

Inner West Council area and suburbs. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

# **DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### Overview

This section outlines the current community profile of Ashfield using data from the 2016 ABS Census from Profile i.d. Ashfield Park lies on the border of Ashfield and Haberfield, which is defined by Parramatta Road.

# Population growth

In 2016, the Estimated resident population of the Inner West was 192,030 people. The population increased by 11,729 people or 6.5% between 2011 and 2016. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 9.8%.

Ashfield has been separated into Ashfield North and Ashfield South within the analysis, due to the size of the area and different urban conditions to the north and south of the train line.

Ashfield North experienced an above average amount of growth, with its population increasing by 1085 people (9.0%). Ashfield Park can be considered to be located within Ashfield North.

Ashfield South experienced average population growth with its population increasing by 684 people (6.4%).

Haberfield experienced a decrease in population of 177 people (-2.7%).

### Open space provision

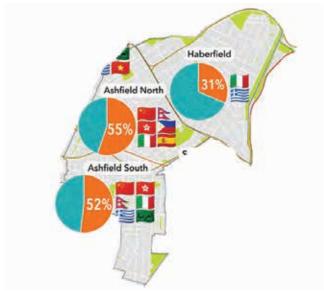
The Inner West has 323.4ha of open space which equates to 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m2 per person. Of this, council owns 256ha, which equates to 7.3% of total land area, or 13.3m2 per person.

The provision of open space in Ashfield is low, with 8.1 m2 of council owned space per person in 2016.





01 Ashfield - Age + disability profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

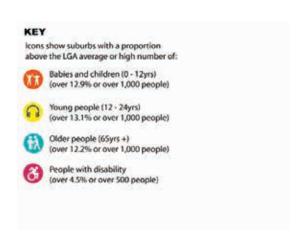


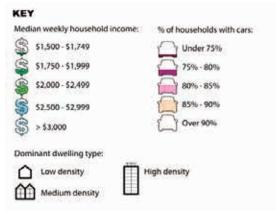
02 Ashfield - Cultural profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.



03 Ashfield - Density, income + housing profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.







# **DEMOGRAPHICS**

# Age + disability profile

Spaces that are inclusive of all age groups, accessible and flexible should be prioritised to cater for current and future population needs.

Ashfield has an above average proportion of Babies and children (0-12yrs), young People (12-24yrs) Older people (65+yrs), and People reporting a need for assistance.

Ashfield also has the lowest median age within the LGA of 30 years old.

Ashfield north has a high proportion of people attending university (10.7%), and Ashfield South has the highest proportion of people attending TAFE (2.5%).

Haberfield has one of the highest median ages (43).

#### Cultural Profile

Ashfield is culturally diverse, with a higher proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, identified as 55% of the population in Ashfield North, and 52% of the population in Ashfield South. The primary languages identified included Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese.

A third of Haberfield residents identify as speaking a language other than English at home, with the primary languages identified as italian and greek.

#### Density, income + housing profile

Ashfield overall has a mix of density types, with south of the train line typically exhibiting lower density housing. Ashfield North in particular has a majority of high density dwellings at 59%, and a high population density (83 persons per hectare).

Households within Ashfield North and South have below average weekly incomes, with Ashfield South having the lowest median weekly income within the LGA at \$1,585.

There are also a high proportion of low income households (17% in Ashfield South and 15% in Ashfield South) that receive less than \$650 per week.

Ashfield was identified as having a large proportion of households without a car (21%). This identifies the need for supporting on alternative forms of transport with a focus on a walkable urban domain.

Ashfield town centre was identified as a key employment destination within the LGA.

Haberfield is identified as having one of the lower densities within the LGA, with 27 persons per hectare. The suburb also has a relatively higher median weekly income of \$2000-2499, and a high proportion of households with cars (90%).





# HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

### First Nations History

Prior to European colonisation, the Ashfield area was inhabited by the Wangal band of the Dharug (Eora) language group. The territory of the Wangal peoples extends along the southern shore of the Parramatta River to Parramatta. There is limited knowledge available regarding First Nations history of the site due to the devastating and immediate impact of European colonisation.

The area would have offered numerous food sources, from the fish and molluscs within the mangrove estuaries of Iron Cove and Cooks River, to the natural eucalyptus woodlands which would have provided habitat for fauna such as possums and plants such as fern rhizomes and tubers. In the years following first contact, the lands between Iron Cove and the Cooks River became known as Kangaroo Ground, possibly indicating that kangaroos were common in the area. I

#### The Formation of Ashfield Park

#### 1810-1885

As early as 1810, the area now known as Ashfield had been divided into parcels of land and granted to Europeans, many of whom had been members of the NSW Corps.<sup>2</sup> Over the next decade, these smaller land grants had been amalgamated into four large estates, with the estate known as Ashfield Park, owned by the Underwood Family, extending between Liverpool Road to the south and Parramatta Road to the north.

The early growth of Ashfield as a suburb was relatively unique for Sydney, which had typically experienced growth along its waterways. The stimulus for Ashfield's growth was its location at the junction of two major thoroughfares - Parramatta road which linked Sydney Town to Parramatta in the west and Liverpool road (formerly the great south road) which linked to Liverpool in the south.

Parramatta Road was established as early as 1789, where a bush track was cut between Sydney Town and the new settlement of Rose Hill, now known as Parramatta. By 1802 the road was widened considerably<sup>3</sup>, with the current Parramatta Road generally following this original route and passing along the northern edge of Ashfield Park.

The estate of Ashfield Park was subdivided in 1838, where land along Liverpool road became known as the Village of Ashfield.<sup>4</sup> The opening of the Redfern to Granville railway in 1855 further spurred the development of the area, with the increase in population warranting the establishment of a Council authority which was elected in 1871.

The formation of the park as it is known today followed the acquisition of 20 acres of land from the Underwood Estate at auction by the colonial government in 1879, under the directive of the NSW premier Sir Henry Parkes. This land was placed under the control of the local Council, and the Park was proclaimed Ashfield Park in 1885.



**<sup>01.</sup>** A Short Walk Through Ashfield's Past - Compiled by Chris Pratten from the records of the Ashfield & District Historical Society. / **02.** ibid **03.** 1988 Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988 Coupe, Sheena **04.** A Short Walk Through Ashfield's Past - Compiled by Chris Pratten from the records of the Ashfield & District Historical Society.



Commonwealth Pavilion at Farm Cove, 1900. Source: State Library of NSW



The Queen visits Ashfield, 1954. Source: Sydney Morning Herald



Commonwealth Pavilion as bandstand at Ashfield Park, 1922. Source: (former) Ashfield Council.



A Group of Children Infront of The Bowling Club Building In Ashfield Park. Source: Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988.



Bandstand at Ashfield Park, Since Demolished. Source: State Library of NSW



Ashfield Park, Looking North From the Corner of Ormond and Pembroke Streets, 1920. Source: Mclaren Family. Note established turpentine trees on the right and avenue of brushbox along path.

# HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

# History of Ashfield Park

#### 1185-Present

Various sporting organisations began to utilise the park shortly after its formation. An area was allocated for bowling greens in 1891, with the first clubhouse build along the Orpington street boundary during 1893, making it one of the earliest bowling clubs in Sydney. The clubhouse was later extended in 1895 and again in 1916, until finally being replaced in 1958. The associated bowling greens were a source of contention throughout the park's history, with a number of applications for additional greens being refused.

A cricket pitch was established as early as 1891, and football games began to be held at the park by 1892.

