

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*.

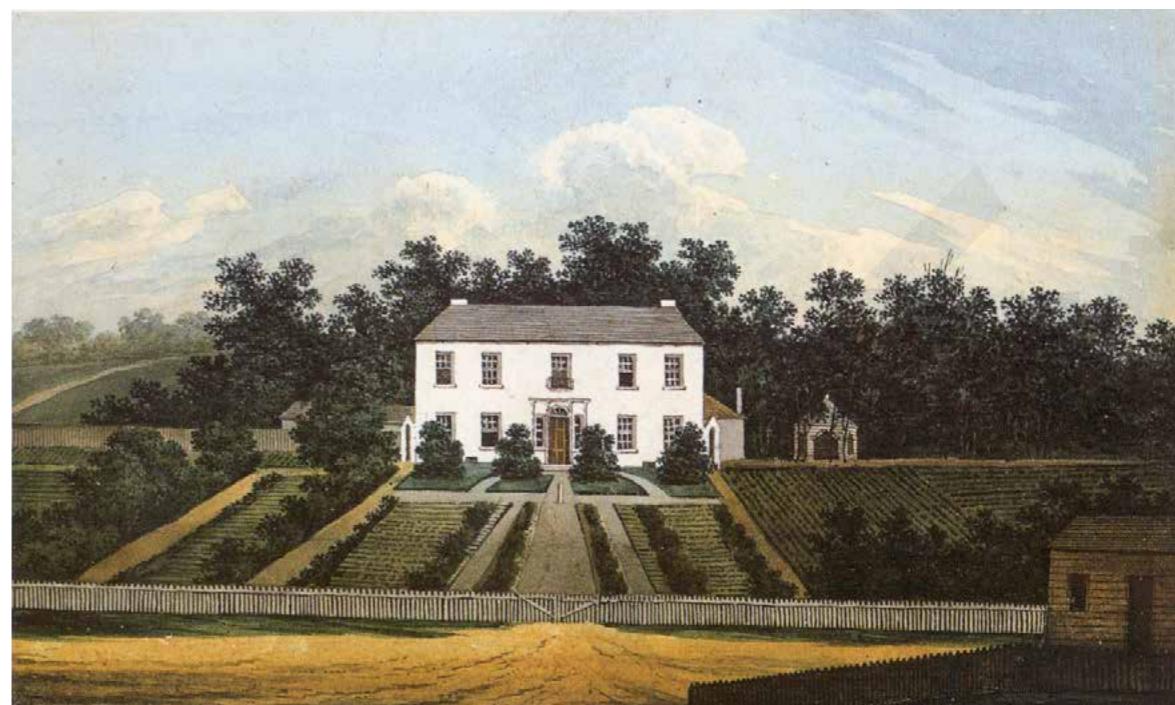


Figure 33.

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.

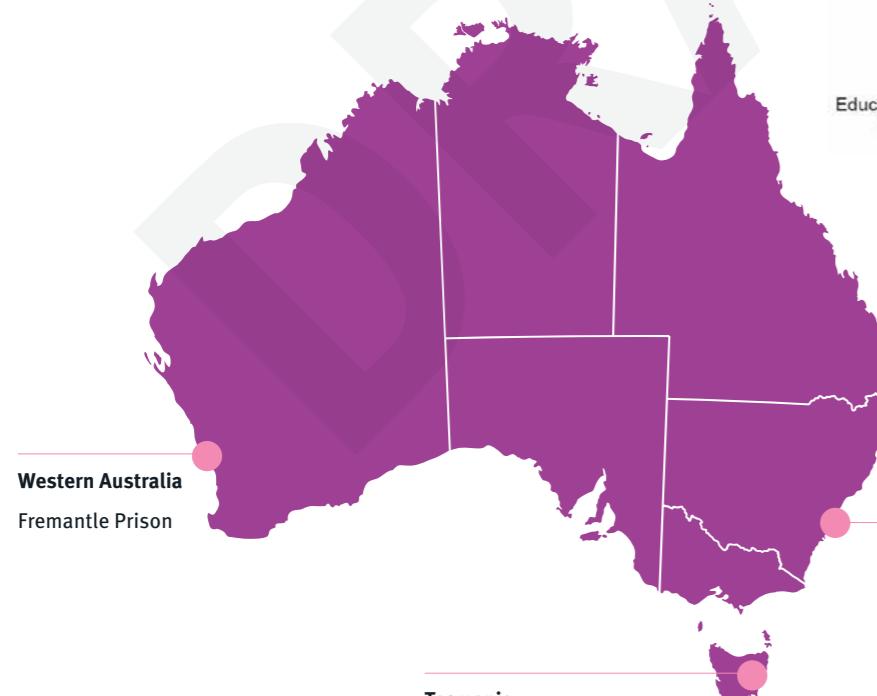
Together these sites represent the global phenomenon of the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern time.

