhibiting modest floral displays.

Social and Cultural Character
User Groups

While the majority of attendance at the park are for informal, casual visits, the existing tennis courts, playground and open grassed area attract a number of regular user groups. These include tennis players, fitness groups, playground users, local residents and commuters. According to data received from the initial round of community consultation, users are identified across a range of ages and cultural backgrounds. Specific results are explored the community consultation section of this document.

The tennis courts are not currently in use by any formal tennis club, instead the courts are hired out by a combination of permanent hirers, casual users as well as schools, who hire the tennis courts via the school allocation process and book for Saturday tennis competitions in Term 1 and Term 4.



Path adjacent playground



Fitness class utilising existing tennis courts
(Image by Fit My Day (Facebook))



Open lawn area



Shaded picnic area



Amenities building

The current Ku-ring-gai Council Plan of Management for tennis courts does not permit the lease or license of courts within Ku-ring-gai Council. The majority of hirers book once a week from 1 to 4 hours and they are on a permanent / annual hire agreement. All other hirers make casual bookings. The courts as well as the wider park is a popular location for group fitness classes.

In the past, the park has hosted a number of community events including the Twilight Concert - Orchestral Classics in March 2007. The park is not used on a regular basis for events due to difficulties encountered with transport of equipment into and out of the venue, and parking limitations. Solutions to mitigate some of these issues will be explored through improved access. There are still opportunities for smaller scale events, and a moonlight cinema option could be viable.



View overlooking tennis courts



Park signage



Playground



Autumn leaves (image by Derek Stalley)



Remnant trees at northern corner of the park



Central path through the park

Park Elements + Context

The following sections will explore the existing condition of the park in detail examining their current condition and expectation for retention, removal or replacement. This includes the overarching delineation of function characterising different spaces, natural, and built elements. The diagrams provide a visual reference for the features as they are at the time of producing this document. The text associated with the diagrams provides commentary on the elements as they are, and their future within the context of the masterplan.

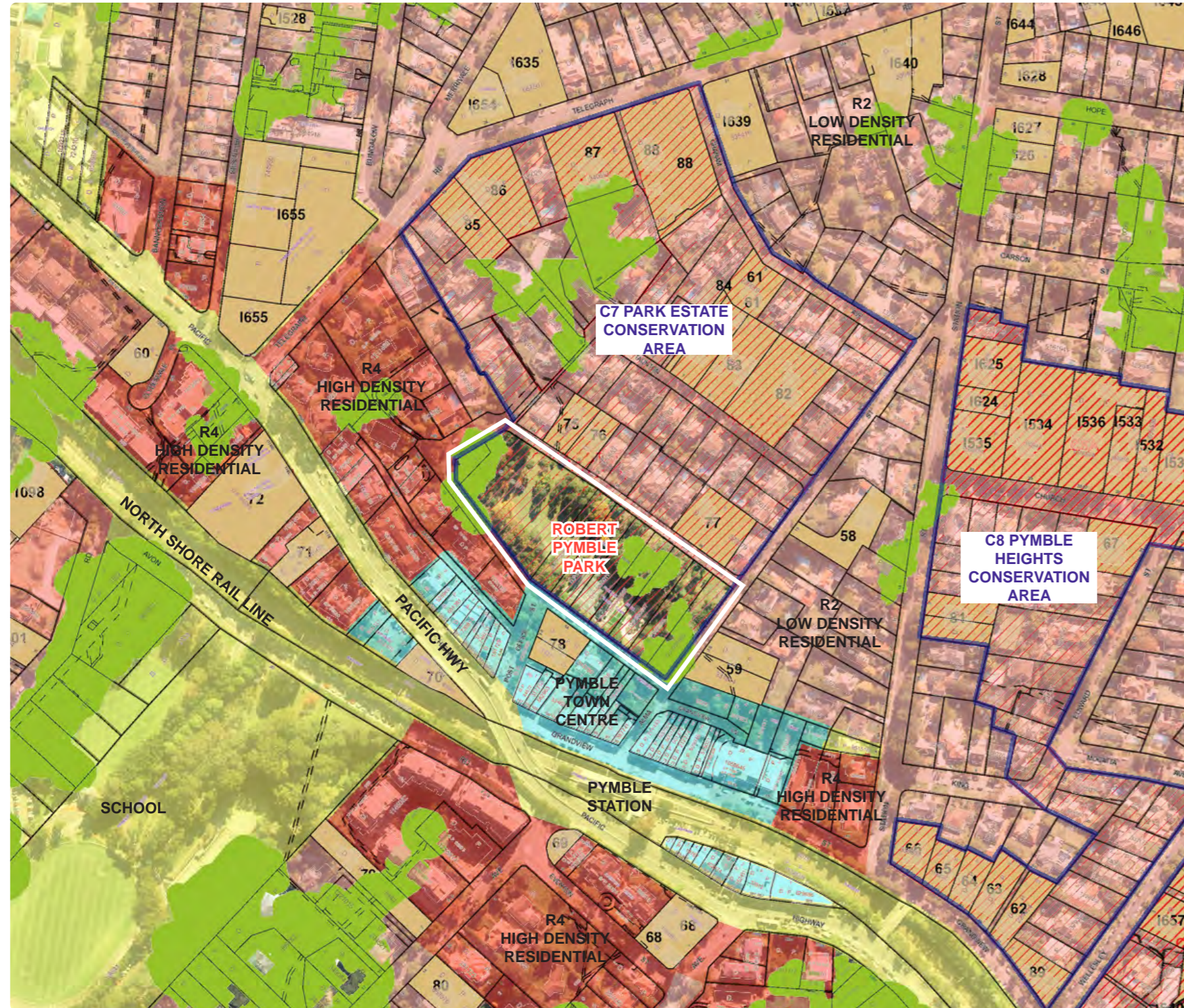
As a preface to this, the Council contextual constraints are explored in relation to the Local Environment Plan and Public Domain Plan.

An Opportunities and Constraints plan at the end of this section will provide the introduction to the conceptual plan for the park.



Autumn leaves (image by Paul Gilmour)

Local Environment Plan



Local Environment Plan (Local Centres) Map

- Biodiversity
- Heritage Conservation Area
- Heritage Property
- R4 High Density Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- B2 Local Centre
- SP2 Infrastructure

