



Your Parramatta Park 2030

Draft

Conservation Management Plan
and Plan of Management



PARRAMATTA
PARK



NSW
GOVERNMENT

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Australian Government

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to all Elders past, present and future.

A Park for the People

No. XXXV.

An Act to provide for the disposal of the Parramatta Domain. [18th March, 1857.]

PARRAMATTA
DOMAIN.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the better disposal of the Parramatta Domain Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to sell or otherwise dispose of the lands known as the Parramatta Domain in all respects as ordinary Waste Lands of the Crown provided that a portion thereof not being less than two hundred acres in extent shall be reserved from sale and shall be set apart for and granted as a Park for promoting the health and recreation of the inhabitants of the Town of Parramatta.

Preamble.

Parramatta Domain to be disposed of as ordinary Waste Lands with exception of Public Park.

Parramatta Park sits at the heart of Greater Parramatta, the metropolitan centre at the core of the Central River City. Close to the geographic centre of Greater Sydney, its 85 hectares (210 acres) across eight precincts provide respite and space for the people and workers in Parramatta, Westmead and beyond.

Parramatta Park is a place of significant Aboriginal and European heritage. Recent findings in Parramatta indicate there was human occupation along the river 35,000 to 40,000 years ago. Aboriginal people continue to participate in the cultural and physical management of Parramatta Park as a cultural landscape today.

Parramatta Park is an enduring symbol of early European colonisation and 19th century Parramatta. It tells the stories of early government enterprise, from farming, gardens, botanical collection and propagation, to colonial administration and European scientific endeavours.

It contains the oldest surviving Government House in Australia within a landscaped park setting that was established under Governor and Mrs Macquarie. This built heritage is overlaid on an ancient Aboriginal cultural landscape that provided food, shelter, resources and economic uses for generations. It has been a place of recreation and public sporting activities for well over a century and remains a major green landmark on the banks of the Parramatta River for the people of the Central River City.

As one of the earliest public parks in Australia, Parramatta Park is more than just the lungs of a growing city — it is a major research, educational and interpretive resource, providing an understanding of the geological origins of the landscape, the impact of Aboriginal and European cultural activities, and the planning and development of the City of Parramatta.

Parramatta Park is public land, reserved for the purpose of public recreation. The Park is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust (Trust) under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001*.

Parramatta Park will continue to be a place for recreation, sport and entertainment — a place where the Trust will work with the community and stakeholders to protect, restore and regenerate natural systems, and celebrate the Park's immense heritage values.

“

and shall be set apart for and granted as a Park for promoting the health and recreation of the inhabitants of the Town of Parramatta.”

Parramatta Domain Act, 1857

About the Plan

***Your Parramatta Park 2030* establishes the direction for the Park to 2030.**

It contains two parts:

- a Conservation Management Plan
- a Plan of Management.

Conservation management plans are developed to manage places of heritage significance. They explain the significance of a place or item and provide policies that will guide how this significance can be retained in its future care, development and activation.

Plans of management establish the vision, objectives, key strategies and actions for a place. These plans also guide and inform a range of detailed sub-plans and policies for day-to-day planning, activation and management.

Parramatta Park Trust takes a cultural landscape approach to protecting and enhancing the Park's heritage values. In this way, we think of a cultural landscape as the complex interaction of geophysical landscapes and natural systems and how these elements interweave with cultural uses and values from the past and from today.

This means that cultural landscapes are places that reflect continuous human and natural relationships with the landscape, and they tell us about a place's history and values.

This approach places the cultural landscape's heritage values at the forefront of future planning. It means that, rather than taking a traditional approach — where a conservation management plan might inform a separate plan of management — *Your Parramatta Park 2030* combines the two. This will align how we plan to conserve the Park's heritage values with processes to manage the Park for the future. It also supports our efforts to better communicate these heritage values and their place in the Park's management and activation, to a wider audience.

Your Parramatta Park 2030 is informed by the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) and the UNESCO guidelines for Managing Cultural

World Heritage and Managing Natural World Heritage. It is structured to follow the model set out in the latter.

It aims to be a concise and accessible plan that is easy to use and understand, with supporting information and implementation processes set out in existing and future sub-plans.

Your Parramatta Park 2030 summarises the history of the Park to present its key historical themes. Given the many detailed histories written about the Park, particularly following British colonisation, each section under the 'Understanding the Park' chapter of *Your Parramatta Park 2030* provides further reading if people wish to explore these histories further.

The heritage significance of the Park has been assessed in detail in the determination of the state, national and universal heritage values that underpin the Park's inclusion on heritage listings. These assessments identify research and values that directly informed the statements of significance for non-Aboriginal heritage in the 'Heritage Significance of the Park' chapter of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*. We have not re-assessed these values.

We have, however, provided a new understanding of the history of Aboriginal Parramatta and how this has informed our understanding of the Park's heritage significance.

Your Parramatta Park 2030 sets out the legislative and management framework, and opportunities and challenges for the Park in the Plan of Management. The Plan of Management also incorporates the heritage policies that guide the care and activation of the Park in its objectives, strategies and actions.

The Conservation Management Plan meets the Trust's requirements under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Plan of Management meets the Trust's requirements under the *NSW Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001*.

As a combined document, *Your Parramatta Park 2030* creates a single framework that ensures all aspects of the Park's heritage significance are considered in the Park's ongoing management, operations and activation.



Vision for Parramatta Park

Parramatta Park is the green heart of the River City

An enduring Park for the People

A place for community and celebration

A place for people to be healthy and active

A place to tell our stories and embrace our heritage

To achieve this vision, we will work with the community, partners and stakeholders and will:

Respect, protect and promote cultural and natural heritage

Be a good custodian

Position the Park as a destination and connector for everyone

Enhance the Park as a place for health, wellbeing, programs and education

Contribute to Greater Parramatta's vibrancy and visitor economy

Be environmentally, socially and financially responsible

Conservation Management Plan

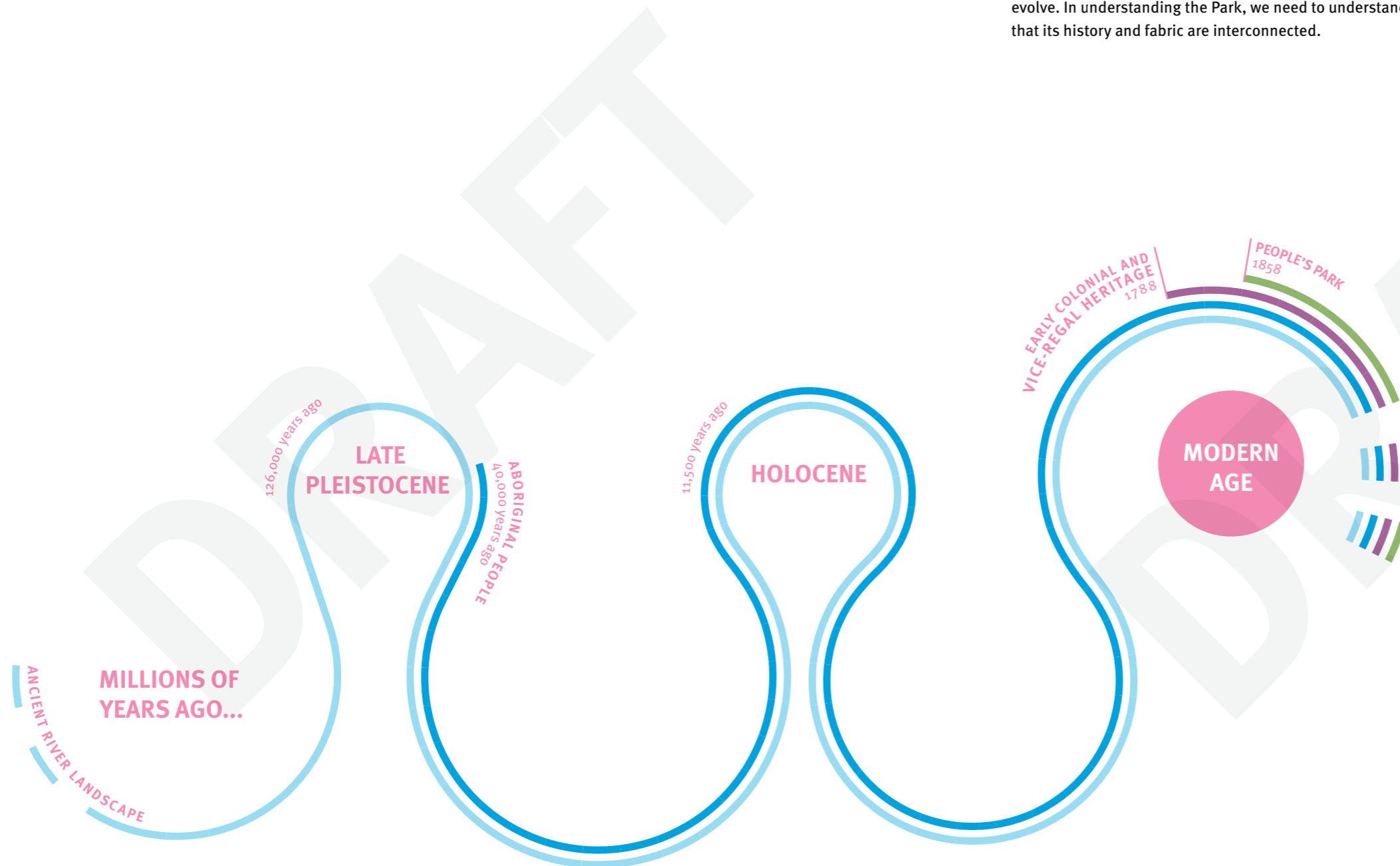
Conservation management plans are developed to manage places of heritage significance. They explain the significance of a place or item, and provide policies that will guide how this significance can be retained in its future care, development and activation.

Understanding the Park

Parramatta Park is a cultural landscape that has been formed through an ongoing relationship between people and nature. It is continually evolving through natural as well as cultural processes.

The first stage in identifying cultural significance is understanding a place — its history (what we know about past events) and fabric (what we see). As is evident throughout the Park's history, as humans interact with this landscape, nature responds — and as natural processes shift within the landscape these human values in turn evolve. In understanding the Park, we need to understand that its history and fabric are interconnected.

In the following sections we look at the evidence for the ancient origins of today's Park landscape and the people who occupied the ancient riverbank. We look at the British convict colony and early agricultural and grazing pursuits in the Park. We consider the relationship between people and the Park and the conscious decisions made to alter, manage and shape its landscape, from thousands of years ago until today. We also look at the long historical use of the Park for recreation and sport and the qualities of its natural environment.





Ancient Place, Ancient People



PARRAMATTA PARK

20,000 years ago
Pleistocene shoreline located about 15km offshore

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pleistocene Aboriginal Parramatta

Parramatta River is central to the cultural story of Parramatta Park and its evolutionary history is reflected by the sandy riverbank terraces and alluvial floodplain soils within the Park. The origins of today's river can be traced back to the last glacial period, when it was a smaller freshwater creek.

Parramatta Park has changed dramatically over the time Aboriginal people have lived in Parramatta. When people first arrived, the land sat at the head of an inland freshwater valley, further from the coast than today. The colder, drier and windier conditions probably supported different types of vegetation and animals than we see today.

Artefacts left behind by Aboriginal people who camped alongside this stream date to between 35,000 and 40,000 years ago. Another Aboriginal campsite of comparable age has also been recorded in Greater Parramatta, establishing Aboriginal Parramatta as one of the earliest cultural sites in Greater Sydney.

Our understanding of when people first came to Parramatta broadly coincides with the beginning of the coldest part of the last Ice Age. Sea levels were much lower, and the coastline was located about 15 kilometres further offshore than it is now.

At this time, the Parramatta watercourse wound through an inland sandstone valley to Sydney Harbour and continued through the heads and across the now-submerged inner continental shelf to reach the Pleistocene coast. It is probable Aboriginal people initially explored the country at Parramatta and dispersed across the wider Sydney Basin using paleo-coastal river corridors.

We have an incomplete picture of Aboriginal life in Parramatta during the Pleistocene period — archaeological sites of this age are rare and only the most durable materials survive today. These materials primarily include stone tools and raw material supplies that people brought from the Hawkesbury-Nepean and Grose rivers. The Park's original human inhabitants used high quality and reliable materials conservatively as implements that could be used either in their pre-prepared transported form or reworked to make smaller tools.

Parramatta's archaeological record suggests that small mobile groups of people repeatedly camped along the stream at Parramatta, attracted to the landscape qualities of the three ecological zones that provided water and a resource-rich habitable refuge.

Archaeological evidence indicates that Parramatta Park was used by Aboriginal people extensively and for thousands of years prior to European colonisation.

Figure 1. (opposite page)
Aboriginal lithics recovered
from archaeological
excavations in the
Paddocks Precinct, 2015

Aboriginal Parramatta in the Last 10,000 Years

Warming global temperatures caused the world's sea levels to rise rapidly from around 18,000 years ago, inundating the Parramatta Valley and transforming the freshwater creek into a tide-dominated drowned valley estuary.

The sea initially submerged the inner continental shelf at a rate of about two metres a year, an encroachment that would have affected the lives of Aboriginal people living on the coastal plain. Sea levels continued to rise and reached present elevations and then exceeded them by one or two metres around 7,500 years ago. They remained at this height for some time before falling back to current levels around 2,000 years ago.

These higher water levels may have considerably increased the reach of the estuarine conditions up Parramatta River and changed riverine habitats and immediate hinterland environments at Parramatta. The inundation of the Parramatta Valley in the Holocene period (from 11,000 years ago) would have affected Aboriginal people living

on the Parramatta watercourse and may have seen groups reorganise or amalgamate, leading to the creation of the Sydney language and clan group territories as recorded by the British on the Parramatta River in 1788.

The archaeological record for this period of Parramatta's history suggests people were shaping this environment prior to the drowning of the river valley. They created and left in place long-lasting campsite features such as anvils and grindstones and cooking/campfire pits with heat-retainer stones for reuse during successive visits. They also stored raw materials and tools for later use. Around this time, there appears to have been a major technological change and a possible social shift, reflected by a change in a preference from predominantly imported stone raw materials to locally sourced and heat-treated silcrete.

Further Reading

Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records, Val Attenbrow, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2010



Figure 2.
Parramatta Sand Body
An ancient Aboriginal landscape under a modern city. This diagram shows where the Parramatta Sand Body is today. Evidence indicates the ancient riverbed and banks of the Parramatta River were occupied by Aboriginal people up to 40,000 years ago in Parramatta Park.



A British Convict Colony

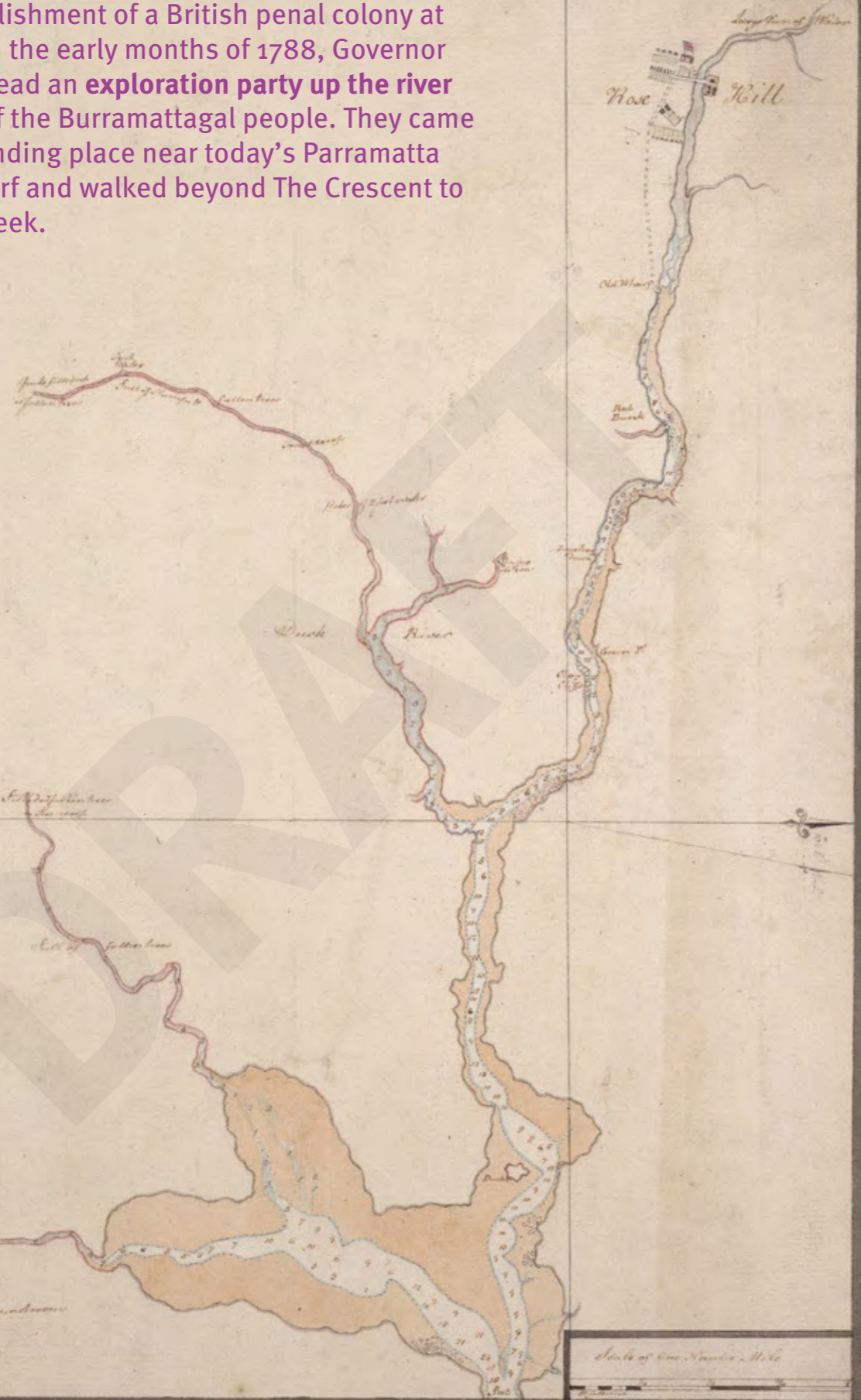


These houses are designed for men only; and ten is the number of inhabitants allotted to each; but some of them now contain 12 or 14, for want of better accommodation. More are building; in a cross street stand nine houses for unmarried women: and exclusive of all these are several small huts where convict families of good character are allowed to reside.”

A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson Including An Accurate Description of the Situation of the Colony; of the Natives; and Of Its Natural Productions, Watkin Tench, 1793



After the establishment of a British penal colony at Sydney Cove in the early months of 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip lead an **exploration party up the river** into the land of the Burramattagal people. They came by boat to a landing place near today's Parramatta River ferry wharf and walked beyond The Crescent to Toongabbie Creek.



Flats at the Head of Port Jackson & Channel up to Rose Hill sketched by W. Bradley 1790.

Colonial Expansion Using Forced Convict Labour

Like many European nation states in the 18th century, Britain colonised foreign lands as places of punishment.

After the failure of the Government Farm at Sydney Cove, Governor Phillip sought arable land and was impressed with soil, timbers, open countryside and the picturesque landscape he found at Rose Hill. He also recorded the practice of fire management of pasture, and huts occupied by Aboriginal people.

In November 1788, a posse of 100 soldiers and convicts arrived to construct a township. The party constructed a defensive Redoubt (see figure 6) at the strategic spur of land on the southern side of the river, initially known as Rose Hill, which allowed a survey of the river from its tide point in the east to around The Crescent in the west.

While the Burramattagal people complained to the British colonialists about the use of land for the Redoubt, the dugout structure was not needed for defence and was converted to storage. This was quickly followed by the

erection of huts, the clearing of ground and the planting of a farm.

Although the government farm yielded only about six seasons of harvests before the soils became infertile, it expanded to become the operational core of the colony as it spread across the Cumberland Plain.

In 1791, land between Parramatta and Toongabbie was declared by Governor Phillip to be set aside as a large park called Cumberland Park, never to be subject of land grants. This land was used by colonists walking from Parramatta to the expanded colony in the Hawkesbury until around 1810 when a bridge was constructed over the Parramatta River. This expansion led to conflict with Aboriginal people.