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.



Tasmania
Brickendon and Woolmers Estates
Darlington Probation Station
Port Arthur Historic Site
Coal Mines Historic Site
Cascades Female Factory



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)

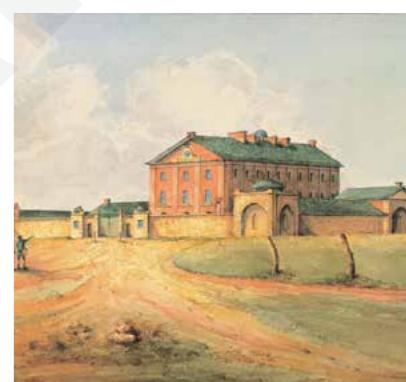


Figure 42.
Hyde Park Barracks



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.

“

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

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.



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.

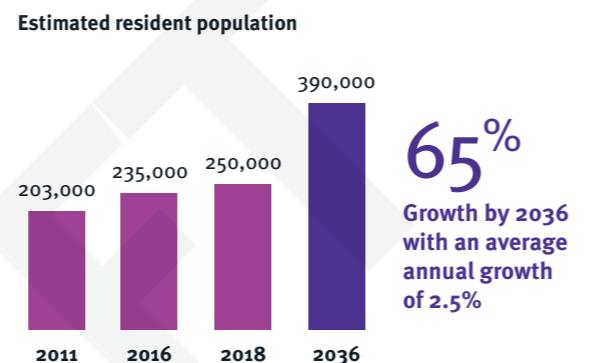
At the geographic centre of Sydney, and at the heart of the Central River City, Parramatta is evolving into a destination for a greater diversity of jobs, housing, recreation and cultural opportunities.

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.



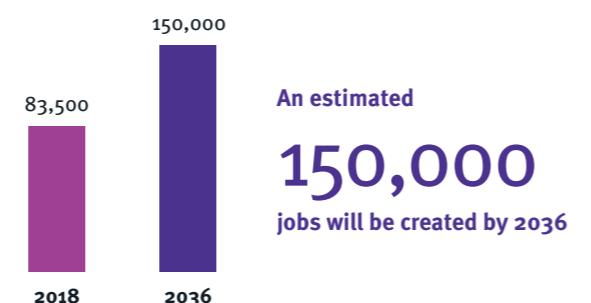
\$10 billion

transformation to Parramatta CBD

95,000+ sqm

additional space at Westmead Hospital

Estimated job growth in Greater Parramatta



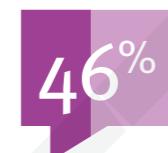
Parramatta Park has always provided local and regional open space and helped to meet the recreational needs of people living, working and studying in Greater Parramatta and beyond. Currently, the Park receives around two million visitors each year, enjoying events and programs, school and community functions,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

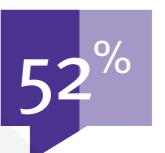
In planning for this growth, we recognise that:

- 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

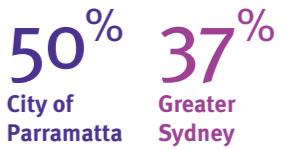


of people spoke a language/s other than English at home in 2011



of people spoke a language/s other than English at home in 2016, compared to 36% in Greater Sydney

Residents born overseas



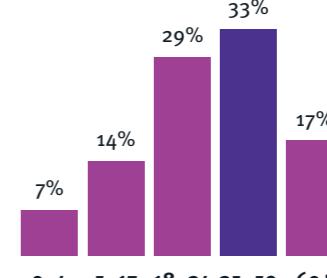
Top 3 countries of birth other than Australia



