

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTER PLAN

LEICHHARDT PARK

MARCH 2020

DRAFT



FURTHER INFORMATION

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Front cover image: Leichhardt Park, photo by Welsh + Major

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Document Control

DATE:	REVISION NO:	REVISION DETAILS:	APPROVED:
27/08/19	-	Draft Issue for Client Review	DW
18/09/19	A	Updated to Reflect Client Comments; Draft Issue For Client Review	DW
28/10/19	B	Updated to Reflect Client Comments; Draft Issue For Community Engagement	DW
28/02/20	C	Revised in response to public exhibition; Draft Issue For Client Review	DW
04/03/20	D	Draft Plan of Management + Master Plan Issue	DW
08/03/20	E	Draft for Council	AC
30/04/20	F	Draft for Exhibition	AC
01/07/20	G	Amendments as per Crown Land comments	AC

Introduction + Executive Summary

Inner West Council has produced a Plan of Management priority list identifying priority open spaces within the local government area.

In 2019, Welsh + Major Architects were engaged by Inner West Council to develop Plans of Management and accompanying Master Plans for seven top priority parks.

This document contains the Plan of Management and Master Plan for Leichhardt Park, which is located on the foreshore of Iron Cove and extends from Hawthorne Canal to the south of Callan Park. It consists of 36 acres (14.5 hectares), making it one of the largest parks in the local government area.

The Plan of Management applies to Leichhardt Park (D500207) which is Crown land for which Inner West Council is the land manager. The subject site was gazetted for the purpose of Public Recreation on 9 December 1977, with the additional purpose of Communication Facilities on 23 January 2009 and Community Purposes on 25 January 2013.

Plan of Management

The Plan of Management [POM] is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years.

Review of this Plan

The Leichhardt Park Plan of Management is to be reviewed in ten years to ensure it aligns with Council's operational plans and objectives.

Master Plan

The Master Plan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the site over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of Management can be translated into site specific gestures for application to the park.

How to Use This Document

Development of the POM and Master Plan involved some overlap of research and analysis. As such the POM and Master Plan were undertaken simultaneously, and are presented together within the same document.

The site has been considered and designed as a whole, but for ease and clarity within this document it has been presented as four zones.

Developing the Plan of Management and Master Plan involved the following processes:

- Policy review identifying the opportunities and constraints presented by national and local government initiatives.
- Demographic review identifying the local community profile.
- Review of site ownership and legal categorisation.
- Identification of applicable statutory conditions and legislation.
- Undertaking detailed site analysis
- Undertaking Community Engagement through drop in sessions and online survey.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Context Review, Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes to develop Key Objectives and Strategies for management and action.

- Application of the physical strategies onto the Draft Master Plan.

Key Features of the Master Plan:

- Establish gateways that define entries into Leichhardt Park as a shared public place.
- Upgrade the Link Rd to a shared street that balances the needs of pedestrians and cyclists with vehicle access, particularly around the entry points to key assets such as Leichhardt Oval and LPAC.
- Pedestrianise LPAC service lane to limit vehicle access to authorised vehicles and improve the LPAC boundary condition.
- Reducing the LPAC link road to one-way traffic and creating a formal shared pedestrian and bicycle connection between foreshore and the LPAC.
- Relocating a section of the existing car parking adjacent Leichhardt #3, returning the area to public parkland and the Bay Run. Note: this would not occur should community rowing club proposal proceed at the location indicated.
- Upgrade the Bay Run path at key pinch-points and provide an additional route adjacent the Maliyawul Street shared path to separate cyclists and pedestrians.
- Implement a consistent lighting plan along the Bay Run to facilitate use before and after daylight hours.
- Provide safe and connected pedestrian routes and improved wheelchair access within the park and around key assets.
- Consolidate wayfinding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.
- Upgrade Leichhardt #2 to a synthetic playing surface to maximise its use.
- Provide a new amenities building for organised sports and public use at Leichhardt #2, replacing the existing toilet facility and container storage.
- Provision of a new skate plaza facility that caters for a range of age groups.
- Potential community rowing club opposite Blue Hippo Playground to provide accessible community rowing facilities, delivered by others.
- Implement a historical interpretation strategy for the historical site of the Leichhardt Municipal baths.
- Revitalise the areas around the existing sensory memorial garden and Giovinazzo Grove.
- Partial demolition of existing timber jetty, retaining piles as part of historical interpretation strategy.
- Foster the identity of Leichhardt Oval and build on its character as a unique asset and formalise a plan of management and master plan for the direction of future upgrades.
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and general community use. Retain Leichhardt #3 as a natural grass surface which is utilised by the community for general recreation.
- Repair, maintain or replace existing furniture and amenities as required.
- Continue successful bush regeneration and biodiversity programs and educate visitors about local flora and fauna.
- Establish bioswales in key areas to manage water run-off and improve the health of the Iron Cove.
- Improve fauna links throughout the park and to Hawthorne Canal.
- Establish clear on-leash and off-leash dog areas and provide associated amenities.

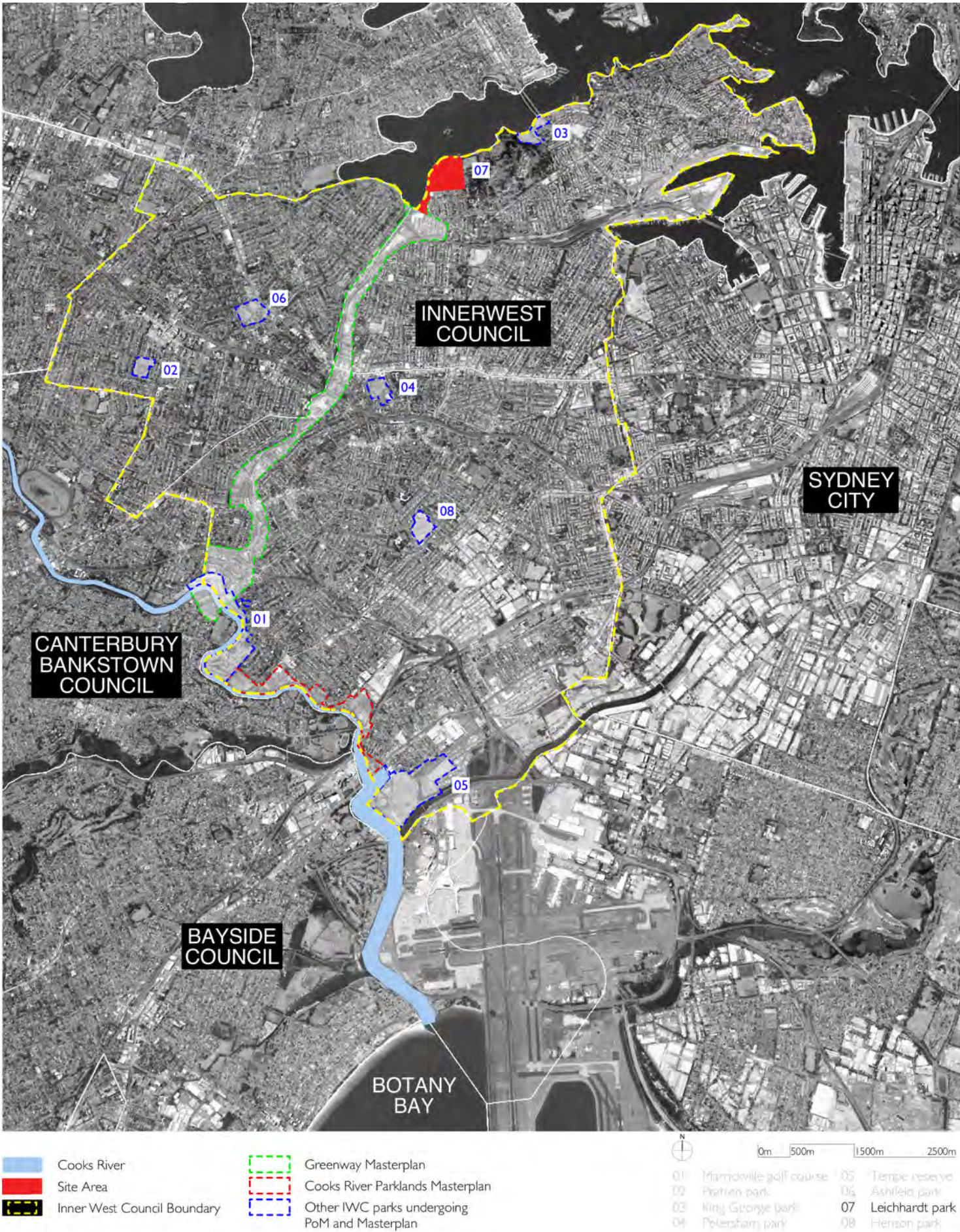


Bush track to LPAC. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.



Bird box around Leichhardt #2. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

1.0 Context Overview



Inner West Council

The Inner West Council area is located five kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD). The Council area was established when the former Councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016. Inner West Council has five wards: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Stanmore.

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km² from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west¹.

There are 269 parks and reserves including playgrounds and sports grounds in the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA).²

Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

A Recreation Needs Study² commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 provided an analysis of the existing parklands within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage.

The community is expected to grow with an additional 49,000 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 13.3m² to 10.6m² per person within this timeframe.²

Population growth will also result in additional pressure on current sporting and recreational facilities, and it is anticipated that additional facilities will be needed and that current facilities will be required to intensify their usage to meet demand.²

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 8 summer sporting fields
- 8 winter sporting fields
- 6 indoor (multi-purpose) courts
- 14 outdoor (multi-purpose) courts
- 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic), and
- 1 skate park/facility.



¹ ref Our inner West 2036

² ref Recreation Needs Study - a Healthier Inner West
Inner west Council & Cred Consulting Oct 2018

INNER WEST PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and State participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, State and national level.

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in "active recreation" activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly.

This was followed by personal fitness with 66% of people participating at least weekly.

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in "passive recreation," but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 4 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.



Figure 4 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities were:

- Footpaths, streets, and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park, and
- Ashfield Park.

Key differences between different groups were that:

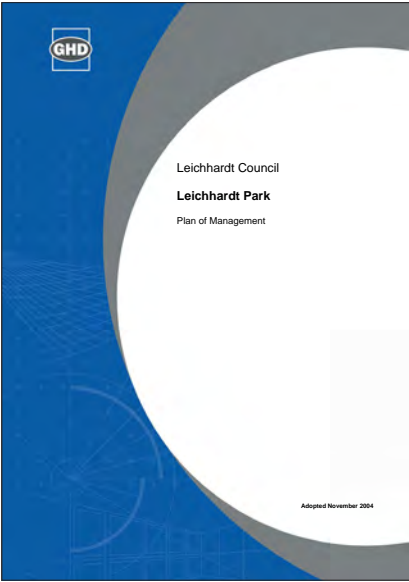
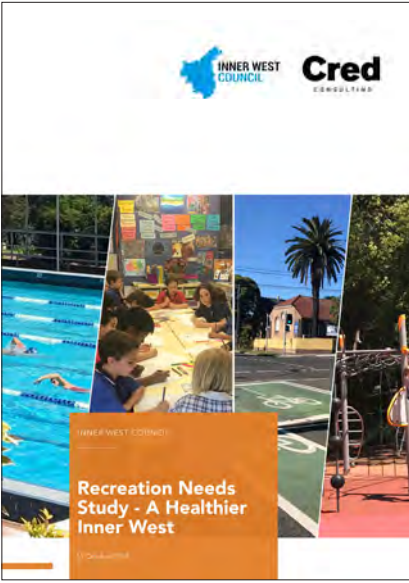
- Females used children's playgrounds, aquatic centres, and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, sporting fields and courts, and the Greenway more often than females.
- People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly than the general community.