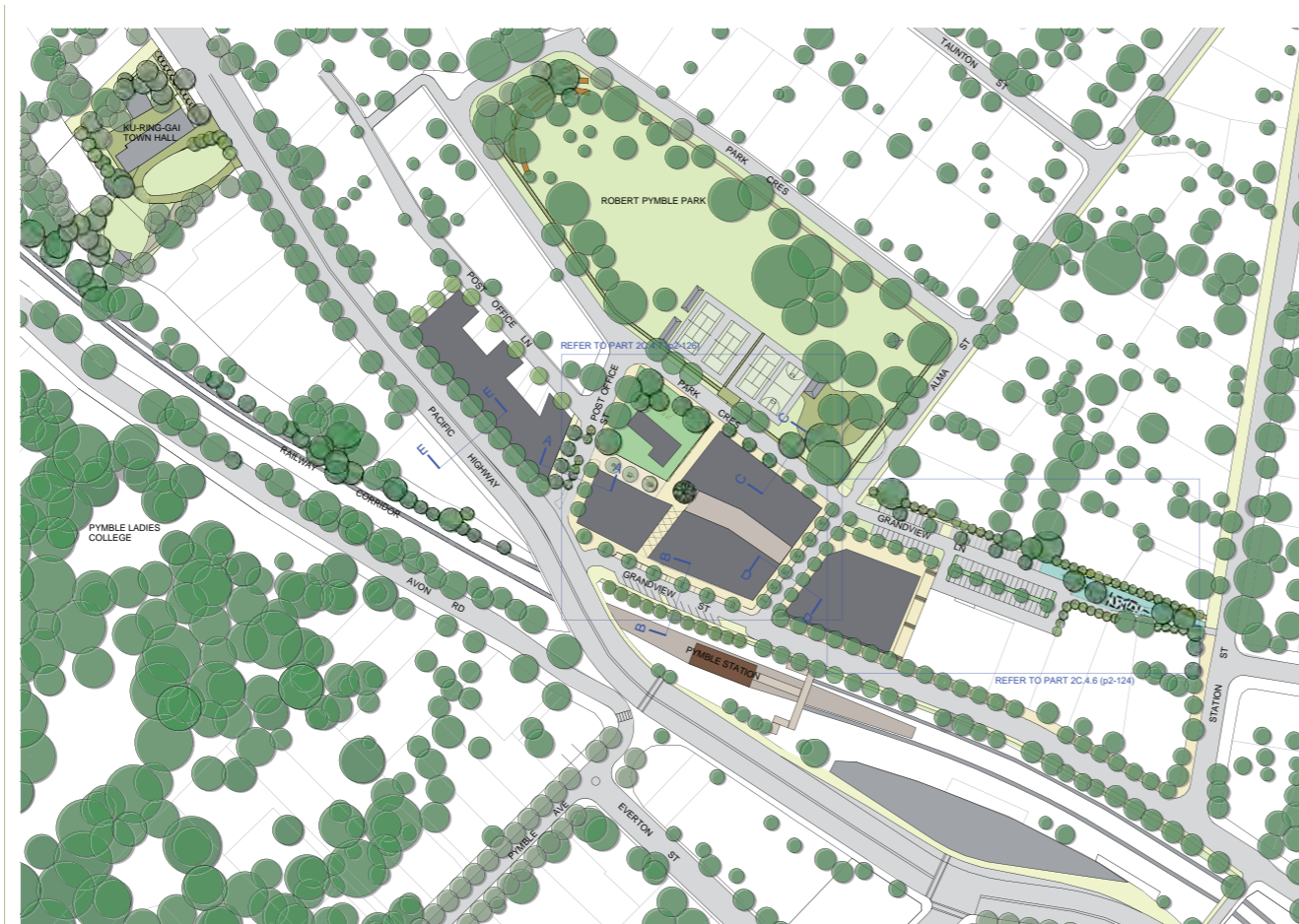
Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan (Local Centres) 2012

Robert Pymble Park is governed by the Local Environment Plan (Local Centres), 2012. The controls relevant to the park as shown on the plan include biodiversity, heritage and zoning.

The Park itself is zoned as RE1 Public Recreation, and falls within the C7 Park Estate Conservation Area. Biodiversity of the site is identified as Blue Gum High Forest, including some remnant trees. This is to be protected and enhanced through retention of trees and supplementary planting. There are no specific items of heritage significance within the park, however it is imperative that the character of the park remains.

Public Domain Plan - Town Centres

Pymble Town Centre - Illustrative Concept Plan



Typical Section (proposed) - Park Crescent

2C.4.3 Section C-C Park Crescent

Designed Future Character

- Park Crescent will develop a retail character with buildings on the south western side providing active ground floor uses with continuous awnings.
- The new footpath in front of future development is to be widened and integrated with the leisure based retail areas and incorporate space for outdoor dining overlooking Robert Pymble Park.
- Streetscape will consist of high quality paving, lighting and furniture.

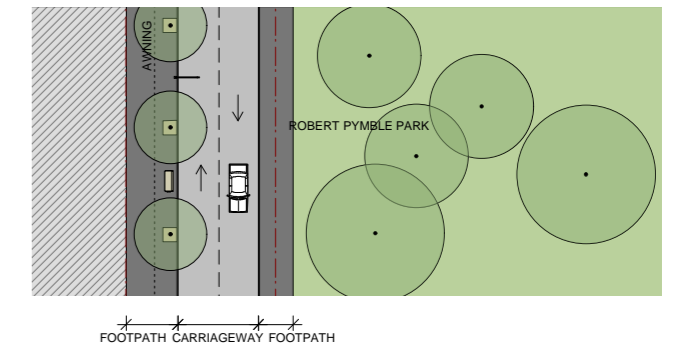
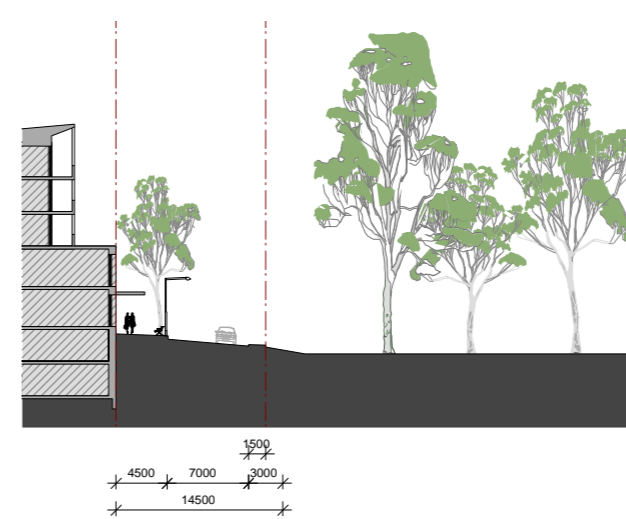
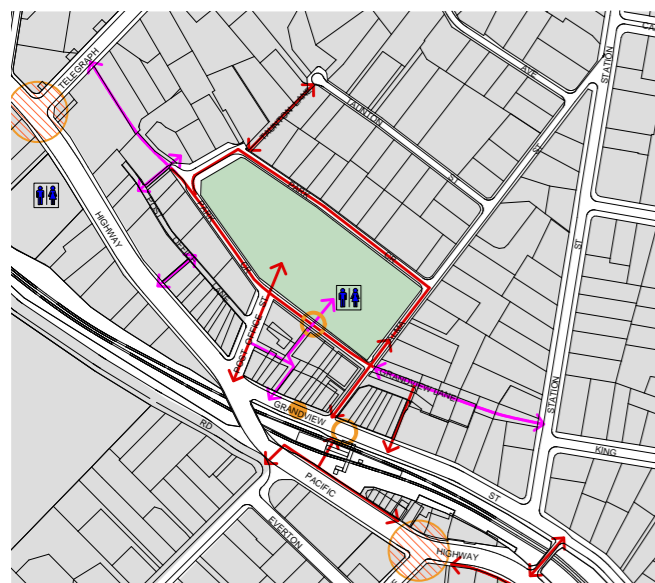


Figure 2C.4-3: Section C-C Park Crescent
Note: Plans and sections are not to scale and dimensions are indicative only.