Household type in Parramatta



Young & family-oriented



Median age
34 years

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

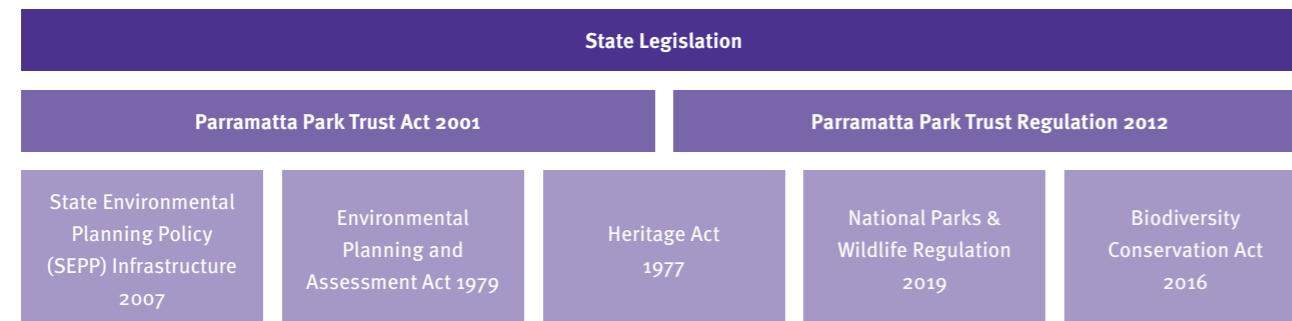
This map shows the extent of the Park listed for world cultural heritage significance and the adjacent buffer zone identified on the UNESCO listing map.

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

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
Strategy 1.2 Improve understanding of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 1.2 Care for the heritage fabric and landscape qualities of the Park	<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.
Strategy 1.3 Increase bushland biodiversity while protecting cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 1.4 Improve the health of Parramatta River	<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.

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
Strategy 2.1 Create opportunities for structured and unstructured recreation while protecting cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 2.2 Increase visitor engagement and participation	<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.

Objective 3

Create linkages and connections



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
Strategy 3.1 Increase opportunities for walking and cycling within and to the Park while protecting cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 3.2 Reduce cars in the Park while protecting cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 3.3 Reconnect people to the river while protecting cultural heritage values	<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



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.

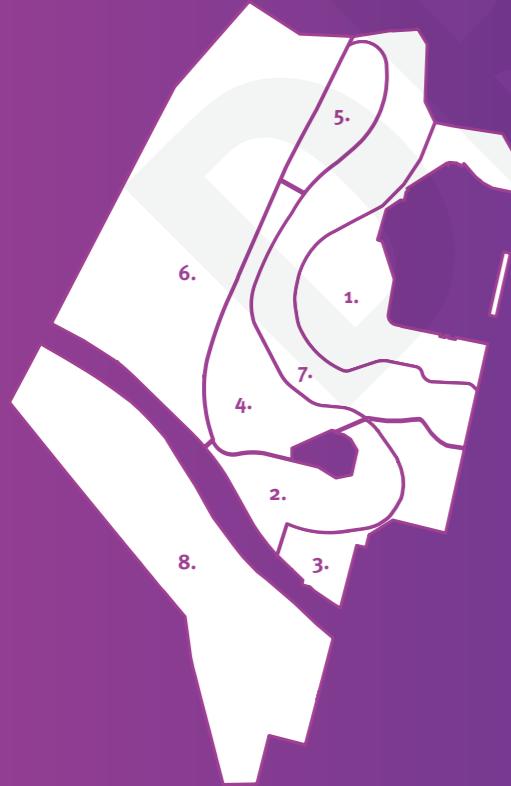
This objective focuses on how we will work with Aboriginal groups, councils, the NSW Government, businesses, sporting groups, event organisers, schools and the community to manage the Park's future.

Strategies	Actions
Strategy 4.1 Sustainably manage Park assets and operations while protecting cultural heritage values	<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.
Strategy 4.2 Support the restoration and day-to-day operations of the Park	<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.
Strategy 4.3 Continue to monitor the natural and cultural heritage values of the Park	<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.



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.

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



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.

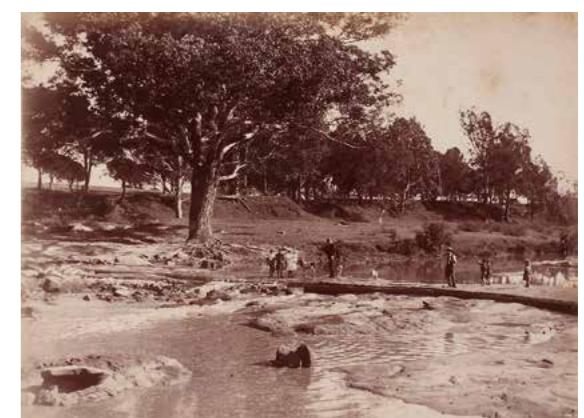


Figure 57.
Children Playing on the Weir, 1890s

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 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 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