The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West were:



Figure 5 - Most common types of facility that people used for recreation in the Inner West identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

1.0 Context Overview



REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Our Inner West 2036

A Community Strategic Plan for the Inner West Community
Inner West Council, draft endorsed by Council 06/2018.

This plan identifies the community's vision for the future, outlines long term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards that vision. It guides all of Council's plans, policies and budgets.

The strategic directions set out are:

- 1 - An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 - Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods
- 3 - Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 - Caring, happy, healthy communities
- 5 - Progressive local leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: green infrastructure, the total area of habitat for wildlife managed under bush-care programs, protection of the natural environment, safety of public spaces, cycleways, maintaining footpaths, aquatic and recreation centres, availability of sporting grounds and facilities and walk-able open space. It also aligns with State and District Plans.

Recreation Needs Study - A healthier Inner West

Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/ 2018

Analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community, with a view to both maintaining and improving social and mental health as the population of the Inner West Council (IWC) area continues on its projected path of growth and change.

The study identified that the IWC area lacked sufficient public open space for the growing population. It outlines a strategic 'action' framework and explores how this framework could be applied.

The study highlights Leichhardt Park as one of few large public parks within the IWC area, and emphasises the need to maximise the recreational use of the site.

Greenway Master Plan - Cooks to Cove Greenway

Mcgregor Coxall for Inner West Council, adopted 08/ 2018

A master plan for a linear 5.5km long urban biodiversity corridor in the Inner West Council area, linking the Cooks River in Earlwood to the Parramatta River at Iron Cove. The route also links two well established shared paths – the Bay Run around Iron Cove at its northern end, with links to Leichhardt Park. A proposal has been developed for the Lilyfield Road bridge, which forms the southern boundary of this Master Plan.

Master Plan - Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre

Inner West Council, draft published 09/2018

A draft Master Plan was prepared by Inner West Council in August 2018 for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. The aim of the master plan is to develop a ten year plan to guide improvements for the facility users and staff. The document has evolved from a collaborative process between Council, community and stakeholders.

The scope of the master plan is primarily focussed on the LPAC itself, but also includes recommendations for improving connections throughout the site, the car park and the interface of the LPAC with the surrounding park. This master plan is currently being reviewed.

Leichhardt Park Plan of Management 2004

GHD Consulting for (the former) Leichhardt Council, published 2004

A Plan of Management was prepared for Leichhardt Park in 2004 to provide a focus for the management of the Park. The area was divided into a series of zones, with management strategies devised for each zone to define its future direction. The document made a number of recommendations, of which some have been adopted.

Many of the documents core objectives are valuable and still relevant to the park today. These have been given consideration in the formulation of this plan of management and master plan.

Leichhardt Oval Master Plan

Smith & Tzannes for Inner West Council, draft published 2017

A informal master plan was prepared for Leichhardt Oval to assist in giving direction to the oval's incremental upgrades and continuing use as a professional sports ground. The master plan provides a framework for upgrades to the facility over a 3 and 10 year time frame. The master plan was prepared in response to the need to direct short term funding and has not been adopted by Council.

Callan Park

Mcgregor Coxall for Inner West Council, adopted 07/2011

(The former) Leichhardt Council approved the Callan Park Master Plan, the Callan Park Conservation Management Plan and the Callan Park Plan of Management On 19 July 2011. Callan Park is state government owned and forms the eastern boundary of Leichhardt Park along Glover Street. This master plan has not been endorsed or adopted by the New South Wales state government.

1.0 Context Overview

OUR INNER WEST 2036 - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcomes	Strategies
1.1 The people and infrastructure of Inner West contribute positively to the environment and tackling climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the support needed for people to live sustainably 2. Reduce urban heat and manage its impact 3. Create spaces for growing food 4. Develop planning controls to provide ecosystem services* 5. Provide green infrastructure that supports increased ecosystem services*
1.2 Biodiversity is rich, with connected habitats for flora and fauna	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support people to connect with nature in Inner West 2. Create new biodiversity corridors and an urban forest across Inner West 3. Maintain and protect existing bushland sites for species richness and diversity
1.3 The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate to make plans, designs and decisions that are water-sensitive 2. Supply water from within Inner West catchments
1.4 Inner West is a zero emissions community that generates and owns clean energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support local adoption of clean renewable energy 2. Develop a transport network that runs on clean renewable energy
1.5 Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support people to avoid waste, and reuse, repair recycle and share 2. Provide local reuse and recycling infrastructure 3. Divert organic material from landfill 4. Advocate for comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility+

Outcomes	Strategies
2.1 Development is designed for sustainability and makes life better	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to suit community needs 2. Identify and pursue innovative and creative solutions to complex urban planning and transport issues 3. Improve the quality, and investigate better access and use of existing community assets 4. Develop planning controls that protect and support a sustainable environment and contribute to a zero emissions and zero waste community
2.2 The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide clear and consistent planning frameworks and processes that respect heritage and the distinct characters of urban villages 2. Manage change with respect for place, community history and heritage
2.3 Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and deliver public spaces that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life 2. Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces 3. Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces
2.4 Everyone has a roof over their head and a suitable place to call home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the expansion of social, community and affordable housing, distributed across Inner West, facilitated through proactive policies 2. Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments 3. Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough
2.5 Public transport is reliable, accessible, connected and enjoyable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for improved public transport services to, through and around Inner West 2. Advocate for, and provide, transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth
2.6 People are walking, cycling and moving around Inner West with ease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver integrated networks and infrastructure for transport and active travel 2. Pursue innovation in planning and providing new transport options 3. Ensure transport infrastructure is safe, connected and well-maintained

REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Outcomes	Strategies
3.1 Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grow Inner West's reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub, celebrating and supporting diverse creative industries and the arts 2. Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and cultural activities
3.2 Inner West is the home of creative industries and services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Position Inner West as a place of excellence for creative industries and services and support them to thrive 2. Facilitate links to programs and services to help businesses grow, innovate and improve their competitiveness 3. Encourage the establishment of new enterprises in Inner West 4. Facilitate the availability of affordable spaces for creative industries and services
3.3 The local economy is thriving	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support business and industry to be socially and environmentally responsible 2. Strengthen economic viability and connections beyond Inner West 3. Promote Inner West as a great place to live, work, visit and invest in
3.4 Employment is diverse and accessible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support local job creation by protecting industrial and employment lands 2. Encourage social enterprises and businesses to grow local employment
3.5 Urban hubs and main streets are distinct and enjoyable places to shop, eat, socialise and be entertained	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote unique, lively, safe and accessible urban hubs and main streets – day and night 2. Enliven community life by delivering and supporting events, public art, cultural celebrations and entertainment 3. Pursue a high standard of planning, urban design and development that supports urban centres 4. Promote the diversity and quality of retail offerings and local products

Outcomes	Strategies
4.1 Everyone feels welcome and connected to the community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life 2. Embrace, celebrate, respect and value difference by building awareness and appreciation of Inner West's diversity 3. Empower and support vulnerable and disadvantaged community members to participate in community life 4. Increase and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage
4.2 The Aboriginal community is flourishing, and its culture and heritage continues to strengthen and enrich Inner West	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history 2. Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and businesses 3. Acknowledge and support the rights of the Aboriginal community to self determination 4. Actively engage Aboriginal people in the development of programs, policies and strategies
4.3 The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the facilities, spaces and programs that support wellbeing and active and healthy communities 2. Provide opportunities for people to participate in recreational activities they enjoy
4.4 People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and provide services and infrastructure for a changing and ageing population 2. Ensure the community has access to a wide range of learning spaces, resources and activities 3. Support children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning

Outcomes	Strategies
5.1 People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem-solving	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support local democracy through transparent communication and inclusive participatory community engagement
5.2 Partnerships and collaboration are valued and recognised as vital for community leadership and making positive changes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support leadership and mentoring initiatives that build and strengthen the capacity of individuals, businesses and communities 2. Support local capacity for advocacy 3. Collaborate with partners to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment
5.3 Government makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision making, reflective of community needs and aspirations 2. Ensure responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government 3. Deliver innovation, excellence, efficiency and effectiveness and probity in Council processes and services

1.0 Context Overview

RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

Key Findings:

A number of findings about recreation within the Inner West are highlighted by the report. These include the benefits of recreation and its changing perception and role within society generally. These have assisted in providing a foundation for the strategies and objectives of this Plan of Management and Master Plan. A summary of the key findings includes;

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people.
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits.
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week.
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West.
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation.
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.

- People who identify as having a disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

Community Engagement:

The study undertook extensive engagement with the community to determine both recreational participation within the inner west as well as comments and suggestions about the quality of public open space within the LGA. These findings in conjunction with community engagement carried out specifically for Leichhardt Park form a body of information about the community's needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

Objectives:

The report found a number of opportunities for improving recreational spaces within the LGA through a needs and gaps analysis. These opportunities were grouped into broad themes. A number of these key opportunities which relate specifically to the scope of this Plan of Management and Master Plan have been summarised in this review.

NEED
Additional Sporting fields
Additional Aquatic Centre
Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs
Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.
Lighting and design of parks to increase feelings of safety
Access and storage for water sports
Improved car parking