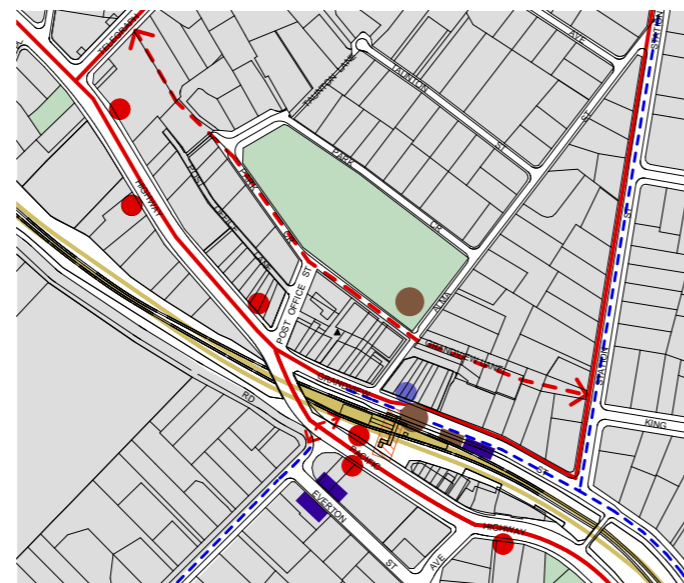
Analysis of Existing and Proposed Conditions

Pedestrian Access and Circulation



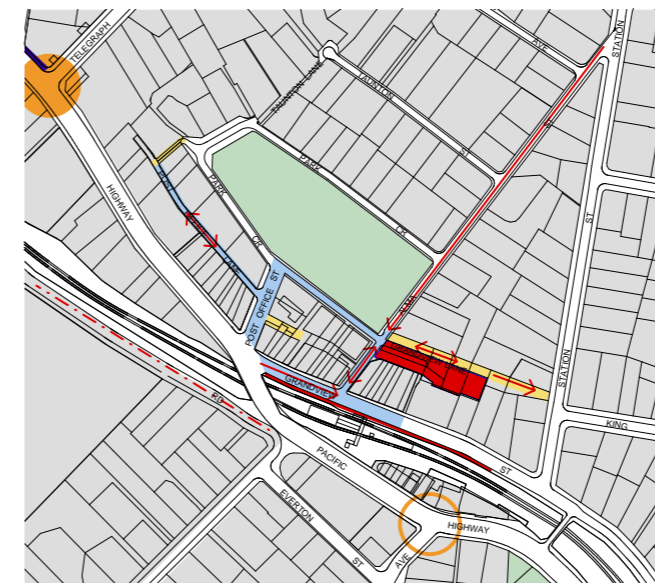
- Key pedestrian link (public) - existing/enhanced
- Key pedestrian link (private) - proposed
- Traffic signals with pedestrian facilities
- Pedestrian crossing / traffic island narrowing - existing
- Pedestrian crossing / traffic island narrowing - proposed
- Public toilets - existing/enhanced

Pymble Integrated Transport



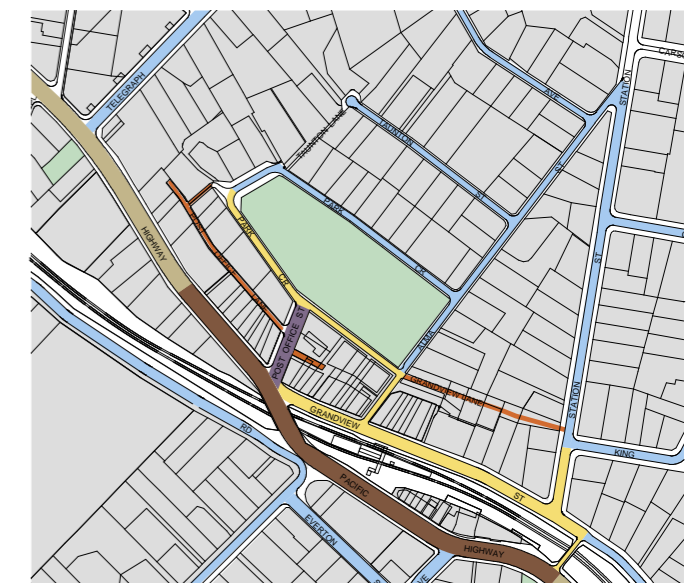
- Railway - North Shore Line
- Railway station
- Existing local bus route
- Bus stop - existing
- Bus stop - upgraded
- Taxi rank - proposed
- Kiss and Ride - proposed
- Covered walkway over railway line
- Shared pedestrian path/cycleway - proposed
- On road cycleway - marked - proposed
- Bicycle parking - proposed

Pymble Vehicle Access and Circulation



- Traffic signal - no alterations
- Traffic signal - alterations
- Minor road works
- One way street or lane
- Two way street or lane
- New road or lane
- Modifications to existing road
- Future road widening
- At-grade Council car parking

Street Character



- Main road (at town centre)
- Main road (out of centre)
- Town centre street
- Town centre laneway
- Residential street
- Special character street: Post Office Street



Footpath/ Street Treatment Plan

Legend

- Large Format Paver – Full width of Footpath
- Large Format Paver and Planting Combination (to Design)
- Unit/ Interlocking Paver (Permeable where Possible) to Carriageway
- Concrete Footpath with Grass Verge
- Concrete – Full width of Footpath
- Concrete Shared Cycle/ Pedestrian Footpath
- Allow 3m wide Shared Cycle/ Pedestrian Clear Path of Travel on Nominated Footpath Treatment Shown



Street/ Pedestrian Lighting Plan

Legend

- Main Road – Town Centre (Area 1)
- Main Road – Town Centre Adjacent to Rail (Area 1)
- Main Road – Adjacent to Residential (Area 2)
- Minor Road – Town Centre (Area 3)
- Minor Road – Adjacent to Residential (Area 4)
- Laneway – Town Centre (Area 5)
- Laneway – Adjacent to Town Centre that Abuts Residential Properties (Area 6)
- Carpark (Area 7)
- Parks and Open Spaces (Area 8)
- Civic Spaces (Area 9)
- Existing EnergyAustralia Lighting



Street Tree Plan

Legend

- Town Centre – Main Road – Native/ Exotic
- Town Centre – Retail/ Commercial – Native/ Exotic
- Main Road/ Residential – Native
- Residential – Native/ Exotic
- Residential – Exotic
- Special Character Street – Civic Spine/ Avenue Planting
- Commercial Street – Native
- Heritage Street – Specific



Powerlines Plan

Legend

- Existing Underground Powerlines
- Proposed Underground Powerlines



Stormwater Management Plan

Legend

- GPT (Gross Pollutant Trap)
- GPT Catchment Areas
- ⊗ Rainwater Treatment Reuse/ Storage System
- ⋯ Existing Drainage/ River System
- Car Parks/ Civic Spaces – Potential areas for permeable paving and rain gardens subject to Engineer's detailed investigation demonstrating substantial benefit.
- Open Spaces/ Parks – Potential areas for bioretention ponds for water harvesting and reuse subject to Engineer's detailed investigation and recommendations.
- Streets and Footpaths – Potential areas for permeable paving, rain gardens, tree pits and swales subject to Engineer's detailed investigation demonstrating substantial benefit.

Public Domain Plan - Town Centres

The images illustrated across these pages are extracts from the Public Domain Plan - Town Centres, as applicable to Robert Pymble Park. The park is a key destination for the town centre.

The interface with the southern portion of Park Crescent will provide opportunities for funding sources to deliver upgrades to both the street and park. This includes items such as underground power, street lighting, footpath upgrades, bicycle parking, street tree planting and drainage improvements, which are further outlined in the financial considerations section. It is noted that the area proposed for underground power is only between Post Office Street and Alma Street, however there is a significant budget for these works and it would be preferential to convert the extent of Park Crescent to underground power simultaneously.

Existing Park Functions



Shaded passive open space (north)



Shaded passive open space (south)



Open space/ events space



Entry point opposite Post Office Street



Northern boundary entry point



Entry point at intersection of Alma Street and Park Crescent (south)



Gathering space



Structured sports area



Existing playground

The Park is structured into distinctive areas for passive and active recreation. Passive recreation areas include the large open grassed area (B) toward the centre of the site and peripheral treed areas (A). Active recreation areas include structured sports (E) and the playground (F).