Convicts lived in huts (see figure 7), overseers in cottages and the Governor in his house, built from 1797. The Governor's house became the focus for the town plan of Parramatta — Australia's first fully planned town (see figure 9).

Figure 3. (previous title page)

A View of the Governor's House as Rose Hill, c.1796

The road alignments and convict hut allotments of the township of Rose Hill are clearly recorded on maps and in early textual documents. By 1814–1815 these huts were falling into disrepair and were demolished as part of the landscaping works by Governor Macquarie. This demolished old section of George Street and its huts, pavements and road surfaces are preserved in the Park as an archaeological landscape within the Murray Gardens and the setting of Old Government House.

Figure 4. (opposite page)

Flats at the Head of Port Jackson & Channel up to Rose Hill, 1790

By Lieutenant William Bradley RN of HMAS Sirius showing the location of the Rose Hill encampment in 1790, the wharf and the stone outcrops where the river became no longer navigable.

Figure 5. (right)

Rose Hill in 1790, Renamed Parramatta by Governor Phillip in 1791.

Detail from the map on the opposite page. This map shows the landing place on the river, Old Wharf and the Redoubt with the Union Jack Flag.





Figure 6. (above)

The Redoubt, c.1791

Phillip's party in November 1788 marked out the ground for a redoubt – a military enclosure to protect soldiers, convicts and supplies. The Redoubt at Parramatta contained a provision store and a barracks, and although in February 1789 Judge Advocate David Collins described it as being built “only of posts and shingles fastened with pegs on battens”, it supported the establishment of a working convict settlement.

Collins describes the Redoubt as being so small and congested that when two stray emus ran through the camp it was not possible to shoot them, for fear of harming people who were in a state of near panic at the intrusion. Evidence of the Redoubt's location is preserved in the historical record and in images. In April 1790, John Hunter described it as being “on an elevated ground which joins to a very fine Crescent...On the opposite side of the brook is a farmhouse...[and] the convicts houses form a line at some distance in front of the barracks.”

Figure 7. (left)

Remains of a Convict Hut Floor, Murray Gardens

These huts can be seen in the 1796 view of the Governors House at Rose Hill (figure 3).



The status of the Governor's residence increased when Governor and Mrs Macquarie created a Palladian house set in a fully developed picturesque landscape within a fenced Governor's Domain. From Government House, Macquarie conceived and governed over the second phase of convict settlement.

During this time, relationships with Aboriginal people, the status of convicts and the rise of an emancipist class formed a new societal character.

Government House continued as a seat of active government in the 1820s under Governor Brisbane and was actively occupied by governors, particularly Fitzroy, until the 1840s, just beyond the formal cessation of convict transportation and the end of the convict era.

Figure 8. (right)

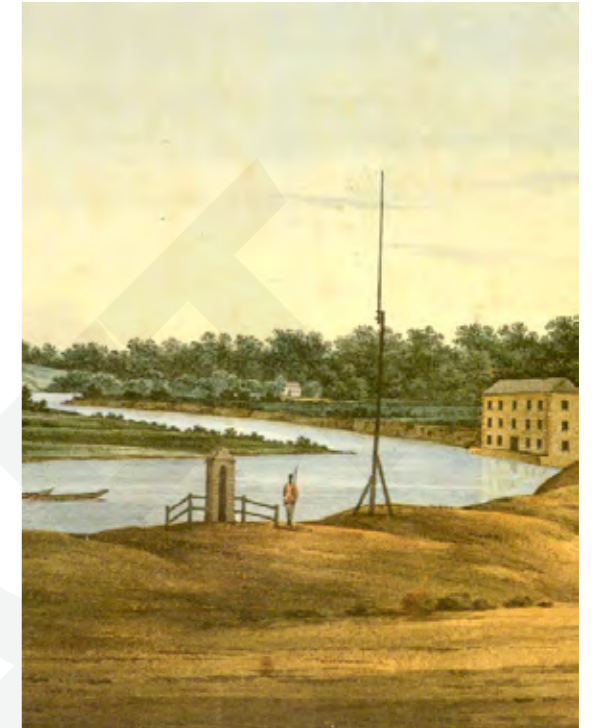
The Landing Place at Parramatta, Port Jackson

Governor Phillip's vision for Rose Hill featured a grand avenue 205 feet in width from the landing place at the river up to Government House. This vision can be seen realised in the Plan of the settlement made by Governor Hunter in 1796 below.

Figure 9. (below)

Plan of the settlement of Parramatta made by Governor Hunter, 1796

This extract shows the layout of George Street between Government House at Rose Hill and the Landing Place at Parramatta River.



Agriculture and Grazing

For perhaps thousands of years Aboriginal people actively managed the land we now know as Parramatta Park, using practices such as controlled burning. The area was used as hunting grounds for mammals and other food sources.

The colonising Europeans also recognised the productive potential of the land, establishing a large government compound for cattle at Domain Creek in 1788. The river and creek frontages offered better quality – but less quantity – of alluvial soil more suitable for agricultural purposes. Land containing shale was more abundant but less agriculturally viable; it was therefore used primarily for grazing. These areas were fenced within five years and included stockyards, huts for working convicts and later a dairy complex.

The early settlers practiced husbandry and dairying and grazed horses, sheep, goats and hogs. By 1801, the operations amounted to 210 cows with 191 calves, 35 horses, 700 sheep, six goats and six hogs. Beyond the farm, settlers used the land to grow corn, wheat, oats and barley. It is from this period that we draw the names Westmead and Northmead, which originally described different fields of cultivation.

It is likely that a dam was built on the southern tributary of the river now known as Domain Creek to store water for the cattle that arrived between August and December

1791. Historically we have focused on the Park being Australia's second oldest, and first successful, farm, and overlooked the significance of the Park as Australia's first cattle station.

The land on The Crescent became the domestic gardens for Government House and in 1892 the area near the river was leased to Chinese Australians for gardening.

From 1790 until the 1950s the land was also used to pasture privately-owned stock. Stock was handled through the Ross Street entrance, with access controlled and managed by the gatekeeper.

Ecological evidence dating to the earliest periods of Rose Hill's European settlement conveys a contrary image to that portrayed by traditional historical accounts of a neat and ordered convict town. The first farming methods were crude and saw trees cut down and grassy-shrub understories stripped for agriculture. This resulted in a rapid spread of agricultural weeds through cleared lands, which often remained weed-infested for decades. Following land clearing, large amounts of soil were lost and deposited as sediment into the river systems.

Further Reading

Government House, Parramatta 1788–2000: A History of the Governors, Their Home and its Domain, Parramatta Park, Sue Rosen, Caroline Simpson, Sydney, 2003

The Colony, A History of Early Sydney, Grace Karskens, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest, 2010

“During this month some rain had fallen, which had encouraged the sowing of the public grounds, and one hundred and sixteen bushels of wheat were sown at Parramatta. Until these rains fell, the ground was so dry, hard, and literally burnt up, that it was almost impossible to break it with a hoe, and until this time there had been no hope or probability of the grain vegetating.”

An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, by David Collins, Esquire, Late Judge Advocate and Secretary of the Colony. Vol 1 1798



Figure 10.

View at Rose Hill Port Jackson, 1791

The convict Henry Edward Dodd, one of the few experienced farmers in the colony, was ordered by Phillip to establish the first farm of the new colony of New South Wales at Farm Cove, Sydney. When these first crops failed a second government farm was established – and supervised by Dodd – on the fertile riverbanks at Rose Hill, now within Parramatta Park. Convict labour, skilled and unskilled, was crucial in land clearing and crop planting and any endeavour to combat the famine that threatened the success of the new colony relied on this labour.

Over the summer of 1788, 70 acres were cleared and planted with grain and a barn, house and granary were built. Judge Advocate David Collins recorded that “At Rose Hill the people were principally employed in clearing and cultivating land”. Collins also wrote that it was difficult to get the convicts to work hard at their farming duties as they were not used to such work. The success of Government Farm under these conditions is a testament to Dodd's abilities.



Figure 11.

View of Parramatta, 1833

View of the river and weir with cattle crossing and drinking from the river as well as fences in the domain for control of stock.

Aboriginal People From 1788



Traditional Custodians

Parramatta Park was part of the traditional lands of the Burramattagal clan of the larger Darug language group who occupied most of the northern Cumberland Plain from the coast to the Blue Mountains.

Aboriginal Parramatta was positioned where one of Sydney’s main river trade and travel routes ended at the western edge of coastal Darug territory. It formed part of a linguistic and economic landscape boundary zone between coastal and inland Darug people.

We know little about the lives of the people themselves because there are few historical records about them following the arrival of the British from April 1788. The outbreak of an epidemic in March 1789 resulted in the death of anywhere between 50 and 90 per cent of the Aboriginal population on the Cumberland Plain.

It is likely the epidemic and subsequent sporadic frontier violence hit the Burramattagal hard with survivors possibly absorbed into neighbouring clan groups or adopted by settlers if they were children.

Aboriginal Parramatta is likely to have been a major economic and social hub prior to colonisation and a place shaped by Aboriginal environmental management practices over many thousands of years. Controlled low-intensity burning

methods created a mosaic of niche environments that the British observed as being connected by a network of burnt and maintained travel corridors and paths through the high grass on the plains leading into Parramatta from the west.

Parramatta Park is likely to have formed a core landscape for Aboriginal people due to its attractive landforms and resources within a small area. An elevated shale ridge overlooked a billabong in the river within The Crescent with extensive alluvial flats and riverbank terraces along the edge of the watercourse — the map opposite shows the Park’s landscape settings that would have been significant to Aboriginal people in the past.

Other river resource management methods were likely to have been used at Parramatta but went unnoticed by the British. Fishing was an important Aboriginal social and economic activity in Sydney Harbour in the summer months, only waning when fish became scarce during winter and people focused upstream and towards the head of the harbour. The breeding patterns and territoriality displayed by eels, once common on the river at Parramatta, probably made them a valuable and predictable food resource. People may have used stone or brush traps, weirs or rock pools and channels exposed by tidal action to manage river resources; however, no record for this has remained in the Park.

An Aboriginal man, Daniel Mootwat’tin (c.1790–1816), acted as a guide and interpreter for George Caley, a botanical and natural history specimen collector. Governor King allowed Caley to use the Domain for a botanical garden, possibly Australia’s first, and Caley’s hut was in or near the Old Government Farm complex.



Figure 12. (previous page)

Pemulwuy, 1804

This engraving of “Pimblo” is the only known image of Pemulwuy.

Land Dispossession and Frontier Conflict

Governor Phillip was aware of the anger and sadness of Aboriginal people from Rose Hill as their land, fishing spots and hunting grounds were taken. They told the Governor of their dissatisfaction with the number of white men who had settled in their former territories because this meant that Aboriginal people were “obliged to leave that part of the country”.

Phillip renamed Rose Hill ‘Parramatta’ in 1791, using a word the colonists understood to be “the name by which the natives distinguished the part of the country on which the town stood”. As for other Aboriginal communities on the Cumberland Plain, the agricultural settlement of Parramatta placed immediate and profound pressure on Burramattagal living space, food and resources.

From the mid-1790s, Aboriginal people began resisting white settlement. The Parramatta area saw the first of three historical phases of the Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars that spanned 1795 to 1816.

Initial hostilities were individual and loosely connected events which at their peak during the Battle of Parramatta in 1797. Bidjigal warrior Pemulwuy and about 100-armed Aboriginal people raided the government farm at Toongabbie, only to be pursued to the outskirts of town by a group of armed settlers and soldiers. The Aboriginal party massed on the northern side of the river, possibly around the government farm in Parramatta Park, then crossed the river and marched in ranks down High Street (now George Street) to attack the military barracks in today’s Robin Thomas Reserve.

At least five and as many as 50 Aboriginal people were killed. Pemulwuy was shot several times and taken to Parramatta Hospital before escaping wounded and in irons.

In response to continued and escalating hostilities, Governor King issued a public order in 1801 that advised that Aboriginal people around Parramatta, Prospect Hill and the Georges River should be “driven back from the settler’s habitations by firing at them”. Pemulwuy was killed in 1802 and his death marked the effective end of Aboriginal resistance in Parramatta.

Reconciliation at Parramatta

Following renewed hostilities in 1805, Governor King sought to reimpose bans prohibiting Aboriginal people from approaching settler homes in the colony’s out-settlements, which included Parramatta and the Hawkesbury.

Aboriginal people in Prospect and Parramatta reached out to Reverend Samuel Marsden “with a view of opening the way to reconciliation”. Aboriginal women acted as intermediaries in a process where local Aboriginal families, along with some Aboriginal people from the Cow Pastures at the Nepean River floodplain, put themselves under the protection of the magistrates at Parramatta and proceeded to camp in the area between Prospect and the Georges River.

The Sydney Gazette reported that other Aboriginal people expressed a desire to “come in” and described “many being on the road from the Hawkesbury and other quarters to meet the Governor at Parramatta”.

Although the war on the Cumberland Plain continued until 1816, the occurrence and focus of conflict shifted away from Parramatta as settlement expanded along the Hawkesbury-Nepean rivers.

At the end of the war, Aboriginal and European relations entered a new phase. Although traditional Aboriginal practices such as ritual combat continued in Parramatta into the 1830s, Aboriginal people became increasingly dependent on Europeans for food, clothing and shelter.

Further Reading

The Battle of Parramatta: 21 to 22 March 1797, Jonathon Lim, Australian Scholarly, North Melbourne, 2016



Designing a Landscape

Governor Macquarie's first task when he arrived was to gather information on the state of the colony. Following this survey, Macquarie characterised the colony as "*a Penitentiary...on a grand scale*" and embarked on a grand program of public building.

The Government House and Domain at Parramatta designed by the Macquaries was an essential part of Macquarie's vision that New South Wales could be "*one of the greatest and most flourishing Colonies belonging to the British Empire*".

A Park Landscape

The land we now know as Parramatta Park was appreciated as a picturesque open space well before it was formally gazetted as a public park governed by public trustees. Over a long period, perhaps thousands of years, land management by Aboriginal Peoples was highly meaningful to their culture. The first Europeans were struck by how the land conformed to their ideas of parkland beauty, with the dramatic formation of The Crescent arcing above the river in contrast to the rolling open grasslands of the Woodland Plains.

Arthur Phillip, Watkin Tench, William Dawes and many others wrote about, and sketched, the area's beauty. They planted trees, sited their buildings, and built decorative fences and structures to ornament the landscape. Governor and Mrs Macquarie planted trees, orchards, flower gardens and built formal gates along a long sweeping carriage drive in the spirit of the artistic style known as 'picturesque', where places were designed to draw on and create a place of pictorial value. Even the 18th century dairy buildings were included as a rustic feature of this grand landscape making. Governor and Mrs Macquarie also added twin steeples to St John's Church in part to embellish the view of Parramatta from their Palladian house.

The Macquarie Government House and Domain were a major architectural and landscape achievement and one of the most important works of the governorship of Lachlan Macquarie. They established a character for the British colony beyond that of a penal colony. The setting of Old Government House was further embellished in the detail and design of the Bath House and Observatory built by Governor Brisbane.

In 1858, with the cessation of the vice-regal functions of Government House and Domain, and following lobbying for public access to the Domain, Parramatta Park was created under the *Parramatta Domain Act 1857*.

The Park was seen and understood at that time as a picturesque landscape. In the second half of the 19th century, the Park's trustees further embellished this landscape character with a series of formal Park plantings, Gothic and Tudor Revival gatehouses, carriageways, bridges, pavilions, river works and the successive making of monuments to history and national identity.

Artists came to draw Government House from the late 19th century and architects studied the landscape and buildings from the early 20th century.

As older trees began to perish in the early 20th century, the Trustees added a new set of plantings inspired by Australian native trees, along with successive planting of oaks and other familiar trees.

The delicate Noller bridge was built to cross and reflect in the river, which had been dammed to create "a sheet of water", and Governor Brisbane's Bath House had been converted into a park pavilion.

In 1917, Parramatta Park was declared Australia's third national park. Old Government House was set apart as a museum, and in 1967 declared a historic monument, which meant it was understood historically and as an icon, deserving of great care and conservation.

In the 1990s, land around the Domain Creek was replanted to create an area of natural vegetation.

In more recent years, the Park's ecology and archaeology has been celebrated in different ways with the restoration and adaptive reuse of several of the Park gatehouses, revegetation along the banks of the Parramatta River and conservation and interpretation of The Dairy and Ranger's Cottages.



Figure 15.

Avenue of oak trees along the river approaching the Crescent from the north, early 20th century

These oaks were planted in the 1860s as part of the Trust's initial planting and carriageway program following the creation of the Park. This avenue of oaks demonstrates the Victorian era landscape sensibility of creating a feature within a landscape to look like a 'picture', rather than consider the whole of the Park in its design as we today.

Recreation and Sport

Parramatta has long been used by Aboriginal people as a place of meeting.

The sound of swimming and bathing would have been heard in The Crescent in the early decades of the colony, before there were fences and convict compounds.

While people were warned off the Domain from the 1810s, by the 1840s Governor Fitzroy set aside the land on the north side of the river for a public racecourse. The Cumberland Turf Club was formed in 1847 and the open spaces in the Park were also used for cricket.

After 1858, when the area was no longer used as the Governor's residence and the Park was declared, organised sport and private recreation flourished through clubs and private activities: picnics, carriage driving, cricket, lawn bowls, public dancing, bicycle riding and swimming. In the 20th century, activities expanded to include golf, tennis, a steam train, rugby league, public foot races and school sport carnivals.

Infrastructure was improved or enhanced for sport — Cumberland Oval was demolished for Pirtek Stadium and the War Memorial Swimming Pool was built next to O'Connell Street. The new Western Sydney Stadium was built on these sites in 2019.

The Park's landscape is welcoming and easy to traverse, making it ideal for large-scale events. In November 1883, a state-wide industrial exhibition for young people was held near the site of the Observatory in a building designed through a competition process by Blackman and Parkes and built by Hudson Bros.

In 1911, the aviator William (Billy) Hart completed the longest solo aeroplane flight in Australia by landing his biplane on the open grounds of the Park, greeted by a huge crowd and press gathering.

Parramatta Park was and continues to be a place of celebrations and festivals, from Victorian-era Empire Day celebrations to New Year's Eve, Australia Day, Parramasala and Diwali today.



Figure 18.

Boxing Day Races, 1861

Horsing was a popular pastime in the Colony. The racecourse and the pavilion in this image were located in the Old Government Farm and Sports precinct.

These races were known as the 'Mud Lodge' races and were held in the Domain in the late 1840s under Governor Fitzroy — the Mud Lodge being the name of the old gatehouse at the Ross Street entrance, and the entrance to the Park's race course.

Horse racing in the Domain continued until 1872 when patrons refused to pay an entrance fee based on the terms set out in the legislation that created the Park. With the races no longer viable they ceased.



Figure 19.

Two-mile Track and Room for 100,000 People

The circular roadway through the Park was upgraded and widened to Grand Prix standards in the mid-20th century. The Australian Sporting Car Club held their first meeting in the Park on Anniversary Day 1951. The Chairman of the Park's Trust declared the new track in the Park would replace Bathurst.



Figure 16.

Billy Hart and his Biplane in Parramatta Park



Figure 17.

Juvenile Industrial Exhibition, 1883

The pavilion for this exhibition was built in the immediate setting of Old Government House, close to the site of Brisbane's Observatory.

This Victorian-era exhibition was established to showcase the many and varied talents of young people in Australia and claimed to have been the first industrial exhibition in which all Australasian colonies participated.

The Development of the Landscape

These maps show the Park's transition from agricultural and grazing use in the early days of the colony to the established domain for Old Government House, with the raceway north of the river and the recently completed rail line at around 1858.