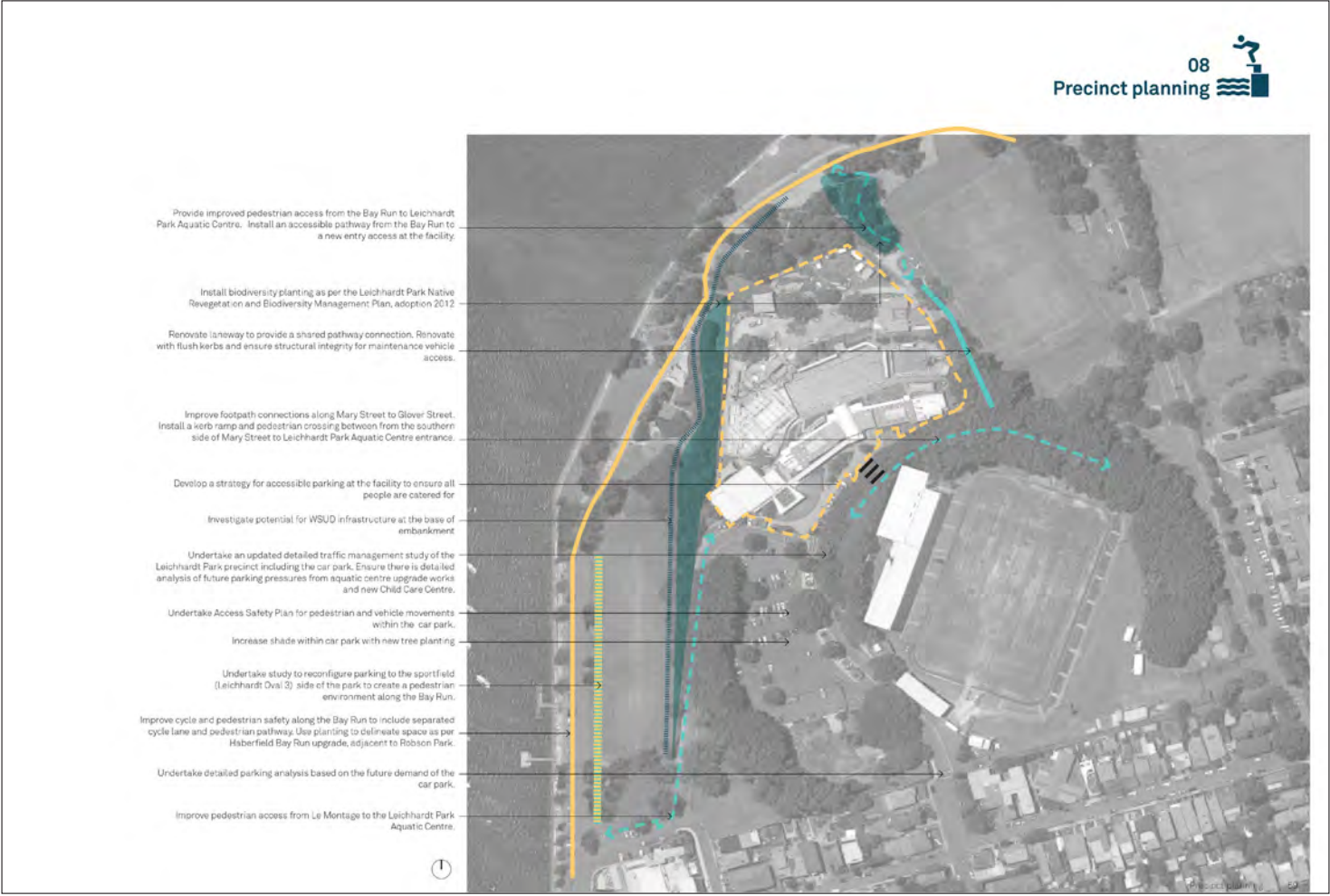
OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synthetic fields, possibly at Tempe Reserve or Leichhardt #2 and #3 could reduce the need for additional sporting fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase capacity at existing facilities through the planned Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extend the Marrickville Public Toilet Strategy recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting on the Bay Run,• Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspirational approach to swimming in the Cooks River as per Council's existing plan• Opportunities for inclusive access to kayaking, and• Opportunities for kayak launching and storage as part of the Greenway master plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination of LPAC and Leichhardt Oval programming to address parking concerns.

REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Improved sporting field playing surfaces through upgrades to drainage, turf, soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a rolling program of sporting field upgrades at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tempe Reserve - Leichhardt Park No. 2
Improving sporting building infrastructure, spectator infrastructure, courts surfaces, lighting, allocation and booking processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade sporting grounds throughout the LGA.
Signage and wayfinding on cyclist routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review throughout the LGA, in particular for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path and the Greenway. Continuing to widen and possibly separate the Bay Run paths
Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.
Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath improvements, bushcare programs, More affordable recreation opportunities for older people Support with transport to recreation opportunities.
Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable nighttime use including for organised and informal activities Encourage recreation providers (e.g. sports clubs, fitness providers) to provide recreation opportunities in the evening eg social versions of sport
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability including organised sport and aquatic centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities and parks, for example in new amenities buildings.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTIQ+ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming change and bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.
New off-leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play; Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off-leash areas; Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict e.g. planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.
Protecting ecological recreation sites and biodiversity areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue bush care programs, nature based play spaces Open space and streetscape design that incorporates natural elements and delivers on environmental outcomes, such as understorey planting and native plants.
Clean waterways to reduce smell and rubbish, and to provide new recreation opportunities such as swimming and kayaking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve, and

1.0 Context Overview

LEICHHARDT PARK AQUATIC CENTRE DRAFT MASTER PLAN 2018



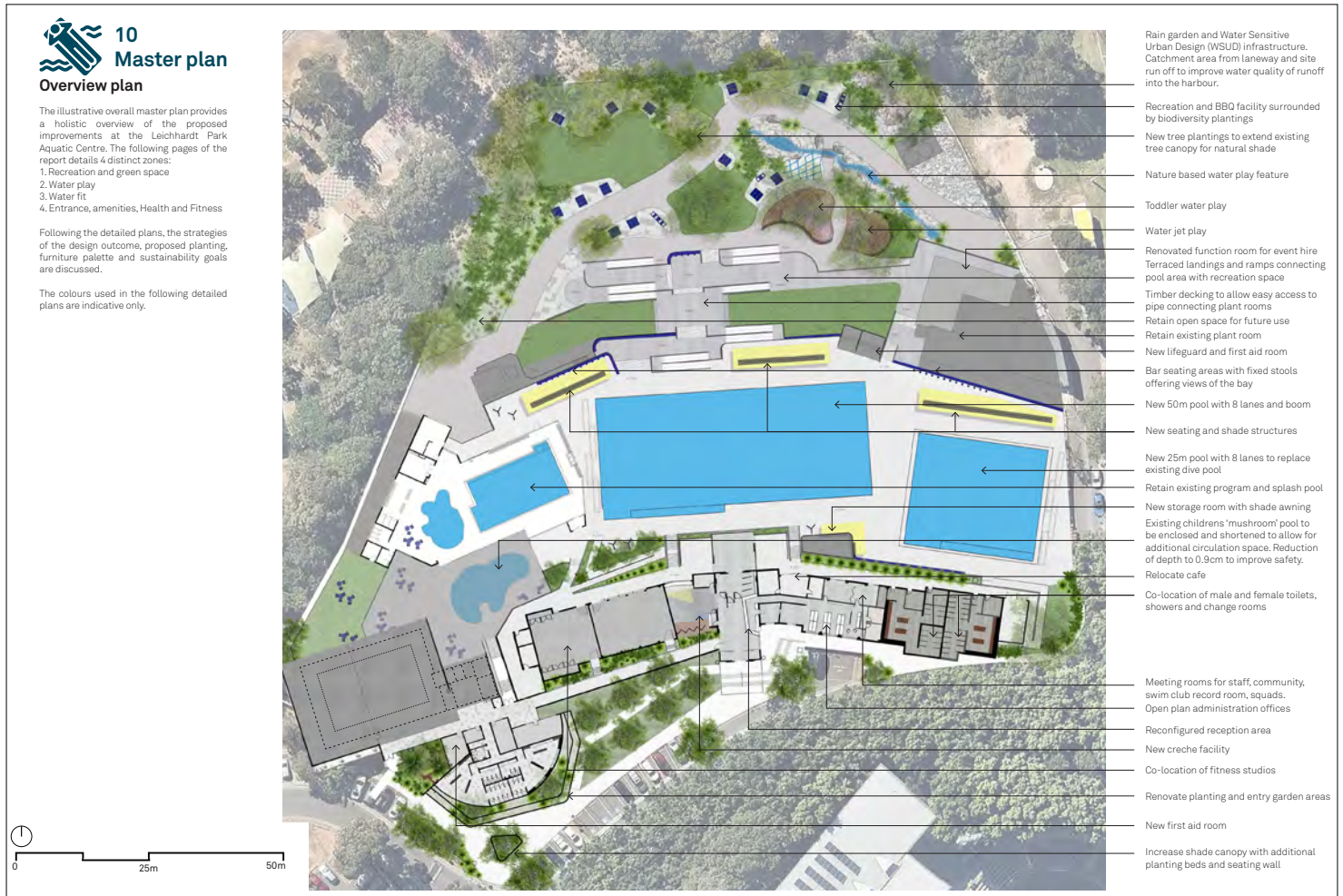
TheLPACMasterPlanDraftmakesanumberofsuggestionsinvolving the wider context of Leichhardt Park, that have been taken into consideration during the preparation of this master plan. These include strategies such as:

- Improving pedestrian access to the LPAC.
- ImprovedbiodiversityplantingandWSUDinfrastructurearound the LPAC.

- Improved safety along the Bay Run by separating the current pedestrian path and cycleway and reconfiguration of existing parking adjacent Leichhardt #3
- Improvements to car parking areas with additional shading.
- Undertaking studies to improve traffic management and the interaction of vehicles and pedestrians.



REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

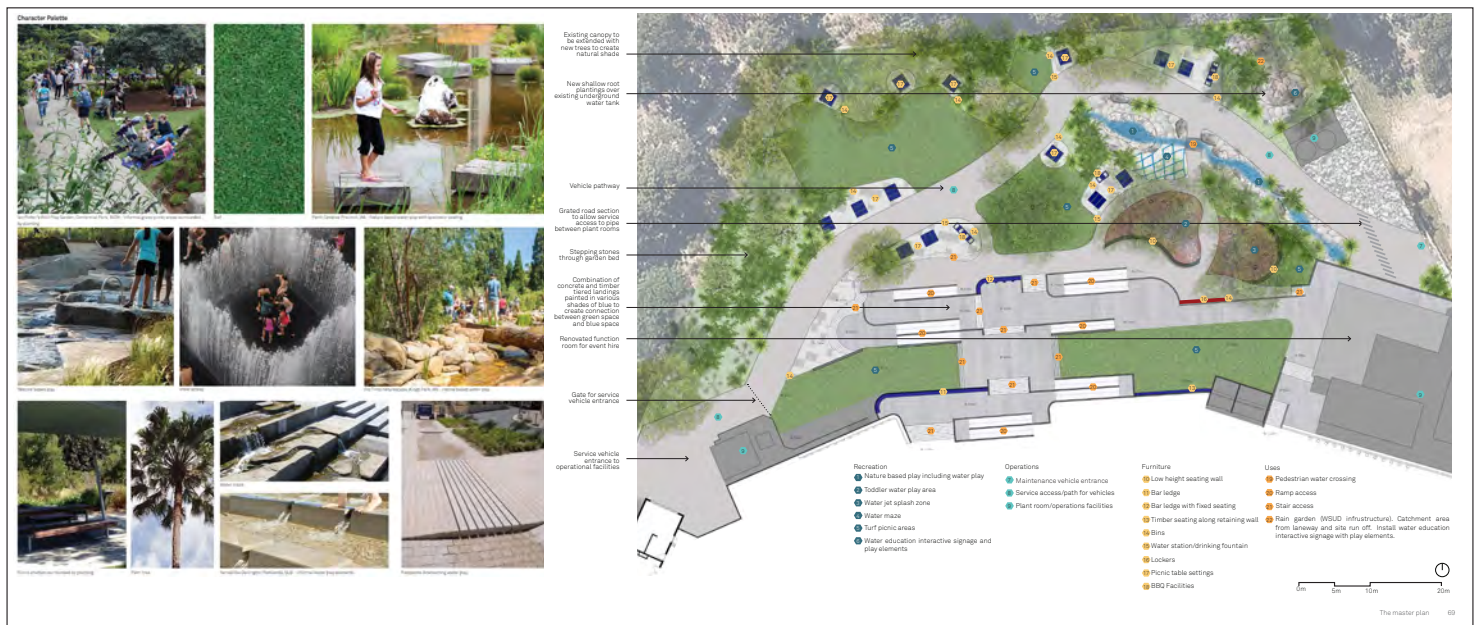


The LPAC Master Plan Draft also includes detailed strategies for proposed upgrades to the aquatic centre, including:

- Additional recreational opportunities such as BBQ facilities and shade structures.
- Nature based water play areas for toddlers and children.
- Spectator seating with potential for small concerts and outdoor