Ashfield Park has also historically played a strong civic role within the community. After a protracted search and tender for a bandstand for the park, a structure known as the 'Pavilion of the Commonwealth' was relocated to the park from Farm Cove within Sydney botanic Gardens in 1903.

The pavilion was grand in design and was attributed to the Architect John Barlow. It included a domed roof, four large and ornamented arched openings and was adorned with a large British crown. The pavilion was surrounded by sets of Venetian masts for bunting, as well as numerous flagpoles. It stood over 15 metres high and could host 100 people seated. It likely hosted moonlight and day recitals and other ceremonies. The pavilion was located close to the centre of the park. Unfortunately the pavilion had fallen into disrepair by the 1940s, which resulted in its demolition - a great loss for built heritage.

There are two historic relics which remain within the park. A milestone can be found at the north-eastern corner of the park, adjacent Parramatta Road. The milestone originally was placed at the junction of Parramatta Road and Liverpool Road to mark a distance of 5 1/2 miles from from the Obelisk in Maquarie place. The sandstone gates which mark the south-western entry point were relocated from the Schuldham Hall Estate, Croydon, built during 1860.

The park was used for rallies held by conscriptionists during the First World War, convincing young men to enlist. Inevitably by 1921 a war memorial in the form of an obelisk was unveiled at the centre of the park, to commemorate those who had served and died in conflict.

A number of statues and memorials are located within the park. These include:

- The George and Mary Watson fountain erected in 1939 in honour of Mayor George Watson 1921-1922;
- A statue of Dr Jose P Rizal, national hero of the Philippines erected in 1988;
- A statue of Mary Poppins to commemorate the author of Mary Poppins, PL Travers, who lived on Pembroke Street from 1918-1924, which was erected in 2004.
- The International Mother Language Day monument to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in 1952 at Dhaka, Bangladesh to protect the Bangla language, erected in 2006.

# Historically Significant Trees

#### Remnant Vegetation

There are also a number of natural assets within the park which are historically significant. The area would have originally been covered by Sydney turpentine-ironbark open forest, containing a mix of Turpentine, Grey Gum, Grey ironbark and thin-leaved stringybark. The forest would have been characterised by trees approximately 30 metres in height with an open canopy, permitting understorey planting to a height of up to 2 metres.

There are a number of turpentine trees located throughout Ashfield Park which could be considered remnant examples of vegetation. While the age of these trees is unknown, photographic evidence indicates that they were already well established by the 1920s, indicating that they are significantly older than this. # A grand blackbutt tree, a species once common within the Sydney region, is located in the park along Ormond St. These trees provide an important connection to the Pre-European history of the area.

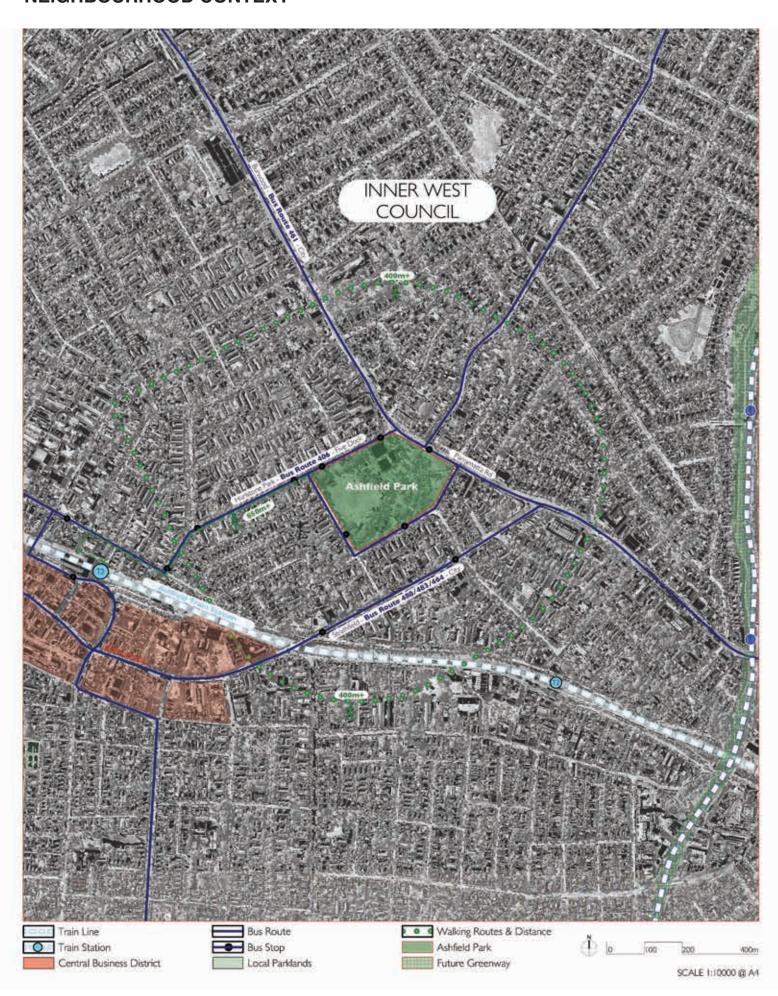
#### Federation Palms

Ashfield Park contains a number of significant date palms, including both *Pheonix Dactylifera* and *Pheonix Canariensis*. One such palm was transplanted from the nearby garden of Mrs McCredie to Ashfield Park on the 22nd of September, 1900². It was planted with a bottle containing a copy of 'The Advertiser', describing the trees origin. Whether the palm still survives and the location of the buried bottle are unknown.

 $\bf 01.$  Ashfield at Federation - Chris Pratten /  $\bf 02.$  1988 Speed The Plough Ashfield 1788-1988 Coupe, Sheena.



# **NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT**



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#### Local Character

Ashfield Park is located approximately 900m walking distance north of the central business district (CBD) of Ashfield. The CBD is a diverse and active hub with a number of civic and retail functions.

There is not a clear and direct link between the CBD and Ashfield Park, however there are some street signs indicating the direction to Ashfield Park. Additional well placed and integrated could improve the connectivity of the park to Ashfield Station and the CBD beyond.

The park is generally surrounded by residential dwellings along Pembroke, Orpington and Ormond streets, which range from single storey houses to inter-war and post-war two to four storey apartments. Along the Parramatta Rd side this is supplemented by some commercial buildings and a Mcdonalds food outlet.

### Major Roads

Parramatta Road (Great Western Hwy) runs along the northern edge of the park, which is a major thoroughfare. To the north of the park is an entry point to the WestConnex tunnel known as the Parramatta road Interchange.

Liverpool Road (Hume Hwy) runs one street south of Ormond St and is a major thoroughfare, linking Parramatta Rd to Ashfield.

## Public Transport

The local area is well connected by public transport and is serviced by both train and bus routes. These include:

- Ashfield Train station, with regular services along the T2, T3 and T7 train lines.
- Bus Route 461, with stops from Burwood to City
- Bus Route 464/483/480, with stops from Strathfield to City
- Bus Route 406, with stops from Hurlstone Park to Five Dock

A number of bus stops fall within 400m+ walking distance of the park, the closest of these being route 406 which has a number of stops around the perimeter of the park.

It is approximately a 850m+ walk from the park to Ashfield Station, which is generally considered to be a prohibitive distance for some members of the community such as parents with children, the elderly and those with accessibility requirements.