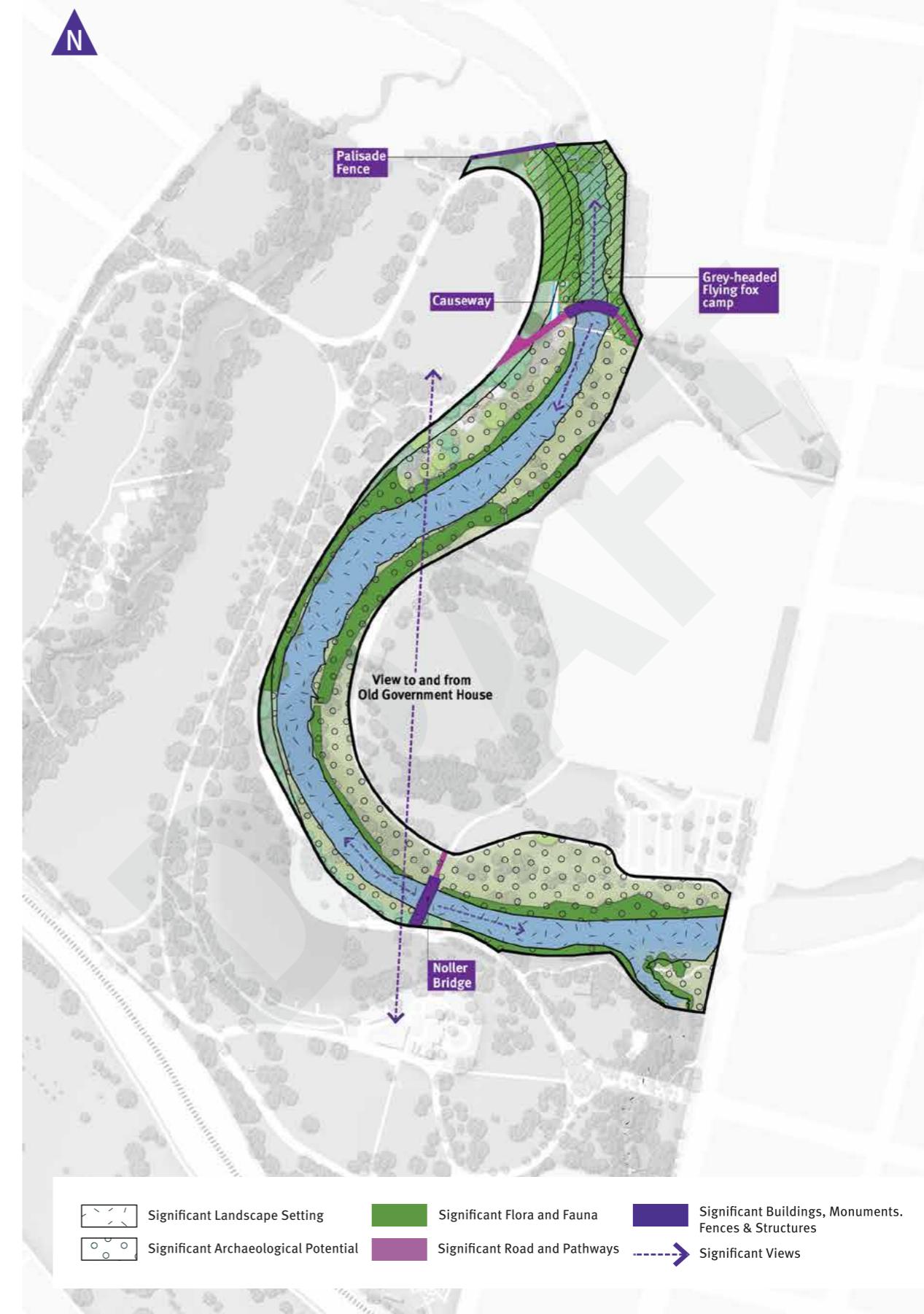
- Implement the Bridges of Parramatta River Strategy to create iconic and memorable crossings of and connections to Parramatta River and link them to new pathways and connections along the river
- Prioritise the pedestrian and cycle and path network over vehicles through the implementation of the People's 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.



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.

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 coves 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*.



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 tereticornis 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.

