

4.0 Planning and Managing Events to Conserve Significance

4.1 Minimising and Mitigating Heritage Impacts

Managing and mitigating potential impacts so as not to materially impact on the heritage significance of Parramatta Park is the responsibility of all event managers and PPT. This section considers the various 'types' of heritage resources within the park and discusses the potential impacts that can and may arise during events.

4.1.1 Archaeology

The continuing conservation and protection of significant archaeological evidence within the park precinct(s) is a statutory requirement. All due care must be exercised in areas identified as having potential archaeological sites or areas of archaeological sensitivity to ensure that events do not result in disturbance of, or material impact to, subsurface archaeological features and deposits.

Disturbance to archaeological remains can occur through:

- digging;
- driving posts or spikes into the ground;
- heavy vehicle movement over turf; and
- standard vehicle movement or pedestrian thoroughfare when ground conditions are soft or 'boggy' in turfed areas.

4.1.2 Built Heritage Items

There are built heritage items within Parramatta Park that are of significance and must be conserved. The items vary in age, fabric, material and construction techniques. Potential impacts to built heritage items should be considered when planning events, including:

- damage resulting from vehicle impacts;
- high pedestrian traffic through sensitive heritage buildings (such as the Dairy Cottage);
- visitors climbing or trampling heritage items;
- damage to heritage fabric from affixing signs to heritage fabric through nails, tape, glue and other non-reversible means;
- damage caused by antisocial or ignorant behaviour (eg accidental damage from inappropriate contact);
- fire resulting from pyrotechnic displays or events;
- damage to building or monument foundations resulting from unchecked use of water (eg water play areas, drinking water stations, etc); and
- signs or banners being affixed to structural weak points (decorative scrollwork, etc).

4.1.3 Views

Several views and vistas within Parramatta Park have heritage value. Critical viewsheds within Parramatta Park are illustrated in Figure 2.2. Additional views identified in the 2008 CMP include the following:

- Mays Hill to Hunter Street;
- Old Government House and grounds of Parramatta Park—views to east (George Street, O’Connell Street and the river);
- Parramatta River from the west in Parramatta Park;
- Parramatta Park to Kings School and Lennox Bridge;
- the ridge of the Crescent to Parramatta;
- the visual relationship between the monuments and their siting on the ridge line;
- from the ridge line to the Macquarie Street gates and the centre of Parramatta;
- from the Dairy to Westmead and Wisteria Gardens; and
- out of the park from the Domain to Westmead, the west and northwest.

4.1.4 Heritage Trees and Cultural Plantings

Heritage trees and historic cultural plantings within Parramatta Park could be impacted by the following during temporary events:

- accidental vehicle impacts during event bump-in, bump-out or public parking;
- vehicle (particularly heavy vehicle) traffic over root systems; and
- visitors climbing the trees.

4.1.5 Rural Grasslands

The grasslands of Parramatta Park are the result of ongoing cultural practices within the area, including Aboriginal burning, grazing from the late eighteenth century and use of the site for public recreation from the mid-nineteenth century.¹ The rural grasslands of the park could be impacted by the following during temporary events:

- heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic trampling the grasses; and
- movement of pedestrians and vehicles during dry or boggy conditions.

4.2 Park-wide Conservation Policies for Events

This section presents policies that must be adhered to for all events to minimise impacts to Parramatta Park’s heritage significance. They are consistent with the Conservation Policies established for Parramatta Park in the 2008 CMP—some are drawn directly from it. These policies should be considered by PPT for inclusion in the ‘Letter of Offer’ provided to event proponents, possibly under ‘12. Archaeological Protection’ and ‘13. Protection of Monuments’. Alternately, they might be included

in Schedule 2 'Standard Conditions of Approval for the Use of Lands Controlled by the Parramatta Park Trust' in the 'Deed of Agreement' document provided to event proponents.

If the event proponent demonstrates adherence to the policies, guidelines and carrying capacities presented in this section the event application may be processed under Site Specific Exemption (7) for Parramatta Park.

Where the requirements for an event extend beyond those activities and actions covered in these guidelines, and have the potential to give rise to material impacts on the heritage significance of Parramatta Park, discussion with PPT is recommended and advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Heritage Council or its delegate/s should be sought.

4.2.1 Heritage Objectives for Parramatta Park Trust

- PPT will continue to conserve and interpret the significant heritage values of Parramatta Park.²
- PPT will provide opportunities for the public appreciation and enjoyment of Parramatta Park.³
- The Park will continue to be a place for recreation, sport and entertainment.⁴
- PPT will plan, manage, monitor events to ensure heritage significance is not materially impacted.
- Protective measures will be required to ensure the Park's heritage significance is conserved during events or other activities.⁵

4.2.2 General

- Heritage impact statements must be prepared as part of applications for large events (>5,000 people).

4.2.3 Archaeological Protection

- Ground disturbance within the Park is not permitted.
- Where ground disturbance may be required, seek prior advice from PPT.
- Where ground disturbance is required, further assessment and permits from the Heritage Council and/or OEH are likely to be necessary.