#### Cycle Routes

The local area is generally lacking a designated cycle network. There is a shared cycleway which runs along the footpath along the southern edge of Parramatta Road for a short section, which enters the park. Currently this segment does not link to other off-road cycleways, but does link to minor roads in the area which are used by cyclists. There is an opportunity to link Ashfield Park to the proposed Greenway cycleway, which runs north-south one kilometre to the east.

# Local Parklands

There are no other significant parks within walking distance of Ashfield Park.





# **ZONE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

#### Zone Definition

Ashfield Park has been separated into four zones for the purpose of clarifying a detailed site analysis. The zones have been selected based on an assessment of the character and use of different areas within the park, while taking into account real and perceived boundaries. The borders of the zones should be treated as blurred rather than absolute and are indicated as dotted lines for graphic clarity.

## Scope of detailed Site Analysis

#### Zone I

Zone I forms the south-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Pembroke St. The key features of the zone are the sporting ground, associated amenities building and two fitness stations.

#### Zone 2

Zone 2 forms the north-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Parramatta Rd. The key features of the zone are Ashfield Bowling clubhouse, bowling greens and community garden.

#### Zone 3

Zone 3 sits at the eastern corner of the park, and is bordered by Parramatta Rd and Ormond St. This zone is defined by the war memorial obelisk at the centre of the park and the rows of Canary Island date palms.

#### Zone 4

Zone 4 is located at the south-eastern corner of the site and is bordered by Ormond St. The zones key features include the historic tea house, BBQ areas, playground and public toilet.



Zone I - View west to amenities building.



Zone 2 - View west to community garden



Zone 3 - View along palm rows.



Zone 4 - View east to Begonia House.





01. Historic entry gates (north-west entry gates) / 02. Bus Stop. / 03. Fitness station / 04. below-ground water tank / 05. Pavilion Dressing Sheds / 06. Sporting ground / 07. Seating along embankment / 08. Shady Area alongside axial footpath / 09. Roadside embankment with saplings / 10. Open grassed area used for occasional events

# **ZONE 1 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### Overview

Zone I of Ashfield Park extends along the south-western edge, and is defined by the park boundary along Orpington and Pembroke streets, and more loosely by the axial footpaths within the park to the north and east.

#### Character

The character of zone I is sports and activity focussed, and most of the zones features are arranged around the central sporting ground. The surrounding pockets each have their own character. At the park entry gates there are large fig trees creating a dense shade, which complements the adjacent exercise station. Along the Orpington street edge, the park is open and spacious, with trees providing a mix of shaded and sunny areas and places to sit.

Along the north-eastern side of the sporting ground is a grassy embankment with some seating, providing a view to the sporting ground. Further to the north is a row of trees with a dense canopy<sup>8</sup>, creating a popular spot for picnics on the shaded grass beneath.

The sporting ground is set higher than Pembroke street, resulting in an embankment that runs along this street edge, approximately 2 metres in height. This results in a strip of parkland between the sporting ground and the road which appears to be underutilised, but does serve the purpose of creating buffer between the sporting ground and the street. Recent tree planting may change the character of this area into the future. At the southern corner of the zone is a second exercise station, which is more exposed. There are also a number of trees lining the pathway, creating areas of dense shade.

# Activity

The zone is well utilised by the community for a number of activities. The sporting ground itself is used for both sporting events and informal sports, as well as joggers running around the perimeter of the sporting ground. The exercise stations are well used by the community. The grassy areas are also popular for unstructured recreation, with people relaxing, meeting for picnics and gatherings, dog walking and practicing tai chi. The north-eastern corner of the zone is a large open grassed area, which is occasionally used for hosting events, with temporary stages and seating.

#### **Furniture**

The placement of seating within the zone is fairly utilitarian. Seven park benches face the sporting ground at equal spacing, with some benches also provided behind these under the shade of the trees.

Two park benches are placed along Orpington St, set back from the footpath a few metres in an exposed location.

There are also three benches integrated into planter bed retaining walls along the northern edge of the zone, bordering the pathway. There is a wheelie bin and dog waste bin located along the path leading to the north-west entry gates.

There is an exercise station close to the dressing shed pavillion with 4 pieces of equipment, which are in good condition. The southeastern exercise station has 5 pieces of equipment is generally in good condition except for the sit-up station which is in need of repair. The stations are designed to appeal to a range of fitness levels and

mobilities.

#### Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. The new lighting generally follows the main pathways, allowing areas beyond these to remain dark to the benefit of local wildlife. There are approximately 13 lampposts lining the converging footpaths which lead from the north-west entry gates to the war memorial at the centre of the park. There are 4 floodlights associated with the sporting grounds which appear to be in good condition.

There are 10 telegraph poles with street light attachments, 8 of which run along the sidelines of the sporting ground, connected by overhead power lines. These are in poor condition and inconsistent with the overall lighting of the park..

### Signage & Wayfinding

Signage throughout the zone is haphazard and at times unclear, and generally in poor condition. Just beyond the north-west entry gates, a small sign informs visitors that 'dogs must be on a leash in this park'. The sign appears quite old and a number of dogs off leash were observed in the park.

There are two signs relating to toilet locations attached to different sides of the pavilion dressing sheds. One indicates that ladies toilets can be found to the rear of the bowling club, and the other indicates that toilets have been relocated to the Ormond St end of the park. This could be confusing and contradictory, particularly for visitors who are unsure of their surroundings.

There is signage indicating flammable materials are stored underneath the pavilion dressing sheds. Facing the sporting ground is a sign indicating use of the sporting ground is restricted to authorised users between the hours of 5pm-9pm Monday to Thursday and Saturday 8am-5pm, punishable by fines. There is a sign adjacent indicating to contact council if there are any issues with the park which provides council's telephone number:

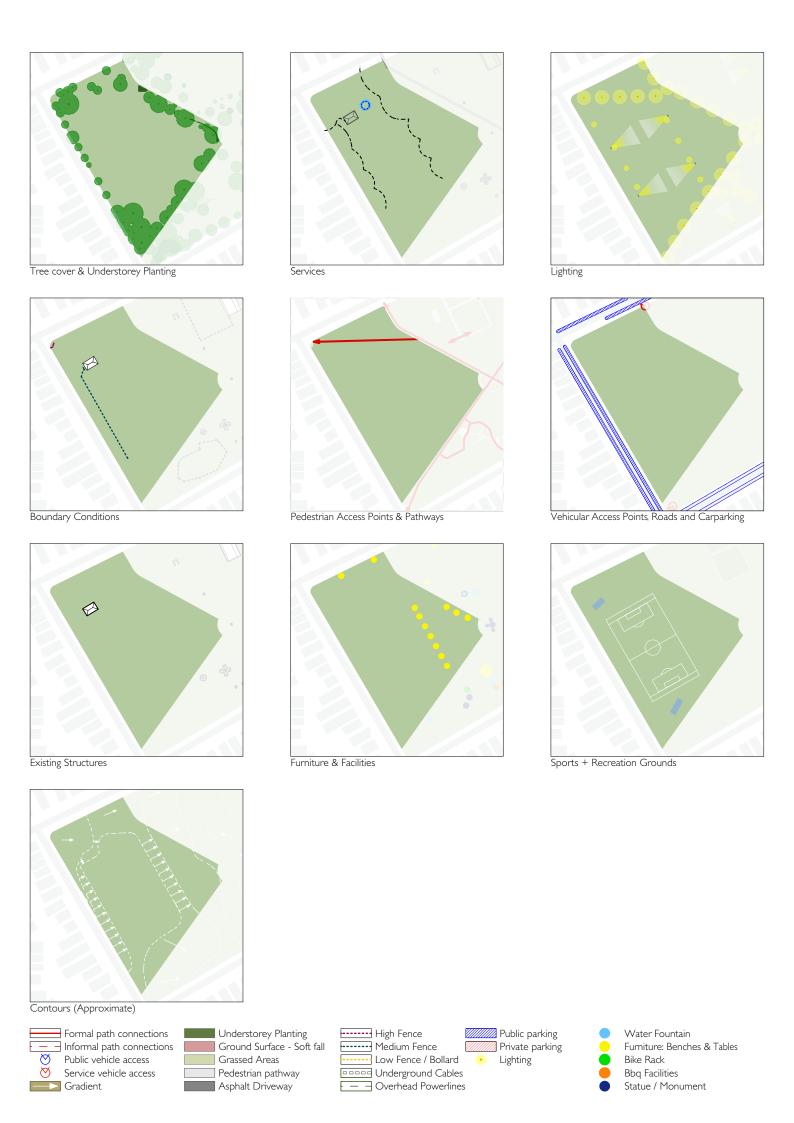
There is an 'Ashfield Park' sign located midway along the Pembroke Street, which is in poor condition. There is an array of park signage at the entry point midway along Orpington St, relating to what is permitted within the park, which could be consolidated and updated. There is 'no smoking' sign fixed to a bollard at the north-east corner of the sporting ground.