Treed areas (A) to the outer edges of the park consist of a mixture of native and exotic tree species in varying condition with a grass understorey. The grass is in variable condition dependent on shade and leaf drop. There is an opportunity to replace some of the grassed areas with mulched beds or native understorey plantings.

The open grass area (B) has turf which is regularly maintained and is in good condition. This should be retained for continued use as open space, with the possibility for future events to be explored. This could include outdoor cinema events and concerts.

Entry nodes (C) to the park consist of concrete stairs and paths. These are in poor condition, do not provide equitable access and need to be upgraded to provide an improved sense of entry into the park.

The gathering area (D) identified contains a number of elements including established trees, grass understorey, formal garden beds, table and chair settings and the amenities block. This area is to be maintained as a key activation area with improvements to facilities and planting. Trees in good health are to be retained in line with recommendations from the arborist report and tree risk assessment report prepared for the park.

The tennis courts (E) also serve as a training space for fitness groups. The two southern most courts have recently been updated to a synthetic surface, with the remaining two acrylic surface courts scheduled to be upgraded.

The playground (F) is due for an upgrade, and is discussed in detail in the 'Playground' section of this document.

The pedestrian movements (G) identified include formal and informal movements through the park. Structured paths are discussed in further detail in the 'Circulation & Views + Paths & Paving' section.

Existing Circulation & Views + Paths & Paving



- A Park Entry Point
- B Significant Views - Views Into & Views Within
- C Existing Concrete Path Network
- D Informal Circulation (No Path)
- E Existing Vehicle Maintenance Access

Circulation and Views

Formalised pedestrian entry points to the park (A) are located on Park Crescent opposite Post Office Street, centrally on the eastern boundary, and at the southern most corner of the site at the intersection Alma Street and Park Crescent.

A large open grassed area characterises the northern portion of the site. Views (B) across this area are expansive from the central pathway and from seating areas at the northern edge of this zone. Views from within the park are variable due to the density of trees, however there is generally good trunk clearance to establish good lines of sight throughout the park. This is also aided by the sloping topography of the site wherein when entering the site, views down into the main activation areas are predominantly clear.

Views from the neighbouring houses overlooking the park (B) are critical to facilitating passive surveillance and should be maintained.

Formalised circulation (C) within the park is limited, with a footpath traversing the park from north to south separating the active and passive recreation zones. Another pathway connects the eastern boundary of the site on Park Crescent to the southern most corner of the site at the intersection Alma Street and Park Crescent, and these two pathways are linked by another along the edge of the tennis courts. Park users also use informal networks (D) throughout grassed areas, particularly around the perimeter.

Existing vehicle maintenance access (E) is located at the southern most corner of the site with provision of a lockable gate. This is a key entry location to the park adjacent the playground. As such, the location of this is to be reviewed in the context of reducing potential conflicts between park users and vehicles, with a preference for its relocation to Alma Street north of the electrical kiosk.



View looking west over gathering space



Central view across open space



View across open looking toward courts



View across existing tennis courts



Intersection of main access paths



North-south access path



Secondary north-south path



Existing path deterioration



Existing maintenance access

Paths and Paving

Paving treatments in the park are a mix of sandstone flagging (around select seating areas and the northern entrance to the playground), with the remainder being grey concrete to pedestrian pathways (C). Pedestrian pathways are typically narrow 1.2 metres wide and of varying gradients ranging from 1:5 to 1:100. The paving is generally in adequate condition with standard wear and tear maintenance required in some areas, however formal paths only service the southern portion of the park.

Steep slopes within the park currently do not allow for a continual, accessible path of travel throughout the site from either side of the surrounding road, Park Crescent. There is an existing path on the western side of Park Crescent between Alma Street and Post Office Street (outside of the park boundary).

The path network throughout the park is logical and should be retained and extended, with upgrades to the existing concrete and an increase in the width of paths to 2 metres where possible. Additional equitable access is to be provided, particularly at the park entry points (A) on the southern side of the Park closest to the train station and main activity centres of the park. A 2 metre wide perimeter path around the park is a high priority for implementation (D), particularly as there is no footpath along Park Crescent.

Existing Structures and Furniture



Seats



Seats and table



Bin



Drinking fountain



Amenities building



Stone retaining wall



Perimeter barrier rail



Playground



Chain mesh fence

Structures and Furniture

The seating provided within the park is predominantly on hardstand, with a back but without armrests (A). Furniture additions over time throughout the park have resulted in a mixture of styles, and many are inaccessible for users with limited mobility. Two picnic settings (B) are located to the north of the amenities block, but neither is serviced by a path. Another two picnic settings (B) are located within the play area along with two bench seats (with backs, no armrests and on hardstands). Given the age and condition of the existing furniture, all the seating and picnic settings within the park should be upgraded to maintain a consistent style and provide better amenity for people with limited mobility.

The park has one drinking fountain (D) and several bins (C). The bins are the small trash can style and sulo bins. All appear old and should be upgraded to a consistent style. The drinking fountain is not accessible and should be replaced with two new accessible drinking fountains in more appropriate locations, the style of which should be consistent with those utilised in other parks in the LGA. There are currently no BBQ facilities, and as this is a district park, should be provided.

There is a steel perimeter barrier rail (G) along the northern and eastern edges of Park Crescent where there is currently no kerb and gutter. This should be removed in conjunction with the installation of kerb and gutter and a 2 metre wide perimeter path.

An existing amenities building (E) houses male and female public toilets, a shelter with seating, and two maintenance storage rooms. The shelter area is currently inaccessible behind a locked gate following antisocial behaviour. The building is in average condition and is due to be upgraded. There is no requirement for maintenance storage, so a new building which combines a shelter and accessible toilet and baby change facilities should be explored. A location closer to the existing playground would be beneficial. This new facility should be sensitive to passive surveillance requirements, with a preference for a more visually permeable shelter including seating.

The stone wall and tiered seating (F) to the tennis courts are still functional, however they are dated and a structural assessments of their longevity have been conducted. The findings of these assessments suggest that whilst there is no imminent risk associated with the structural stability of the wall it is advisable that the wall be upgraded as part of these current masterplan works.

Chain mesh fencing (I) is installed to the top of the retaining wall and around the children's playground. The fencing around the playground is due for replacement, and the fence to the top of the retaining wall should be reconsidered in conjunction with upgrade of the retaining wall. New fencing has been installed around the two southern most tennis courts (synthetic surfacing), and the remaining fencing should be upgraded to the other two courts (acrylic surfacing).

Existing Services/Infrastructure + Lighting & Safety



Light pole to pedestrian path



Power pole in north-western corner of park



Electricity substation located on Alma Street



Grated stormwater pit



Seating shelter within amenities block with locked screens



Headwall adjacent path

Services and Infrastructure

Electrical (Ausgrid) assets include power poles and lights. Power poles extend around the perimeter of the park, however no overhead powerlines traverse the internal area of the park. There is funding dedicated to Park Crescent for provision of underground power. Removal of the power poles will assist in the implementation of a perimeter path around the park. Street lighting will need to be addressed in accordance with the public domain plan, as many street lights are associated with existing power poles. An existing substation on the Alma Street edge of the park immediately adjacent the road will need to be retained, and the proposed perimeter path will need to deviate around this.