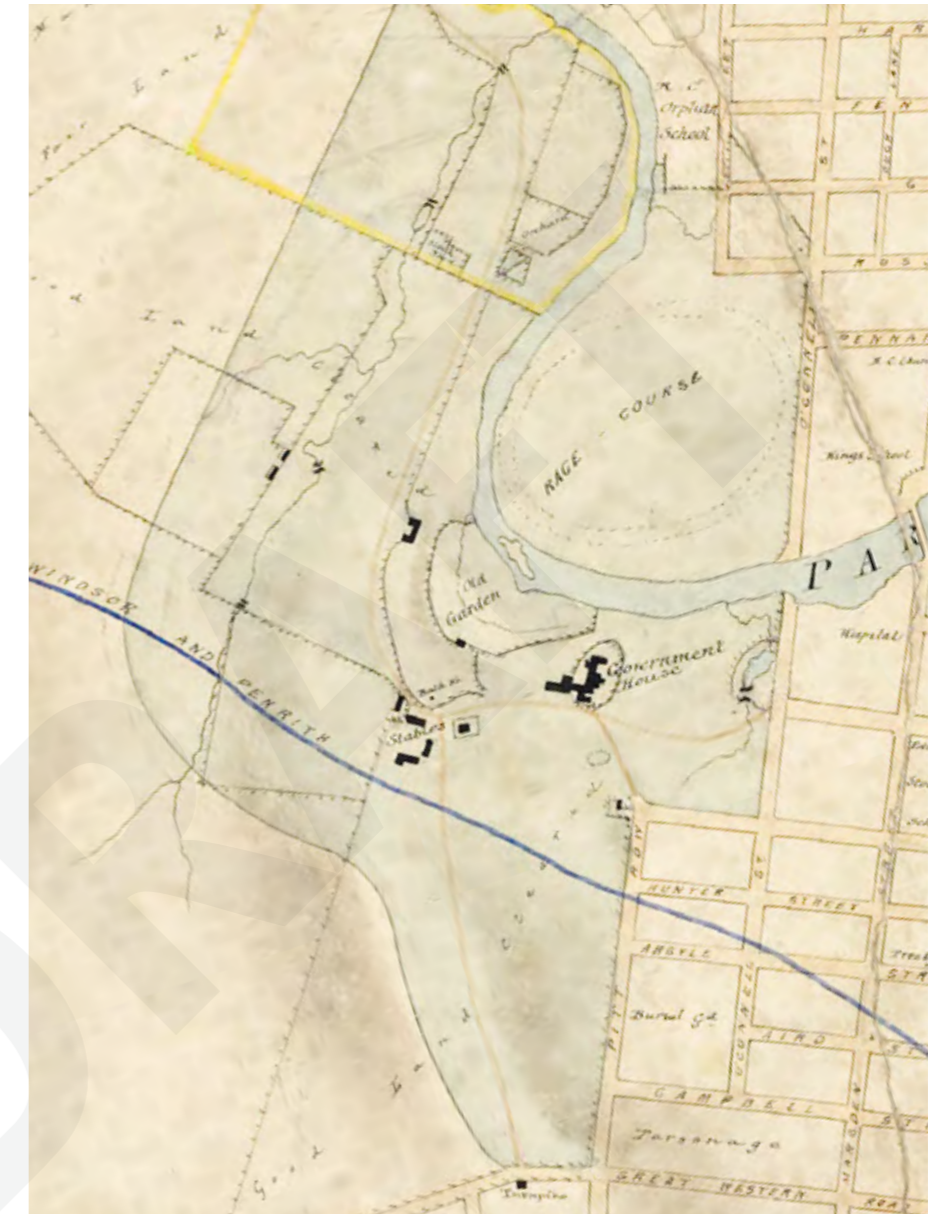
The three maps on the following pages illustrate the development of the Park under Trust management. The 1887 map shows the extent of the Victorian-era improvements of the People's Park, which include the alignment of most roads, pathways, gates, gatehouses, fences and bridges that we see today. The last two maps show how little has changed in the Park after this time around Old Government House and in the Paddocks as well as the evolution of the sport precinct north of the river and the former golf course at Mays Hill.

Figure 20.
British Convict Colony



1796

Figure 21.
End of the Vice-Regal Period



1858

Further Reading
Parramatta Park Historic
Landscape Study, Craig Burton
and Brian McDonald, 1987

The People's Park

Figure 22.

Figure 23.

Figure 24.



1887

1926

2012

Natural Environment





Geology

There are two geological groups in the Park:

- The underlying sediments of Hawkesbury sandstone deposited by large ancient river flows
- The Wianamatta group of clay shales on the higher ground formed when the ancient river slowed.

The higher shale landforms continue to actively erode and contribute to the alluvium deposits that still form in the drainage lines today.

The continual flow of water across the landscape over millions of years has eroded the landform of rolling hills and plains with deeper incisions, small cliffs and sandstone outcrops where the water converges to form the Parramatta River. Layers of alluvium sand, silt and clay are deposited within the shallow river valley that forms a central spine through the Park.

The shale-based clay soils of the higher land limit the availability of water, leading to vegetation types of open woodland with pockets of shrubs and a highly diverse ground layer of grasses, wildflowers and ferns.

The lower soils of mixed alluvium along the river valley provide more availability to water and a subsequent environment of tall open Eucalypt trees, with a sparser shrub and ground cover.

Flora

The Parramatta River and its constantly changing flows has left gravels, sands and clay sediments in the soil, influencing the type of vegetation in the Park.

Remaining plant species include a mix of indigenous and broader Australian native species from significant historical periods. Of greatest significance is the reconstructed bushland of Cumberland Plain Woodland and the River-Flat Eucalypt Forest. With the mix of underlying geology, other vegetation communities blend in the landscape and sandstone transition communities and species are also evident.

The Cumberland Plain Woodland is characterised by flat terrain on higher lands that have less access to water. It consists of several tree species including the Forest Gum, Broad-leaved Iron Box and Grey Box and is notable for the diversity of grasses and wildflowers.

The River-flat Eucalypt Forest is found on river flats and terraces and includes tree species such as the Rough-barked Apple, Broad-leaved Apple and River Oak. Impressive stands of long-lived White Feather Honey Myrtle can be seen at either end of Domain Creek.

Cumberland Plain Woodland and River-flat Eucalypt Forest are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities under State legislation.

Much of the Cumberland Plain Woodland was cleared for agriculture and grazing — this clearing, and the subsequent proclamation of the Park, introduced a range of species including oaks, jacarandas and lemon-scented gums. The Park of today retains the original open woodland setting and provides an urban refuge to a number of species.

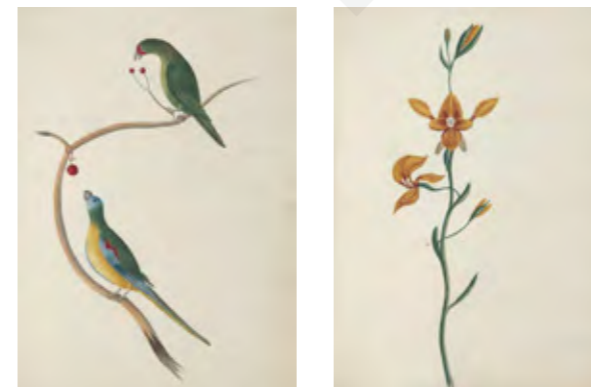


Figure 26.

Early Colonial Scientific Illustrations

Governor Hunter was a keen naturalist and explorer and has left a number of original drawings of native Australian animals, flora and early life in the colony. The Little Lorikeet, Turquoise Parrot and Golden Donkey Orchid shown in these watercolours by Hunter may have lived or grown in the Park at that time.

Fauna

The Park’s landscape and habitats have evolved through ancient geological processes involving water, temperature and seasonal fluctuations. Since European arrival, various transformations to the natural environment have altered habitats and animals continue to evolve to these new regimes.

Parramatta Park is an urban ecological oasis, home to a range of animals. Bird species include dusky moorhens, red-rumped parrots, and other typical urban birds such as white ibis and noisy minors. Spoonbills and herons are seen around local water bodies and water dragons bask on fallen trees in quieter sections of the Park. Reptiles include blue-tongue lizards and red-bellied black snakes. Eastern long-necked turtles are rarer.

Weirs have created a large body of standing water and altered fish migration. Recently installed fishways ensured the return of Australia bass, but other native species are

yet to return and the introduced European Carp is still the dominant species. In addition to exotic common carp and mosquito fish, the Park’s waterways are home to native long-finned eel, Australian bass, Cox’s gudgeon and fire tailed gudgeon.

In quieter habitats, the Park is home to long-necked turtles, red-bellied black snakes, blue tongue lizards and Eastern Water Dragons.

The most conspicuous species in the Park is the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Figure 27.
Water Dragon



Grey-headed Flying-fox

A grey-headed flying-fox camp live in the north-eastern corner of Parramatta Park. A thick, mature bushland canopy on the banks of the river protects the flying-fox, giving the animals easy access to water and a clear path to fly in and out when foraging for food at night.

The flying-foxes have existed as a camp in and around the Park for some time, withstanding cyclical climate conditions and land clearing.

The flying-fox will migrate up and down the coast searching for food or to roost — and as such, animal numbers can fluctuate between seasons as they migrate between camps. The Park’s mix of native and introduced vegetation provides a reliable year-round food source of flowering and fruiting plants and attract flying-foxes, especially as other suitable sites in the urban area are lost. The Park’s numbers have consistently been around 10,000 bats but can alter by 30 per cent.

Flying-foxes are considered a ‘keystone’ species — one that is vital to the health, longevity and diversity of Australia’s bushland. They can move seeds and pollen up to 50 kilometres, which contributes to the reproduction, regeneration and viability of forest ecosystems more broadly.

Their criticality, combined with the loss of habitat in urban areas and loss of foraging environments for the species, has led to their listing as threatened and vulnerable species in State and Commonwealth legislation.

Further Reading

Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs, Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell, Kangaroo Press and Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, 1995

Figure 28.
Grey-headed Flying-fox



Timeline



From 250 million years ago

Ancient river

An ancient giant Parramatta River laid down the sediment that gravity pressed into the future rocks of Sydney today. A river upon a river has wound its way through this landscape from at least this time.



35,000 to 40,000 years ago

Ancient Aboriginal people

The area we know today as Parramatta was located within an inland sandstone valley with a freshwater stream much further from the coast, and higher above sea level than today.

One of the oldest Aboriginal objects in Greater Sydney has been found in Parramatta Park.



20,000 years ago

Ice Age pioneers

Evidence indicates an intermittent but persistent visitation and use of Parramatta by Aboriginal people at this time.

A clay-lined ochre heat treatment pit has been found on the Parramatta Sand Body dating to this period in the Park.

9,000 years ago

Mobile and prepared

People transported portable raw supplies to and from Parramatta including imported stone raw materials for heat-retainers in hearths and for multifunction tools.

7,000 years ago

Making the "place"

People created site features and cached raw materials and tools like anvils and grindstones to return to, anchoring activity to this place at this time.

5,000 years ago

Cultural change

Change in resource selection and technological improvements saw a preference for local heat-treated silcrete with also continued use of imported materials.



3,000 years ago

Adapting to change

Evidence of adaptation includes ground edge hatchets, grind stones, and some backed artefacts.



1796

Salter's Farm

George Salter was granted a small farm on the banks of the Parramatta River after serving his sentence for smuggling. He built a small cottage.

1791

New grounds and Aboriginal cultural survival

Post-epidemic Aboriginal fire practices and seasonal fishing were observed at Rose Hill.

Rose Hill renamed Parramatta

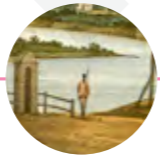
Governor Phillip officially renamed Rose Hill to Parramatta — an anglicised version of Burrumatta. The first three land grants were given to private settlers in the Parramatta area.



1790s–1945

Agistment of stock

Private agistment of stock on paddocks accessed from Ross Street.



1790s

Proclamation of Cumberland Park

Governor Phillip quarantined land and named it as Cumberland Park — setting it aside from any claim or grant for private ownership or use. This included the area we know today as Parramatta Park.

Frontier conflict

Beginning of the war in the Cumberland Plain.

1789

Epidemic

Outbreak of disease — probably smallpox — among Aboriginal people.



1788

European colonisation

Governor Phillip arrived at Sydney Harbour with the First Fleet and in November 1788 arrived at The Crescent to build a defensive military redoubt and later a modest Government House. Rose Hill was developed, and a second government farm established.

1700s

1,000 years ago

New stone technology

Evidence of new stone technologies.



1797

Pemulwuy and the Battle of Parramatta

Pemulwuy lead a large group of Aboriginal warriors and attacked the Parramatta Military Barracks as retribution for the continued and expanding occupation of Aboriginal lands.

1800s

1801

Ban on Aboriginal people

Aboriginal people in Parramatta and Prospect were banned from contact with settlers following renewed Aboriginal and settler conflict.

1803

Reconciliation conference

The ban was removed following a reconciliation conference, instigated by Aboriginal women and mediated by Reverend Samuel Marsden at Prospect and Parramatta.



1814

First Annual Conference and Native Feast

Governor Macquarie established the Native Institute and invited Aboriginal people to a feast to encourage them to place their children at the school. This feast became an important annual event in Aboriginal social life.



1816

Cumberland Plain War effectively over

Organised Aboriginal resistance ceased after 1816 and Macquarie declared the end of the war in the Cumberland Plain.



Governor and Mrs Macquarie's Government House

Governor and Mrs Macquarie enlarged Government House in the Palladian style and built new stables, coach house, garrison building and quarters. It became the principal place of government business in the colony.

Enclosed Domain for Government House

Macquarie purchased public land and adjacent farmland and walled it to create a private domain for Government House with picturesque landscaping, house garden, orchard, dovecote, pond and carriage drives.



Governor Macquarie's dairy
Macquarie purchased Salter's farm and cottage and converted it into a dairy. This cottage forms the core of Macquarie's Dairy building today.



1822 Governor Brisbane's observatory
Brisbane's observatory was the first site of the extensive and systematic cataloguing of southern skies in the European astronomical scientific tradition.

1835 Last 'Annual Meeting at Parramatta of Chiefs and Tribes'
Government sponsorship of the annual feast of local and visiting Aboriginal groups ended.

After 1835 Duck River Tribe
Evidence of continued Aboriginal occupation of the country at Parramatta around the headwaters of Duck River.



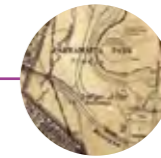
1840s Racecourse
Governor Fitzroy offered part of the Domain for a public racecourse following extensive public lobbying for public access. Entry to the Mud Lodge Races was from where the Ross Street gatehouse is today.



1847 Death of Lady Fitzroy
The wife of Governor Fitzroy died in a carriage accident near the entrance to the Domain; after this, Fitzroy's permanent move to Government House at Sydney marked the end of the Vice-Regal era of Old Government House and Domain.



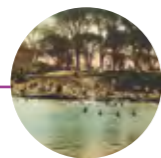
1857 Parramatta Domain Act
Legislation provided for the disposal of Government House, gardens and domains with no less than 200 acres set aside for the people of Parramatta.



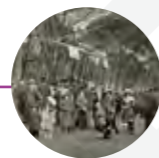
1860 Great Western Railway
The railway line extended through the Park and included a station. The stables to Government House were demolished for the railway. The adjacent roadway was added later.



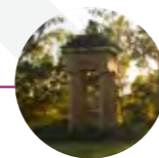
1917 A national park
Parramatta Park was declared a national park.



1912 Little Coogee
The inaugural lifesaving carnival was held in 1912 at Little Coogee. The area included bathing pavilions north of the river for men and south of the river for women and children.



1911 Billy Hart — Australia's first aviator
Parramatta local William (Billy) Hart was the first Australian to obtain a 'qualified' pilot's licence. He landed in Parramatta Park in November 1911 following a 19-minute flight from Penrith. This flight was memorialised by the Park's Trustees in 1963.



1901 Boer War Memorial
This memorial was commissioned by the Royal NSW Lancers and the Park's Improvement Committee to commemorate the veterans of the Boer War, the first war Australia fought in as a unified nation.



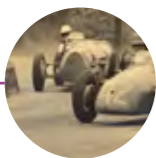
1890s–1930s Trust planting and built works including bridges, roads and paths
Large-scale tree planting programs in the Park were instigated by the newly formed Park Improvement Association and the Park Trustee Mr Noller.



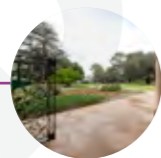
1883 Old Kings Oval
Old Kings Oval is the home ground of the historic Parramatta Cricket Club. In 1882 the historic Club was granted permission to build a cricket oval within the race track at the Park. Cricket has been played in the Park since the 19th century.



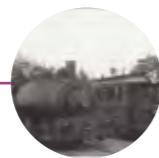
From the 1860s Making a park landscape
The new Park trustees consciously created a picturesque park landscape with beautification works including carriage drives, ornamental gatehouses, palisade fences, memorials, pavilions, tree plantings and river works to create a reflective sheet of water.



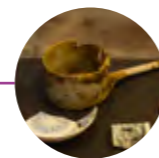
From the 1930s Sport and recreation
Large-scale sporting events included racing and rugby league.



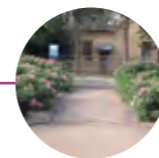
1958 Murray Gardens
Memorial garden to a Park trustee opened.



1956–1993 Steam Train and Railway Preservation (Co-op) Society
The society kept a collection of rolling stock in the Park and put on steam train rides once a month.



From the 1970s Memorialising and conserving heritage
Old Government House Museum officially opened and archaeological excavations, bush regeneration works, interpretation projects and gatehouse and other conservation works commenced.



1995 Rumsey Rose Garden
Memorial heritage rose garden opened.



2010 UNESCO Australian Convict Sites Listing
Parramatta Park with Old Government House was one of the 11 Australian Convict Sites added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



2018 Aboriginal people
Aboriginal people held a ceremony and overnight camp by the banks of the Parramatta River.



2019 Bridges of Parramatta Park project
Parramatta Park Trust commenced work with partners on the Bridges of Parramatta Park project.

1900s

2000s

Heritage Significance of the Park

The cultural landscape of Parramatta Park is a place of cultural and natural heritage significance.

What is heritage significance?

The Burra Charter has the following definition of cultural significance:

Cultural significance is the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value of a place. It is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention has the following definition of natural heritage:

Natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and natural sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

In cultural landscapes like Parramatta Park, natural and cultural significance are interconnected. They are combined works of nature and humankind, expressing a long and intimate relationship between humans and their natural environment.

Parramatta Park is a cultural landscape of many interconnected heritage values:

- Natural heritage
 - Native flora, fauna and ecological communities
- Aboriginal heritage
 - Ancient archaeological landscapes
 - Sites and landscape settings
- Early Colonial and Vice-Regal
 - Archaeological landscapes
 - Views and settings
 - Buildings and structures
- People's Park
 - Archaeological landscapes
 - Views and settings
 - Buildings, monuments, fences and other structures.

Identifying and caretaking all of the Park's heritage values conserves its significance for today and for future generations.



Figure 29. (clockwise from top right)

Archaeological Artefacts at the Dairy; Archaeological Excavation of Governor Brisbane's Observatory; Parramatta River; Summer Residence of the Governor, 1840s; Boating on the River, mid-20th century; Dairy and Ranger's Cottages; George Street Gatehouse, Avenue of Oak Trees to Old Government House Drive and Lady Fitzroy Memorial, early 20th century; and Grey-headed Flying-fox

Assessment of Significance

An assessment of the Park's heritage significance supports its listing on the following statutory heritage registers:

- **As the Government Domain and with Old Government House it is one of the 11 Australian Convict Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list**
- **As the Government Domain and with Old Government House it is on the Australian World and National Heritage lists**
- **Old Government House Parramatta Park is on the NSW Heritage Register.**

The heritage values that support these listings will not be re-assessed here. The detailed assessments for these listings are available on the UNESCO, Australian and NSW online heritage databases.

The Park also has number of sites registered on the NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). We refer to AHIMS to access information for planning and conservation management in the Park.

Recent excavations in the Park have informed our understanding of Aboriginal occupation in the Park and Greater Sydney. The Park is significant for its potential to further our understanding of the archaeological and environmental history of ancient Aboriginal Peoples. The age and nature of these finds and the associated research potential of the Park are relevant to several scientific areas of research at a national and world level including:

- Early modern human populations and movements
- The nature and timing of the arrival of people on the Australian continent through paleo-coastal river corridors
- The global trend of the last Ice Age where headwater river landscapes provided refuge
- The impacts of colonial settlement and agriculture on indigenous hunter gatherer societies.