The majority of signs are labelled Ashfield Municipal council, which has since been amalgamated to form Inner West Council.

## Tree Cover

There are a number of tree species within the zone, and tree cover is most notable along the main pathways and at the park entry points. There is scattered tree cover along the Orpington St side, with a number of large and significant trees spread throughout the grassed areas





# **ZONE 1 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

There is a row of very tall pine trees spaced along Pembroke St edge. These have been mirrored by a row of new saplings that have been planted along the embankment. There are a number of large trees around the southern corner of the zone.

### **Planting**

There is a general lack of understorey planting within the park. There are small areas of understorey planting located alongside the central pathway between Orpington St and the war memorial. A row of plants run along the outside of the fence along the south-western edge of the sporting ground to disguise the fence along this edge.

#### Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. The park also lacks significant areas of understorey planting, and as a result the only habitat is provided by the trees and the open grassed areas. This likely limits the biodiversity within the park. Regardless, the park would provide a welcome respite for local fauna and there is an opportunity to provide additional planting scale and diversity to improve biodiversity within the park.

#### **Ground Cover & Surfaces**

Pathways throughout the zone are consistently wide concrete pathways. Ground cover is typically grass, however under the canopies of the larger fig trees this is replaced by mulch or bare dirt and leaf litter likely due to being in constant shade.

### Services & Drainage

Large underground rainwater storage tanks were installed on site as part of a stormwater harvesting and irrigation project. The tanks are located adjacent the amenities building. It should be assessed whether additional capacity is desirable or whether any modifications or upgrades to the system are required. The areas around the tank are unpleasant and underutilised, and the grass above the tank is in poor condition.

There are a series of overhead power lines providing electricity to the light posts around the sporting ground.

## **Boundary Conditions**

The sporting ground is bounded by a low fence along the south-western edge, presumably to limit balls from rolling down the embankment onto Pembroke St. This does in effect create a thin strip of parkland along Pembroke St which is cut off from the park generally. The boundary of the park is a stone gutter step of 150mm, which could make access difficult for some members of the community. The gates at the corner of Orpington St and Pembroke St appear to be accessible.

### Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Pedestrian access to the zone is generally via the gates at the corner

of Orpington St and Pembroke St, or midway along Orpington St, which link to the major axial pathways within the park. Pedestrian access to the park from Pembroke St is generally limited to these entry gates on account of the embankment and fence that runs along the edge of the sporting ground.

## Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is no vehicle access to the zone, however service vehicles can access the zone via the south-west entry and Orpington St entry, both of which have with removable bollards. There is no car parking within the zone, with visitors to the park arriving by car parking in the street.

#### Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The Pavilion Dressing Sheds is located along the north-western edge of the sporting ground. The sheds date from 1930 and are historically significant. Change rooms are located on the first level of the Pavilion, which is oriented to the sporting ground. A verandah faces the sporting grounds, with some bench seating available however this is likely insufficient for both a home and away team. The lower level of the dressing sheds include a locked storage area, which could be utilised better:

An electronic scoreboard and noticeboard has been recently installed adjacent this structure.

There are sandstone gate posts and wrought-iron gates at the north-western corner of the park. These are engraved 'the park'. The sandstone gates which mark the south-western entry point were relocated from the Schuldham Hall Estate, Croydon, built during 1860.





01. Original park gates at the intersection of Pembroke St / Orpington St / 02. Pedestrian Footpath / 03. Exercise station (north) / 04. Open parkland along Orpington St. 05. View back towards park gates / 06. Embankment alongside sporting ground, note seating and lighting. / 07. Water tank below ground / 08. Tank equipment / 09. View to dressing rooms and scoreboard / 10. Shaded grassy areas alongside pedestrian pathway / 11. Seating alongside sporting ground. / 12. Exercise station (south).

# **ZONE 1 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 1.

There are opportunities to:

- Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the dressing sheds to guide future works and maintenance.
- Upgrade the internal areas of the dressing sheds.
- Investigate alternative uses for the lower level of the dressing sheds, such as better storage facilities for sporting equipment or a canteen.
- Remove telegraph pole lamps adjacent the sporting ground and replace with sideline lighting consistent with new lighting within the park.
- Improve signage consistency throughout the zone.
- Remove contradictory, confusing and low quality signage.
- Establish a design for new signage that communicates the civic and historic character of the park.
- Install a park map at well selected locations. The park map should include a tactile section. Clearly identify park assets and public toilet locations. The map should communicate the civic and historic character of the park.
- Investigate the current use and capacity of stormwater tanks and whether any upgrades would be of use.
- Improve the quality areas around the stormwater tank to the north-east of the dressing sheds. Ensure the tanks and associated equipment are still able to be accessed.
- Investigate planting understorey planting to select areas around the south-east corner of the zone.
- Investigate options for the thin strip of parkland along Pembroke street, such as additional planting or furniture.
- Install additional table and chair park furniture in well-shaded locations.





01. Orpington St entry / 02. Service vehicle access / 03. Ramped entry to bowling greens / 04. Bowling greens / 05. Vehicle access to bowling club / 06. Community garden / 07. Bowling club building / 08. Parking adjacent bowling club / 09. Understorey planting and topiaries.

# **ZONE 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### Overview

Zone 2 of Ashfield Park forms the north-western corner of the park and is bordered by Orpington St and Parramatta Rd to the north, and Zone I & 3 to the south. The key feature of the zone is the bowling clubhouse, greens and community garden.

#### Character

Zone 2 is characterised by an active community spirit. The bowling club is visually connected with the park to the south, separated only by a low fence, through which access is permitted via a gate. The greens are well used and contribute to a sense of liveliness for the surrounding areas. To the east of the greens sits the clubhouse itself. The community gardens sit within an open grassed area to the west of the bowling greens. The gardens are attractive, well maintained and positively contribute to the park.

The north-eastern corner of the park appears to be less utilised. The bowling club presents its back of house functions to this area, and to the north-east lies Parramatta Rd.

#### Activity

Ashfield bowling club is a popular venue within the community. Both greens are well utilised by club members and general community use through barefoot bowling. The clubhouse remains successful food and drinks venue.