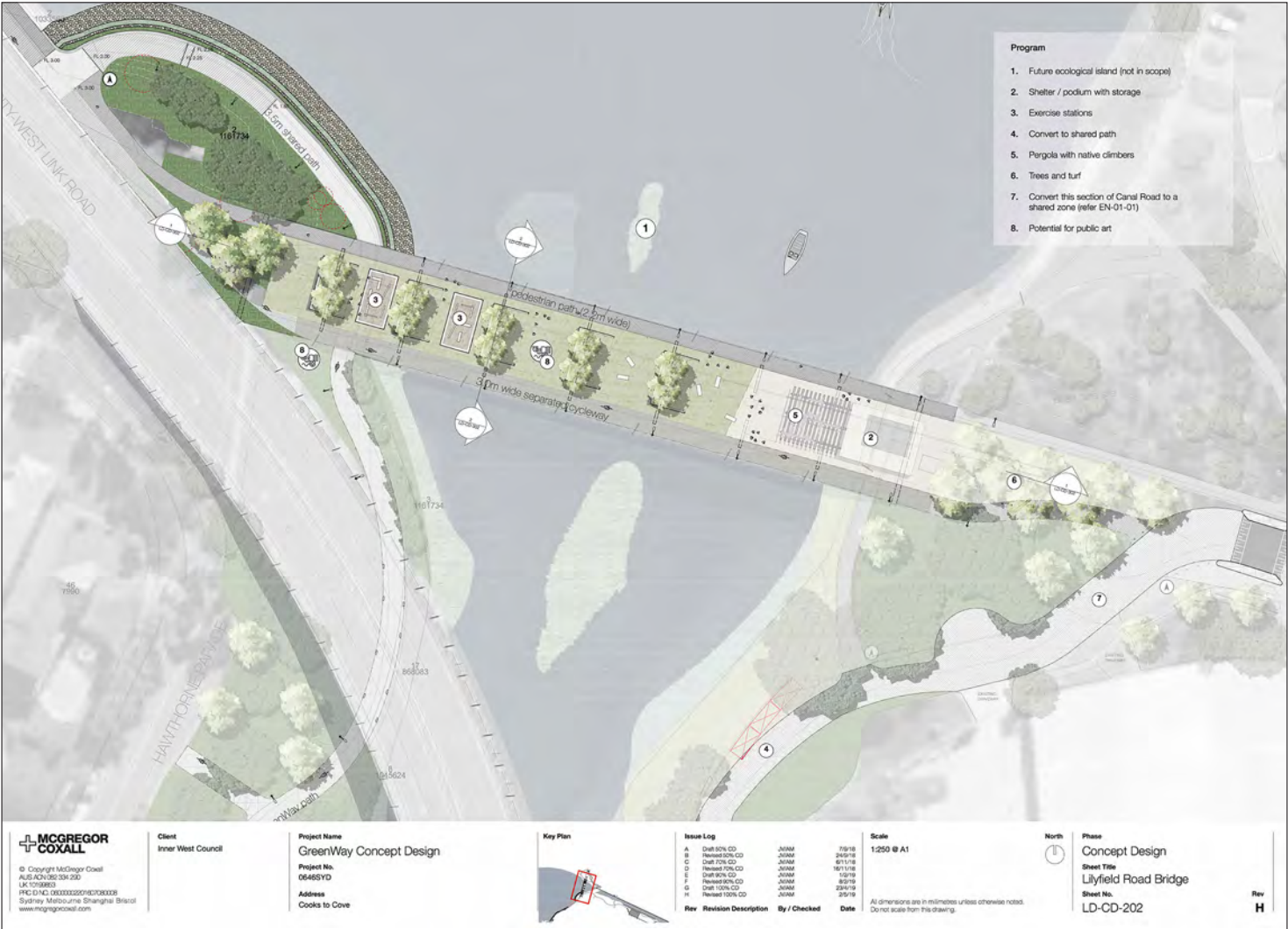
film viewing.

- Community and Function spaces.
- Improvements to existing pool facilities including an expanded 50m pool and dive pool upgrades.
- Renovations to entry garden areas with additional seating and a reconfigured reception and cafe area.



1.0 Context Overview

GREENWAY MASTER PLAN - COOKS TO COVE GREENWAY 2018



The Greenway concept design, prepared by McGregor Coxall for InnerWestCouncil, includes the Hawthorne Canal precinct which lies directly to the south of Leichhardt Park. It establishes an important link between Leichhardt Park and the Greenway.

The concept design provides a critical opportunity for the Leichhardt Park master plan to establish a coherent junction with the Hawthorne Canal by responding to the strategies which have already been established.

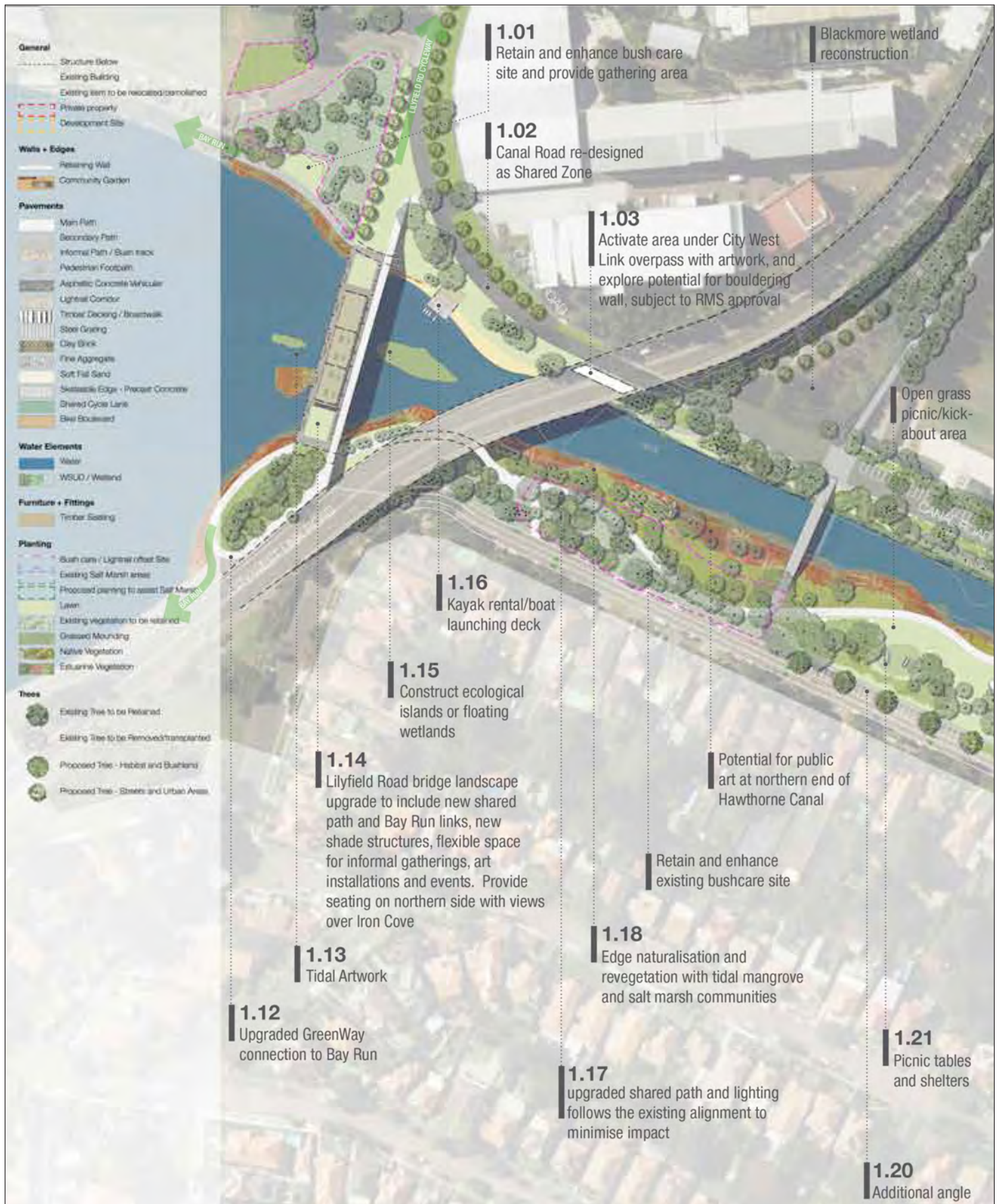
A number of design documents have been prepared in relation to the Hawthorne Canal precinct, which includes the Lilyfield Road bridge and the Bay Run. Some of the design concepts include:

- A separated 3m wide cycleway and 2.2m wide pedestrian path which will connect to the Bay Run and future bicycle infrastructure along Lilyfield Road.
- Improved green links across Lilyfield Bridge with trees and turf.
- Amenities along the bridge such as exercise stations and shade structures.
- Traffic calming measures to convert the end of Lilyfield Road and Canal Road into a shared zone.
- Opportunities for public art.

The Master Plan also identifies a number of other strategies which relate to the Hawthorne Canal Precinct, including:

- Enhanced bush care to the north of Lilyfield Road bridge with the inclusion of a gathering area.
- A kayak rental / boat launching deck directly to the south of the Lilyfield Road bridge.
- Constructed ecological islands or floated wetlands at the mouth of the canal.
- Opportunity for tidal artwork.
- Edge naturalisation of the canal, including re-vegetation with tidal mangrove and salt marsh communities.
- Improved biodiversity planting and WSUD infrastructure around the LPAC.
- Improved safety along the Bay Run by separating the current pedestrian path and cycleway and reconfiguration of existing parking adjacent Leichhardt #3.
- Improvements to car parking areas and undertaking traffic management studies.

REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY



1.0 Context Overview

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS



REVIEW OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES + EXISTING POLICY

Dog Exercise Areas Within Leichhardt Park

The use of Leichhardt Park for dog walking is encouraged and recognised by Council as creating a positive sense of community if conducted in a responsible manner.

Areas for on and off leash dog exercise are indicated by the map adjacent. These areas should be clearly signposted within the park and be integrated into a cohesive signage strategy to notify dog walkers of their responsibilities.

Dog On-Leash Areas

- Dogs are generally permitted to be on-leash in most areas throughout the park. Care should be taken to ensure compliance in areas around the Bay Run path.

Dog Off-Leash Areas

- Off-leash dog exercise is permitted on Leichhardt #3 unless organised sports are taking place.

Dogs Prohibited

- Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play apparatus, which includes Blue Hippo Playground and in front of the Leichhardt Park Children's Centre.
- Dogs are prohibited on the playing surface of Leichhardt Oval #1.
- Dogs are prohibited on the playing surface of Leichhardt #2 on account of the proposed upgrade to a synthetic turf field. Note: this change will be implemented subject to the development of the new synthetic turf field.



The Bay Run Adjacent LRC. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

2.0 Categorisation + Ownership



The Bay Run Adjacent LRC. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

LAND TO WHICH THIS PLAN APPLIES

This plan refers to Leichhardt Park which is located on the foreshore of Iron Cove and extends from Hawthorne Canal to the south of Callan Park. It consists of 36 acres (14.5 hectares), making it one of the largest parks in the local government area.

The Plan of Management applies to Leichhardt Park (D500207) which is Crown land for which Inner West Council is the land manager. The subject site was gazetted for the purpose of Public Recreation on 9 December 1977, with the additional purpose of Communication Facilities on 23 January 2009 and Community Purposes on 25 January 2013.