The grey-headed flying-fox is a threatened species and the stability and size of the camp numbers in the Park meets the criteria for protection under Australian and NSW natural heritage statutory listings.

Summary Statement of Significance

Parramatta Park is a cultural landscape that is significant for its Aboriginal, Early Colonial, Vice-Regal, People's Park and natural heritage values.

It is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, with Old Government House, as one of the 11 Australian Convict Sites significant for their ability to demonstrate colonisation using convict labour and is on Australia's National Heritage List as the Government Domain to Old Government House.

Old Government House is Australia's oldest intact former Vice-Regal residence. It housed the residence and offices of 12 governors of NSW from 1788–1856 and was the place where historic decisions were made about the control and administration of the colony and the management and control of convicts and Aboriginal people.

These new arrivals introduced Australia's first elements of European agricultural production and town planning at Parramatta Park. The Park was also the site of some of Australia's earliest astronomical and botanical endeavours in the European scientific tradition.

Parramatta Park is on NSW State Heritage Register as a place that demonstrates continuous cultivation and land use from the management of the Cumberland Plain Woodland by the Burramatta of the Darug Aboriginal people. The listing recognises the processes of colonisation, from exploration to occupation, and land clearing and building. The whole site is a rare demonstration of how NSW and Australia evolved following European colonisation.

The Park is also significant as a continuously operated public park — gazetted in 1858 as a Victorian-era People's Park.

Parramatta Park is significant for its large section of the Parramatta Sand Body, the ancient riverbed and banks of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene river. The Parramatta Sand Body is a rare and finite archaeological resource. It is significant as it documents the antiquity of Aboriginal life on Parramatta River back to between 35,000 to 40,000 years ago — one of the earliest cultural sites in the Sydney Basin.

Parramatta Park is significant to the local Aboriginal community today.

Natural Heritage Significance

“

At Rose Hill the heat on the 10th and 11th of the month, on which days at Sydney the thermometer stood in the shade at 105, was so excessive, (being much increased by the fire in the adjoining,) that immense numbers of the large fox bat were seen hanging at the boughs of the trees, and dropping into the water, which, by their stench, was rendered unwholesome. They had been observed for some days before regularly taking their flight in the morning from the northward to the southward, and returning in the evening. During the excessive heat many dropped dead while on the wing; and it was remarkable, that those which were picked up were chiefly males.”

D. Collins, Esq., An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, London, 1798, pp. 153–154

Parramatta Park is significant as a natural landscape within an urban setting and as a landscape that showcases the evolution and development of its landforms over time.

Parramatta River is an ancient and enduring watercourse that is significant not only as the primary landscape feature of the Park and Greater Parramatta but also as the historical headwaters to Sydney Harbour, where freshwater ponds mingled with the tidal saltwater of the river.

The Park's land formations are the consequence of the continual erosion of higher ground and constant river and creek action. We see evidence of this pattern of river and creek action in the Pliocene sandstone outcrops in the north of the Park, the terraces near Old Kings Oval and the flats of Murray Gardens that are still being laid down today.

Parramatta Park is significant for its ancient native Australian trees including the *Eucalyptus teriticornus* and *Eucalyptus crebra* at various sites around the Park and the copse of *Melaleuca decora* near Coleman Oval. It is also significant for the Endangered Ecological Communities of the eastern Cumberland Plain, notably the pockets of Cumberland Plain Woodland, the Shale Sandstone Transition Forest along The Crescent, and the River-flat Eucalypt Forest along the river and creeks.

What we see and know of these habitats today we assume to be the intact vegetation before European colonisation; however, this is what they became after their management by Aboriginal people ceased. The open parkland landscapes, where the isolated shade trees are today, are significant in this regard as they show us what the woodlands would likely have looked like when they were actively managed by Aboriginal people, even though the species of this open park landscape may have been introduced under later planting programs.

The Park is also significant as a habitat and refuge for native fauna including the nationally significant Grey-headed Flying-fox camp, which is a keystone species for the survival of native plant communities.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox camp in the Park is of state and national heritage significance and is managed under the provisions of the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Parramatta Park is significant to the people of Parramatta today as a place of nature and respite in the city.

The map opposite shows the significant natural heritage features of the Park that are to be conserved.



Figure 30. (previous page)

Grey-headed Flying-fox

The early account of the colony at Parramatta River by David Collins in 1798 records the bats flying out in the morning and returning in the evening, which is unusual considering the bats sleep during the day and are active at night. The vulnerability of the males to heat referred to in this quote maybe explained by exhaustion from fighting for prime roosting spots in the middle of the colony during breeding season.

Aboriginal Heritage Significance



Parramatta Park is significant for the large section of the Parramatta Sand Body within its boundaries. The Parramatta Sand Body is the ancient riverbed and banks of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene river.

This rare and finite archaeological resource is significant as it documents the antiquity of Aboriginal life on Parramatta River back to between 35,000 to 40,000 years ago. It gives us insights into aspects of ancient Aboriginal life and how Aboriginal people adapted to changing environmental and climate conditions over thousands of years.

Parramatta Park is significant as it contains a combination of geological and landscape features that were routinely used by, and important to, Aboriginal people. These features are still mostly visible in the Park's landscape today and include the main creek, the river and its exposed sandstone flats upstream, the ox-bow billabong formerly in The Crescent, the extensive alluvial flats and the river bank sand terraces overlooked by the shale ridge, now occupied by Old Government House.

Parramatta Park is significant in the history of the Aboriginal people of Greater Sydney. It is likely Aboriginal Parramatta operated for millennia as a central economic hub and meeting place. In 1788, Aboriginal Parramatta sat where one of Sydney's main river transit routes ended, within the shared boundaries of several Aboriginal clan and language groups.

The Park is significant for its potential to further our understanding of the archaeological and environmental history of ancient Aboriginal people including several scientific areas of research at national and world level.

Parramatta Park is also significant as the former domain of Old Government House, a place where colonial government decisions had profound impacts on Aboriginal people up to today.

The Aboriginal heritage significance of the Park has been assessed and statutorily listed as being of state heritage significance. This heritage value is managed under the provisions of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife regulations and *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

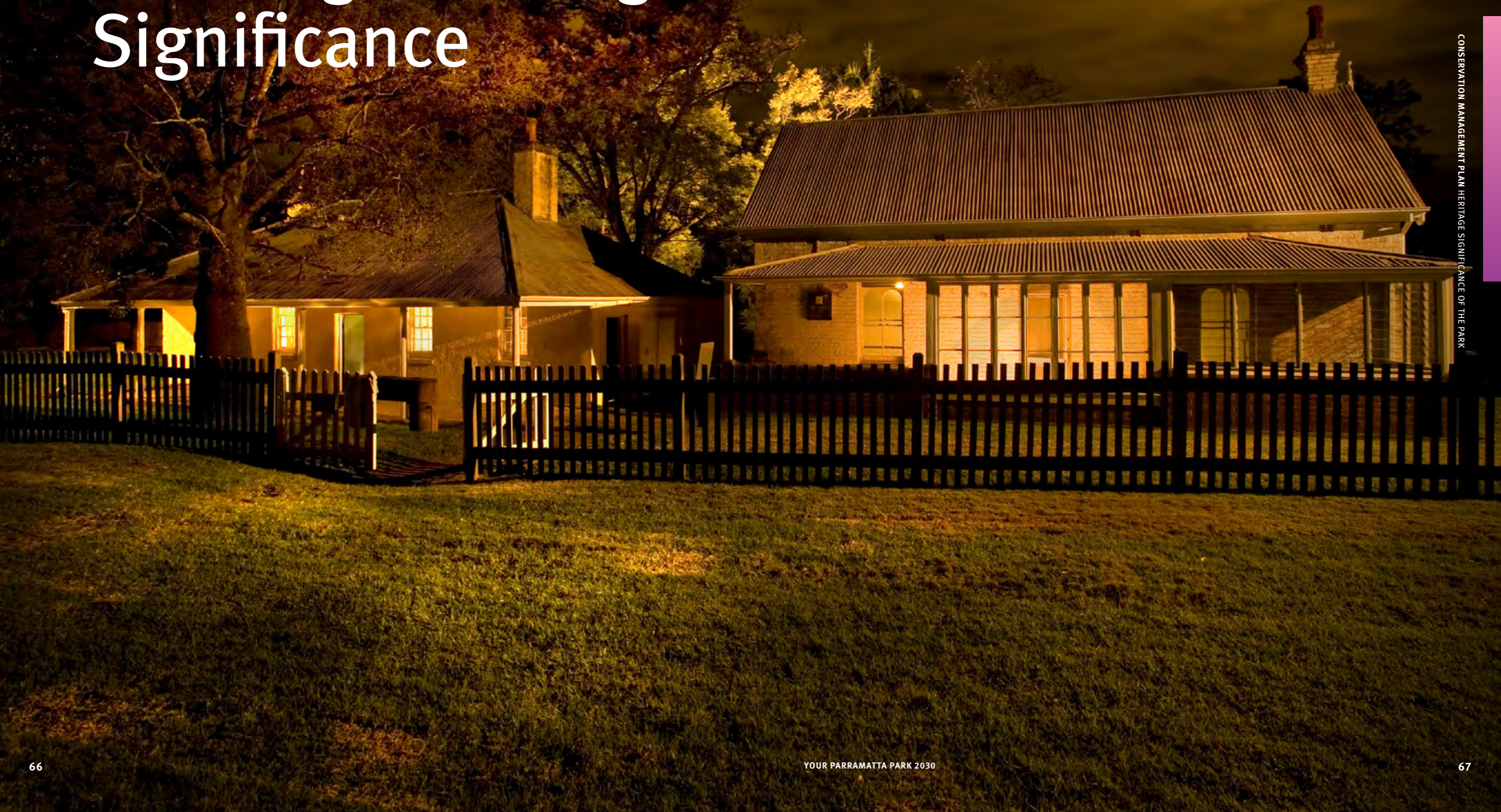
The map opposite shows the potential Aboriginal archaeological significance in the Park.

Figure 31. (previous page)

Archaeological Excavations in the Paddocks Precinct, 2015



Early Colonial and Vice-Regal Heritage Significance



Parramatta Park with Old Government House is of World Heritage significance as an organisational and social centre of convict transportation from 1788–1840.

It is significant as the site of the early British defensive Redoubt, the second government farm, stock-keeping paddocks and associated dam, and as Australia’s earliest European planned town, as set out between Old Government House and ‘The Landing Place’ on the river.

This significance is illustrated in the surviving building complexes of the Dairy and Old Government House. The Dairy is the oldest most complete European building in Australia and Old Government House is the oldest governor’s residence in Australia.

The landscape of the Park is significant today as it demonstrates the landscape setting for Old Government House designed by Governor and Mrs Macquarie. The Macquaries embellished and developed the picturesque park by drawing on the qualities of the place created by Aboriginal land management practices.

The Macquaries’ Government House and Domain represented a major architectural and landscape achievement and is one of the most important works of Governor Macquarie. It established the character of the second phase of British colonisation – beyond that of a penal colony – and operated as an official residence of the NSW governors up to 1858.

The park land was also significant as a place of recreation. Mrs Macquarie held picnics in the Domain and the park land was significant to the people of Parramatta at that time, even during the strict governing of the Domain enclosure by Governor Macquarie.

Parramatta Park is significant as the site of early botanical and astronomical research in the European scientific traditions in the colony, as evidenced by the remains of the observatory transit stones.

The Early Colonial and Vice-Regal heritage significance of the Park has been assessed and statutorily listed as being of state, national and World Heritage significance. These heritage values are managed under the provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* and the *Australian Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This heritage significance and how it contributes to the UNESCO Australian Convict Sites serial heritage listing is explored in more detail in the following pages.

The Early Colonial and Vice-Regal landscape settings, views and features of the Park that remain today informed the Trust’s later improvements to the Park. The maps showing these features and their interrelationship can be found in the following People’s Park heritage significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Figure 33.

Government House Parramatta, 1805

Governor Hunter demolished Governor Phillip’s Government House at Parramatta and built a new Government House in 1799. Governor Hunter’s house forms the core of the existing building.

The Domain of Government House at that time was kitchen gardens, farm and grazing lands.



And it appearing that idle Boys and others, who should know better, are in the Habit of resorting to the said Domain...for the purpose of killing Birds, particularly on Sundays: It is hereby ordered and directed, that the Constables and Pease Officers do apprehend all Persons who shall hereafter be found trespassing...in Order to their being prosecuted and dealt with according to Law for such offences.”

By His Excellency’s Command, J T Campbell Secretary, Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Saturday 3 June 1820

Figure 32. (previous page)

Dairy and Ranger’s Cottage

Australian Convict Sites

Parramatta Park with Old Government House, is one of the 11 Australian Convict Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage serial listing.

Together these sites represent the global phenomenon of the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern time.

The 11 sites illustrate the different types of British occupation developed to support the large-scale transportation, organisation and control of convicts such as buildings, ports, infrastructure and the extraction of resources across Australia. These properties demonstrate the various forms of convict occupation and their influence on emerging models of punishment and reform in Europe and America at that time.

This British colonial occupation forced Aboriginal people back into less fertile land. It was also the primary source of the significant population of people of European descent in Australia today.

The contribution of Parramatta Park to this serial listing as the Domain to Old Government House is its ability to illustrate through its buildings and cultural landscape the projection of British imperial power in the South Pacific, and the reformation of criminals through the administration of the convict system. The site is directly associated with the ideas and beliefs of convict transportation and the management of convicts through mechanisms of punishment and incentive.

The collective values of these sites are managed under the Australian Convict Sites Strategic Management Framework.

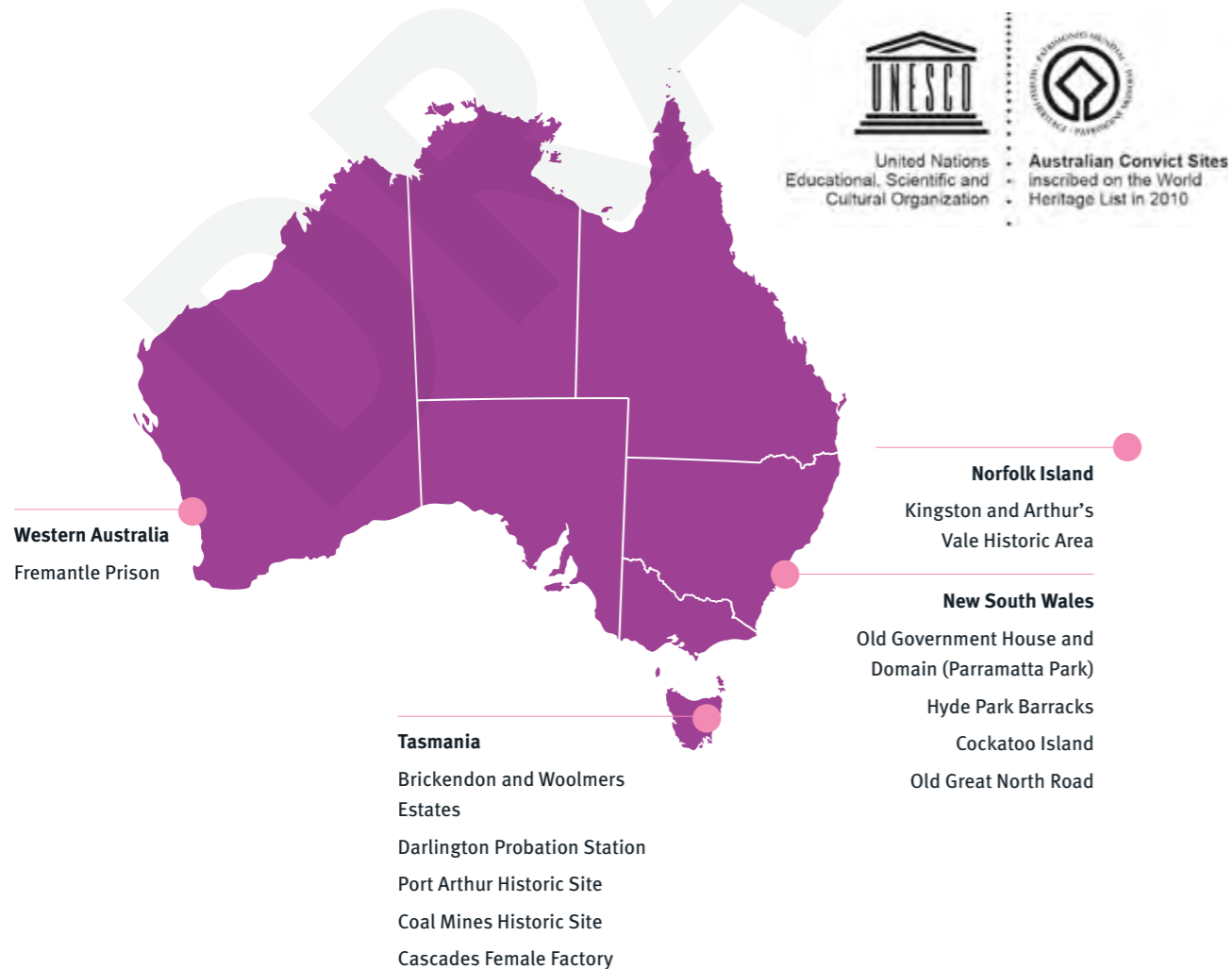


Figure 34.
Fremantle Prison



Figure 35.
Brickendon Estate



Figure 36.
Woolmers Estate



Figure 37.
Darlington Probation Station



Figure 38.
Port Arthur Historic Site



Figure 39.
Coal Mines Historic Site



Figure 40.
Cascades Female Factory



Figure 41.
Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta Park)



Figure 42.
Hyde Park Barracks



Figure 43.
Cockatoo Island



Figure 44.
Old Great North Road



Figure 45.
Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area

People's Park Heritage Significance



Parramatta Park is significant as one of the earliest gazetted parks in Australia in 1858. It was designed as a Victorian-era People's Park following lengthy lobbying for its creation from the 1840s.

People understood the Park as a picturesque landscape. It was embellished by the Park Trustees with a series of formal park plantings, Gothic and Tudor Revival gatehouses, carriageways and pathways, bridges and river works and the successive making of monuments to history and national identity.

The Park is significant as a major centre for recreational and organised sport from the early 19th century, including the establishment of horse racing, cricket, football, aeroplane flight, car and motorbike racing.

Parramatta Park is also significant as a place of community celebration and festivals, from Victorian-era Empire Day celebrations to New Year's Eve, Australia Day and Diwali today.

The People's Park heritage significance has been assessed and statutorily listed as being of state heritage significance. This heritage value is managed under the provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

The Early Colonial and Vice-Regal features of the Park that underpin Trust improvements are also significant to the People's Park era for how they were valued, preserved and memorialised at that time. Maps on the following pages show the significant landscape settings, views and features of the Park to be conserved for both these eras as well the archaeological potential for these heritage values.

“

The crowds which found their way to Parramatta Park yesterday probably established something like a record for an ordinary holiday. The trains arriving from Sydney and suburbs at shortly after 10 and 11 o'clock were crowded, and from each a large procession marched to the national pleasure ground. Sunday and day school scholars were conducted through the town to the park gates, and off to some shady sheltered spot ...it was a 'crowded and lively scene everywhere,' over 8,000 being estimated to have passed through the gates. The Salvation Army was early on the scene, and its music added to the indications of the presence of a great multitude of which most were young, and all bent on merry-making... and the unrestricted invasion and occupation of Parramatta's historic enclosure complete and satisfactory.”

Daily Telegraph, 3 October 1899

Figure 46. (previous page)
Little Coogee, 1920s



Early Colonial, Vice Regal and People's Park Heritage Fabric



Early Colonial, Vice Regal and People's Park Heritage Landscape Settings and Routes



Plan of Management

Your Parramatta Park 2030 includes the following Plan of Management, to be read in conjunction with the Conservation Management Plan.

The Plan of Management identifies ways to manage the Park as a cultural landscape across eight precincts.

It establishes objectives that aim to balance the Park's cultural and natural heritage values with our ambitions for an active, well-loved and well-utilised natural, recreational and cultural space for a growing population at the heart of Greater Sydney.

The Plan of Management will support our efforts to promote, conserve and enhance the Park's values for the future.

It meets the Trust's requirements under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001*.