The community gardens are a positive initiative, and signage invites members of the community to contribute to working bees to maintain the garden and make use of the produce.

The remainder of the zone generally consists of open grassy areas for unstructured recreation.

# Furniture

There are a number of seats surrounding the two bowling greens for use by people attending the club. There is a single bench to the north of the community garden, facing the garden. There is a picnic table under the shade of a large tree to the south of the zone which appears to be well used.

There are two water fountains to the south of the bowling greens. One is incorporated into a large sandstone memorial, and is in good condition. The other is an older style water bubbler. It is in acceptable condition but could be upgraded.

#### Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. The new lighting generally follows the main pathways. The lighting follows the converging footpaths which leads from the entry gates along Orpington St<sup>2</sup> to the war memorial at the centre of the park. There is no lighting to the north-east corner of the park. There is some flood lighting associated with the bowling club and greens.

# Signage & Wayfinding

There is signage associated with the community gardens to inform the community about their use and participation. There is a sign identifying Ashfield park along Parramatta Rd. There is signage associated with the bowling club facing Orpington St.

There is a large council sign at the vehicle entry<sup>5</sup> which indicates 'no parking on grass areas', in response to visitors to the bowling club parking on the grass. This could potentially be addressed through physical means to avoid the need for intrusive signage.

#### Ground Cover and Surfaces

There are two bowling greens on site, surrounded by a central concrete pathway. There is a concrete driveway to the east of the bowling club which leads from Orpington St to the bowling club, which permits vehicle access. There is also a short driveway to the west of the greens which is primarily used for waste collection and skip bin storage.

#### Memorials & Historical Interpretation

The George and Mary Watson fountain sits to the south of the bowling greens, and is in good condition. The water fountain was erected in 1939 in honour of Mayor George Watson 1921-1922 and appears to have been recently restored.

#### Tree Cover

Tree cover is generally clustered along the main pathways and at the park entry points.

There is a turpentine tree along the Orpington St edge which is an example of the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) which would have covered the area. The species is identified as being a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth).* 

There is limited tree cover in the areas surrounding the bowling club and community garden. A row of 9 saplings have been planted between the community garden and bowling greens, which should lend some shade to this area in the future.

#### **Planting**

As with most areas of the park there is a general lack of understorey planting. The most significant area of understorey planting runs along the edge of Parramatta Rd, beneath the row of trees. Currently this planting is fairly sparse and patchy in areas.

There are some small areas of planting around the edges of the bowling club.

There are also low level decorative topiaries along the edge of Parramatta Rd which have been carved to read Ashfield Park 1871 - 2019. These contribute to the civic nature of the park.





# **ZONE 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. The zone contains a small area of understorey planting, which may contribute to the biodiversity of the area, however the majority of the zone is open grassed areas and isolated trees which likely limits biodiversity Regardless, the park would provide a welcome respite for local fauna.

The community garden consists of some larger low planters, as well as a concrete raised planter which appears to be wheelchair accessible.

and bin storage. There are also public ladies toilets which are accessed

through this side of the bowling club.

#### Services & Drainage

Underground cabling is located within the zone, following approximately the direction of the two concrete footpaths.

#### **Boundary Conditions**

There is a low fence around the perimeter of the bowling greens to limit access onto the greens. A high brick wall runs between the edge of the greens along Orpington St, which partially acts as a retaining wall and balustrade for the greens.

Low and spaced timber 'post and beam' style fencing runs along the line of the driveway to limit vehicle access to the park but permit pedestrians to pass through, however this seems to have been ineffective or not consistent in some areas as vehicles parking on the grass is clearly an issue.

A low metal fence runs from the driveway to the bowling clubhouse to prevent people falling due to the change in level.

### Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Access to the zone is generally via the entry points along Orpington St, which link to the major axial pathways within the park. There is also a gated entry point via a ramp, adjacent the Orpington St bus stop, which directly accesses the bowling club and greens and appears to provide wheelchair access to the club.

### Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is vehicle access to the zone with driveway access to the bowling club. There is limited parking to the east of the clubhouse, with space for approximately 2 cars. Parking on the grass is not permitted. Service vehicle access to the rest of the park is permitted via the end of this driveway, through the use of removable bollards. There is also service vehicle access to the short driveway to the west of the greens which is for garbage collection and potentially emergency access to the greens.

# Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The bowling club as it stands today was opened in 1958, replacing an earlier structure. It appears to have undergone some minor modifications, such as the inclusion of solar panels on the roof. The bowling club faces south-west towards the greens, with the northeast side generally presenting back of house functions such as waste





01. View to Orpington St entry along pathway / 02. Community garden / 03. Community garden raised planter / 04. View to bowling greens from community garden / 05. Ashfield Bowls Club building / 06. Picnic table beneath tree / 07. Memorial water fountain / 08. View to Parramatta Road and areas to the north of the driveway / 09. View along driveway to Orpington St / 10. Areas to the north of the bowling club / 11. View to the south-east along driveway / 12. View along Orpington St showing interface of bowling greens with street.

# **ZONE 2 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 2.

There are opportunities to:

- Extend the community gardens with additional garden beds.
- Plant edible fruit trees adjacent to the existing community gardens.
- Address the impact skip bin waste storage to the west of the bowling greens, understanding that waste storage and safe waste collection is a requirement. Investigate relocating the waste storage to an area to the east of the bowling club.
- Create a dedicated waste storage area to the east of the bowling club to reduce the impact of waste storage on surrounding areas of the park.
- Install additional barriers along the driveway access to bowling club to limit the ability for cars to park on the grassed areas.
  These could take the form of timber or plastic lumber bollards, ensuring that people are still able to move freely. Remove signage reading that parking is not permitted on grassed areas.
- Continue and extend native planting along the Parramatta Road edge, creating a dense band of vegetation which can provide a green buffer to the street. Improve the consistency and quality of the understorey planting throughout this area.
- Install additional table and chair park furniture in well-shaded locations.
- Improve the street presentation of the bowling club perimeter wall along Orpington St.





01. War memorial Obelisk / 02. International Mother Language Day monument / 03. Ormond St entry with lattice structure / 04. Rows of historic palms / 05. Circular garden beds / 06. North-eastern entry at intersection of Parramatta rd & Ormond St / 07. Parramatta Rd entry with stair & ramp / 08. Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial water fountain / 09. Historic milestone / 10. Statue of Dr Jose P Rizal / 11. Rainbow Serpent Artwork

# **ZONE 3 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### Overview

Zone 3 focuses on the north eastern corner of Ashfield Park. To the north it is bounded by Parramatta Rd and to the east the zone is bounded by Ormond Street. The zone extends to the south to include the war memorial.

#### Character

Zone 3 has strong civic character. The diagonal pathways are lined by rows Canary Island date palms, lending them a processional quality. Multiple statues, a trio of flagpoles and the war memorial obelisk, further contributes to the areas civic nature.

Parramatta road is six lanes in width and experiences constant and substantial traffic. The areas of park adjacent to the road are very open and exposed, with very little tree cover or planting separating the park from the road. As a result, these areas do not seem to be as well utilised compared to other areas of the park which are further from the road and less exposed.

#### Activity

The zone is generally used by visitors for passive recreation, with the community making use of the grassy and shaded areas for relaxation, picnics and gatherings. The more exposed areas of open grass adjacent the roadways are typically less utilised. The pathways are used for access through the park, particularly by walkers and cyclists who use the park as a through-route to other areas, such as Haberfield to the north, Ashfield to the south-west and Summer Hill to the east. The park is also used for park events, such as the 'Carnival of Cultures' where stalls are set up along pathways between the trees.