Sydney Water assets within the park include sewer, stormwater and potable water. There are connections to potable water i.e. to taps, drinking fountain and to the amenities building however these were not identified through the survey or dial before you dig data. Much of the stormwater drainage infrastructure is concretised including channels, headwalls and pits, and the feasibility of green infrastructure options including vegetated swales and rain gardens is to be explored.

Other services bound the park (e.g. gas, telecommunications), but are not located within the park boundary.

Lighting and Safety

Lighting is provided in the park along the internal park pathways but due to the large distances between the poles and the existing mercury vapour light fittings, lighting levels are inadequate to provide a safe pedestrian environment at night.

Additional lights along the main pathways in the park are required to provide to improved amenity and security. The installation of LED light fittings to P3 level would provide an enhanced illumination performance while reducing energy consumption.

Complaints of anti-social behaviour at night and vandalism around the existing toilet block prompted the undercover seating area associated with the amenities block to be gated and locked. The current siting of the toilet block in a low lying area of the park, set back from the main pathway and surrounded by vegetation hinders passive surveillance of the area.

The tennis courts are not currently lit in the evening, and combination lighting for paths and courts could be explored.

Existing Trees and Vegetation



Trees and Vegetation

Many of the large trees within the park are remnants of the original vegetation community that existed prior to the development of the area. These trees are characteristic of the Blue Gum High Forest (B) which is identified in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) as a critically endangered ecological community. There are clusters of large Eucalypts characteristic of this community in the northern and southern corners of the park. These should be retained in line with the results of the arboricultural assessment. There is also an opportunity to plant understory species belonging to this community in the north west corner of the site to assist in enhancing biodiversity.

Throughout the park established plantings of native and exotic tree species (A) provide extensive shade. Tree planting to the park has evolved over time with species being replaced as required, and not subject to an overarching plan. There are many deciduous trees planted within the park which allows for better light penetration in winter, and autumn leaves for children to play with. There are a number of uncommon species in the park including two Strawberry trees (*Arbutus unedo*) and a single Phoenix Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), along with a range of park specimen tree including Oaks, Maple and Liquidambar. This eclectic mix of planting gives a distinctive character to Robert Pymble Park and is highly valued by the community.

There is an opportunity to provide supplementary tree planting, with species to be in line with existing trees within the park. The park is also a candidate as a site for the 'Living Lab' program, where a selection of native tree and shrub species are planted, and their health monitored over time to determine the species susceptibility to climate change (F).

An arboricultural assessment has been undertaken to establish the overall health and longevity of existing trees. This has informed the concept masterplan by identifying which trees should be removed and the retention schedule of those to be retained. Several trees have been identified as being in poor health, and their removal will be a priority. A list of species for future planting has been developed in accordance with this report. A tree risk assessment report has also been prepared which outlines remedial actions to be conducted on identified trees prior to any upgrade construction works commencing, and to ensure the correct tree protection measures are incorporated during construction. A number of large existing trees contain hollows, providing habitat opportunities for birds and mammals. These trees should be retained as a priority, and any future maintenance/pruning should take these hollows into consideration.

Along Park Crescent where there are existing powerlines, a number of the trees in vicinity have been heavily pruned.

Formal hedge planting (D) defines the play area and northern edge of the tennis courts, with garden beds interspersed as defining elements around the amenities block and the south-eastern corner of the park along Alma Street. These hedges are well maintained at a height that allows views over the top, and help to further delineate the active recreation areas. A portion



Mixture of native and exotic trees



Variety of deciduous and evergreen species



Remnant trees from Blue Gum High Forest ecological community



Formal garden bed planting



Hedging around playground



Stump (to be removed)

of this may need to be removed to accommodate WSUD measures adjacent the playground. The garden bed areas (C) are generally well defined by the pedestrian path network and a mix of timber and sandstone edging. These are planted with robust species such as agapanthus, liriopie and gardenia. There are opportunities to expand and enhance existing garden beds, particularly at park entry nodes.

Grassed areas are another defining feature of Robert Pymble Park and it is essential that these are retained in the long term. However, to facilitate ease of maintenance, those areas of grass beneath dense tree canopies or those with significant leaf litter should be converted to mulch beds as they are under-performing due to the conditions.

The large existing tree stump at the end of the open grassed area should be removed.

List of tree species for replacement planting

Local Native Species:-

- *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt)
- *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum)
- *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine)
- *Eucalyptus paniculata* (Grey Ironbark)
- *Eucalyptus acmenoides* (White Mahogany)
- *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum)
- *Eucalyptus resinifera* (Red Mahogany)
- *Acmena smithii* (Lillypilly)
- *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash)

Suitable Federation & Inter-War Era Species:-

- *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Myrtle)
- *Afrocarpus falcatus* (Outeniqua Yellowwood)
- *Lophostemon confertus* (Brushbox)
- *Cryptocarya obovata* (Pepperberry)
- *Ficus superba var heneanna* (Deciduous Fig)
- *Scolopia braunii* (Flintwood)
- *Castanospermum australe* (Blackbean)
- *Flindersia australis* (Crows Foot Ash)
- *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Qld Firewheel Tree)
- *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Cherry)
- *Syzygium leuhmannii* (Small Leaf Lillypilly)
- *Waterhousea floribunda* (Weeping Lilly Pilly)
- *Elaeocarpus grandis* (Blue Quandong)
- *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine)

Suitable Exotic species:-

- *Nyssa sylvatica* (Tupelo)
- *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak)
- *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak)
- *Quercus acutissima* (Sawtooth Oak)
- *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip Tree)
- *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda)
- *Magnolia grandiflora* (Bullbay Magnolia)

Suitable Ornamental Conifers:-

- *Callitris columellaris* (White Cypress Pine)
- *Cupressus funebris* (Chinese Weeping Cypress)
- *Pinus roxburghii* (Chir Pine)
- *Cupressus cashmeriana* (Kashmir Cypress)
- *Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese Cedar)
- *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson's Cypress)
- *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan Cedar)
- *Cedrus atlantica 'Glaucu'* (Blue Atlas Cedar)
- *Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii'* (Golden Hinoki Cypress)
- *Cupressus torulosa* (Bhutan Cypress)

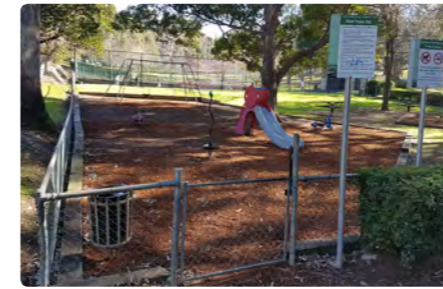
Playground

Robert Pymble Park is designated as a District Park due to its size and central location adjacent the transport node at Pymble Station. Currently the park's playground does not meet the desired requirements of a District Park due to the limited play equipment and the lack of complementary facilities immediately adjacent the playground, such as shelters, drink fountains and baby change facilities. The playground is critical as a district-sized play space, with only one other play space for the whole precinct north of the Pacific Highway and railway line. An upgrade of the playground is required to diversify play opportunities, create an accessible and inclusive play space, and promote the park as an important recreational location for the local community.

The existing playground consists of two areas surfaced with playground mulch bounded by timber edging that accommodate a see-saw in one area, and a slide, swings, two springer units and a spica in the other. These are all focussed toward a toddler to young children age bracket. Furniture in the playground includes two picnic settings, and two backed seats without armrests. A bin and signage punctuate the southern entry to the playground. The playground is fenced and bordered by Murraya hedges, with both the northern and southern entry points accessible by a gate. Two additional gates include one wide enough for vehicles to enter located towards the centre of the fence on the Alma Street side, and an entry to the adjacent tennis courts. There are several trees which provide shade within the area, and large expanses of turf for informal play.