Planning for the Future

“

The Central River City will grow substantially capitalising on its location close to the geographic centre of Greater Sydney. Unprecedented public and private investment is contributing to new transport and other infrastructure leading to a major transformation of the Central River City.”

Central River City Vision — Greater Sydney Commission

A \$10 billion transformation is underway in Parramatta, preparing the city for its next chapter

The City of Parramatta’s population is forecast to grow by over 75,000 in the next 10 years

Parramatta Park receives around 2 million visitors each year



A Growing, Changing, Greater Parramatta

In the next 15 years, the number of people living in Parramatta is expected to reach 390,000 people (from 250,000). There will be 150,000 jobs in Parramatta by then, up from 84,000 today.

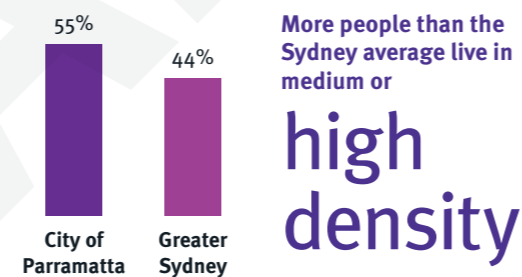
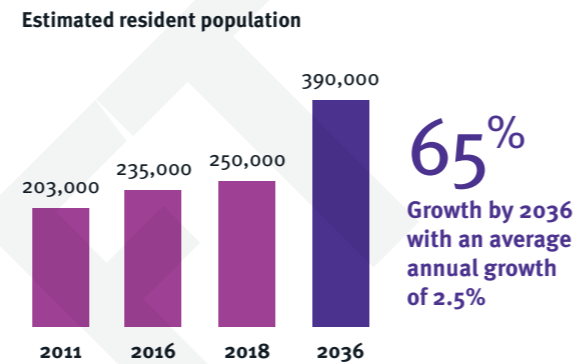
At the geographic centre of Sydney, and at the heart of the Central River City, Parramatta is evolving into a destination for a greater diversity of jobs, housing, recreation and cultural opportunities.

Unprecedented public and private investment in new transport and other infrastructure around Greater Parramatta is leading a major transformation of the Central River City as imagined by the Greater Sydney Commission and the City of Parramatta. The last decade has seen the opening of the new Western Sydney Stadium, new commercial and retail areas, and higher density housing within Parramatta CBD and surrounding areas.

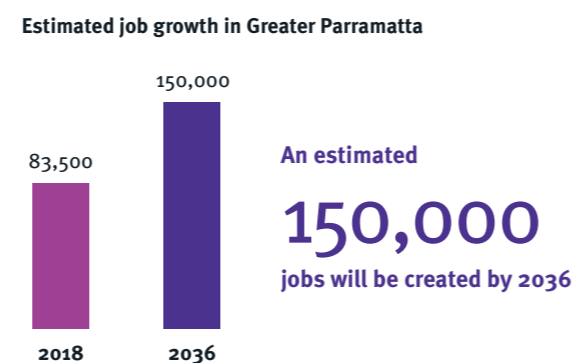
Plans for better connections include Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail, Sydney West Metro stations at Parramatta and Westmead and connections from Parramatta CBD to Parramatta River via the Civic Link. Parramatta's educational facilities will be boosted with the expansion of Arthur Phillip High School and campuses of the University of Sydney and Western Sydney University. Westmead will transform into an innovation precinct.

Greater Parramatta's economy is centred on world-class health, education and research institutions as well as finance, business services and administration.

The community around Parramatta Park is growing and will change significantly over the next 10 years and beyond. In general, people will be living in higher density housing – more apartments mean that more people will be looking to use public open spaces. Changes in the way people live and work will also see a greater mix of backgrounds and lifestyles – for example, in the last five years, Parramatta welcomed 20,000 people born in India, 16,000 born in China and 6,000 born in Australia. 50 per cent of residents living in the City of Parramatta local government area were born overseas.



\$10 billion transformation to Parramatta CBD
95,000+ sqm additional space at Westmead Hospital



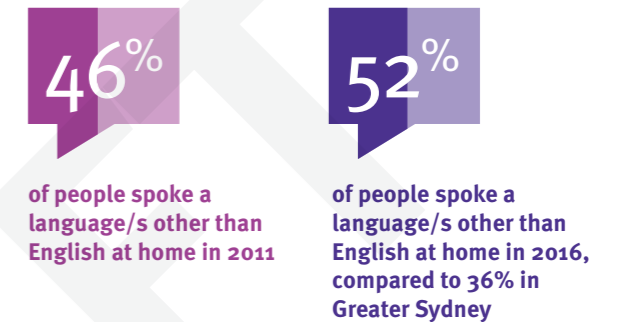
Parramatta Park has always provided local and regional open space and helped to meet the recreational needs of people living, working and studying in Greater Parramatta and beyond. Currently, the Park receives around two million visitors each year, enjoying events and programs, school and community functions, sports and fitness and general leisure in a cultural landscape setting.

As Parramatta grows, demand for open space will both increase and change. The Park will need to function as a recreational destination and cultural venue for residents in the local and wider area. We're now planning for a 65 per cent increase of people who will use and visit the Park by 2036.

In planning for this growth, we recognise that:

- The significance of the Park's heritage values must underpin how the Park is continued to be managed and activated
- The Park provides a vital connection to the river and the wider city and surrounding areas
- People have expectations of more diverse activities and greater quality amenity and landscapes of the city Park of the Central River City including increased use by schools
- The Park will continue to grow as a venue for cultural events and programs and could be a real attractor for investment and talent to Greater Parramatta
- Parramatta Park is integral to Greater Parramatta as a visitor destination.

Diverse communities



Residents born overseas



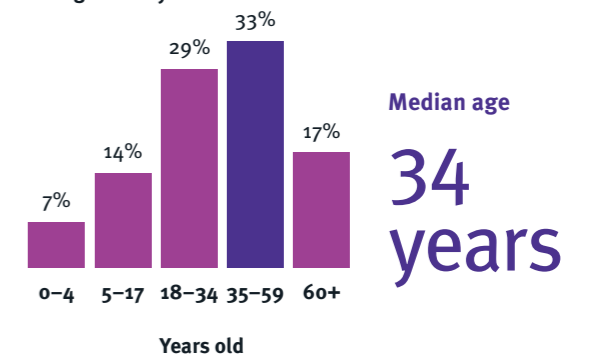
Top 3 countries of birth other than Australia



Household type in Parramatta



Young & family-oriented



Opportunities and Challenges



As population density increases, the challenge will be to shape the built environment..... delivering and interconnecting network of open space.....transport routes, suburban streets, footpaths and cycle ways.”

NSW Government Architect, The Green Grid

As the area around Parramatta Park changes, the Park must be managed in a way that understands future needs, while also promoting and protecting everything it can tell us about the past. This means aligning with the conventions of world, national, state and local heritage that are designed to protect the Park’s values, while allowing for more ways for people to understand these values.

The Park’s rich heritage and natural values — what it tells us about the geographic and topographic past, the human inhabitants tracing back to Aboriginal occupation, and changes since colonisation — will continually need to be conserved and managed within an active landscape, essential urban open space and a place that is regularly used for organised and informal recreation, sports, major events and other programs.

The management of the Park must also be undertaken in partnership with other State agencies, City of Parramatta Council, Cumberland Council, the broader community and the private sector — as strong partnerships will foster better opportunities for the Park and make best use of resources.

Opportunities to consider

The History of the Park

- Illustrating Australia’s environmental, Aboriginal and European Heritage in one place and pursuing ongoing research to support this
- Providing interpretation such as events, programs and art works that reflect the Park’s history to tens of thousands of years ago
- Utilising and enhancing access to areas of heritage significance with uses that are appropriate to boost the activation of heritage assets
- Educating people about the Park’s rich histories
- Building local connections with surrounding heritage places including Old Government House, Parramatta North and Elizabeth Farm.

Visitors and Activation

- Making it easier and safer for people to arrive by bicycle or on foot
- Creating partnerships to maximise opportunities as more school students come to the Park
- Increasing capacity at events by continuing to build a diverse annual events program like the Crescent Summer Series to bring more people to the Park
- Continuing to work with the City of Parramatta, Cumberland Council and public and private cultural organisations
- Considering greater and more diverse appropriate private investment opportunities.

Landscape and Recreation

- Being a connector within the Park and beyond its boundaries, with better lighting, river crossings and riverside paths
- Implementing approved master plans and design work to upgrade facilities for the Park such as the People’s Loop, Mays Hill Master Plan, the Paddocks and the Gardens Precinct
- Activating and connecting surrounding areas such as Western Sydney Stadium and Mays Hill
- Investigating sustainable technologies for the Park including sustainable water sources and low-cost lighting.

Environment

- Using the Parramatta River Master Plan to integrate activation and environmental initiatives along the river
- Improving bushland, flora and fauna around Parramatta River and Domain Creek and addressing bank stability, noxious weeds and pests
- Increasing education and awareness of environmental values with the community
- Protecting Threatened Ecological Plant Communities, including near The Crescent.

Park-wide Projects

Three exciting projects underpin our objectives for the Park overall and will be implemented in line with our vision for Parramatta Park.

These projects are:

- **Sustainable and Smart Parramatta Park:** The Trust has a number of sustainable and smart strategies that underpin the planning, conservation, activation, heritage interpretation and day-to-day operations of the Park
- **People’s Loop:** The proposed People’s Loop will reduce the number of cars in most of the existing internal heritage roadways within Parramatta Park. Strategically placed parking on the edges of the Park will free up internal roads for wider pedestrian and bicycle lanes to make walking and cycling easier and safer, while reducing potential conflicts between different types of travel modes. The People’s Loop will encourage more people to cycle, walk or jog within the Park for fun or fitness and declutter the Park with the removal of the majority of vehicle bollards and fencing
- **Bridges of Parramatta Park Strategy:** This strategy is about creating new, iconic bridge connections within, to and through and the Park — places and structures that link city and landscape, from Westmead to Parramatta CBD, to and from Western Sydney Stadium and beyond. The Strategy will bring the river back to the heart of the Park and is an opportunity to continue to tell the stories of Parramatta Park as a heritage cultural landscape.

Legislative and Management Framework

Sitting at the heart of the growing Central River City, Parramatta Park is also an essential CBD and regional open space, and will continue to offer areas for social interaction, recreation and events, meeting the NSW Government’s objective for healthy, liveable places.

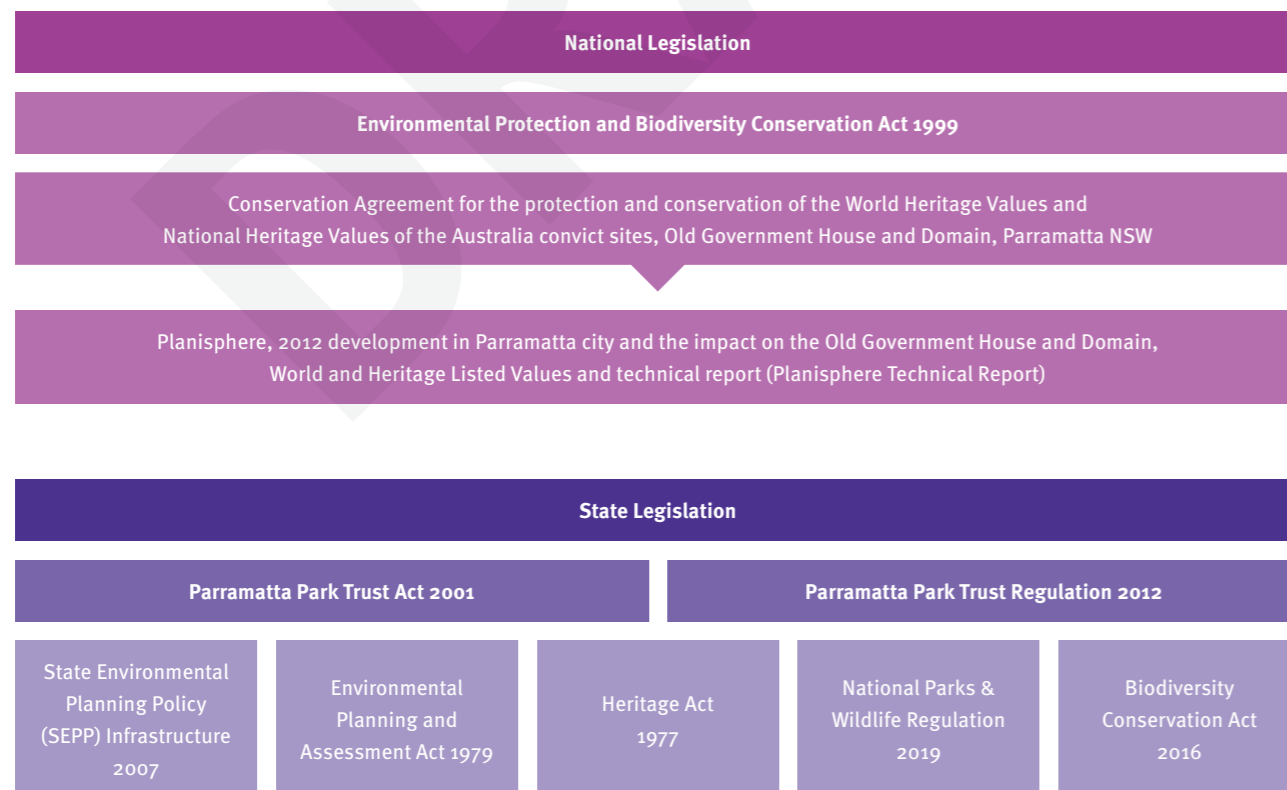
In managing and activating the Park, the Trust’s processes must align with Australian, State and Local statutory frameworks, international and Australian heritage listings, as well as its own operational requirements.

The *Parramatta Park Trust Act* and its Regulations define the operational requirements of the Trust in its activation and management of the Park. The other relevant Acts and Regulations that govern the natural and cultural heritage

significant values of the Park are referred to in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030* are set out in the diagram below.

The curtilage of the heritage listings of the Park at World, National and State level are shown in the three diagrams opposite. These boundaries show the extent of the Park included on the World and National heritage listings of the *Australian Environment Protection Biodiversity Act* and the State heritage register listing of the *NSW Heritage Act*.

The Trust also has a register of heritage items that it owns and manages within the Park. This register is known as a Section 170 heritage and conservation register. It can be found on the NSW heritage online database.



The Park’s natural and heritage values must be protected. Our activities to improve the Park must align with National, State and Local statutory frameworks.

Figure 48. (right)

World Heritage and Buffer Zone Listing Curtilage

This map shows the extent of the Park listed for world cultural heritage significance and the adjacent buffer zone identified on the UNESCO listing map.

Figure 49. (below)

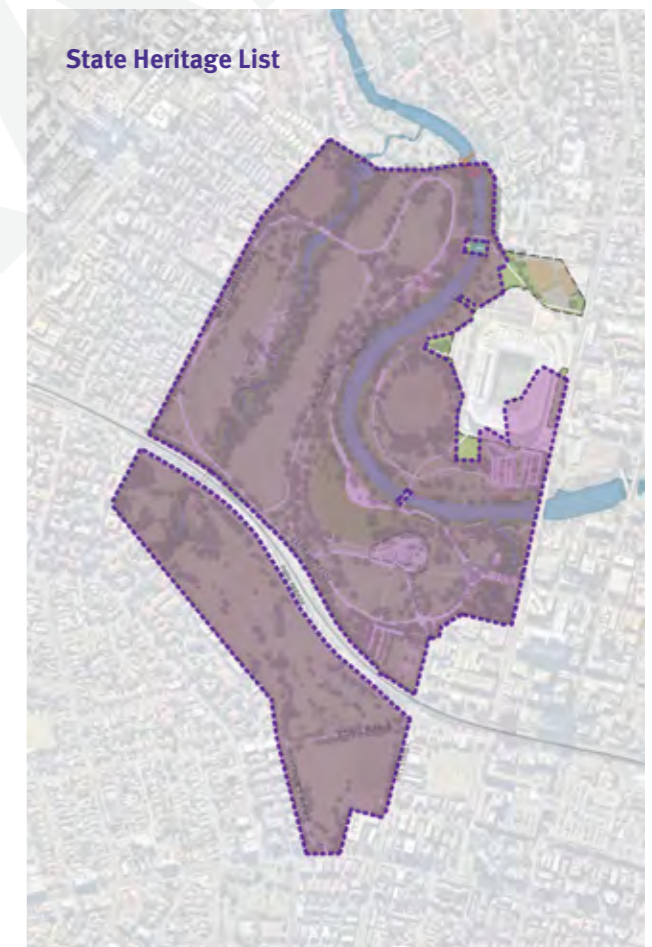
National Heritage Listing Curtilage

This map shows the extent of the Park listed for national cultural heritage significance and the location of the Grey-headed Flying-fox camp (in orange), which is of national significance for its natural heritage values.

Figure 50. (bottom right)

State Heritage Listing Curtilage

This map shows the extent of the Park listed for state cultural heritage significance.



Objectives to 2030

Four park-wide objectives will help us to achieve the vision for Parramatta Park. Each contains actions to 2030 — although much of our work is intended to continue beyond 2030. Each objective brings together strategies, heritage policies and actions.

Objective 1

Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

Objective 2

Increase community participation, activation and engagement

Objective 3

Create linkages and connections

Objective 4

Manage the Park in a sustainable way

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES TO 2030

Objective 1

Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values



Figure 52. (opposite page)
 Google Arts and Culture Virtual Tour Launch, 2018
 Dairy Precinct

This objective considers the strategies and actions we can take to identify, conserve, restore and communicate the Park’s cultural and natural heritage for more people to enjoy now and into the future. It draws on the Park’s Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and promotes the Park’s World Heritage status.

This objective requires us to continue to act as a custodian of the Park — to help create a sense of pride within the community and to welcome more people to experience the Park’s many heritage values.

Strategies	Actions
<p>Strategy 1.2</p> <p>Improve understanding of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and map the Park for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage archaeology and landscape values and prepare an Archaeological Management Plan. Prepare an organisational Reconciliation Action Plan. Prepare and implement a Park-wide heritage interpretation strategy that addresses heritage values, including the World Heritage listing, and identifies histories and stories. Increase events, programs and interpretation activities. Provide online access to research and collections from the many periods of the Park. Engage with Aboriginal and heritage groups, government agencies and the community on cultural heritage projects.
<p>Strategy 1.2</p> <p>Care for the heritage fabric and landscape qualities of the Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and interpret evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the Park in collaboration with Aboriginal groups. Conserve, manage and interpret the built fabric and landscape features of the Park in accordance with the Burra Charter with the guidance and assistance of cultural heritage experts. Plan and manage new works to consider all periods of the Park’s use and associated heritage values. Plan and manage new works to not adversely impact upon the significant landscape qualities and heritage fabric of the Park. Develop a Views and Settings Management Strategy to guide the ongoing implementation of the Australian Government’s Conservation Agreement for the Park. Implement a tree planting program to ensure a continuity of landscape character for the Park’s significant tree estate.
<p>Strategy 1.3</p> <p>Increase bushland biodiversity while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to restore bushland and improve habitat within the Park. Create sites of exemplar vegetation communities to showcase natural heritage. Review and continue to implement the Park-wide Biodiversity Strategy. Encourage participation in environmental events and programs.
<p>Strategy 1.4</p> <p>Improve the health of Parramatta River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, with City of Parramatta, the weir systems downstream of the Park to manage water levels and flood waters. Undertake works to stabilise and restore riverbanks where required. Communicate and promote the history and cultural significance of the river as part of the broader city wide interpretation and communication strategies. Monitor water quality and aquatic health of the river. Collaborate with upstream initiatives to improve the water quality of stormwater inflows into the Park as outlined in the Our Living River strategy.

Current — Parramatta Park in 2019	Future — Parramatta Park in 2030
Limited survey and mapping of cultural heritage archaeology	Whole Park mapped for Aboriginal and European cultural heritage archaeology
Limited understanding by Park visitors about the World Heritage values of the Park	50 per cent of Park visitors know about its World Heritage values
The Trust does not have a Reconciliation Action Plan	A Reconciliation Action Plan complete and actions underway
Limited data on the health of Parramatta River	Understand the health of the Parramatta River including water and sediment quality

Objective 2

Increase community participation, activation and engagement



Figure 53. (opposite page)
Paperbark Playground, 2019
Pavilion Flat

Parramatta Park is seen as an oasis to many people, and it will become increasingly popular as a place to visit, relax or get active as Greater Parramatta’s workforce and resident numbers increase.