4.2.4 Protection of Monuments

- Signs, banners or temporary structures must not be affixed to heritage items.

4.2.5 Protection of Rural Grasslands

- Should A horizon (50 to 70mm) soil be compacted, aeration and decompaction of these areas will be required to this depth. This is to ensure the ongoing viability of the significant rural grasslands.

4.2.6 Signage

- Event signage must not conceal or remove extant Park signage without prior approval from PPT.

4.3 Precinct Guidelines

Precinct guidelines to inform and guide event planning and management at Parramatta Park have been prepared. The guidelines will help ensure activities associated with events do not give rise to material impacts on heritage significance. The guidelines are both overarching and specific to the different resources and varying situations within each precinct.

Section 5 has been created as a 'Precinct Guideline' so that heritage matters are considered within the context of event planning and management within the Crescent Precinct. It is envisaged that PPT will prepare similar Precinct Guideline documents for each management precinct using the Crescent Precinct template. For other precincts content will be varied to reflect the specific opportunities and constraints of the area.

4.3.1 Event Bump In and Bump Out

- Suitable protective barriers must be erected around historic monuments and heritage buildings prior to bump in where vehicle movement will occur within 5m of the item.
- Protective barriers must be erected prior to bump in. Buffer zones of not less than 3m will be established surrounding historic monuments and not less than 2m surrounding heritage buildings, except where access is on existing roads.
- An entire building need not be enclosed, but barriers must establish a buffer zone not less than 2m from all parts of the building that would be within 5m of vehicle movement.
- Protective barriers must be erected around identified sites and areas of archaeological sensitivity prior to bump in where vehicle movement will occur within 5m of the site or area. The barriers must establish a buffer zone of not less than 3m from all edges of the identified site.
- A tree protection zone (TPZ) of not less than 3m should be established from base of any immature tree or the drip line of mature trees. Barriers must be erected around the TPZ prior to bump-in.
- Depending on the nature and scale of the event, and at the discretion of PPT, protective barriers may be removed during the event.
- Barriers must remain in place during the event if vehicle movement will occur within 3m of any identified heritage resource, including areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Where, at the discretion of PPT, protective barriers have been removed for the duration of the event, they must be re-installed prior to bump-out.
- Bump-in and bump-out activities will be monitored by PPT staff to check compliance with site protection plans and measures.
- A dilapidation report will be completed, including photographs, prior to bump-in noting any site deficiencies to document site condition.

4.3.2 Parking and Vehicle Access

For the purpose of these guidelines, 'heavy vehicles' are defined as any vehicle larger than a standard passenger vehicle. Extended vans (not buses) and food trucks may be permitted where heavy vehicles are not—this option should be discussed with PPT.

- No heavy vehicle movement over areas of archaeological sensitivity unless the surface is paved or covered with hardstand (such as gravel) or structural ground protection (see Appendix B).
- When ground conditions are soft, exceptionally dry with stress or have thin grass cover, ground protection must be used to protect turfed areas of archaeological sensitivity where high pedestrian traffic is anticipated (fronts of stages and food trucks, anticipated walkways) to prevent ground disturbance or excessive turf wear.
- When ground conditions are soft, ground protection must be used to protect turfed areas of archaeological sensitivity where passenger vehicles would move through to prevent disturbance from wheel rutting and excessive grass wear.
- No vehicle parking in turfed areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Passenger vehicles used by contractors, vendors or artists may be permitted to park in turfed areas of archaeological sensitivity following discussion with PPT. Ground protection must be used, regardless of ground conditions.
- Vehicle movement is not permitted over heritage landscaping items, such as stone kerbs, flagstones, or brick paths and paving unless protective measures approved by the PPT are adopted.
- All vehicles and forklifts operating on grassed areas must have appropriate turf tyres to avoid damage.

4.3.3 Temporary Structures and Signage

- Weighted bases must be used for temporary structures and signs in areas of archaeological sensitivity and identified non-Aboriginal archaeological sites.
- The use of pegs, stakes or any means that would result in ground disturbance is not permitted in areas of archaeological sensitivity and identified non-Aboriginal archaeological sites.
- Temporary structures or signs must not be affixed to heritage buildings or historic monuments unless approved by PPT.
- Temporary structures and event signage must be planned so as not to obstruct significant views (identified in Figure 2 of the 'Parramatta Park—Heritage Overview for Event Coordinators' Handout') (Figure 2.2 of this report).
- If a temporary structure or sign is located within significant viewsheds, where possible, it must adopt a complementary colour palette so as not to be visually obtrusive.
- Signs or temporary structures within 10m of monuments must, where possible, adopt a complementary colour palette so as not to be visually obtrusive.

- No temporary structures, are permitted within 3m of monuments.
- No temporary structures are permitted within 3m of heritage buildings. Please note, this should vary between buildings depending on their potential sensitivity. We generally propose 3 metres for the gatehouses and Rangers Cottage, but 5 metres for the Dairy Cottage.