Plan of existing playground



Southern entry to playground



Seating areas adjacent equipment



Swings in mulch



Slide for pre-school ages



Backed seat in lawn, away from equipment



Seat in turf



See-saw



Seats and table



Slide, springer and spica



Hedge surrounding playground



Swings, slide, and springers in mulch softfall



Slide and springer



Northern entry to playground



Swings



Vehicle access gate















View looking south-west across the playground





Opportunities and Constraints



OPPORTUNITIES

-  Upgraded path network including circuit path and universal access. Removal of perimeter barrier rail and upgrade of Park Crescent
-  Accessible path/ ramp
-  Underground power - current pole and line infrastructure to be replaced surrounding the park
-  Amenities upgrade - replacement of existing amenities building with new facility to be explored, designed to reflect park character
-  Playground upgrade - playground to be upgraded to meet district level play space standards
-  New entry nodes to park periphery including more generous thresholds, new planting and mulching, signage, and universal access into the park opposite Post Office Street
-  Improved maintenance access - relocated away from key pedestrian entry into the park
-  Potential secondary maintenance access (events)
-  Improved lighting - replacement of old light fittings with energy efficient LED lights, ensuring consistency of illumination
-  New furniture throughout the park including seats, picnic settings, bins, drinking fountains, shelters and BBQ
-  Improved drainage - green infrastructure solutions to be explored
-  Upgrade of walls and tiered seating to tennis courts

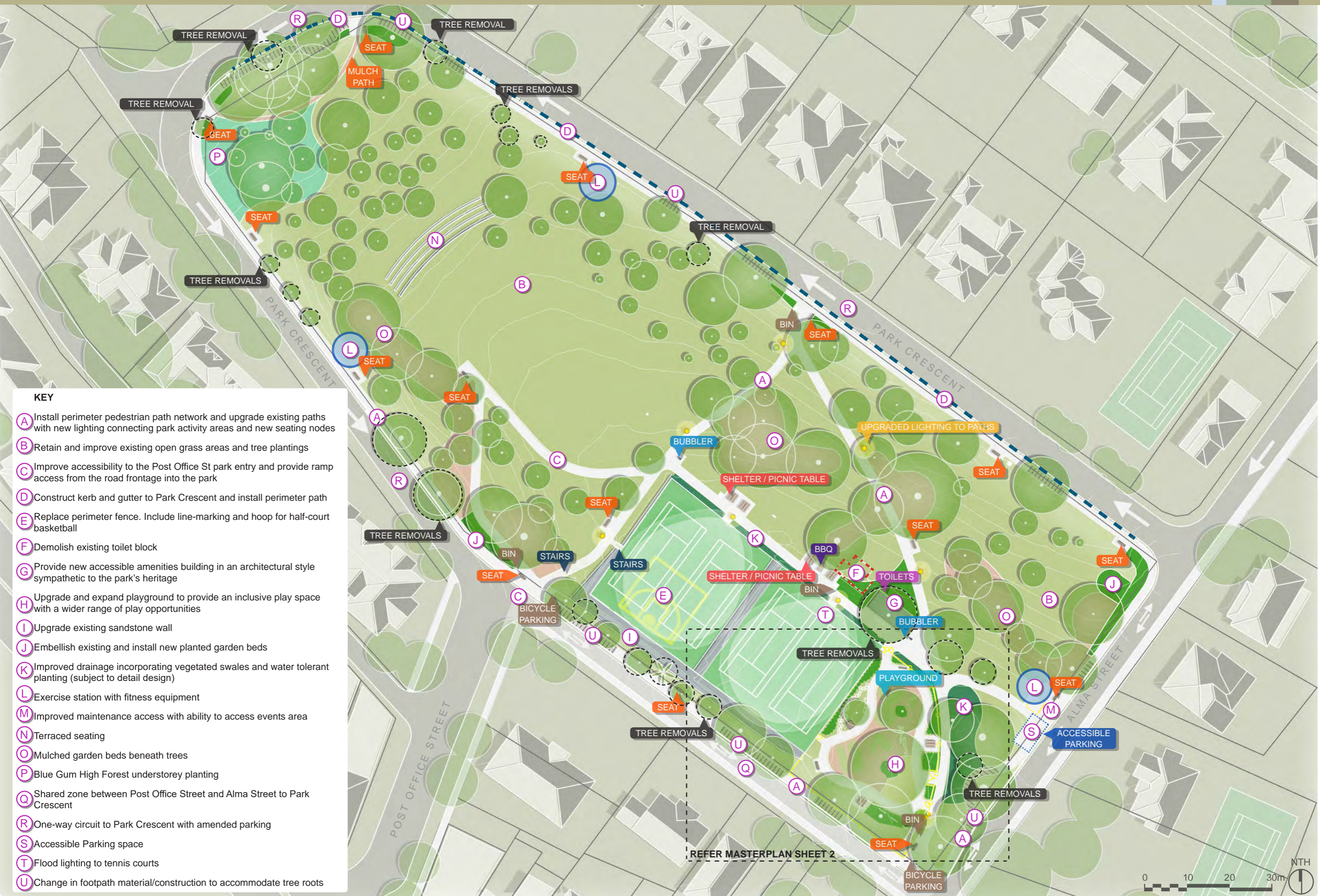
CONSTRAINTS

-  Maintain existing path network layout - upgrade existing concrete and increase path width
-  Retain existing tennis courts - include linemarking and basket ball hoop
-  Retain existing open space - remove stump
-  Retain as much of existing tree canopy as possible (subject to arborist advice) and supplement with additional trees

Opportunities and Constraints

Robert Pymble Park presents an excellent framework for an improved district level park. Its location and established presence will continue to attract users from across the LGA. No substantial changes are proposed for the overall fabric of the park, however significant infrastructure upgrades will contribute to making the park more accessible, functional and desirable as a destination.

The diagram above gives an outline of the opportunities for park improvements and those existing features which act as constraints to change. This has informed the masterplan concept which is in the following sections.



KEY

- (A)** Install perimeter pedestrian path network and upgrade existing paths with new lighting connecting park activity areas and new seating nodes
- (B)** Retain and improve existing open grass areas and tree plantings
- (C)** Improve accessibility to the Post Office St park entry and provide ramp access from the road frontage into the park
- (D)** Construct kerb and gutter to Park Crescent and install perimeter path
- (E)** Replace perimeter fence. Include line-marking and hoop for half-court basketball
- (F)** Demolish existing toilet block
- (G)** Provide new accessible amenities building in an architectural style sympathetic to the park's heritage
- (H)** Upgrade and expand playground to provide an inclusive play space with a wider range of play opportunities
- (I)** Upgrade existing sandstone wall
- (J)** Embellish existing and install new planted garden beds
- (K)** Improved drainage incorporating vegetated swales and water tolerant planting (subject to detail design)
- (L)** Exercise station with fitness equipment
- (M)** Improved maintenance access with ability to access events area
- (N)** Terraced seating
- (O)** Mulched garden beds beneath trees
- (P)** Blue Gum High Forest understorey planting
- (Q)** Shared zone between Post Office Street and Alma Street to Park Crescent
- (R)** One-way circuit to Park Crescent with amended parking
- (S)** Accessible Parking space
- (T)** Flood lighting to tennis courts
- (U)** Change in footpath material/construction to accommodate tree roots

REFER MASTERPLAN SHEET 2



PLAYGROUND - INDICATIVE CONCEPT

The indicative concept outlines the proposed inclusions for an upgraded play space to meet district park playground requirements.