This objective recognises that Parramatta Park can be a place that directly enhances the health and wellbeing of the people of Greater Parramatta and beyond, with places for exercise as much as rest, education and celebration.

As we continue to promote the Park’s unique heritage and significance as a cultural destination, more and more people will visit for tourism, festivals and events that appeal to diverse regional, national and international audiences.

Strategies	Actions
<p>Strategy 2.1</p> <p>Create opportunities for structured and unstructured recreation while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a range of recreation opportunities throughout the Park including supporting infrastructure and amenities. • Continue to provide play spaces to connect children to nature and water. • Expand opportunities for formal and informal sport in the Park, including school and junior sports. • Provide spaces that offer many different functions or uses for local and regional visitors. • Build and program spaces for day and night activities. • Provide outdoor exercise stations along The People’s Loop. • Work with City of Parramatta and NSW Police to maintain the Park as a safe place.
<p>Strategy 2.2</p> <p>Increase visitor engagement and participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Park as a place for active recreation to residents, office workers and students. • Build on and promote the Park’s diverse annual events program supported by the Park-wide Event Management Framework. • Provide in Park and online interpretation, programs and events to tell the heritage stories of the Park to new audiences. • Work with National Trust of Australia to promote the joint World Heritage values of Old Government House and the Domain as a destination of national and international significance. • Work with tertiary institutions to promote the Park’s archaeology, landscape and collections for research and publication. • Survey visitors and potential visitors to inform projects and programs. • Contribute to the city-wide tourism strategy. • Further develop and implement the Park’s Digital Marketing Strategy and brand. • Partner with adjacent government landowners and stakeholders to optimise the experience of people using the Park or nearby places such as Western Sydney Stadium.

Current — Parramatta Park in 2019	Future — Parramatta Park in 2030
Limited site interpretation	A fully accessible interpretation program for the Park including digital outcomes
Two million visits to the Park annually	Expected three million visits to the Park annually
250,000 people attend events in the Park annually	400,000 people attending events in the Park annually
Visitor satisfaction 8.5 out of 10	Maintain or improve visitor satisfaction
160,000 Parramatta Park website users annually	Continue to expand the Park’s online community and online capabilities

Create linkages and connections



Current — Parramatta Park in 2019	Future — Parramatta Park in 2030
Limited lighting within the Park	Key areas within the Park lit, including a pedestrian path from Parramatta CBD to Westmead through the Park
Two bridge crossings over the Parramatta River within and into the Park	Five bridge crossings over the Parramatta River within and into the Park, and a land bridge connecting Mays Hill to the core of the Park
One-way internal road and path network with cars, bikes and pedestrians competing for space	The People's Loop is implemented to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists in the Park and reduce vehicle movements in the Park
People have limited access to the river's edge and few active areas	New tracks, recreational facilities and landform allow community access to the river's edge

Figure 54. (opposite page)
Byrnes Avenue, 2017

Parramatta Park is not just a destination — it's a place that connects two fast-growing employment, commercial and residential areas (Parramatta and Westmead) and it offers roads, paths, bridges, trails, open spaces and event areas to connect people between areas, to nature, to Parramatta River and to each other.

This objective recognises that the Park is at the heart of Greater Sydney's Central River City. It must remain easy for people to get to and through, and to travel around. It can be a place to gather with friends, be active, take part in events, programs and celebrations, or just enjoy the outdoors. It provides physical connections while also building engagement and interaction between people and the Park's natural and cultural heritage. The Park also provides the way to Old Government House Museum and is the only physical link between this significant site and Parramatta CBD.

Strategies	Actions
<p>Strategy 3.1</p> <p>Increase opportunities for walking and cycling within and to the Park while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Parramatta to the Park via new pathway connections between existing links. • Increase tree planting along existing paths, and provide new planting along paths to increase shade. • Work with partners to implement the Bridges of Parramatta Park Strategy and associated new walking and cycling tracks. • Create walking and cycling paths over and under the rail line. • Provide lit night-time pedestrian paths from Parramatta CBD to Westmead and from the Park to Western Sydney Stadium. • Provide new riverside walking and cycling paths and better connections to other networks such as the Parramatta Valley Cycleway. • Work with neighbouring stakeholders including City of Parramatta and Transport for NSW to improve external connections and road and wayfinding signage to the Park.
<p>Strategy 3.2</p> <p>Reduce cars in the Park while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish The People's Loop with space for pedestrians and bicycle lanes. • Provide exercise stations around The People's Loop. • Move parking to specific car parking nodes within the Park to make it easier for people to get to key destinations. • Work with Transport for NSW and the City of Parramatta to increase public transport usage to Park events.
<p>Strategy 3.3</p> <p>Reconnect people to the river while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create further opportunities for interaction and recreation on the banks of the river. • Create opportunities for more on-river activities such as non-motorised boating. • Create low-impact walking tracks and access adjacent to the river.

Objective 4

Manage the Park in a sustainable way

Current — Parramatta Park in 2019	Future — Parramatta Park in 2030
The Park has limited Park-wide strategies to manage the Park sustainably	Park-wide strategies to manage the Park sustainably, including a Turf and Grassland Plan, Tree Management Plan, Design Manual and Irrigation Plan
Limited smart technologies within the Park	The community will have access to new technologies in the Park such as wi-fi and other contemporary smart cities technology
Limited data on the long-term asset management requirements	Comprehensive long-term asset restoration and renewal program in place
Limited monitoring of sustainable practices for water, energy and waste	Comprehensive long-term asset restoration and renewal program in place The Park is green and cooler in summer using grey and river water 100 per cent renewable energy used for Park operations Cut waste to landfill generated in picnic areas at events in the Park by 50 per cent

Figure 55. (opposite page)
The Dairy Cottage

We must work responsibly — not just for the Park and its natural and cultural heritage environment, but in the way we operate as a business, the way that we use funding, and the way we can work to welcome and engage with more people to build a sense of social inclusion.

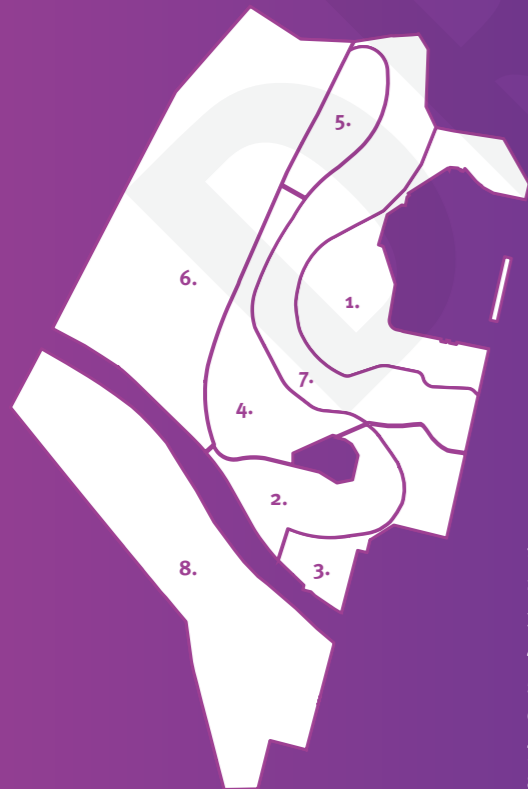
This objective focuses on how we will work with Aboriginal groups, councils, the NSW Government, businesses, sporting groups, event organisers, schools and the community to manage the Park’s future.

Strategies	Actions
<p>Strategy 4.1</p> <p>Sustainably manage Park assets and operations while protecting cultural heritage values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Park’s heritage asset management systems and develop and implement a heritage asset maintenance and conservation program. Develop and implement a Park-wide Turf and Grassland Plan to guide the maintenance and restoration of grassland. Develop a Park-wide Design Manual to guide future capital works and achieve design excellence appropriate to the Park’s heritage fabric and landscape character. Develop and implement a Park-wide Irrigation Plan. Continue to implement the Trust’s Sustainability Strategy. Develop and implement a Tree Management and Replacement Program with regard to the Park’s cultural landscape fabric and settings. Continue to implement the Parks Asset Management Strategy including the asset lifecycle replacement program to support day-to-day operations. Investigate the potential for smart technologies such as wi-fi, smart metering, systems monitoring and electric car charging points. Review waste collection and recycling methods, including for events in the Park. Work with Park tenants to maintain and promote the heritage gatehouses.
<p>Strategy 4.2</p> <p>Support the restoration and day-to-day operations of the Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review staff heritage training and induction programs. Increase third party and corporate partnerships and sponsorship opportunities for Park activities, events and programs. Investigate philanthropic support for initiatives such as The People’s Loop and The Bridges of Parramatta Park, heritage conservation and interpretation projects, and tree planting programs. Partner with Sydney Water and Park neighbours to support long-term irrigation requirements of the Park. Partner with State agencies, councils and other stakeholders to deliver programs, restoration efforts and joint projects to optimise community benefits. Maximise returns from existing assets by considering options such as adaptive re-use of Park buildings.
<p>Strategy 4.3</p> <p>Continue to monitor the natural and cultural heritage values of the Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement heritage values monitoring programs. Continue to adapt and improve management plans, tools and processes that incorporate the findings of monitoring outcomes.

Park Precincts

Your Parramatta Park 2030 identifies eight precincts in Parramatta Park. Each precinct responds to the uses, functions and operational requirements of the Park with regard to natural and heritage values, landscape character and context.

We have set out management guidelines for each precinct. These consider each precinct's heritage values, before going on to describe the precinct, its character, a statement of heritage significance and strategies and actions under *Your Parramatta Park 2030*'s four objectives.



1. Parramatta River
2. Setting of Old Government House
3. Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens
4. The Crescent
5. Dairy and Salters Farm
6. Paddocks
7. Old Government Farm and Sports
8. Mays Hill

The guidelines include processes to:

- Investigate, identify and manage archaeological potential and significance
- Investigate, interpret and communicate key heritage values and histories
- Conserve, manage and restore significant views set out in the Planisphere Technical Report
- Maintain heritage-significant road and path alignments.

We provide examples of how these processes will be implemented.

The heritage policies and management priorities sections combine the heritage policies of the Conservation Management Plan and the priorities for the Plan of Management. All new works in the Park will be developed in accordance with the principles set out in the Burra Charter.



Precinct 1:

Parramatta River



Figure 56. (opposite page)
Sydney Festival, 2014



Statement of Significance

Parramatta River Precinct is significant for its origins dating back millions of years. It was once part of a longer and much older river system. The location, shape and level of the present-day river has been formed by erosion and deposition processes that influenced and defined the landforms, soils and habitat of the Park today.

Parramatta River is significant today for its ancient sandstone outcrops, its older eucalypt trees and the nationally-significant Grey-headed Flying-fox camp.

As we know from the Conservation Management Plan, Parramatta River is recorded to have been essential to Aboriginal Parramatta for fishing, other resources and raw materials; as a travel corridor; and as a corridor for communication between groups.

The Parramatta Sand Body preserved within Parramatta River Precinct is significant for what it reveals about the evolution of the river and the environmental and climate change that accompanied the Aboriginal occupation of the river.

Parramatta River Precinct is significant for the part of the northern riverside government farm established in 1788, critical to the British colony in NSW, and for the site of the early bridge that connected the farm to the government settlement on Rose Hill.

This precinct is significant as the site of the defensive Redoubt built by the British forces in November 1788 on its southern bank. Recorded in maps and portrayed in published drawings, the Redoubt was important in the history of the British colonisation.

Parramatta River Precinct is significant for the weir that was part of the access route for cattle, an example of the pastoral landscape developed for grazing of stock by the colonial government from 1790 until the mid-20th century.

Modifications to the river to create a sheet of water, and the decorative Noller Bridge, illustrates the Park's place in the imagination of the Australians who built it as a People's Park between 1858 and the 1930s.

The river is significant as a former place of bathing and swimming, as formalised in the 1920s around Little Coogee.

Character and Description

The eight-hectare Parramatta River Precinct is located in the core of Parramatta Park, bounded by O'Connell Street and the Cumberland Hospital. It is surrounded by the precincts of Old Government Farm and Sports, Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens, The Crescent and the Dairy and Salter's Farm.

The Parramatta River headwaters sit at the north of Parramatta Park Precinct at the confluence of the Toongabbie and Darling Mills Creek on the northern border of the Cumberland Hospital.

Parramatta River's meandering nature creates large swathes of open lawn areas along the river banks, some of which are subject to flooding and erosion, and large stands of riverine vegetation. Two bridges and a causeway traverse the river within the Precinct, and water levels are controlled by weirs up and downstream keeping the water at a constant level. The river is also home to the Park's Grey-headed Flying-fox camp.



Figure 57.
Children Playing on the Weir, 1890s

As the connecting, iconic landscape feature of Greater Parramatta and beyond, Parramatta River defines a picturesque landscape. Its character will be complemented by new bridges and walking connections, improved water quality, bank stability and more places for people to relax. The River will be a rejuvenated destination in the Park for on-water activity like canoeing, and a renewed focus on recreation adjacent to the River, including events.

Heritage Polices and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Aboriginal archaeological landscapes of the river, banks and bordering terraces; the Early Colonial convict huts and agricultural activities; and the People's Park structures and landscapes associated with Little Coogee
- Investigate, interpret and communicate the importance of the river as an Aboriginal cultural landscape; Little Coogee as a bathing place; and the sandstone outcrops for their significance as a river crossing in Aboriginal and Early Colonial histories
- Maintain and restore riparian vegetation along Parramatta River
- Work with partners to create a river and setting that enhances habitat, supports aquatic communities, considers bank and bed stability, and assists with flood mitigation and water quality.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Establish opportunities for people to visit and enjoy areas on the banks of the river for recreation, events and programs
- Work with partners on the Parramatta River Masterplan and the Parramatta River Catchment Group to provide a waterside destination at Little Coogee
- Facilitate non-motorised boats on the river
- Work with City of Parramatta to better connect riverside destinations with the broader Parramatta City River Strategy.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

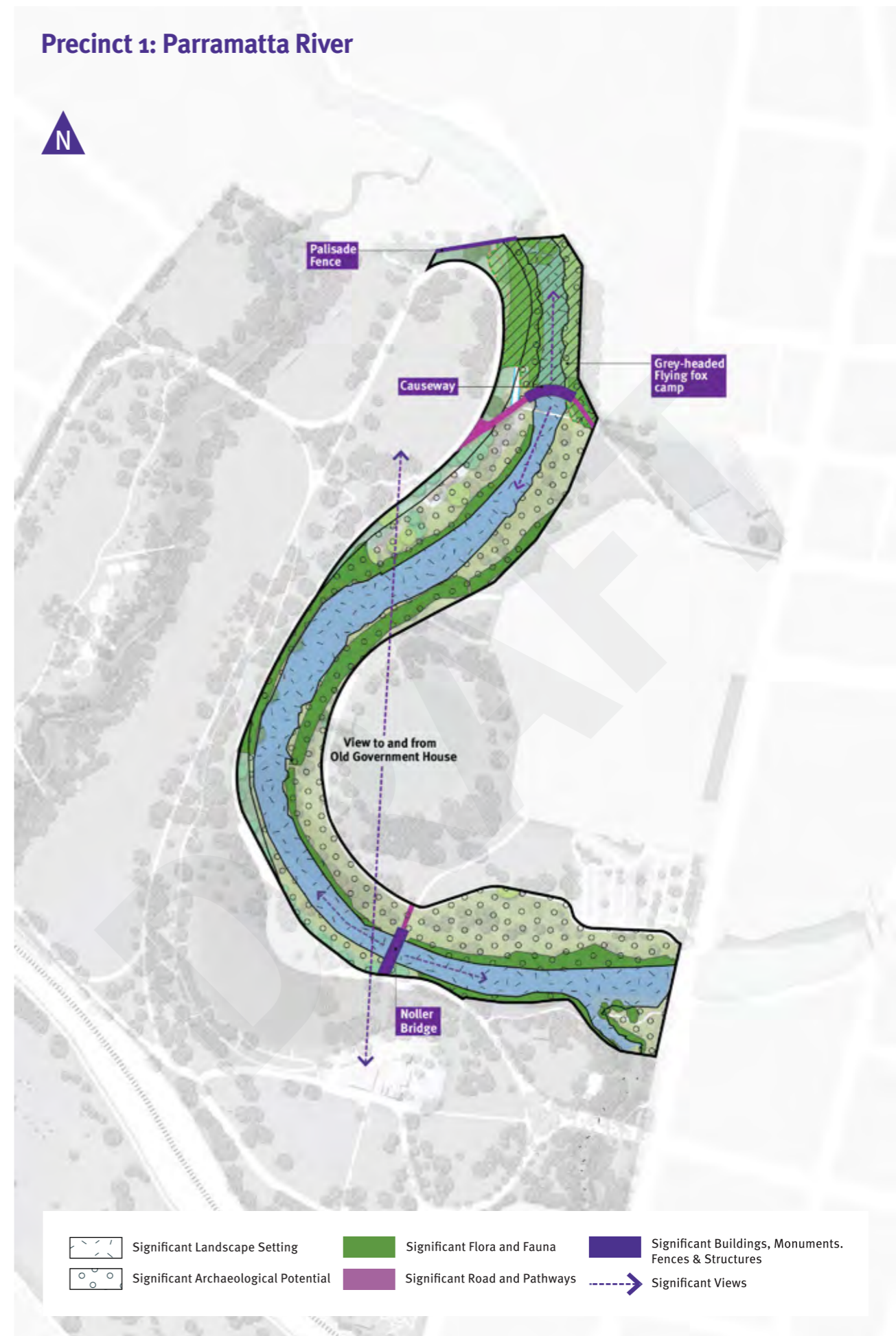
- Implement the Bridges of Parramatta River Strategy to create iconic and memorable crossings of and connections to Parramatta River and link them to new pathways and connections along the river
- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People's Loop
- Work with City of Parramatta to establish a connection under the O'Connell Street bridge on the south bank of the river to connect the Park and city riverside walking and cycling networks
- Work with City of Parramatta and Health NSW to establish connections north of Parramatta Park into Cumberland Hospital and beyond.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Continue to maintain the river bank stabilisation and reclamation works
- Continue to conserve and maintain Noller Bridge, causeway and river retaining walls
- Continue to work with partners to implement the Parramatta North Flying-fox Camp Management Plan and the Parramatta River Masterplan
- Support the ongoing development and operations of the Parramatta Park Cafe.

The Parramatta River Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.

Precinct 1: Parramatta River



Precinct 2:

Setting of Old Government House

Figure 58. (opposite page)
Setting of Old Government House



Statement of Significance

The site of Old Government House sits on flat land on an elevated shale ridgeline, which would have offered commanding views of the river and alluvial flats below and easy access to the resources along the river and Domain Creek. Archaeological materials from former Aboriginal camp sites have been recorded along the ridge in the Setting of Old Government House Precinct. Its elevated setting is likely to have been a favoured Aboriginal campsite.

The Precinct is significant as the immediate setting of the first governor's residence in Parramatta in 1788; remnants of the house built by Governor Hunter in the 1790s; and for today's substantially intact Government House and grounds developed by Governor Macquarie and subsequent governors to 1847.

It is significant as the setting of one of the earliest and most substantial works of colonial architecture in Australia with the Park containing most of its grounds and drives, known as the Governor's Domain. Governor Macquarie's Government House and Domain are significant as the place where he largely conducted his duties of Governor, which established and defined the second phase of colonisation in NSW as more than a penal colony.

The Old Government House site and its immediate setting is significant as the organising focus of the design of Parramatta town, the first complete town designed by Europeans in Australia. Portrayed in published pictures, the arranged vistas to and from Old Government House to George Street and to the twin towers of St John's Cathedral are evidence of the high place of this landscape in the imagination of Europeans.

The Precinct is also significant as the site of Governor Brisbane's Observatory and early European astronomical scientific research in the colony, for the associated remnant transit stones in the Park today and for the 19th century memorialising of this part of the nation's history.