#### **Furniture**

There are two benches facing onto the Parramatta Rd boundary. While these are set back from the street, they have a fairly poor outlook onto the road and are very exposed. There are two benches positioned along the southern pathway, under the shade of large trees. There is a single bench located in the centre of the eastern grassed area, which feels very exposed and somewhat limits the flexibility of the space. There is a shaded bench to the east of the bowling club. There is a bin adjacent the Ormond St entry.

#### Lighting

General lighting has been recently upgraded throughout the park. Lighting is limited to the main axial paths. The pathway running north-south has approximately 6 light posts, with the east-west pathway having approximately 5 light posts. No lighting i present on the diagonal pathways.

# Signage & Wayfinding

There is an Ashfield Park sign at the north-eastern entry to the park. There is a street sign along the Parramatta Rd shared path indicating a bicycle route to ashfield through the park. There is little other signage within the zone.

#### Memorials & Historical Interpretation

There are a number of monuments within the zone, including,

- A statue of Dr Jose P Rizal [1988], national hero of the Philippines;
- The International Mother Language Day monument<sup>2</sup> [2006] to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in 1952 at Dhaka, Bangladesh to protect the Bangla language;
- Jessie Stuart Broomfield Memorial water fountain. When Jessie Stuart died in 1935, her will bequeathed funds to establish a number of memorial fountains for dogs in various parks around Sydney.
- Rainbow Serpent carved tree artwork [2014] by artists Danny Eastwood and Jamie Eastwood.

The War memorial at the park's centre, established in 1921, is the most significant and grand memorial. The obelisk stands 10 metres in height and is surrounded by an enamel tile floor. The memorial was originally to commemorate those who volunteered and gave their lives in the first world war 1914-1919 but has since been updated to commemorate a number of other conflicts. The memorial now includes plaques commemorating the Boer war, World War 1, World War 2, Korean, Malaysian, Malaya/Borneo and South Vietnam wars and peacekeeping operations, Iraq - the first gulf war, Afghanistan, Iraq - the second gulf war, and peacekeeping operations. The memorial is also surrounded by a circle commemorative rosemary bushes that appear in good condition.

A nearby memorial flag pole and plaque, established in 1984 commemorates the polish men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and in appreciation of service to the community.

A milestone<sup>6</sup> can be found at the north-eastern corner of the park, adjacent Parramatta Road. The milestone originally was placed at the junction of Parramatta Road and Liverpool Road to mark a distance of  $5_{1/2}$  miles from from the Obelisk in Maguarie place.

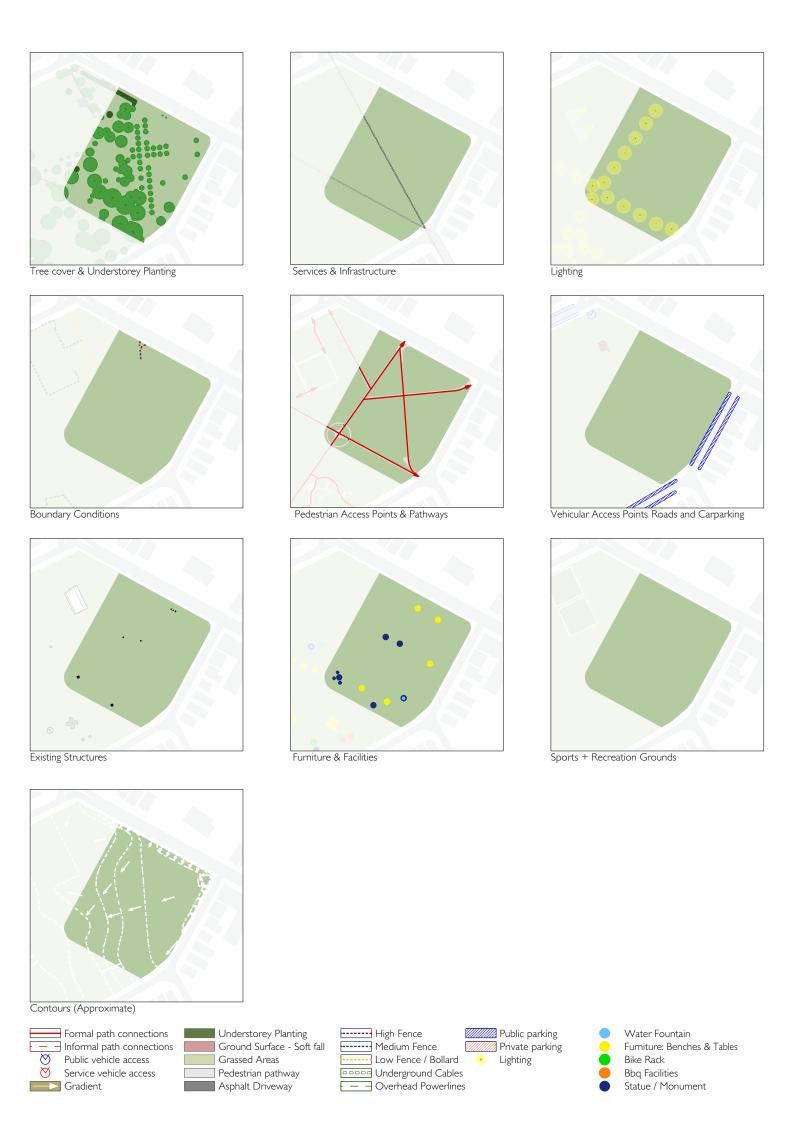
# Tree Cover

There are a large number of Canary Island Date Palms within the zone, which generally provide little shade but contribute significantly to the civic quality and history of the park. There is dense tree coverage to the southern and north-western corners of the zone, centred around the axial pathways and park entry points. There is a row of young trees along the Parramatta Rd which may assist in creating a buffer to the road along this edge in the future. There is a significant and large eucalyptus blackbutt tree located close to the Ormond St Entry.

# **Planting**

There is generally a lack of understorey planting within the zone. There are some small circular planter beds, scattered throughout the zone. These contain plants which are more ornamental in nature, such as rosebushes.





# **ZONE 3 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### Fauna Linkages

The zone lacks significant areas of understorey planting, limiting the available habitat for local fauna to the open grassy areas and rows of trees.

#### **Ground Cover & Surfaces**

The ground cover is generally grass, which becomes patchy in areas of deep shade beneath the larger trees. Pathways are typically concrete. The area around the war memorial is an enamel tile. There is a brick paver material around the entry stairs at Parramatta Rd.

## **Boundary Conditions**

There are no significant boundaries within the zone. There is a low wall associated with the stairs at the Parramatta Rd entry point. The interface of the park with the footpath is typically a low sandstone block edge, which is consistent with the historic nature of the park but could make access difficult for some users.

## Pedestrian / Cyclist Access & Existing Pathways

There are 3 defined pedestrian entry points to the zone. Midway along the Parramatta Rd frontage is a set of stairs and recently constructed ramp. The ramp appears to connect to the shared cycle path and allows for wheelchair access to the park. A second ramped entry lies at the intersection of Parramatta Rd and Ormond street, marked by a tall piece of heritage sandstone and park signage. A third ramped entry sits midway along Ormond St. The entry points appear to be accessible and is marked by a lattice structure adorned with flowers.