4.3.4 Barriers

- Options to mitigate impacts for large events (>5,000 people) may include the erection of barriers to enclose the item or the stationing of security personnel or staff in the area.
- During show-based events focused on stages or screens, adjacent heritage items may be climbed by visitors for a better view (eg trees, monuments) and impacted. The heritage impact statement submitted to PPT with the event application will include a strategy to prevent such activities. Options would include the erection of barriers to enclose the item or the stationing of security personnel or staff in the area.
- Exclusion zones established to protect heritage items, including the TPZ, must not be used for storage of materials or equipment.

4.3.5 Services

- Portable toilets must not be placed within 3m of significant heritage buildings. If a toilet block is proposed within 20m of a heritage building or monument, where possible, it must be enclosed and screened by materials in a complementary colour palette.

4.3.6 Other Considerations

- No water-based amusements in turf-covered areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Track matting must be used where drinking water stations are established in turf-covered areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Drinking water stations must have functional automatic shut-off valves when stationed in areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Pyrotechnical events are not permitted within 90m of heritage items with wood elements (buildings, bridges) or heritage trees.
- Pyrotechnical events are not permitted within 30m of stone or brick heritage items.
- Given the significance of views from the Ridge towards the Parramatta CBD and Parramatta River, stages erected within the Crescent amphitheatre must be no more than 16m in height.
- Water tanks must not be released onto turfed areas unless approved by PPT.

4.4 Recommendations

- The handout 'Parramatta Park—Heritage Overview for Event Coordinators' (Appendix C) should be included in the 'Event Organiser's Toolkit' and provided to event proponents to make them aware of the opportunities and constraints associated with the park's heritage resources

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- Precinct-specific guidelines, presented as independent sections within this report, should be presented to event proponents to inform the selection of potential sites for their event. This will help make them aware of the opportunities and constraints associated with the precinct's heritage resources and assist with planning in such a way as to minimise material and adverse heritage impacts.
- Heritage impact statements must be prepared be as part of applications for large events (>5,000 people).
- The following plans, as required by the 'Terms and Conditions' in the 'Event Specific Conditions' issued to potential event hosts, should be provided to the PPT and considered by them in relation to this report:
 - a proposed plan of signage locations;
 - proposed site layout plan including location of amenities and marquees;
 - a site plan, to at least 1:500, which must overlay existing park infrastructure so it is not damaged by event activities;
 - patron access/egress plan;
 - amenities and toilet management plan;
 - traffic management plan;
 - waste management plan;
 - details of all amusements, including water based; and
 - pyrotechnical plan.
- If it becomes clear following the review of event plans that there is some potential for the proposed event to result in material or adverse impacts to the heritage significance of Parramatta Park, further assessment and approvals may be required under the Heritage Act and or the National Parks and Wildlife Act.
- If the proposed event is compliant with the guidelines, conservation policies and heritage considerations presented in this report and is unlikely to impact on the heritage significance of Parramatta Park, Site Specific Exemption may be applied and notification sent to the Heritage Division. The following information should be provided (where relevant):
 - a summary of the proposed event, including anticipated attendance and activities undertaken;
 - proposed site layout including location of amenities and marquees;
 - a site plan, to at least 1:500, with an overlay of existing park infrastructure;
 - a proposed plan of signage locations; and
 - a copy of this report (if requested).

- Given that all of Parramatta Park has some degree of archaeological potential, any ground disturbance beyond driving pegs, stakes or poles for temporary structures, such as digging or trenching, would require further assessment and possibly approvals under the Heritage Act and NPW Act.
- Further assessment and approvals from the Heritage Division (as a Section 57(2) Exemption Notification or Section 60 application) would be required in the following situations:
 - any event requiring ground disturbance, including pegging or staking in areas of archaeological sensitivity;
 - event types not identified as being appropriate to the precinct;
 - carrying capacity greater than the ‘low-impact potential’ threshold identified for each precinct;
 - any event that would not satisfy the heritage conditions presented in this document;
 - any event that contains elements not considered in the report ‘Parramatta Park—Event Management Plan’, prepared by GML Heritage in March 2017’.
- In these instances, enhanced mitigation strategies or changes to the event plan may be required. Events that cannot be hosted without impacting on the heritage of Parramatta Park will be rejected by the PPT.

4.5 Endnotes

- ¹ DPWC and Landscape Design Group, Parramatta Park Landscape Master Plan, report prepared for the Parramatta Park Trust January 2002, p 48.
- ² Parramatta Park Trust, Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan, Conservation Policy 1, final report prepared 2008, p 54.
- ³ Parramatta Park Trust, Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan, Conservation Policy 4, final report prepared 2008, p 54.
- ⁴ Parramatta Park Trust, Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan, Conservation Policy 5, final report prepared 2008, p 54.
- ⁵ Parramatta Park Trust, Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan, Conservation Policy 91, final report prepared 2008, pp 61–62.