Character and Description

The six-hectare Setting of Old Government House Precinct demonstrates early town planning and landscape design and features. Old Government House frames picturesque views that establish the relationship between it and the original Parramatta town.

The Precinct was used for Early Colonial botanical and astronomical scientific research and is home to the remaining Observatory transit stones and some of the Park's oldest majestic trees within swathes of open mown grass. The sloping topography sits Old Government House atop a picturesque landscape setting and provides open space for people to enjoy for recreation and respite close to Parramatta CBD.

The Setting of Old Government House Precinct's landscape setting has been maintained to a high standard with recent conservation works to the transit stones.

The Setting of Old Government House Precinct will remain a space for low-impact community events and recreation activities. Its tall trees and open grass areas will continue to provide a backdrop to Old Government House.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Aboriginal archaeological landscapes of the ridgeline including the location of Old Government House and the Early Colonial and Vice-Regal structures and archaeological landscapes
- Investigate, interpret and communicate the early town plan of Parramatta and associated gardens removed by Governor Macquarie, the site of Governor Macquarie's stables and the importance of the ridgeline as an Aboriginal cultural landscape
- Maintain existing interpretations of Governor Macquarie's dovecote, driveway and pond and Governor Phillip's earlier street alignment and Pitt Row
- Maintain and restore the remnant Shale Plains Woodland adjacent to the rail line.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Continue to provide low-impact recreation areas, as appropriate for this significant cultural landscape on Rose Hill and Coronation Hill
- Partner with the National Trust of Australia to continue to facilitate access to Old Government House and further activate the precinct
- Support third-party operators to create programs and events in the setting of Old Government House.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People's Loop
- Reinstate the visual connection from Old Government House to George Street by removing vegetation from the view corridor
- Continue to provide walking and cycling connections to the wider Park through this Precinct.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Manage the Precinct primarily as the immediate setting of Old Government House
- Continue to conserve and maintain the Observatory transit stones and memorial
- Protect and enhance the remnant copses of significant trees within the Precinct that are integral to the landscape setting of Old Government House
- Consider irrigation to enhance the presentation of this important landscape.

The Setting of Old Government House Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Figure 59.
Governor and Mrs Macquarie's Government House and Domain, 1819
 The Macquaries' Palladian villa, with their redesigned landscape setting and carriageway. The kitchen gardens and farmlands of the Phillip and Hunter periods were replaced by a 'natural' landscape.



Precinct 3:

Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens



Figure 60. (opposite page)
George Street Gatehouse and Murray Gardens



Statement of Significance

Murray Gardens are significant for their remnant *Eucalyptus teriticornus* that represent the historic natural setting of this Precinct.

Murray Gardens have a very high Aboriginal and Early Colonial archaeological and cultural heritage significance and sensitivity. It is highly significant for its intact Parramatta Sand Body soil profiles, with their recovered dated and Pleistocene cultural materials.

Rumsey Rose Garden is significant as part of a larger Aboriginal river landscape of cultural heritage significance. The area is, however, an extensively modified landscape with low Aboriginal archaeological potential.

The Precinct is significant as a substantial part of the Domain established by Governor Macquarie as the setting for Government House, notably the principal entrance drive from Macquarie Street and the earlier and continued vista from the house along George Street.

The Precinct is also significant as the site of part of the Early Colonial Parramatta town, which, as noted earlier, was the first complete town designed by Europeans in Australia. This includes the early creek crossing and culvert that remains.

The Macquarie and George Street gatehouses, the drives, the landscaped gardens and the recent ecological landscape works are evidence of the Park in the imagination of the Australians who built it as a People's Park between 1858 and the 1930s.

This Precinct is also significant for the 19th century memorialising of the death of Lady Fitzroy and, by association, the end of the vice-regal role of Old Government House — after her death, her husband, Governor Fitzroy, moved to the new Government House located in Sydney.

Character and Description

The 4.6-hectare Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens Precinct is east of Old Government House on the south side of Parramatta River. It is bounded by O'Connell Street, Pitt Street and Parramatta RSL Club to the east, and by Macquarie Street and the Western Rail Line to the south. The Precinct is adjacent to Parramatta CBD and includes George Street and Macquarie Street gatehouses, which operate as cafes.

The Precinct includes parts of the eastern and western banks and the freshwater Murray Gardens Creek, a minor tributary of the Parramatta River that runs through the eastern portion of the Precinct. The Precinct also includes Rose Hill; the grassy and planted areas of Murray Gardens; Rumsey Rose Gardens; the former bowling green; and a car park adjacent to the rail line.

Murray and Rumsey Rose gardens are maintained to a high standard with recent conservation and adaptation landscape works to the George Street Gatehouse, and restoration works to Murray Gardens and Creek and most of the palisade fence along O'Connell Street.



Figure 61.
Love Token, Paperbark Playground

The Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens Precinct will remain the arrival space into the Park from Parramatta CBD and a respite for city workers. Walking and cycling paths that connect people from the CBD to the Park and Old Government House will be reconnected to George Street once planted vegetation is cleared. The historic Macquarie-era dams will be reinstated on both sides of the convict-built culvert bridge to provide an open scenic landscape. The Precinct will continue to provide areas for play, seating, picnic facilities, cafes and display gardens. It will be enhanced by night lighting.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Parramatta Sand Body and Early Colonial and Vice-Regal structures and archaeological landscapes
- Investigate, interpret and communicate Macquarie's reconfiguration of the boundaries of the domain of Old Government House and its relocation away from George Street and the main town of Parramatta to Macquarie Street
- Investigate, interpret and communicate Murray Gardens as a significant remnant of a larger Aboriginal river and creek landscape and for the early town plan layout of Parramatta
- Return the Murray Gardens Creek to its historic form north of the convict-built culvert, following the reinstatement of the Macquarie-era dam wall and associated riparian vegetation
- Complete the conservation works to the palisade fence and gate at Macquarie and Pitt Streets.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Continue to build additional recreation facilities such as picnic facilities, amenities and parking around the Macquarie Street Gatehouse and the Rumsey Rose Garden
- Implement the further stages of the Murray Gardens landscape works including pedestrian and cycle paths, seating and planting and improved access off George Street, and enhance and maintain the character of the Rumsey Rose Garden
- Facilitate low-impact community events in Pavilion Flat and The Bowling Green in line with the Event Management Framework.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Improve walking and cycling connections from Parramatta CBD to the Park by completing the promenade works, considering better sight lines to Old Government House from George Street
- Provide riverside connections from the paths within the Precinct
- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People's Loop
- Consider the provision of lighting to make it easier and safe for people to walk or cycle at night between Parramatta CBD and Westmead
- Allow for a land bridge connection to Mays Hills and encourage connections from the south.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Continue to conserve and maintain the George Street and Macquarie Street gatehouses as leased properties with uses compatible with the heritage values of the Park
- Continue to conserve and maintain the Lady Fitzroy Memorial, Early Colonial culvert and palisade fences and gates
- Continue to manage Murray Gardens Creek as a natural feature in a significant landscape setting and as part of the Parramatta stormwater system
- Work with City of Parramatta to improve stormwater quality through upstream sediment and litter controls
- Improve the quality of turf and gardens through installation of irrigation
- Continue to use and expand the Bowling Green car park for city workers, Park users and visitors to Old Government House.

The Murray and Rumsey Rose Gardens map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Precinct 4:

The Crescent



Figure 62. (opposite page)
Symphony Under the Stars, 2019



Statement of Significance

The slopes and ridgeline surrounding the amphitheatre are significant examples of typical Cumberland Plain vegetation communities of open woodlands, diverse groundcover and a variety of shrubs that featured before colonisation. This vegetation is also significant for its large, hollow bearing trees that provide a habitat for native animals.

The underlying shale and the outcroppings of basement river sandstone geology and alluvial soils that form The Crescent are significant for the stories they can tell us about periods that may have been witnessed by Aboriginal people, such as the down-cutting of the river into the side of the hill that forms its distinctive shape or of the billabong it contained before 1788.

The Crescent is significant for the research potential of the infilled meander of the river to preserve a pollen record of changing vegetation regimes when the meander was active.

It is probable The Crescent and the River were important economic zones for Aboriginal Parramatta. These areas are significant for their research potential, including an alluvial profile of high Aboriginal archaeological and environmental history value below and adjacent to the late 20th century infill.

The Precinct is significant as part of the setting of Old Government House and the site of Governor Brisbane's Bath House, and the archaeological potential for its earlier works, including drains.

The name 'The Crescent' was given by the first European explorers. It is depicted in the art and drawings of that time, showing us how important this landscape was to early settlers. This understanding of the place can also be seen through time in the planting of the avenue of English Oaks by the early Park trustees along the river, the conversion of Brisbane's Bath House to a pavilion in the mid to late 19th century, the Boer War Memorial in the early 20th century and the Precinct's development as an entertainment space in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

The Crescent Precinct is significant for its monuments to history and national identity by Park trustees, including the early 19th century Boer War Memorial and Billy Hart Memorial and the mid-20th century Redoubt Memorial.

Character and Description

The six-hectare Crescent Precinct is in an old anabranch of the Parramatta River. The ridgeline that forms the Precinct's backbone separates the Park from north to south, dividing drainage into Domain Creek or Parramatta River and creating a visual distinction between the Park's east and west, which have provided areas for agriculture, grazing, habitat and recreation.

The Crescent is used for outdoor concerts and events with a purpose-built sloped and grassed amphitheatre that can accommodate up to 18,000 people. Byrnes Road runs along the base of the Precinct and Noller Bridge connects The Crescent to the Park's north over Parramatta River. Extensive landscape improvements in 2015 provided new access paths, staircases and a hardstand area.

The landscape setting of the natural amphitheatre and monuments area has been maintained to a high standard with some erosion in parts to the slope of the ridgeline. The Precinct includes a mix of remnant and planted native vegetation along the ridgeline. Some conservation works have been carried out to the Boer War and Redoubt memorials.

The Crescent will become Western Sydney’s premier outdoor event destination characterised by rolling green lawns surrounded by native vegetation and Parramatta River. The well maintained spaces will complement the existing monuments and Old Government House.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Aboriginal archaeological landscapes of the ridgeline and earlier river
- Investigate, interpret and communicate the importance of The Crescent ridgeline and former anabranch as an Aboriginal cultural landscape and The Crescent itself for Early Colonial agricultural activities
- Continue conservation works to the Boer War, Billy Hart and Redoubt memorials
- Conserve, manage and restore the Cumberland Plain Woodland along the ridgeline, vegetation communities along the slopes to reduce erosion, and the avenue of oaks along Governor’s Drive
- Conserve the Precinct’s unique landform as a natural amphitheatre.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Continue to improve infrastructure and functionality of The Crescent as a regional venue for major outdoor events
- Facilitate a diverse offering of commercial and community events, underpinned by the Event Management Framework.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Manage and improve sight lines to Old Government House, the Dairy and the heritage monuments to The Crescent and from across the river
- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People’s Loop
- Improve walking connections between the Paddocks Precinct and The Crescent Precinct.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Work with government and non-government partners and the community to deliver a financially sustainable annual events program in The Crescent
- Continue to use the existing river water to irrigate The Crescent sustainably.

The Crescent Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Figure 63.

Governor Brisbane's Bath House

It is believed that due to his war wounds Governor Brisbane wanted a private place for warm baths. In 1822 Colonial Architect Standish L Harris designed a Bath House for Governor Brisbane that was built in 1823. The Bath House was a sophisticated building for its time, and place — surviving plans, photographs and archaeological investigations have revealed a convict-built heating and pumping system that collected water, which was then heated. The used water was then run off through drains of tunnelled brickwork into a nearby duck pond.

By 1866 the Bath House had become dilapidated and the Park Trustees converted it into a pavilion. It was used as a picnic shelter and band stand, and a picket fence surrounded it to keep out livestock well into the 20th century.



Precinct 5:

The Dairy and Salter's Farm

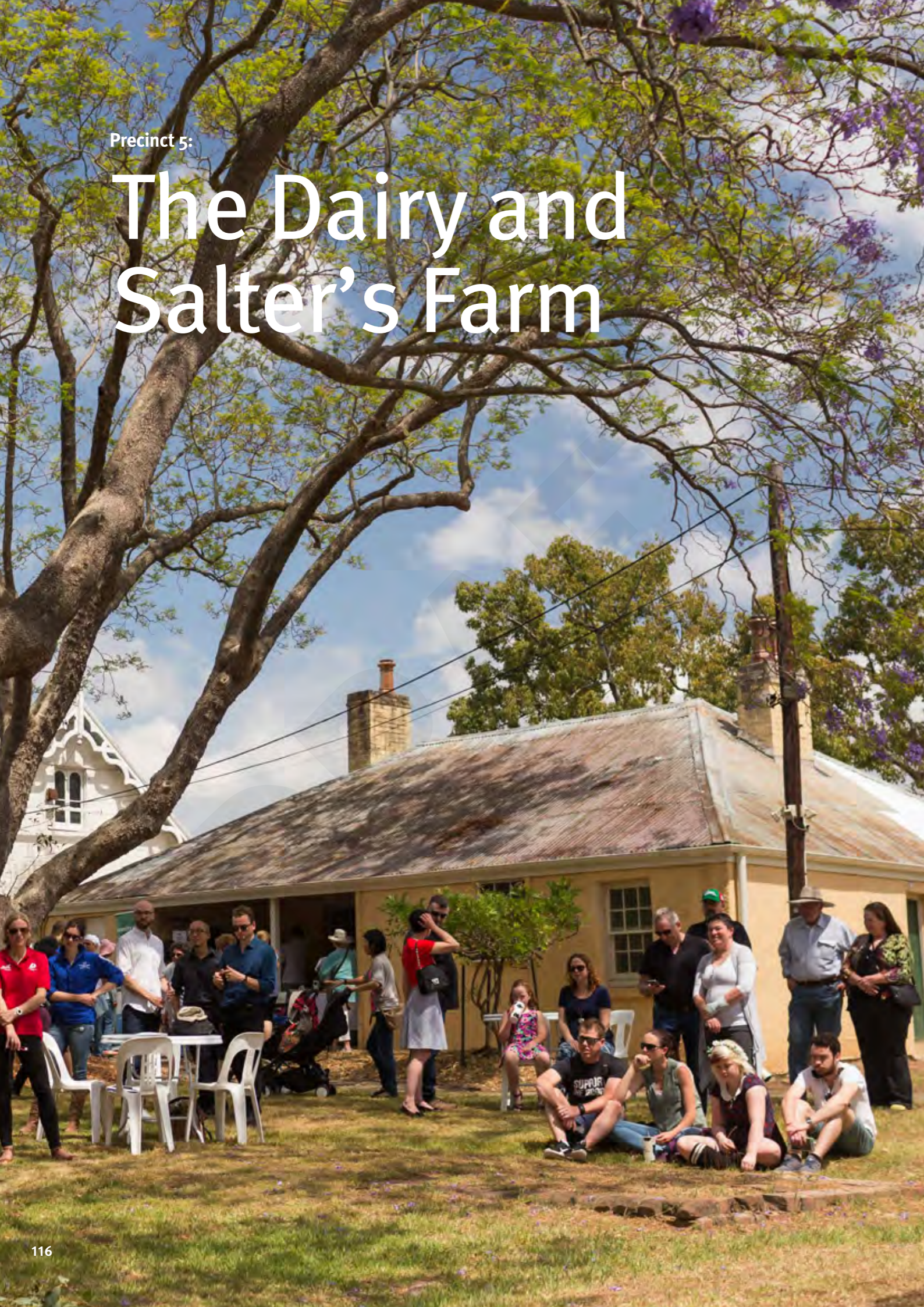


Figure 64. (opposite page)
A Day at the Dairy, 2016



Statement of Significance

The Dairy and Salter's Farm Precinct is significant for its natural landforms adjacent to the river loop and associated sandstone outcrop river crossing. The river bank sand terrace is associated with what we now know as Little Coogee. It would have been attractive for Aboriginal campsites and has high Aboriginal archaeological potential.

This Precinct is highly significant for the Dairy and Salter's Farm buildings, the earliest intact buildings of European origin in Australia dating from the 1790s. The Dairy is significant in the time of Governor Macquarie as part of the home farm to his official residence and as a site of colonial convict labour.

The Precinct is significant as part of the site of the grazing land of the government farm where government and private cattle were grazed from the 1790s until the middle of the 20th century.

The Precinct is significant for its evidence of tilled farm practices. It is among the oldest farmed European landscapes on the continent, equivalent in significance to that of Arthur's Vale Norfolk Island.

The Precinct is significant for its vistas to the rear of Old Government House and The Crescent, which were depicted in 19th century art. These and later pictorial representations of this kind, are, as noted earlier, a representation of the role of the Park to those who built it.

Character and Description

The 3.5-hectare Dairy and Salter's Farm Precinct is home to some of the earliest residential buildings in Australia — the Dairy and Ranger's Cottages. Sitting high above Parramatta River, the Precinct is partially fenced and has been interpreted for its historic uses with a modest productive garden and orchard along with interpretive elements.

The Precinct is also home to the Park's bandstand along with large rolling lawns that provide areas of respite. Its landscape setting and the fenced Dairy enclosure are maintained to a high standard, with significant conservation and interpretation works.

The Dairy and Salter's Farm Precinct will provide areas for respite and relaxation set in a picturesque landscape with the river as a backdrop. The conserved Dairy and Ranger's Cottages will offer interpretation opportunities, including tours.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Parramatta Sand Body in the Precinct
- Investigate, identify and manage the colonial agricultural archaeological record and Early Colonial and Vice-Regal structures and landscapes
- Maintain interpretation works, installations and collections associated with the buildings and landscape.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Continue to develop new heritage programs with key partners
- Investigate opportunities for activations that complement the Precinct's heritage values
- Explore ongoing digital educational and programming opportunities for the Dairy and associated buildings to complement the Google Arts and Culture online tours.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People's Loop
- Improve walking connections from the Paddocks Precinct to Parramatta River and to the east side of the river to Old Kings Oval and Western Sydney Stadium.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

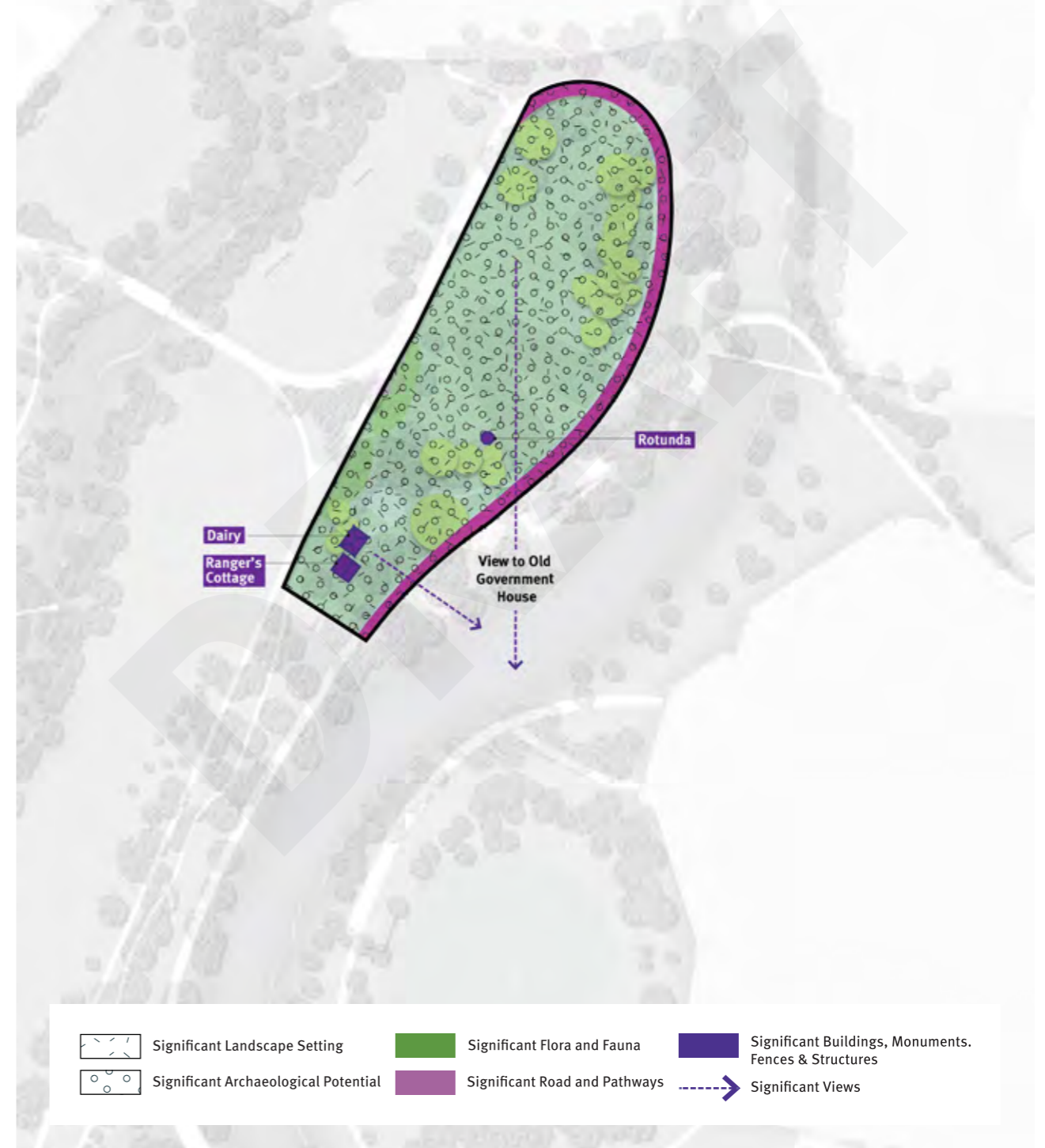
- Continue to conserve and monitor the highly significant Dairy and associated structures
- Continue to use the Ranger's Cottage for Park staff or other operational functions, while considering other appropriate uses.