Feedback received on the desired location for the playground indicated that of the three locations proposed, option 1 was preferred.

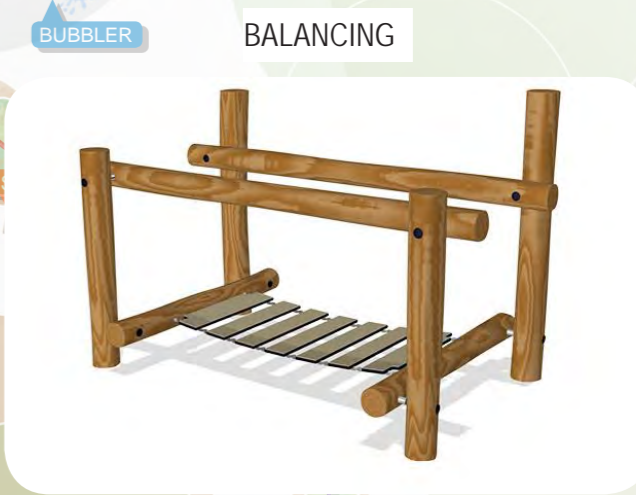
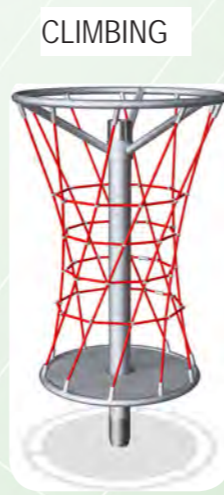
OPTION 1 - upgrading and expanding the playground in the existing location

The concept design for the playground will be refined and developed in conjunction with further community consultation.

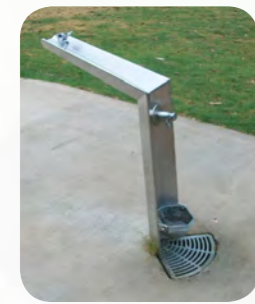
The upgraded playground will incorporate the following elements in the play space or nearby;

- Furniture including seats, tables, bin, bubbler, bicycle parking, toilets
- Improved accessibility for users of all ages and abilities, including entry points and circulation throughout the space
- A circuit track for younger children to ride bicycles and scooters
- A variety of robust materials including concrete, sandstone, and mulch softfall
- New planting and areas of turf
- Shade
- Play elements that facilitate **spinning, balancing, climbing, rocking, sliding, swinging**. These will be incorporated with sensory and nature play activities

Refer to Appendix: Everyone Can Play for a detailed analysis of the proposed upgrade as applicable to the retention of the playground in its current location.



FURNITURE

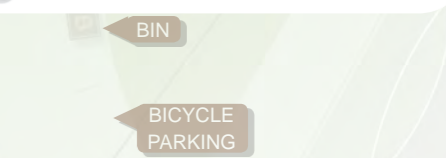


MATERIALS



EXTENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND

PARK CRESCENT



Project Budget

Council's District Park Landscape Masterplans are used in the preparation of the Parks Development Program in Council's Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan. Each master plan is staged to be implemented over a number of years.

The primary source of funding for the proposed works is the Ku-ring-gai Contributions Plan 2010 Works Programmes: Local parks, Local sporting facilities – Existing Open Space Embellishment which provides funding for the upgrade of Robert Pymble Park to urban park standards.

Council's current Capital Works Program and Operational Projects 2020/2021 lists the following budgets and works for Robert Pymble Park (refer pages 93-101, Revised Delivery Program 2018-2021 And Operational Plan 2019-2020) for the years 2020 and 2021.

| YEAR | TASK | BUDGET |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2020 | Implementation of master plan | \$159,200.00 |
| 2021 | Park works | \$983,600.00 |
| 2022 | Park Works | TBC |

Some works identified in the master plan are of an operational nature and can be completed within existing recurrent budgets.

In addition to the above funds, the 'Ku-ring-gai Contributions Plan 2010' - *Works Programmes: Local roads; Local bus facilities and Local drainage facilities, Pymble* - identifies funds available for the following works within or adjoining Robert Pymble Park:

- Improvements to stormwater detention and treatment (WSUD) within or around the park
- Removal of existing power poles on Park Crescent and relocating the lines underground to improve tree growth conditions
- New bicycle parking facilities in the park
- Upgrade of the Park Crescent streetscape including footpaths and pedestrian lighting
- Modifications to the Park Crescent road reserve to improve traffic, parking and pedestrian movements
- Pedestrian crossing/traffic island on Park Crescent to improve pedestrian access from the rail station to the park

These funds will be allocated to the park upgrade programme for the years post-2021

What are Contributions Plans?

Ku-ring-gai Council's Contributions Plan 2010 allows a consolidated approach to providing infrastructure as a result of new development by authorising proportional contributions from new development towards the provision of infrastructure for that development.

The Plan aims to maintain the amenity of the local environment within Ku-ring-gai by ensuring that new development provides for its fair share of funds towards parkland improvements on a pro-rata per-capita basis so that the existing population does not suffer a significant progressive and cumulative reduction in access to parks and recreation facilities – and the urban amenity that results – as a result of significant population growth related to increased housing through development.

Indicative Project Staging

Stage 1 - 2020

- Detail design and tender for stage 1 package of works including:
 - New Playground
 - Upgrade of drainage infrastructure incorporating WSUD
 - Upgraded park entries and paths
 - Removal of existing power poles on Park Crescent and relocating the lines underground
 - Upgrade of the Park Crescent streetscape including footpaths and pedestrian lighting
 - Modifications to the Park Crescent road reserve to improve traffic, parking and pedestrian movements
 - New lighting
 - New seating and furniture
 - Stage 1 tree removals and replacement, planting

Stage 2 - 2021

- Construction of Stage 1 works
- Detail design and tender for stage 2 package of works including:
 - Architect designed Accessible Toilet and park shelter, including rainwater harvesting and reuse
 - New bicycle parking facilities in the park
 - Improvements to pedestrian movement across Park Crescent to improve access from the rail station to the park
 - Stage 2 tree removals and replacement

Stage 3 - 2022

- Construction of remaining Stage 1 works, and Stage 2 works
- Upgrade to stone retaining wall
- Stage 3 tree removals and replacement



Since the masterplanning process for Robert Pymble Park commenced critical guidelines pertaining to play spaces in NSW have been published. A review of the 'Everyone Can Play' guideline against the existing playground has been conducted and a summary of the upgrades required for the playground to align with district park play level facilities relevant to the park's context are outlined below;

Location, layout and accessibility

Connect to street footpaths and the park entry with safe road crossing points

Funding exists to create a safe pedestrian crossing point into the park and this will be nominated for inclusion as close to the playground as feasible.

Include an accessible path (without stair-only access) from/to the street, carpark and supporting facilities that are wide enough for a wheelchair and pram to pass each other with ease.

An upgrade of the southern entry node at the corner of Alma Street and Park Crescent will incorporate wide footpaths and will be within acceptable tolerances for gradients. The existing vehicular maintenance access will be relocated from here to avoid conflicts with pedestrians.

Consider a primary entry point that is linked by an orientation path to help people connect between all points of entry and exit.

This southern entry point to the park is immediately adjacent to the playground. Upon entering the play space a circuit path will guide users around the periphery of the playground.

Consider a formal entry zone that provides a sense of welcome to the play space and a pause point to observe the layout, become familiar with the space and decide where to go first. A slow introduction to the play space is important to some people.