At the time of writing, Leichhardt LEP 2011 applies to the land. The land zoning map clarifies that the entirety of Leichhardt Park is zoned for 'Public Recreation'.

Lot/DP	Name & Location	Current Management & Agreements Recommendations	Ownership	Area (approximate)	Notes
Lot 6643 DP 1137663	Leichhardt Park	Inner West Council	Crown Land Crown Reserve D500207 Dedicated for Public	14.2 Ha	The prior title reference for 6643/1137663 was 664/729283.
Lot 6643 DP 1137663	Leichhardt Park Wharf Maliyawul Street	Inner West Council is Lessee.	Waterways Authority	-	Not zoned as is part of harbour.
Lot 1192 DP 752049	Leichhardt Rowing Club, 64 Glover Street, Lilyfield.	There is current approval for a 21 year licence for storage rack & winch which encroach onto park and to replace step to pontoon with a new ramp.	Crown Land	568m ²	Leichhardt Rowing Club Inc. is the land manager of Leichhardt Reserve No. 100239.
Lot 587 / 588 DP 752049	Leichhardt Rowing Club forecourt area. 64 Glover Street, Lilyfield.		Public Road	119m ²	
Lot 6642 DP 1137663	Part of built area for Le Montage 38-42 Frazer St, Lilyfield. Includes Bin store to north of building.	Conca D'oro Lounge	Conca D'oro Lounge	528m ²	
Lot 6641 DP 1137663	Part of Car Park for Le Montage 38-42 Frazer St, Lilyfield	Leased to Conca D'oro Lounge at market rent.	Crown Land	1660m ²	
Lot 555 DP 752049	Part of Car Park for Le Montage 38-42 Frazer St, Lilyfield	Conca D'oro Lounge	Conca D'oro Lounge	1066m ²	
Lot 2 DP 599686 b/159831	Part of Car Park for Le Montage 38-42 Frazer St, Lilyfield and part of Peace Park	Part (Approx 201m ²) is operational land and leased to owner of Le Montage Function Centre. The balance (approx 100m ²) is community land and used as part of Peace Park.	Council owned Land	301m ²	
Lot 1 DP 89841	Aircraft Transponder	Council is recommended to investigate acquisition of this asset from Air Services Australia.	Air Services Australia	498m ²	Transponder is no longer operational.

2.0 Categorisation + Ownership



CROWN LAND CATEGORISATION

Crown Land Reserves

Crown Land Reserves are owned by the State of New South Wales (NSW) and managed by Councils on behalf of the NSW Government for the benefit of the general public.

Crown Land Reserves managed by Council have been set aside for the purpose of public recreation. Where local councils are the land manager of Crown Reserves they are to be managed as if they are 'public land' under the Local Government Act 1993.

A council manager is authorised to categorise and manage its dedicated or reserved Crown land as if it were public land within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993. The Crown Land within Leichhardt Park is classified as "community land" and as such, must be managed by a Plan of Management.

The Crown Land within Leichhardt Park falls into the categories listed in the table below.

Management Principles

The principles of Crown land management are:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land, and
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible, and
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged, and
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged, and
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent

with the above principles.

Native Title on Crown Land

On Crown land native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- native title has been extinguished; or
- native title has been surrendered; or
- determined by a court to no longer exist.

Some examples of acts which may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves managed by Council include:

- the construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, tennis courts, grandstands and barbecues,
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings,
- the construction of new roads or tracks,
- installation of infrastructure such as power lines, sewerage pipes, etc,
- the creation of an easement
- the issue of a lease or licence,
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

When proposing any act that may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth). Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity to comment any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered native title bodies corporate and registered native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the Native Title Act 1993.

Category (Crown land)	Core objectives (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993)
SPORTS GROUND	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
PARK	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public— (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

2.0 Categorisation + Ownership



COUNCIL LAND CATEGORISATION

Community land - Local Government Act Requirements

There is little Council owned land within Leichhardt Park, with the majority of the parkland falling under Crown Land. The area which is Council owned is located around the Le Montage site and to the north of Peace Park.

The land which is currently utilised as part of the Le Montage Car Park is classified as Operational land.

The land which falls to the north of Peace Park is classified as Community land. Community land is generally public park land set aside for community use. Development and use of this land is subject to strict controls set out in the Act such as Community land cannot be sold, or leased or licensed for more than 30 years. In addition to these controls, the Act requires council to have plans of management for all Community lands.

A plan of management places Community Land into categories which impact how they can be used. Community Land is still subject to zoning controls and a plan of management operates as an additional control over that piece of land.

The Community land within Leichhardt Park falls into the categories listed in the table below.

Management Principles

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

(a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and

(b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Category (Council land)	Core objectives (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993)
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public—</p> <p>(a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and</p> <p>(b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</p>



View to Iron Cove. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.



View to Iron Cove. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

3.0 Leases + Licences

1.1 What are Leases, Licences?

A lease is a contract between the land owner, and another entity granting to that entity an exclusive right to occupy, use or control an area for a specified time.

A licence allows multiple non – exclusive use of an area. Short term licences and bookings may be used to allow the best overall use of an area.

Council’s leasing and licensing is governed by its Land and Property Policy.

1.2 Authorisation of Leases, Licences

The Local Government Act 1993 (Act) requires a lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of management (PoM). The lease or licence must be for a purpose consistent with core objectives of its categorisation and zoning of the land. In addition, leases and licences of Crown land must be consistent with the dedication or reservation.

The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government.

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to be permissible under this PoM, the LG Act, the Local Government Regulations 2005, Crown Lands Management Act 2016, Crown Lands Management Regulations 2017, Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2011 and any subsequent LEP adopted by Inner West Council, and pursuant to a development consent if required.

Any proposed lease, licence greater than 5 years must be by tender unless it is to a non-profit organisation.

Any proposed lease, licence, other than short term or casual must give public notice and be in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

Any leases, licences on Crown land (a use agreement) on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests.

Any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and in accordance with Part 8 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 unless native title is extinguished. For Crown land which is not excluded land this will require written advice of one of Council’s native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of

the native title legislation.

This plan does not authorise the issuing of use agreements on Crown land for Research Station or Aquaculture.

LEICHHARDT PARK (D500207)

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council as land manager of Leichhardt Park D 500207) to grant leases and licences or any other estate for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and 1.02. The leases and licences permitted on this land align with original gazetted purpose of “Public Recreation” with the additional purpose of Communication Facilities on 23 January 2009 and Community Purposes on 25 January 2013.

Current Leases / Licences

This PoM authorises the current leases and licences until the end of their current terms. The caretakers cottage is under a residential tenancy agreement that is in holdover. Council does not intend to grant any further residential tenancy agreements.

Future Leases / Licences

The Caretakers cottage is currently used for residential purposes under a residential tenancy agreement. It is the intention of Council that the use of the Caretakers Cottage will be amended to recreation purposes in the next 5 years.

This Plan of Management expressly authorises the following leases and licences.

Long Term Uses

Appropriate long term leases and licences must align with the objectives of community land as set out in the Local Government Act, along with the purpose the land was originally gazetted for (Public Recreation). A long term lease may be appropriate for the lease of a building for recreation or the purpose of a cafe with a focus on social enterprise. A long term licence may be appropriate where a club, community group or school seek to have long term use of the site. The licence ensures that the licensee does not have exclusive use of the site.

Short Term Uses

Short term uses are the most common lease, licence or other estate found in parks.

CURRENT LEASES + LICENCES

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences for the community land component of Leichhardt Park for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and Table 1.02.

Table 1.01 Leichhardt Park- Permissible Long Term Uses up to 30 years - The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Categorisation and Facilities	Purpose for which licensing / leasing will be granted
Licence	Sports Grounds	Organised sport including but not limited to soccer, rugby, AFL
Licence	General Community Use Land	Recreational purposes
Licence	Sports Grounds	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence	General Community Use	School and community group recreation and education use
Lease	Sports Grounds building	Recreational purposes including the lease for management of a recreational or sporting facility
Licence	Sports Grounds building	Recreational purposes
Lease	Sports Grounds	Recreational purposes- including the lease for management of a recreational or sporting facility
Lease	General Community use Land	Recreational purposes- including the lease of land for building and/or management of a sporting or recreational facility
Lease	General Community Use Building	Café/ kiosk Recreational purposes- including the lease of land for building and/or management of a sporting or recreational facility
Lease	General Community Use Caretakers Cottage	Café/ kiosk Recreational purposes
Lease	General Community Use Building Childcare Centre	Childcare Centre

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Table 1.02 Leichhardt Park - Permissible Short Term Uses up to 12 months

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Categorisation and Facilities	Purposes for which short term casual licences up to 12 months will be granted
Licence	Sportsground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seasonal licences -Sporting fixtures and events -Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events - sports and fitness training and classes -commercial fitness trainers -broadcasting or filming of sporting fixtures -catering - uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events
Licence	Sports Grounds	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence	General Community Use	School and community group recreation and education use
Licence	General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -storage of dinghys/kayaks/ non motorised boats in allocated storage bays -commercial fitness trainers
Licence	Sportsground Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -events - corporate functions -exhibitions, fairs, shows -functions meetings, seminars, presentations
Licence	Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -fairs, markets, auctions and similar events -engaging in trade or business -delivering a public address -public performances -picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings -conducting a commercial photography session -filming including film / television -community events and festivals -playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward -advertising - ,catering - community, training or education -environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies - exhibitions - functions - hiring of equipment - meetings - mooring of boats to wharves or other structures - site investigations - sporting and organised recreational activities -storage - emergency purposes including training



Bush Track to LPAC. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

4.0 Statutory Conditions + Legislation



Bush Track to LPAC. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

4.0 Statutory Conditions + Legislation



Zoning + Classification

Leichhardt LEP : RE1 'Public recreation'