The Dairy and Salter's Farm Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Figure 65. Government Dairy, Parramatta Domain, 1844

Precinct 5: The Dairy and Salter's Farm



Precinct 6:

Paddocks



Figure 66. (opposite page)
Kidtopia, 2017



Statement of Significance

Domain Creek is significant as a reconstructed natural riparian corridor along the spine of the Paddocks and as a refuge for native animals before the weirs of Wistaria Gardens and its junction with the Parramatta River.

The north edge of Coleman Oval is of high significance for its old Melaleuca trees.

Domain Creek is significant as a reliable water source that Aboriginal people used for resources and as a travel corridor. The creek is likely to have played a secondary economic and social role in the lives of Aboriginal people to that of the richer resources of Parramatta River.

The Paddocks Precinct is significant for its archaeological evidence of prehistoric Aboriginal camping along the banks and flats of Domain Creek. These sites are of high cultural significance, yet with a limited scientific and moderate archaeological value due to the disturbance and dispersal of historic land use practices.

The Precinct is significant as the site of the grazing of government and private herds of cattle and as one of the principal sites in the early colony for the husbanding of stock.

The Precinct is significant for its potential archaeological evidence for early fence lines and the three crossings of the Domain Creek dating from the Early Colonial period. The northernmost of these crossings, where the roadway crosses the Creek today, is significant as the site of the embankment built in the Early Colonial period for to create a dam for stock.

The Precinct is also significant for the evidence in its land forms of tilled farm practices. Along with the Dairy and Salter's Farm Precinct, the Paddocks Precinct is among the oldest farmed European landscapes in Australia.

The carriageways, formal avenue plantings by the early trustees, the Queens Road Gatehouse and the 1990s reconstructed natural landscape of the creekside vegetation illustrate the importance of the Park to those who built it between 1858 and today.

Character and Description

The 25-hectare Paddocks Precinct comprises the West Domain, Salter's Field, the Cattle Paddock, Coleman Oval and the Picnic Ground. The Precinct shares a boundary with Westmead, Cumberland Hospital and the Western Rail Line. It is the largest precinct in the Park.

The Precinct is defined by its long edges, perimeter fence and road, Domain Creek and associated riparian vegetation. There is a vehicle entrance from Park Avenue next to the Queens Road Gatehouse.

The Precinct is predominantly characterised by grassed areas dotted with trees and is used for informal recreation, community and school sports and events. It includes the largest children's playground in the Park adjacent to Domain Creek.

The Precinct's open landscape is maintained to a high standard and vegetation restoration works have been carried out along Domain Creek. The quality of the creek water is low with sedimentation issues at the causeway dam and the constructed area south of Wistaria Gardens.

Conservation and adaptive re-use works were carried out the Queens Road Gatehouse and within this Precinct. The Precinct is home to the ageing and relocated Governor Gipps boundary stone.

The Paddocks Precinct will continue to be the most activated precinct in the Park. It will be home to areas used informally for junior sports, play, recreation, major events and a duck pond which many people visit. It will continue to provide long landscape views and the People’s Loop will remove the number of cars from this area of rural character.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the known Aboriginal archaeological campsites along Domain Creek and Early Colonial agricultural practices
- Investigate, interpret and communicate Domain Creek as a significant remnant of a larger Aboriginal river and creek landscape, the extensive Early Colonial agricultural practices across the Precinct and associated fences and creek crossings
- Protect the heritage values of the riparian vegetation and Cumberland Plain Woodland and encourage interaction with the water through free play, interpretation and education programs
- Investigate the opportunity to return Domain Creek to its pre-colonial form as a chain of ponds by creating crossing points and water bodies with accessible edges and habitat islands
- Investigate the reinstatement of the island in the northern pond adjoining Wistaria Gardens
- Strengthen ecological values such as habitat and biodiversity in key areas by continuing to restore vegetation.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Maintain and enhance the Domain Creek playground and allow for informal sports across the Precinct
- Provide more picnic shelters, BBQs, amenities, seating and tables along the treed edge of Domain Creek
- Continue to support and expand opportunities and quality of grassed areas for school and junior sports within the Paddocks by improving playing surfaces and irrigation
- Investigate improving services to support events in the Precinct
- Upgrade and enhance facilities at Coleman Oval considering an improved playing surface, irrigation for sports and community events
- Restore the main pond to create a waterside recreation destination.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Strengthen the connections and entrances into the Precinct and surrounding streets
- Provide connecting paths to existing pedestrian bridges over Domain Creek to improve pedestrian connections through the Park from Westmead to the CBD and North Parramatta
- Investigate opportunities to improve the pedestrian tunnel under the rail line at the south of the Precinct onto Park Parade, such as widening, lighting and pedestrian safety measures
- Create a circulation path around the edge of the Precinct
- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People’s Loop, including building car parks adjacent to Railway Parade and Coleman Oval
- Create and manage sightlines through the vegetation across Domain Creek between West and East Domain
- Continue to improve pedestrian entries into to the Park from Park Avenue
- Define the Queens Road entry as one of the Park’s primary western access through public domain improvements
- Transform Park Avenue into a green street with new roadside parking adjacent to the Park and street trees in partnership with City of Parramatta
- Upgrade the perimeter fence along Park Avenue between Queens Road and Hainsworth Street and provide new pedestrian entrances to the Park where appropriate.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Continue to conserve and maintain the Queens Road Gatehouse and lease with a use compatible to the heritage values of the Park
- Continue to conserve and maintain the Governor Gipps boundary stone
- Provide irrigation to active turf areas to support increased use and implement programs to improve turf quality throughout the Precinct.

The Paddocks Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.

Precinct 6: Paddocks



Precinct 7:

Old Government Farm and Sports



Figure 67. (opposite page)
Doug Walters Pavilion, Old Kings Oval



Statement of Significance

Old Government Farm and Sports Precinct is significant for its intact Parramatta Sand Body and later Holocene soil profiles that have high Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage significance and sensitivity.

It is also highly significant as part of the site of the early government farm and possibly Australia's first public botanic garden.

The Precinct is significant as the most substantial site in Parramatta that has continually been used for sport and recreation since the early 18th and 19th centuries.

The Precinct is significant for the former Kings School Oval, now known as Old Kings Oval, its pavilion and avenue of trees. These substantial landscape works illustrate the importance of the Park to those who built it between 1858 and the 1930s.

Character and Description

The nine-hectare Old Government Farm and Sports Precinct wraps around the newly rebuilt Western Sydney Stadium and comprises Old Kings Oval, the government farm flats, the upper Mill Race Terrace and the Park's and Parramatta Leagues Club's car parks. It is bounded by O'Connell Street, Parramatta River and Western Sydney Stadium and includes Ross Street Gatehouse.

The Precinct is predominantly characterised by Old Kings Oval, its distinctive white picket fence, trees planted by the Trust and the open grassed river terraces down to the river. Its elevated position provides an open vista of the river and associated vegetation.

Old Kings Oval, its adjacent landscape setting and down to the river has been maintained to a high standard. The slope down to Mill Race Flats is at risk of erosion.

Parts of this Precinct are not included on any heritage list and are subject to external lease arrangements. These areas will continue to be managed in accordance with the City of Parramatta's planning requirements.



Figure 68.
Sports Precinct, 1890

The Old Government Farm and Sports Precinct will provide many active recreation facilities, with the adjacent stadium, Old Kings Oval and Doug Walters Pavilion as a high quality sports facility. The old trees and grassy areas will be the centrepiece. People will get to the Oval via new walking and cycling tracks and will enjoy new facilities such as picnic shelters with views to Parramatta River. The Ross Street Gatehouse will be adapted to be used in a way that supports the adjacent stadium and Leagues Club. The O’Connell Street car park will continue to service the Park and surrounds.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Parramatta Sand Body and structures and landscapes associated with Early Colonial agricultural practices and later sporting and recreation activities
- Investigate, interpret and communicate the early Aboriginal cultural landscape of the ancient Parramatta River and the government farm site, and the Precinct’s long history of sporting and recreational activities
- Investigate the adaptive re-use of the Ross Street Gatehouse and conserve and maintain its heritage values
- Manage and replace screen plantings to Western Sydney Stadium where necessary.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Consider the provision of field lighting and irrigation to Old Kings Oval, improved spectator facilities at Doug Walters Pavilion and additional parking and signage
- Work with sporting clubs to further activate Old Kings Oval for planned sports
- Investigate opportunities for events and activations on the flat lawn areas adjacent to the stadium
- Work with Venues NSW on joint programs and events
- Support further the activation of the sports courts and playground along O’Connell Street.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Provide new signage to improve walking and cycling connections within and beyond the Precinct
- Consider providing new connections from the stadium path network to the river and bridge connections across the river to the Park and the existing riverside path network
- Improve the northern arrival path into the Park from O’Connell Street with signage.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Continue to conserve and maintain the significant remnants of the early racecourse trees and early trustee plantings including around Old Kings Oval
- Work with Venues NSW and Parramatta Leagues Club to develop greywater harvesting for Park irrigation
- Work with Parramatta Leagues Club to integrate their facilities into the Precinct
- Continue to manage O’Connell Street car park and investigate ways to further green the car park with shade tree planting and sustainable surface treatments.

The Old Government Farm and Sports Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.

Precinct 7: Old Government Farm and Sports



Precinct 8:

Mays Hill



Figure 69. (opposite page)
Jubilee Avenue, Mays Hill, 2017



Statement of Significance

Domain Creek is significant in Mays Hill Precinct as a habitat for aquatic species where eels are commonly found. Older riverside vegetation, including the nearby copse of Melaleuca trees and older woodland communities to the north west of the creek, provide significant woodland.

The Precinct is significant for its elevated ground and where Domain Creek enters the Park — a landscape that would likely have attracted Aboriginal people over time for its resources and as a travel corridor to economic zones along the river. While the creek and its banks are of Aboriginal cultural significance, as an extensively modified landscape it has low Aboriginal archaeological potential.

The Precinct's north is significant as the site of the grazing of government and private herds of cattle, part of the principal site in the early colony for the husbanding of stock. It is significant for the archaeological potential for early fence lines and three crossings of the Domain Creek dating from the Early Colonial period.

The southern half is significant as a substantial part of the Domain created by Governor Macquarie as the setting for Old Government House. It contains the site of the Gatehouse to Old Government House and its drive from the Gatehouse to the remnants of the stables. Views to the town of Parramatta from this drive were recorded and celebrated in the art of that time. The visually open park-like character of this part of the Domain is intact and significant.

The Precinct is significant for evidence in its land forms of tilled farm practices that were probably for the cultivation of maize.

The decorative gatehouses and the memorial pathway illustrate the Park's place in the imagination of the Australians who built it between 1858 and the present.

Character and Description

The 20-hectare Mays Hill Precinct is the southernmost precinct of the Park, separated from the rest of the Park by the Western Rail Line and Park Parade.

Mays Hill Precinct is bounded by the Great Western Highway, Pitt Street, Park Parade and Westmead. Much of it was formerly Parramatta Golf Course and it is also home to two Park gatehouses and the headwaters of Domain Creek.

Mays Hill is notable for its vast open swathes of turf, a mature avenue of trees connecting Pitt Street to Amos Street and views across the river basin toward St John's Spire and Cemetery. It is the largest open space area within the Park.

The condition and presentation of Mays Hill has been impacted by its 50 years as a golf course. Conservation and adaptation works have been carried out on Mays Hill Gatehouse; while the Park Parade Gatehouse is due for conservation and maintenance works.

Mays Hill will remain the front door of the Park for Westmead and Merrylands residents. It will be reconnected with the core of the Park and Old Government House and its picturesque park setting will feature areas for active recreation, heritage gatehouses and the headwaters of Domain Creek.

Heritage Policies and Management Priorities

Objective 1: Identify, conserve and celebrate natural and cultural heritage values

- Investigate, identify and manage the archaeological potential and significance of the Early Colonial agricultural archaeological record where it occurs
- Investigate and interpret Domain Creek and its riparian vegetation communities, including Cumberland Plain Woodland, as a significant remnant of a larger Aboriginal river and creek landscape
- Investigate, interpret and communicate the boundaries and extent of Macquarie's former Domain and the historic link between the avenue of trees and Old Government House, Brisbane's Observatory marker trees and the Early Colonial agricultural practices
- Restore the headwater to Domain Creek to treat stormwater
- Work with Cumberland Council to improve water quality entering the headwaters of Domain Creek
- Investigate adapting the Park Parade Gatehouse for new uses and conserve and maintain its heritage values.

Objective 2: Increase community participation, engagement and activation

- Implement the Mays Hill Master Plan to provide play, fitness, recreation and sports elements along a multi-use path
- Support the new City of Parramatta Aquatic Centre and its associated public infrastructure
- Provide new parking off Park Parade, improve and increase parking off Pitt Street and improve the Amos Street car park and entry to create a new gateway into Mays Hill
- Work with City of Parramatta and Department of Education to improve the existing sports oval, cricket wickets, basketball and volleyball facilities as a multi-use sports facility for Parramatta High School and the community
- Investigate the opportunity for events at Mays Hill.

Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- Create a new bridge over the Western Rail Line from Governors Avenue to provide walking and cycling access from Mays Hill to rest of the Park and Old Government House
- Create a strong sense of arrival to Mays Hill from Westmead Rail Station with new walking and cycling paths and signage
- Work with Cumberland Council to improve connections between Mays Hill and surrounding streets and improve entries to Mays Hills
- Create a key circulation path around the edge of Mays Hill Precinct.

Objective 4: Manage the Park in a sustainable way

- Continue to work with partners to maintain and improve the quality of Domain Creek as part of the Westmead stormwater system and a natural feature in a landscape setting
- Continue to conserve and maintain the Mays Hill Gatehouse and Park Parade Gatehouse and lease with a use compatible to the heritage values of the Park
- Continue to conserve and enhance the remnant plantings associated with the former southern entrance to the Governor's Domain, Governors Avenue and Governor Brisbane's astronomical activities and older riparian vegetation
- Provide irrigation to active recreation areas.

The Mays Hill Precinct map outlines what is to be conserved in implementing the heritage policies and management priorities of the precinct. Further information on the heritage values can be found in the Heritage Significance section of *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.

Precinct 8: Mays Hill



Putting the Plan into Action

In implementing the Plan, the Trust will work to:

- Lead the conservation, activation and management of the Park
- Position the Park as a key destination for health and recreation at the heart of the Central River City to support Greater Parramatta's growth
- Continue to engage and consult with the community in the activation and day-to-day management of the Park
- Cultivate existing, and develop new, partnerships with stakeholders to support and strengthen existing programs and develop new programs that increase community participation, visitation, awareness and engagement
- Review and monitor the effectiveness of the Plan in protecting and conserving the significant heritage values of the Park
- Ensure the community continues to value Parramatta Park as one of Australia's most important cultural landscapes
- Deliver the 2030 vision as set out in *Your Parramatta Park 2030*.



Definitions

Aboriginal cultural heritage	The living, traditional and historical practices, representations, expressions, beliefs, knowledge and skills, and the associated environment, landscapes, places, objects, ancestral remains and materials, that Aboriginal people recognise as part of their cultural heritage and identity.
Actions	The activities that will contribute to achieving the 2030 vision for Parramatta Park.
Biodiversity	The variety of all life forms on Earth — the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the ecosystems of which they are a part.
Central River City	One of the three cities defined by the Greater Sydney Commission in its Greater Sydney Region Plan. It is focused on Greater Parramatta at its heart, and includes the town centres of Marsden Park, Mt Druitt, Blacktown, Sydney Olympic Park, Epping, Rouse Hill and Castle Hill.
Colonisation	The establishment of an English populated area in New South Wales — a foreign land, ruled from England. It began with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, and ceased gradually after the granting of self-government in 1826 until federation of the colonies into the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901.
Conservation management plan	Developed to manage places of heritage significance. They explain the significance of a place or item and provide policies that will guide how this significance can be retained in its future care, development and activation.
Cultural heritage	Defined by the Burra Charter as the aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or spiritual value of a place. It is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.
Cultural landscape	Defined by UNESCO as the combined works of nature and humankind they express a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment.
Early Colonial and Vice-Regal period	In the context of Parramatta Park, 1788 to 1857.
Endangered Ecological Communities	Groups of plants and animals that occur together in a particular area and are at risk of extinction.
Forced convict labour	The involuntary use of prisoners as unpaid labour.
Gothic and Tudor Revival	Architectural styles popular in 18th and early 19th centuries.
Greater Parramatta	Sits at the core of the Central River City and encompasses Parramatta CBD, Parramatta North and the Westmead health and education precinct, connected via Parramatta Park.

Sydney Green Grid	A network of high-quality green spaces connecting town centres, public transport hubs and major residential centres defined in the Government Architect of NSW's publication Sydney Green Grid.
Holocene	Current geological period, 11,500 years ago to the present.
Keystone species	A species that is vital to the health, longevity and diversity of an ecosystem.
Natural heritage	Defined by UNESCO as natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and natural sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.
Objectives	A medium-term goal that will contribute to achieving the 2030 vision for Parramatta Park.
Palladian	An architectural style established by Andrea Palladio in his Four Books of Architecture defined as an architectural composition of a central block with symmetrical side wings. It was popular in grand English houses of the late 18th century.
Parramatta Sand Body	The ancient riverbed and banks of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene river.
People's Park	A park accessible by all members of the public, reflecting a phenomenon in the United Kingdom in the 19th century.
People's Park period	In the context of Parramatta Park, 1857 to the present.
Picturesque	A 17th century English term for a landscape that appears as being like a picture. Used in art and philosophy and associated with travel and sightseeing by the 18th century.
Place	As defined in the Burra Charter, a geographically defined area that may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.
Pleistocene	2.6 million to 11,500 years ago.
Plan of management	Developed to define the vision, objectives and strategies for land or a place, and the heritage policies and management priorities to achieve these.
Pliocene	5.3 million to 2.6 million years ago.
Riparian	Relating to, or situated on, the bed and banks of a river or watercourse.
Setting	The immediate and extended environment of a place that is part of or contributes to its cultural significance and character.
Strategies	Key areas of focus to help achieve the 2030 vision for Parramatta Park.
Structured recreation	Formal sport and recreation activities.

Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Unstructured recreation	Informal sport, walking and recreation activities.
Vision	The desired 2030 position of Parramatta Park, and the focus of the objectives, strategies and actions included in <i>Your Parramatta Park 2030</i> .
Water quality	The chemical, physical, biological and radiological characteristics of water. A measure of the condition of water relative to the requirements of one or more biotic species and/or any human need or purpose.

Acronyms

AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information System
CBD	Central Business District
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