Paths generally lead to the centre of the park, where a circular path runs around the perimeter of the war memorial. This circular path is separated by steps from the war memorial forecourt itself. This generally leads to cyclists and some pedestrians using the perimeter circular path as they move through the park. A number of e-bike riders were observed riding along this circular path at speed, moving through the park between Gower St, Parramatta Rd and Loftus St.

This circular path is narrow and has limited sight lines due to the surrounding shrubs. This could result in potential conflicts between cyclists who are moving at speed and using the park as a throughroute and pedestrians.

#### Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

Vehicle access is restricted to service vehicles, which are able to gain access via the north-east entry. A removable bollard blocks access at other times. The only public parking available is street parking along Ormond St.

# Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

The only structure within the zone is the lattice which marks the entrance along Ormond St. It appears to be in acceptable condition and assists to define the Ormond St gateway.





01. View to war memorial / 02. Mother language monument / 03. Processional path to war memorial / 04. Jessie Stuart Bloomfield memorial water fountain / 05. Diagonal pathway through to Parramatta Rd. / 06. Large solitary eucalyptus / 07. exposed furniture and open grass areas / 08. View to Parramatta Rd and flag poles / 09. Parramatta Rd entry stair / 10. Rainbow Serpent carved tree / 11. Dr Jose P Rizal statue / 12. View along tree-lined pathway through to Parramatta Rd.

# **ZONE 3 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 3.

There are opportunities to:

- Improve the amenity of the areas adjacent the busy Parramatta Road.
- Establish a buffer between the park and Parramatta Road, to improve the amenity of the zone. This could include additional planting or changing the topography of areas adjacent the road to create a berm.
- Investigate the open grassed areas of the park and whether additional planting of trees could improve the amenity of these areas, while balancing the need for flexible open areas for hosting events and general recreation.
- Investigate the current program of events within the park and whether additional events could or should be held within the park.
- Consider the requirements of larger events within the park and whether any permanent or temporary infrastructure could assist in the hosting of these events.
- Continue to maintain monuments within the park, particularly the war memorial and surrounding areas.
- Place new park furniture in shaded locations.
- Remove / relocate park furniture which is located within the middle of open green spaces, limiting the flexibility of these spaces.
- Maintain stairway and ramped entry point along Parramatta road which is in need of repair.
- Provide an interpretive strategy to inform visitors of the sandstone marker and its historical significance.
- Install a park map at well selected locations. The park map should include a tactile section. Clearly identify park assets and public toilet locations. The map should communicate the civic and historic character of the park.
- Improve the safety for pedestrians within the park. Limit the possibility for negative interactions between cyclists and pedestrians within the park, particularly around the war memorial where space for both is limited. This could involve measures such as introducing an additional path link for cyclists moving through the park, clearly defining these paths as shared and limiting some paths within the park to pedestrian only.



# Appendix A



01. South-east entry at intersection of Pembroke St & Ormond St / 02. Dense tree cover surrounding electrical substation / 03. Playground / 04. Statue / 05. Historic tea house / 06. Barbeques and shelter / 07. Swing Set / 08. Public toilets / 09. Ormond St park entry.

# **ZONE 4 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### Overview

Zone 4 is located at the south-eastern corner of Ashfield Park. The eastern perimeter is bounded by Ormond St to the south-east. The zone contains the playground, Begonia house, public toilets and barbecue facilities.

#### Character

The zone is characterised by a sense of play and socialisation. Children and families make good use of the playground, with caretakers often meeting together on the benches while children make use of the equipment. Begonia House is a popular venue for weekend picnics and gatherings with family and friends, which is complemented by the public barbecue facilities close by.

#### Activity

The zone is utilised by the community for socialising, gatherings and eating together, with park visitors enjoying Begonia House and barbecue facilities. The playground is very popular and busy most days. The shady areas to the north are popular for passive recreation, with people relaxing, gathering and sitting on the grass.

## Furniture & Equipment

There is a well located single bench positioned beneath the shade of the fig tree adjacent the swing set. There are four picnic benches located within Begonia House, which are in good condition, having recently been replaced due to vandalism. There are two separate barbecue facilities close by, with two hotplates each. Both are sheltered by small pitched roofs.

Four wheelie bins are located a short distance from the barbecue area, directly adjacent a water bubbler. There is a second bubbler located to the north of the playground, directly adjacent the exercise equipment.

There are a range of types of benches and seating within the playground. There are 9 timber benches placed around the perimeter of the playground, and 4 granite benches arranged within the playground. There is also a bike rack and garbage bin located at the playground entry.

The playground contains equipment for a range of age groups and abilities, including: A climbing web, bridge and slide; a spinning carousel; a swing dish; a see-saw; two fixed horses; 2 springy rockers; a small slide and climbing area for young children; a small climbing net and cubby house; a digger and an array of stepping stones. The majority of the equipment appears to be in good condition. There is potential to increase the amount play experiences within the playground, potentially by replacing some of the lesser utilised areas, such as the fixed horses and granite benches, or expanding into some of the open grassed areas and incorporating the slope to the south.

There is a water fountain located midway along the pathway to the north, close to the exercise equipment which is in good condition.

### Lighting

General lighting within the park has been recently upgraded. Lighting within the zone primarily follows the pathway that runs along the north-western edge of the zone from the entry at the intersection of Pembroke St and Ormond St to the war memorial at the park's centre. Lighting also runs along the pathway through to the Ormond St entry at the south-east of the zone. There is no lighting associated with the barbecue areas, which could limit their use during the evenings.

There is a single floodlight within the playground which is in an acceptable condition but is generally not in keeping with the new lighting within the park. There is a single light within Begonia house which is in poor condition.

## Signage & Wayfinding

There is an array of outdated signage relating to prohibited activities within the park at the park entry at the intersection of Pembroke & Ormond St. There is some signage associated with the playground, including signs indicating dogs to be on lead and not to swing on the playground metal gates. There are also signs present on the public toilet building indicating that feeding of pigeons is prohibited, that other toilets are available

### Memorials & Historical Interpretation

There is a statue of Mary Poppins within the playground which commemorates the author of Mary Poppins, PL Travers, who lived on Pembroke Street from 1918-1924. The statue was erected in 2004. There is a stone and memorial plaque within the playground to commemorate Barry John Ramsay (1935-2008).

# Tree Cover

Tree cover is relatively dense throughout the zone, particularly to the north and west of the playground. To the north east of the playground the area becomes more open with scattered tree cover.