Aviation Transponder

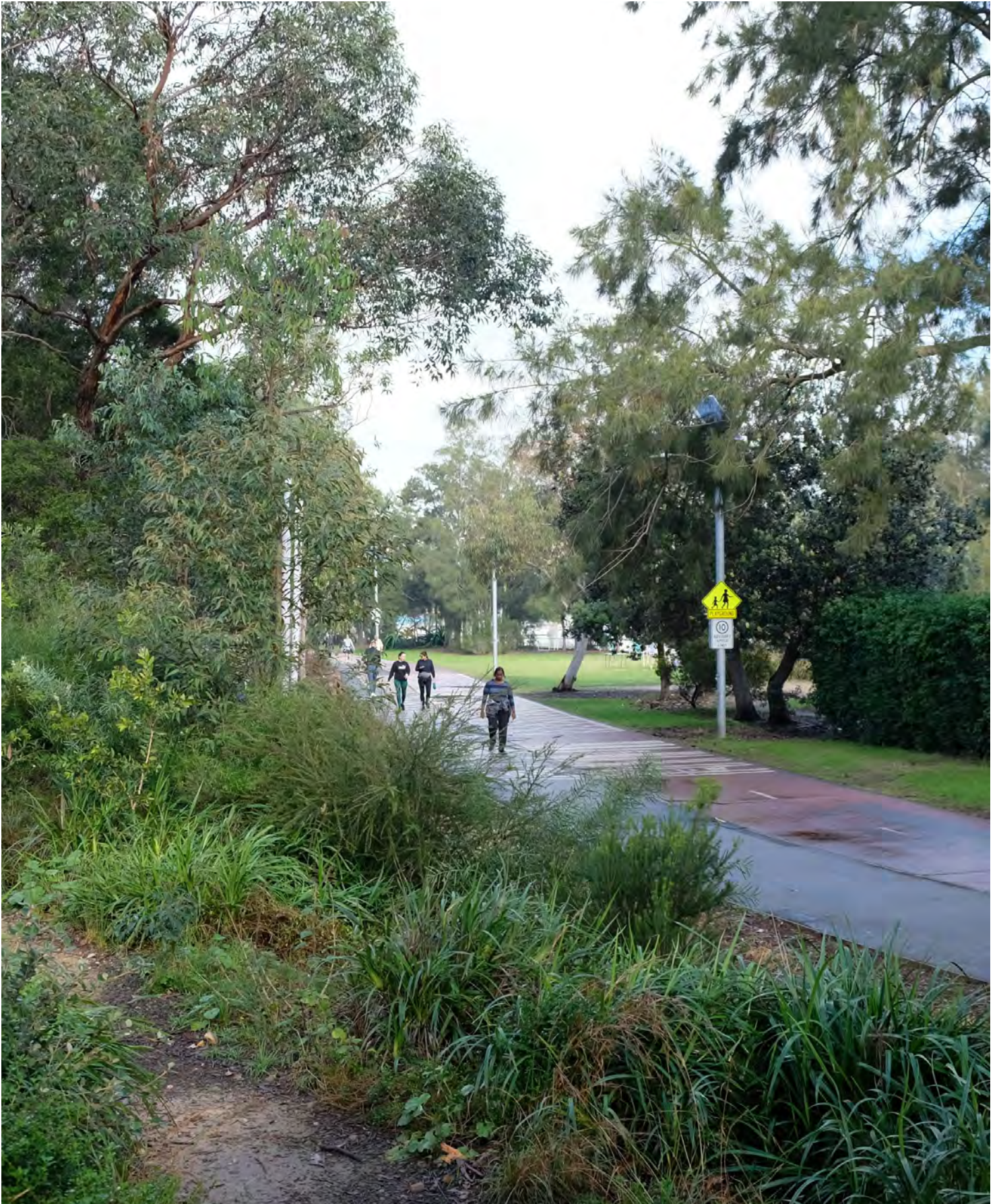
An aviation transponder is located just beyond the north eastern masterplan boundary on DP89841. The site is currently underutilised by Air Services Australia and Council is recommended to investigate acquisition of this asset from Air Services Australia.

State Environmental Planning Policy - Coastal Management 2018 + Coastal Management Act 2016

This legislation provides a framework and objectives for managing coastal issues in NSW. It focuses on ecologically sustainable management, development and use of the coast for the social, cultural and economic well-being of people.

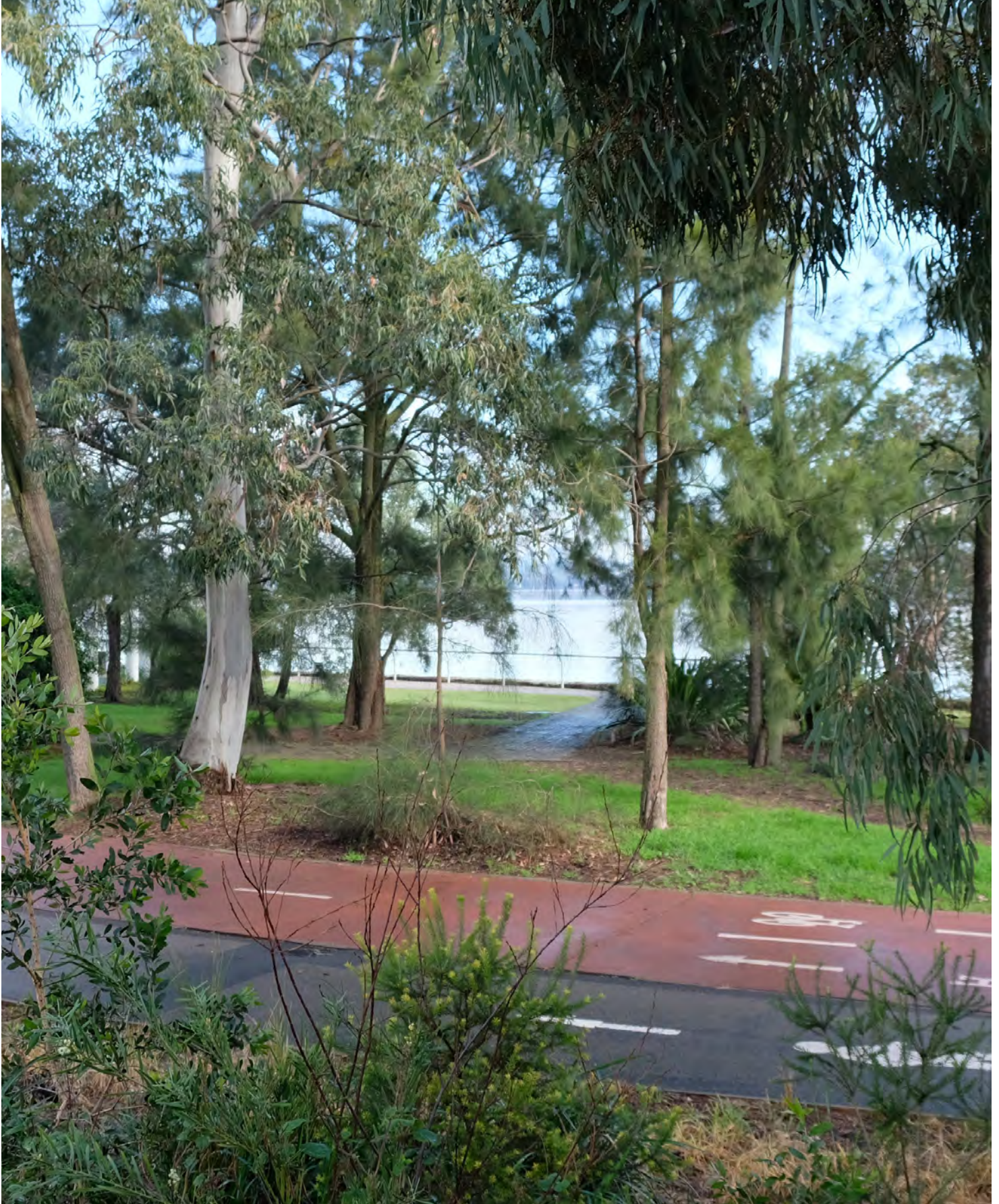
Other Relevant Legislation

- Foreshore Building Line LEP 2013
- Native title Act 1993 (Cwlth)
- Companion Animals Act.
- Disability Discrimination Act.
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- National Construction Code 2019.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007
- Work, Health and Safety Act.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP



View along the Bay Run. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



View Along the Bay Run. Photo taken by Welsh + Major.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies

OVERVIEW

The key objectives outline a broad vision for the future of Leichhardt Park. They have been derived from the opportunities and constraints outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes. They have also been informed through a precedent study of successful local, national and international parkland projects.

Key strategies offer practical measures for how these objectives can be implemented within Leichhardt Park.



ACCESS

Key Objectives:

1. Provide welcoming and easy to navigate entry points.
2. Establish the park as a place for people.
3. Remove existing pinch points along the Bay Run path.
4. Improve existing connections throughout the park.
5. Create a simple signage and wayfinding strategy for navigating the park and its assets.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish gateways that define entries into Leichhardt Park as a shared public place.
- Create shared roads that balance the needs of people walking and cycling with vehicle access. Relocate vehicle access points that are detrimental to the park as a public green space.
- Widen the Bay Run at key points and provide an additional route adjacent Maliyawul Street.
- Provide safe and connected routes within the park.
- Consolidate wayfinding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.



INCLUSIVE

Key Objectives:

1. Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.
2. Provide new public accessible amenities adjacent Leichhardt #2.
3. Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provision of a new skate plaza facility that caters for a range of age groups.
- Provide additional park furniture and rest stops.
- Expand existing rowing precinct to provide accessible community rowing facilities.
- Improve wheelchair access throughout the park and within key assets.
- Provide clear on-leash and off-leash dog areas and amenities.



SENSE OF PLACE

Key Objectives:

1. Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.
2. Create opportunities to educate visitors about the culture and history of the site through public art and interpretation strategies.
3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and create new fine-grain spaces.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Implement a historical interpretation strategy for the historical site of the Leichhardt Municipal baths.
- Revitalise the areas around the existing sensory memorial garden and Giovinnazzo Grove.
- Foster the identity of Leichhardt Oval and build on its character as a unique asset.



COMMUNITY

Key Objectives:

1. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
2. *Provide high quality amenities, furniture and facilities.*
3. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and general community use.
- Repair, maintain or replace existing furniture and amenities as required.



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives:

1. *Protect and restore local ecologies and prioritise the environment in decision making.*
2. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*
3. *Provide connections between isolated habitats to strengthen biodiversity. Balance the impact of recreation on sensitive habitats while providing opportunities for visitors to engage with nature.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Continue successful bush regeneration and biodiversity programs and educate visitors about local flora and fauna.
- Establish bioswales in key areas to manage water run-off and improve the health of the Iron Cove.
- Focus on establishing fauna links throughout the park and to Hawthorne Canal.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles and upgrade existing facilities with sustainable measures.



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

1. *Address areas where dangerous interactions occur between people on foot, people riding bicycles and vehicles.*
2. *Upgrade lighting associated key assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Prioritise upgrading pinch-points, blind corners and mergers along the Bay Run path.
- Provide safe connections for people within the park, particularly around key assets such as the LPAC.
- Implement a consistent lighting plan along the Bay Run to facilitate use before and after daylight hours.



SPORTS + RECREATION

Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the capacity of existing sporting facilities to maximise their use for organised sports.*
2. *Provide high quality facilities that encourage active and healthy communities.*
3. *Acknowledge the community benefit of playing fields as areas for recreation outside of their use for organised sports.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade Leichhardt #2 to a synthetic playing surface to maximise its use.
- Provide a new facility for organised sports at Leichhardt #2 to replace the existing demountable.
- Retain Leichhardt #3 as a natural grass surface which is utilised by the community for general recreation and as a timed off-leash dog area.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



ACCESS



Gateway into a pedestrian area identified by a change in level and materials¹

Defining Gateways to Leichhardt Park

The numerous access points to Leichhardt Park give little impression that one is entering a public parkland. Roads within the park lack distinction from the wider road network which heavily prioritises vehicles. Defined gateways should imply entry into a space which is to be shared by people walking, cycling and driving.

This could be addressed by establishing shared zones at entry points, through measures such as alternative road surface materials, traffic calming, removal of kerbs to allow easy movement for people, and protection of pedestrian only areas through bollards and other measures.

Entry points to key assets within the park, such as Leichhardt Oval and Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, should be clearly identifiable and contribute to the asset's unique character. Surrounding spaces and forecourts should be generous and inviting to visitors.

Leichhardt Park as a Place for People

The need for people to access key assets within the park by car must be balanced with the needs of people who are navigating the park by foot, wheelchair or bicycle. Roads within the park, particularly around key assets, should allow people to move about safely and effectively. This could be addressed by establishing the link road between Mary Street and Glover Street as a pedestrianised zone.