This will be incorporated at the southern entry into the playground, adjacent one of the two main entries into Robert Pymble Park. An expanded hardstand area with a seat will allow users to pause upon entry.

Include sufficient hard surface adjacent to all seats, allowing wheelchair and pram parking without obstructing the path.

A variety of styles of seating will be provided within the park, all of which will be located along the main path of travel with a generous hard apron to allow for pram and wheelchair parking.

Ensure there is an appropriately located flush edge to the play surface from the access path to help wheelchairs, prams and people with limited mobility travel between the areas with ease.

The play space will be retained within the concrete circuit path, allowing users to navigate around the space and access equipment from these outer edges.

Include a vantage point/s with seating and shade from which the carers can see the whole play space.

All seating is to be located on the outer edge of the circuit path allowing for surveillance over the whole area. These will be shaded by existing trees. Informal seating on turf embankments toward the edge of the space will also allow for views across the play space.

Create a quiet area away from the activity zones with seating and a sense of enclosure to provide a place for quiet play and rest.

Several of the proposed seating areas are located beneath trees and surrounded by planting, all of which are separated from the activity zones by the main circuit path.

Arrange activity zones with subtle separation, without boundaries or significant distance between them.

The activity zones are all located within the central play space area, but changes in materiality, tree planting and play structures will provide delineation without physical or visual separation.

Connect with transport networks and include appropriate arrival facilities: pedestrian and cycle routes, accessible parking, mini-van drop off zones, bus bays through close proximity.

Bike parking will be provided at the southern entry node as well as a designated accessible parking space - most likely on Alma Street.

Play experience

Create a flexible, imaginative and unique play space that is not solely reliant on equipment for play value.

Equipment will provide the majority of play value due to spatial constraints, however differing zones and materiality surrounding the play space will provide alternate play options.

Consider a range of dynamic play options to balance, climb, rock, slide, swing or spin.

The play space presently only offers rock, slide, swing and spin options. These will be maintained with upgraded equipment pieces, and additional elements will facilitate balancing and climbing.

Provide multiple play opportunities (both comfortable and challenging) to engage people of different ages and ability levels.

Current play equipment caters to toddler and younger age children. The upgraded play space will incorporate zones for different age groups with more challenging pieces.

Ensure fun and challenging individual and multi-user play options are included.

Multi-user play elements will be included in the new design including an activity unit, climbing unit, spinner, and see-saw. Swing sets with a combination of seats and a sand-play zone will allow children to play together.

Create informal and imaginative play opportunities to encourage creativity.

A more nature play focused area and informal orchard with stepping stone path will allow for creative and sensory stimulation.

Consider including sensory focused and natural elements. These could include interactive technology, music, sand, water and planting to stimulate the senses.

Along with nature play, a sand-play area and a musical play panel will be incorporated.

Explore opportunities for bike tracks and play paths. This could include directional or activity-themed markings, a variety of bumps, dips and level changes.

A circuit path around the play space will provide an opportunity for small children to ride around

Include a vantage point/s with seating and shade from which the carers can see the whole play space.

All seating is to be located on the outer edge of the circuit path allowing for surveillance over the whole area. These will be shaded by existing trees. Informal seating on turf embankments toward the edge of the space will also allow for views across the play space.

Create a quiet area away from the activity zones with seating and a sense of enclosure to provide a place for quiet play and rest.

Several of the proposed seating areas are located beneath trees and surrounded by planting, all of which are separated from the activity zones by the main circuit path.

Arrange activity zones with subtle separation, without boundaries or significant distance between them.

The activity zones are all located within the central play space area, but changes in materiality, tree planting and play structures will provide delineation without physical or visual separation.

Connect with transport networks and include appropriate arrival facilities: pedestrian and cycle routes, accessible parking, mini-van drop off zones, bus bays through close proximity.

Bike parking will be provided at the southern entry node as well as a designated accessible parking space - most likely on Alma Street.

Equipment and surfacing

Consider a variety of play surfacing to provide a contrast between activity, fall and circulation zones.

Surfacing within the playground will include a variety of materials such as turf, concrete, sandstone, mulch and sand. Rubber soffit material may be considered

dependent on budget constraints.

Ensure the majority of equipment pieces provide inclusive and engaging play experiences for all people.

The revised playground layout will allow for all users to interact. Pieces that are accessible for those with limited mobility will be located toward the periphery of the space for ease of access.

Create surfacing to sensory play and main equipment pieces that is comfortably trafficable by all, including those with limited mobility.

Musical play panel and talk tubes will be located adjacent to the main circuit path for ease of access. The surfacing beneath the main pieces of equipment is likely to be playground mulch, however rubberised softfall and artificial turf softfall will be explored for select areas.

Landscape

Develop a design that reflects the local environment and integrates the play space into the surrounding landscape, utilising existing vegetation and key views.

The new play space will be located within the same footprint of the existing playground, with the boundary expanded to the south. Existing trees and hedges will be retained and protected.

Establish a well-considered planting palette specific to the play space's context (orientation, shade and wind provision) and environment. This will create a microclimate for year-round enjoyment with seasonal variation and maximise comfort at all times of day.

The planting palette for the play space will include additional understory species to provide visual interest and separation of activity and rest zones, complementary to the existing trees. A selection of dwarf fruit trees along the boundary with the tennis courts will reference the area's history of productive orchards.

Safety

Ensure clear sight lines for passive surveillance from the street or surrounding property are not obstructed.

Existing levels of passive surveillance across the street and from neighbouring properties are good and will be maintained with the new design.

Provide appropriate lighting to the orientation paths and facilities in larger play spaces to enhance time of day use opportunities and provide a feeling of safety.

Whilst it is not anticipated that the playground itself will be lit at night, it is intended that lighting to the park entry and adjacent pathways will be upgraded.

Create a sense of distinction between quiet areas and activity spaces through landform, planting and surface materials.

Distinction between activity zones and quiet areas will be created through surfacing and planting, with limited space for varied landform.

Ensure all play space equipment, fall zones and surfacing complies with relevant Australian standards.

Council will work with suppliers, installers and certifiers to ensure that the playground is compliant with all relevant Australian Standards.

Facilities

Provide variation of seating types (back and armrest, platform seating) at regular intervals on the orientation path to ensure everyone has appropriate rest options.

A range of seating options will be provided in the playground. Seats with backrests and armrests, a table seat, and picnic table and seat settings will be provided around the periphery of the circuit path.

Provide bins, bubbler/water and bike racks near play space entry points and picnic facilities. (Ensure these facilities are accessible to people of different sizes and mobility.)

A new drinking fountain and bicycle parking are to be installed adjacent to the play space. Picnic facilities and bins will be reinstated (with new furniture).

Provide appropriate, accessible picnic and BBQ facilities situated within the play space or close by.

A choice of picnic facilities will be provided along with a new BBQ located close by the playground.

Create a gathering point with seating and shade to promote social interaction.

The playground is already well shaded, and several opportunities for seating and gathering will be provided within the shade of existing trees.

Include an accessible toilet/s and feature change facilities (babies, children, adults) near the play space.

There are existing male and female toilet facilities located near the playground. These are due for an upgrade, and the new facility is to include at least one accessible cubicle and baby change facilities. The location of the new facility is to be explored, with a preference for moving it closer to the playground.

For further information contact:

Ku-ring-gai Council

P: 02 9424 0000

F: 02 9424 0001

E: kmc@kmc.nsw.gov.au

W: www.kmc.nsw.gov.au