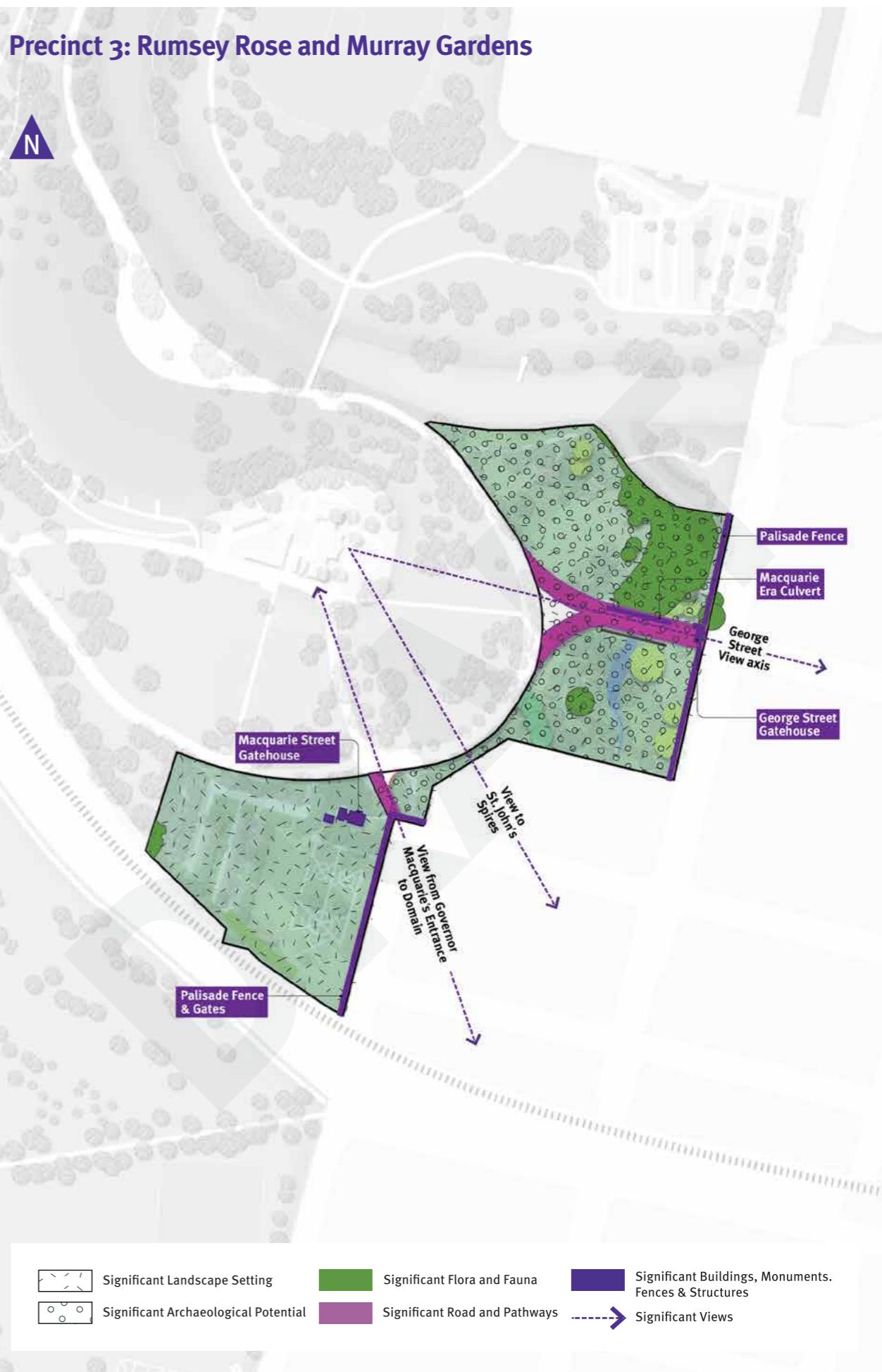
Objective 3: Create linkages and connections

- 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*.



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.



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.

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*.