Roads and areas that are intended for service vehicle access should be separated with removable bollards and pedestrianised so that they are pleasant and safe places for people when vehicle access is not required. This would include the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre service lane, Laurie's Lane and the forecourt of the Leichhardt Rowing Club.

Pathways should be consistent and connected throughout the park. Entry from Glover Street towards the LPAC is currently poorly connected and must be addressed. The overflow parking area adjacent Leichhardt Oval along the link road should be formalised into a pedestrian connection which permits parking only during events at



Design strategies for shared streets, including removal of kerbs²

Leichhardt Oval. This could be achieved with removable bollards to permit parking of cars or service vehicles during events.

Roads which are less utilised and result in high vehicle speeds within the park should be reconfigured. This would include the link road between the lower foreshore and the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. Reconfiguring this road as a one-way vehicle road with reduced speeds with adjacent shared pedestrian and cycleway would have a number of benefits, including the creation of a pedestrian and bicycle connection between the foreshore and the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and promoting safer surroundings to the proposed skate plaza.

Car parking along Maliyawul Street is well utilised and many visitors to the park arrive by car. Despite this utility, the extent of car parking is to the detriment of the foreshore which is one of Leichhardt Park's key assets. There is an opportunity to consolidate the public parkland available within the boundaries of Leichhardt Park by relocating some of the car parking adjacent Leichhardt #3 further south to Peace Park. As a result the highly valuable space to the north of Maliyawul Street opposite Leichhardt #3 could be returned to public parkland. Note: This proposal will not occur should the community rowing club proposal proceed at the location indicated opposite Blue Hippo Playground, as the roadway will likely be required for direct access to the facility.

The Bay Run

The Bay Run is a valuable asset to the wider Inner West community and both a popular destination and thoroughfare within Leichhardt Park. There are a number of pinch-points that have been identified through the site analysis and community engagement process which are addressed in this Master Plan. There are three key areas of improvement:

- Widening and deviating the path around the existing Leichhardt Rowing Club. This could be assisted through council acquisition of the aircraft transponder site adjacent the Leichhardt Rowing Club.



Key Objectives:

1. Provide welcoming and easy to navigate entry points.
2. Establish the park as a place for people.
3. Remove existing pinch points along the Bay Run path.
4. Improve existing connections throughout the park.
5. Create a simple signage and wayfinding strategy for navigating the park and its assets.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish gateways that define entries into Leichhardt Park as a shared public place.
- Create shared roads that balance the needs of people walking and cycling with vehicle access. Relocate vehicle access points that are detrimental to the park as a public green space.
- Widen the Bay Run at key points and provide an additional route adjacent Maliyawul Street.
- Provide safe and connected routes within the park.
- Consolidate wayfinding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format.

- Removing the pinch point to the north of Maliyawul Street car park.
- Separation of cyclists and pedestrians along Maliyawul Street through the provision of an additional cycling route, allowing the existing path to be for pedestrians only. Due to the limited space available, this would involve a new separated platform that extends over the existing concrete seawall section, sitting at a slightly lower level so as not to visually obstruct the connection of the foreshore path to the water. This would also form an important connection to the Lilyfield Street Bridge and the Greenway to the south.
- If a new pathway is not a viable solution it is recommended that Maliyawul Street is made safer for cyclists with rear to kerb parking, better road markings and wayfinding to indicate use by cyclists, traffic calming measures including lower speed limits and shared areas.
- Signage and wayfinding along the entirety of the Bay Run should be cohesive and clear for all users.
- The sides of the path to be used by cyclists and pedestrians swaps within Leichhardt Park due to the path passing adjacent to Blue Hippo Playground for safety reasons. However, this is not ideal for legibility and should be addressed through a holistic assessment and plan for the Bay Run in its entirety. If the path cannot be consistent along its entire length, creative and clear path-marking that addresses areas of particular confusion such as around Leichhardt Rowing Club should be investigated.

Signage and Wayfinding

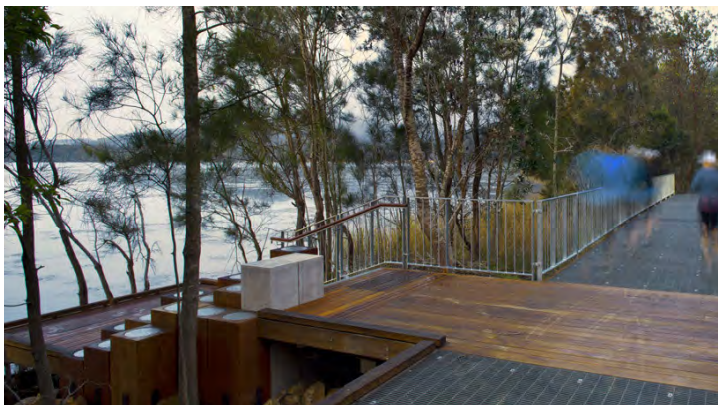
A cohesive signage strategy should be implemented for the park and its assets, which would assist in establishing the identity of Leichhardt Park. Generic road signs should be avoided. The signage strategy would include:

- Establishing the identity of Leichhardt Oval, particularly at the Glover Street entry.
- Signage that indicates the location of the playing fields Leichhardt #2 and #3, and a consistent approach to the naming of these fields to reduce confusion.
- Low impact wayfinding to assist pedestrians in navigating between the foreshore and other areas of the park along less formal paths.

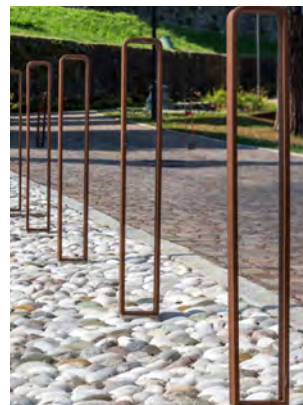
Informal Connections

There are a number of informal connections within Leichhardt Park. These include the bush track connecting the foreshore and the LPAC service lane and the connection between Le Montage and Leichhardt Oval. It is recommended that their informal quality is retained in terms of surface material.

The connection between the foreshore and Church St, through Peace Park, could be improved with a low impact gravel pathway which is integrated with the proposed bioswale.



Example of a suspended platform footpath and cycleway over the water's edge³



Permeable road separation⁴



Integrated signage and wayfinding⁵

¹New Road by Landscape Projects and Gehl Architects. Photo © Gehl Architects.

²Ibid.

³Narrabeen Lagoon walk by Aspect Studios. Photo © Simon Wood .

⁴Borgo di Castello by Di Dato & Meninno © Massimo Crivellari.

⁵Pityariilla Park by Aspect Studios. Photo © SweetLime.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



INCLUSIVE

Key Objectives:

1. Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.
2. Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provision of a new skate plaza facility that caters for a range of age groups.
- Provide additional park furniture and rest stops.
- Expand existing rowing precinct to provide accessible community rowing facilities.
- Improve wheelchair access throughout the park and within key assets.
- Provide clear on-leash and off-leash dog areas and amenities.

Lilyfield Skate Plaza

The proposed skate plaza will assist in meeting the need for a skate facility within the LGA as identified by the Recreational Needs Study. The facility will cater to a range of age groups, including older children and teenagers who are often under-represented in the provision of public park facilities outside of organised sports.

The design of the skate plaza should also be welcoming to parents and members of the community who wish to spectate, and offer shaded seating. Bubbler facilities are recommended to be located within the plaza or close by. It is suggested that targeted lighting is provided so that the plaza can be used during the day and after normal working hours, to ensure that older visitors are able to make use of the facility during week nights, up until a specified time. It is recommended that the design incorporates green spaces for planting to mitigate the hard surfaces. It is recommended that the design responds to other measures within this master plan, including the provision of a more generous connection between the foreshore and pathways to the east which lead to the LPAC and Leichhardt Oval.

Leichhardt Park Rowing Facilities

During the community engagement process, feedback was received in the form of a proposal for a community accessible rowing facility within the park. The proposed location within the submission for this facility was adjacent Blue Hippo Playground, to the north of the Maliyawul Street car park and Leichhardt #3.

While the provision of an accessible point for community ingress to Iron Cove is recommended, the location suggested is not considered to be ideal, due to the impact on the surrounding areas of parkland which are already heavily utilised and fairly congested.

Accessible Amenities

A new accessible amenities block is recommended to replace the existing toilet facilities on Glover Street. The new facility would be a short distance from the Bay Run and the Leichhardt Rowing Club. This would be incorporated with new organised sporting amenities for Leichhardt #2, which is described in detail in *Sports + Recreation - Leichhardt #2 Amenities*.

Pet and People friendly

Off-leash, on-leash and prohibited areas for dogs are established within the Plan of Management and should be clearly identified within the park through a coherent signage strategy that is to be integrated into the overall signage strategy for the park.

It is important that a sharing spirit towards public space is encouraged and there are places provided for both dog owners and park users who may not want to interact with off-leash dogs. Dog litter bag dispensers should be provided at key locations, and bubblers in some locations could have integrated dog bowls.

Rest Spots

Furniture or places to sit should be provided in key areas along the Bay Run and in other areas of the park to allow for visitors to stop, rest or wait. Places identified in the Master Plan for additional furniture or seating include:

- Near the Lilyfield Street Bridge (Zone 4).
- Integrated within future landscaping of the sensory garden area. (Zone 1).
- Incorporated to changes to the LPAC Link Rd (Zone 2).
- Incorporated within the proposed Lilyfield Skate Plaza. (Zone 4).
- Integrated into forecourt elements for Leichhardt Oval, such as a low wall.



Example of a seating element for a rest spot adjacent Lilyfield St Bridge¹



Example of skate plaza integrated with planting and seating²



Example of secluded seating within a sensory garden³



Seating integrated into retaining wall⁴



Example of accessible water ingress point for kayaks⁵



Dog off-leash areas⁶

¹Activity Landscape, MASU Planning. Photo © Kirstine Autzen

²Skatepark Freiburg Dietenbach. Photo © Betonlandschaften

³Magneten Sensory Garden by MASU planning. Photo © Kirstine Autzen.

⁴CHUM Research Center by NIPPAYSAGE. Photo © Steve Montpetit.

⁵Public Kayak Launch. Photo © The Dock Doctors.

⁶Pityriilla Park by Aspect Studios. Photo © SweetLime.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



SENSE OF PLACE

Key Objectives:

1. Highlight the unique aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.
2. Create opportunities to educate visitors about the culture and history of the site through public art and interpretation strategies.
3. Preserve and protect successful spaces, and create new fine-grain spaces.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Implement a historical interpretation strategy for the historical site of the Leichhardt Municipal baths.
- Revitalise the areas around the existing sensory memorial garden and Giovinazzo Grove.
- Foster the identity of Leichhardt Oval and build on its character as a unique asset.

Historical Interpretation

The foreshore area has a number of historical layers that could be consolidated into a historical interpretation strategy to engage park users with the heritage aspects of the site. It is recommended that an overall design strategy is established so that the multiple components are handled in a cohesive fashion. The current approach has been fairly haphazard and added to over a number of years.