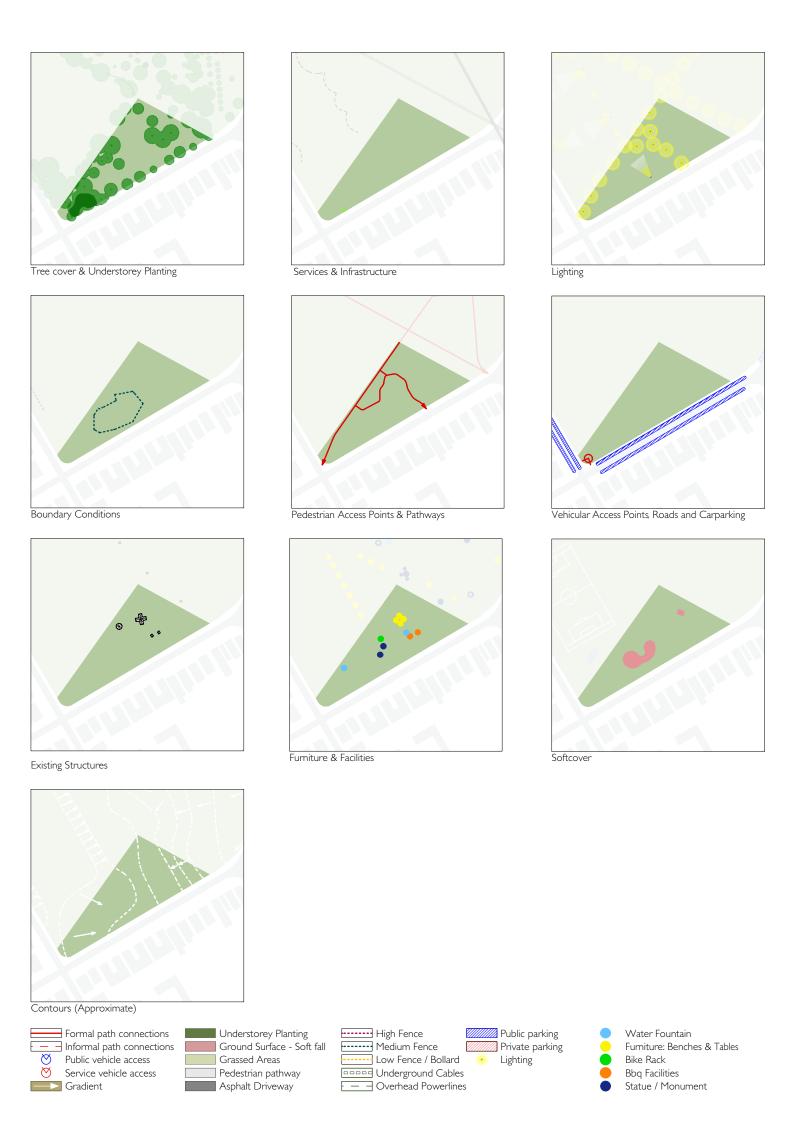
There are a number trees which are remnants of the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) which would have covered the area. The species is identified as being a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*. The remnant vegetation is fragmented, consisting of a sparse collection of large turpentine trees. The trees are significant, not only due to their high ecological value but also as they form a connection to the history of the area prior to European arrival.

To the east of the playground are some open grass areas, complemented by some large fig canopies further to the north.

# **Planting**

There is some understorey planting to the north of the playground beneath the established trees, creating a fairly dense area of vegetation. Low planting is continued in a thin strip around the playground fencing, presumably to soften the fencing, however this has yet to fully develop





# **ZONE 4 - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

and is patchy in areas. Around the south-east entry there is some patchy understorey planting.

# Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces being surrounded on all sides by an urban environment. This area of the park does offer patches of dense understorey planting which would provide a small habitat for local fauna.

#### **Ground Cover & Surfaces**

Pathways within the zone are typically concrete. Areas within the playground are generally softfall around equipment and grass or mulch in other areas. Areas beyond the playground are typically grass.

### Services & Drainage

There is a substation and sewer ventilation riser located close to the street along the Ormond St boundary.

# **Boundary Conditions**

The playground is surrounded by a black metal playground fencing and is accessed through multiple gates. The interface of the park with the footpath is typically a low sandstone block edge, which is consistent with the historic nature of the park but could make access difficult for some users.

# Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

Pedestrian access to the zone is generally via the south-west entrance at the intersection of Pembroke St & Ormond St, which is marked by a lattice structure. There is another entry midway along Ormond St that links through to the barbecue areas and begonia House.

### Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

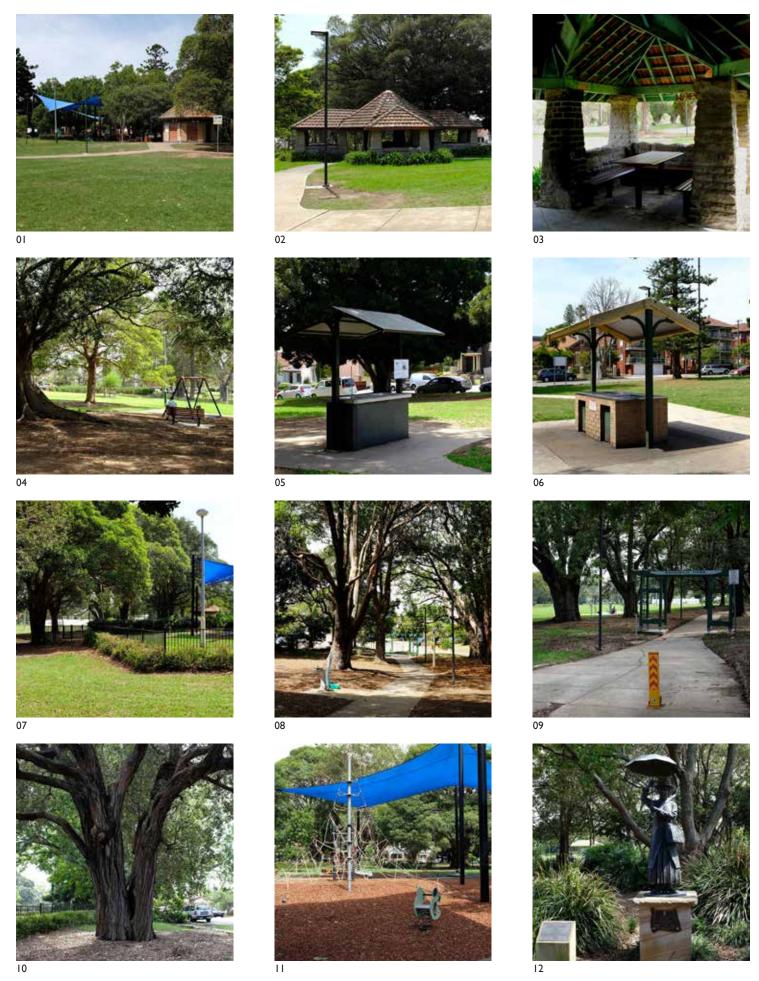
Service vehicles can access the zone via the south-west entry point through the use of removable bollards. Public parking is limited to surrounding streets.

# Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

Begonia House, Also known as the Summer House picnic shelter, is federation style picnic shelter built around 1920. It is of historical significance to the park and has been well used throughout its life. It appears to be in good condition currently and should receive ongoing maintenance to ensure that it does not fall into disrepair.

There is a small public toilet facility to the north of the playground. It appears to be in acceptable condition however there are signs indicating that female toilets are also located elsewhere in the park. There is a lattice structure which acts as a gateway at the Pembroke St entry point, which appears to be in good condition.





01. View south to public toilets and playground beyond / 02. View east to 'Begonia House' picnic shelter / 03. View inside picnic shelter / 04. Shady park bench overlooking the swing set / 05. Northern barbecue shelter / 06. Southern barbecue shelter / 07. View north to playground fencing / 08. View to Ormond St & Pembroke St entry / 09. View from Ormond St & Pembroke St entry / 10. Example of turpentine tree / 11. Playground equipment / 12. Mary Poppins memorial statue.

# **ZONE 4 - CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 4:

There are opportunities to:

- Upgrade the playground with additional equipment and play areas, that could include imaginative and wild play.
- Plant additional native understorey planting around existing turpentine trees around the south-east corner of the park. Include vegetation that would be typical of understorey planting within Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark forests.
- Develop a plan for protecting significant turpentine trees within the park to ensure their continued survival, including guidelines for maintenance and building works adjacent trees.
- Develop an interpretation strategy associated with the remnant vegetation examples of turpentine trees within the park, to inform visitors about the ecological history of the area.