Precinct 4: The Crescent



The Dairy and Salter's Farm

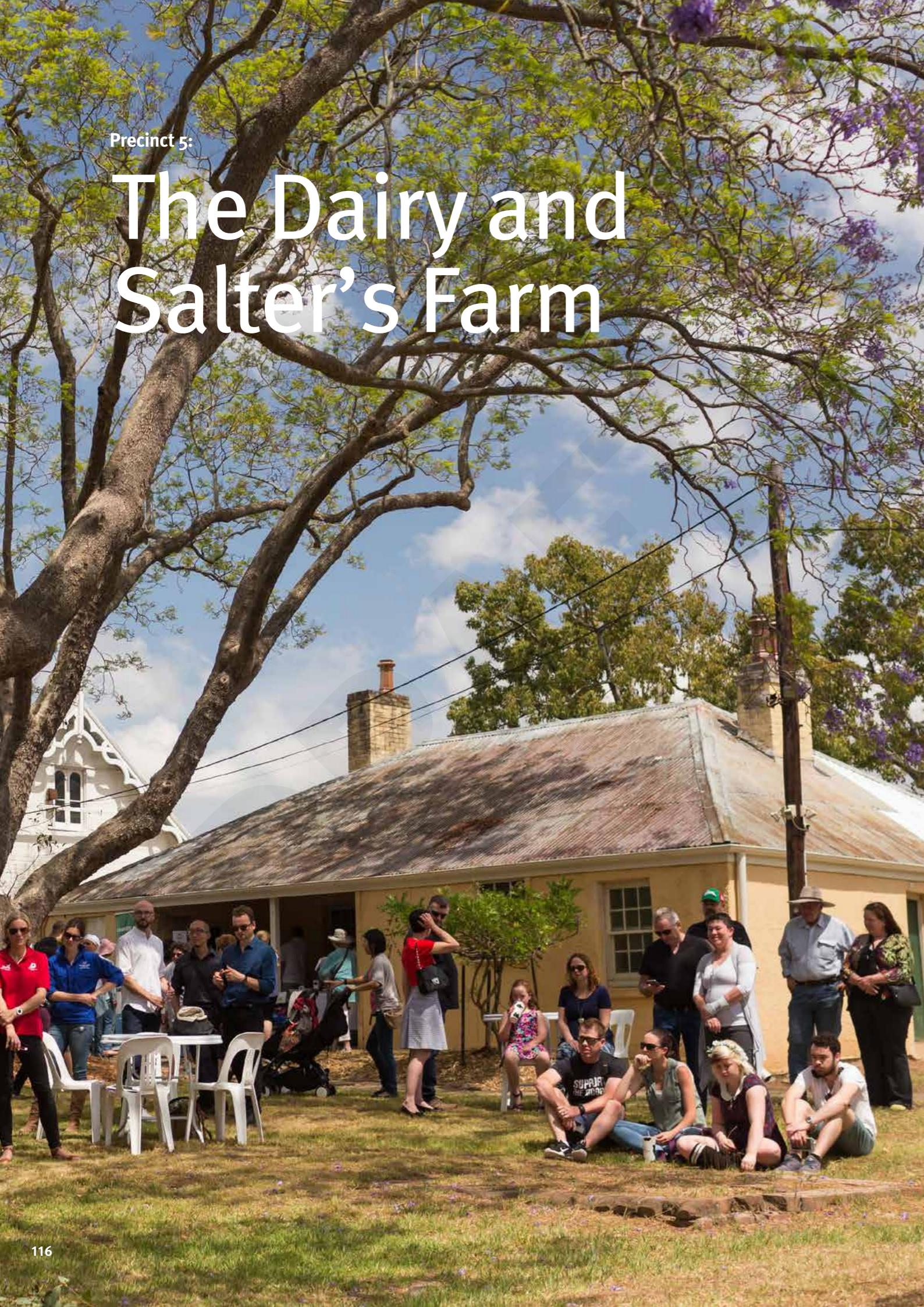


Figure 64. (opposite page)
A Day at the Dairy, 2016



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.



Figure 65.
Government Dairy, Parramatta Domain, 1844

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*.

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 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



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 extant 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.	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.
Actions	The activities that will contribute to achieving the 2030 vision for Parramatta Park.	Holocene	Current geological period, 11,500 years ago to the present.
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.	Keystone species	A species that is vital to the health, longevity and diversity of an ecosystem.
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.	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.
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.	Objectives	A medium-term goal that will contribute to achieving the 2030 vision for Parramatta Park.
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.	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.
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.	Parramatta Sand Body	The ancient riverbed and banks of the late Pleistocene/early Holocene river.
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.	People's Park	A park accessible by all members of the public, reflecting a phenomenon in the United Kingdom in the 19th century.
Early Colonial and Vice-Regal period	In the context of Parramatta Park, 1788 to 1857.	People's Park period	In the context of Parramatta Park, 1857 to the present.
Endangered Ecological Communities	Groups of plants and animals that occur together in a particular area and are at risk of extinction.	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.
Forced convict labour	The involuntary use of prisoners as unpaid labour.	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.
Gothic and Tudor Revival	Architectural styles popular in 18th and early 19th centuries.	Pleistocene	2.6 million to 11,500 years ago.
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.	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