It is recommended that a landscape design is undertaken for Giovinazzo Grove and the sensory garden, which integrates an interpretation strategy for the site as the historical location of the Leichhardt Municipal Baths. This could include:

- An opportunity for public art to indicate the original use of the site.
- Considering and integrating the memorial aspects of the existing garden.
- A low impact lighting design which follows the original footprint of the baths within the bay.
- A section of sea-wall that is removed to create a naturalised rock pool section of foreshore with stepped blocks, to allow an interaction with the water and an intertidal habitat.
- Revitalising and defining the existing sensory memorial garden and Giovinazzo Grove with high quality planting and creative landscaping elements to create a relaxing and secluded space.
- Removal of the existing colonnade pergola structure, foreshore footpath, seating and poorly sited concrete monument identifying the sister city relationship.
- Establishing a cohesive landscaping and furniture strategy to provide finer grain pockets of open space, which have a sense of enclosure and separation from the Bay Run path.
- Reinstating a meandering informal path with connections to the main Bay Run pathway and the informal bush track.
- Engaging with the pre-colonial history of the site, which could be integrated with the informal bush track and the original line of the foreshore prior to land reclamation.

recommended that Leichhardt Oval has a formalised Master Plan and Plan of Management of its own to guide future upgrades. This will assist in ensuring that future work is sympathetic to the existing identity of Leichhardt Oval and Leichhardt Park generally, and assist in guiding funding for future upgrades so that they can be carried out in a less reactive manner.

It is also recommended that:

- Improvements are made to the oval surrounds to clearly identify both entry points and make them generally more pedestrian focussed. This should be incorporated with the strategies outlined under the Access objective.
- Remove and rectify unsympathetic additions, such as parts of the oval fencing around the Mary Street entry that conceal storage areas and the back of the demountable bar area. Improve the landscaping presentation of this area to establish a defined forecourt. Landscape elements such as a low wall or stepped planting could also act as elements which identify the oval and provide an opportunity to stop and sit. Consider consolidating the placement of services such as hydrants if possible to free up additional space a public forecourt.
- That council investigates adaptive re-use strategies for the existing caretakers cottage. It is recommended that its future use has an association with Leichhardt Oval.

Leichhardt Oval

The oval is a key asset of the park and is highly valued on account of its original character compared to other venues. It is important to retain this identity through any future works to the oval. It is



Example of low impact interpretation of original Sydney foreshore line.¹



A low seating element flowing through a natural garden space.²



A variety of materials and textures for a sensory garden pathway.³



Example of interpretive lighting strategy.⁴



An interactive landscape element that could indicate the Municipal Baths footprint.⁵



Naturalised foreshore element as an interpretation of the original harbour edge.⁶



Naturalised foreshore element allowing a connection with the water.⁷



Example of interpretive lighting strategy on the remains of a heritage wharf.⁸

¹Sydney 1788 Shoreline. Photo © Somewhere42.

²Red Ribbon Park by Kongjian Yu & Turenscape. Photo © Max Borka.

³Magneten Sensory Garden by MASU planning. Photo © Kirstine Autzen.

⁴Lighting. Photo © John Platt Photography.

⁵Regenstein Learning Campus by Mikyoung Kim Design. Photo © Mikyoung Kim Design.

⁶Barangaroo Reserve by PWP Landscape Architecture. © Barangaroo Delivery Authority

⁷Detail of the Water Front, Park Somerlust. Photo © Felixx.

⁸Princess Pier Interpretation by Lovell Chen. Photo © Lovell Chen.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies

COMMUNITY

Key Objectives:

1. *Protect areas that are highly valued by the community.*
2. *Provide high quality amenities, furniture and facilities.*
3. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and general community use.
- Repair, maintain or replace existing furniture and amenities as required.

Open Green Space

It is important to protect existing open green spaces within the park which are highly valued by the community, and avoid the assumption that unprogrammed or undefined spaces are less utilised because they lack a defined purpose. Open green spaces are flexible and fulfil a range of needs, ranging from picnics, gatherings, casual sports, warm-up and quiet relaxation. Such areas include the open grassed areas adjacent Blue Hippo Playground and the Leichhardt Rowing Club. It is recommended that these areas are retained as open, and that any new amenities provided do not reduce their capacity.

A low impact bbq facility could potentially be provided to supplement these spaces, but should be located so as not to restrict their flexible use.

The location proposed for the Lilyfield Skate Plaza is currently used as a flexible open space by the community. To balance replacing open green space with the skate plaza, consideration should be given to increasing the amount of open green space available elsewhere in the park. This could be achieved through the removal of the LPAC link road and the relocation of some parking along Maliyawul Street to Peace Park.

New Amenities

It is recommended that a mix of peaceful seating opportunities for groups and individuals are provided within the new landscape design for the sensory garden area, and the existing seating, tables and concrete plaque is removed.

Maintaining Existing Facilities

Existing amenities would benefit from regular maintenance and upgrade once they reach the end of their lifespan. This would include:

- The exercise equipment station which is currently out of order.
- Play equipment in Blue Hippo Park.



Example of high quality seating integrated into a garden²



Example of the existing open green spaces at Leichhardt Park³



Outdoor gym, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney.¹



Example of a low impact public BBQ facility integrated into landscaping.⁴



Key Objectives:

1. *Protect and restore local ecologies and prioritise the environment in decision making.*
2. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities and landscaping elements through a holistic design approach.*
3. *Provide connections between isolated habitats to strengthen biodiversity. Balance the impact of recreation on sensitive habitats while providing opportunities for visitors to engage with nature.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Continue successful bush regeneration and biodiversity programs and educate visitors about local flora and fauna.
- Establish bioswales in key areas to manage water run-off and improve the health of the Iron Cove.
- Focus on establishing fauna links throughout the park and to Hawthorne Canal.
- Design new facilities from sustainable principles and upgrade existing facilities with sustainable measures.

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Leichhardt Park forms an important connection between urban areas and Iron Cove, and as a result has a responsibility to improve the health of the harbour through effective management of stormwater on site.

A number of areas have been identified as having existing stormwater management issues that would benefit from the creation of bioswales. These would assist in capturing and filtering run-off on site before entering the harbour. There are also significant stormwater outlets along the Maliyawul street foreshore, which capture stormwater from the surrounding streets. A bioswale within Peace Park could assist in managing and filtering this stormwater.

Fauna links and Bush Regeneration

It is recommended that existing successful bush regeneration programs are continued within the park. It is also recommended that establishing a fauna link between Iron Cove and the Greenway is investigated. Currently there is no understorey planting to connect the two areas, and only a thin strip of land between the foreshore and Maliyawul Street is available.

Sustainable Facilities

New projects within the park must be designed and built to meet sustainable principles. This would include considerations of a facilities life-cycle, embodied energy and on-going sustainability. Upgrading existing facilities to improve sustainability should be considered. This

could include solar shading over the Leichhardt Park Car Park to offset energy intensive assets within the park, such as the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.



Bird boxes, Solvallsparken, Sweden.⁶



Photovoltaic solar shading structure to car park.⁷



Example of bridge across bioswale.⁵



Example of vegetated bioswale.⁸

¹Outdoor gym, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney, Neeson Murcutt. Source unknown.

²Yanhep Golf Estate by Place Laboratory. Photo © Peter Bennetts and Place Laboratory.

³Leichhardt Park. Photo by Welsh + Major.

⁴Barbecue bank integrated into landscape, Parramatta Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.

⁵Hassett Park by Hill Thalys Architecture + Urban Projects and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture © Dianna Snape

⁶Bird boxes, Solvallsparken, Sweden. Karavan Lansapsarkitekter, photo by Alex Giacomini.

⁷Solar Panels Over Parking. Photo © Smart Commercial Solar.

⁸Pityriilla Park by Aspect Studios. Photo © SweetLime.

5.0 Master Plan Strategies



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

1. Address areas where dangerous interactions occur between people on foot, people riding bicycles and vehicles.
2. Upgrade lighting associated key assets.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Prioritise upgrading pinch-points, blind corners and mergers along the Bay Run path.
- Provide safe connections for people within the park, particularly around key assets such as the LPAC.
- Implement a consistent lighting plan along the Bay Run to facilitate use before and after daylight hours.

Bay Run Lighting

A recurring suggestion from the community engagement process was the lack of consistent lighting along the extent of the Bay Run, and the resulting implication that these areas were less safe, particularly early in the morning and in the evenings.

It is recommended that a lighting strategy is undertaken for the Bay Run in its entirety. New lighting should be consistent and effective, and particular focus should be given to corners or shared areas where it could be difficult to see other users.

Safer Interactions

Priority should be given to the safe interaction between people on foot, people riding bicycles and people driving cars.

There are a number of pinch-points that have been identified through community engagement and site analysis that should be addressed to reduce the risk to park users. Strategies to achieve this have been outlined within the Access objective, including measures such as:

- Focussing on pedestrian safety within the park by establishing key roads as shared spaces.
- Removing or limiting vehicle access to particular roads.
- Separating people on foot and people riding bicycles where possible.
- Providing generous shared areas to give users time to react, slow down and see one another when separate paths are not possible.

Safer Pathways

A Safe path of travel should be provided for all users to navigate the park, particularly in areas of high use and around key assets. This is especially important for older park visitors who are at most risk of a fall and those who identify as having a disability. Improving the safety of pathways could include measures such as:

- Installing a handrail to staircases, such as the stairs to the Lilyfield Rd Bridge.
- Repairing areas of footpath which are uneven and may present a trip hazard as they arise.

It should be noted that a park can benefit from having a range of different path surfaces and conditions and that not all pathways need to be formalised to meet a particular standard.



Localised lighting over footpath, flood lighting over sports courts.¹



Separated cycle path cuts through park.²

¹Localised lighting over footpath, flood lighting over sports courts, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney. Neeson Murcutt. Photo © Brett Boardman.

²Separated cycle path cuts through park, Piazza Nember, Italy. Design + Photo © Stradavarie Associated Architects.

**Key Objectives:**

1. Increase the capacity of existing sporting facilities to maximise their use for organised sports.
2. Provide high quality facilities that encourage active and healthy communities.
3. Acknowledge the community benefit of playing fields as areas for recreation outside of their use for organised sports.

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade Leichhardt #2 to a synthetic playing surface to maximise its use.
- Provide a new facility for organised sports at Leichhardt #2 to replace the existing demountable.
- Retain Leichhardt #3 as a natural grass surface which is utilised by the community for general recreation and as a timed off-leash dog area.

Leichhardt #2 Sports Field

Sports fields are a limited and valuable resource within the Inner West. As populations increase, existing facilities will need to keep up with demand for organised sports and the ability to play throughout the year in all weather conditions.

Council has investigated upgrading Leichhardt #2 to a synthetic surface to meet increasing demand. This has been supported by the existing organised sports user-groups who currently use the field. As a result of these investigations and community consultation, it is recommended that the field is upgraded to a synthetic playing surface.

It is also recommended that the environmental impact of the synthetic surface is investigated, particularly in relation to run-off, and any measures required to mitigate environmental impacts are integrated into the refit.

Leichhardt #2 New Amenities

A new amenities block is recommended for Leichhardt #2, to replace the existing temporary shipping container demountable facility. The amenities should be located along the eastern side of the field, in a similar position to the existing public toilet block, so that it is a sufficient distance from the field. The sloped area between the field and the existing footprint should be filled and retained to establish a new level area adjacent the playing field.

The upper level will be at the same height as the playing field and will contain facilities such as a canteen, two change rooms and storage facilities. Public toilet facilities will be provided at the lower Glover Street level. An artist impression has been included below, looking at the proposed amenities from the level of Leichhardt #2 with a view towards the north.



Artist impression of new amenities for Leichhardt #2 - Image by Welsh + Major.



Blue Hippo Playground. Photo by Welsh + Major.