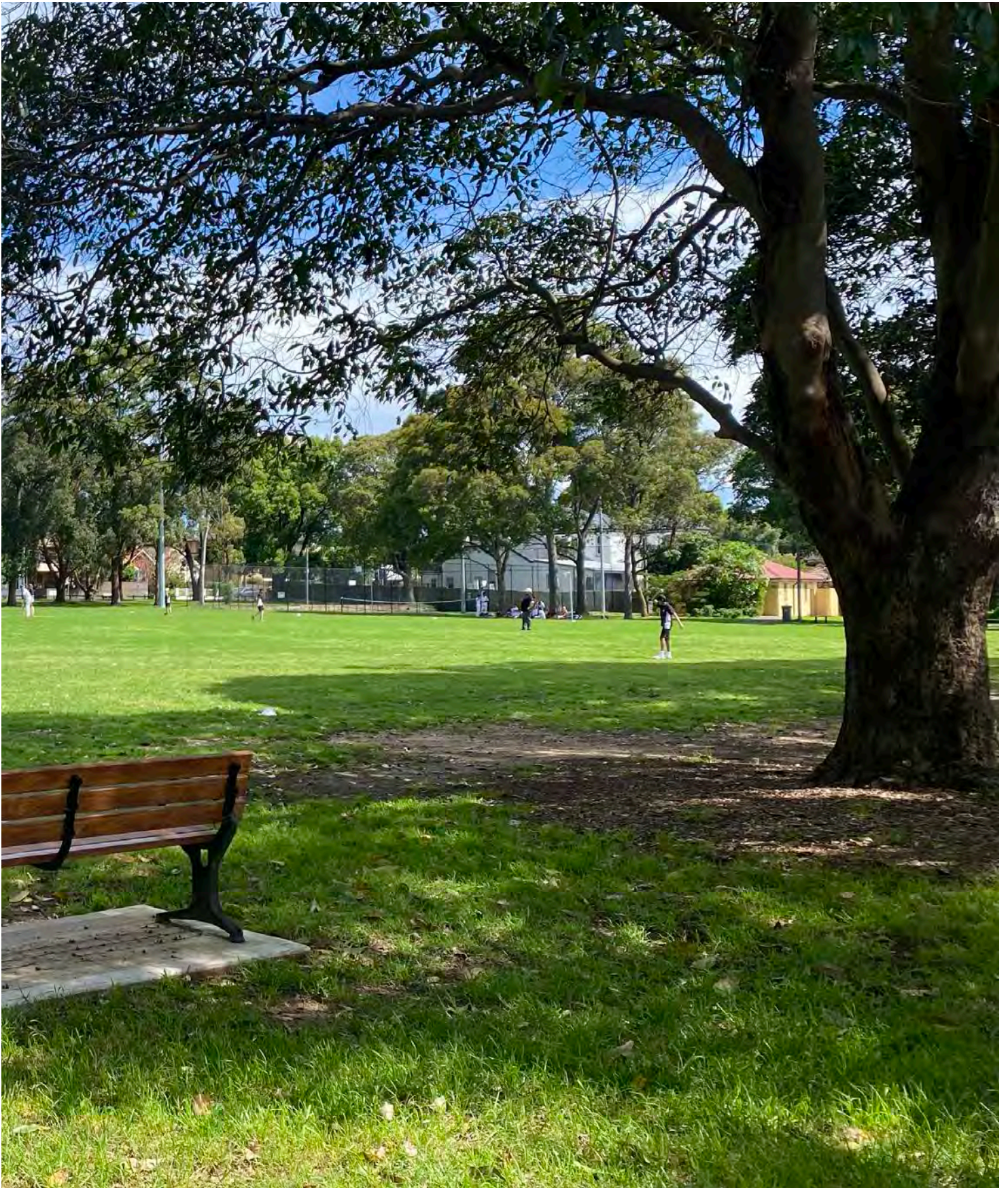


4.0 Master Plan Strategies



View towards the sports ground and tennis court. Photography by Welsh + Major



Overview

The key objectives outline a broad vision for the future of Hammond 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 Hammond Park.



ACCESS+INCLUSIVENESS

Key Objectives:

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

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide a fully accessible 2.4m wide circular pathway with connection to streets
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities for tweens and teens
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.



SENSE OF PLACE+COMMUNITY

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

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Retain the informal character and laid back vibe of the park as a community asset by grouping any built elements together in a 'hub', to avoid built elements from creeping into the rest of the park.
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.
- Establish additional shady seating areas.



SUSTAINABILITY

Key Objectives:

1. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Hammond Park.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Optimise and consolidate storm-water strategy*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to park fringes.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Retain natural turf sport ground and rectify levels in the middle of sport field.



SAFETY

Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Implement strategies to reduce balls going over the road and protect young children from traffic.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Introduce physical barriers between park and road



SPORTS+RECREATION

Key Objectives:

1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
3. *Maximise the use of the sports fields during night time and inclement weather.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Review current sporting ground allocations to ensure that community recreation needs are being met
- Upgrade the existing amenity block
- Level and improve drainage to the sports field. Implement new flood light management system for night time use.



Access + Inclusiveness

Key Objectives:

- 1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
- 2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.*
- 3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide a fully accessible 2.4m wide circular pathway with connection to streets
- Provide additional recreational areas near playground to increase the scope of play activities for tweens and teens
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.

Pedestrian Connections

Whilst there are designated entry points from all four boundaries into the park, the existing path do not follow the most ergonomic route for the needs of the public. Two entry points at Henry St. have mulch paths and end once inside the park. There is no continuous accessible circuit around the park. This limits access for visitors with prams, wheelchairs and mobility requirements.

Upgrades are proposed to improve pedestrian amenity by establishing a circuit which allows these groups to access park facilities such as the tennis court, the new amenity block and the existing playground, while also providing a continuous exercise route. Before routes for these paths are finalized, the location and likely growth of surrounding tree routes should be considered, so that roots don’t undermine the path.

Enhanced lighting is proposed around the circuit for evening use. The concrete pathway surface is proposed to be retained and patched while still serviceable, and widened along narrow sections.

Activity Spaces

The current playground is in good condition and well used by the younger members of the community. However there is a demand to add new play areas that are more inclusive for all ages.

The Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and playspaces, catering for children, teenagers and adults. It incorporates a small scale ‘Learner’s Loop’ and obstacle course cycleway against the Lucy Street boundary. This edge has been identified as the least trafficked edge of the park and therefore the safest for learner cyclists to be in proximity to. It also proposes a basket and netball shooting practice area including goal circle hard stand to replace the existing freestanding netball hoop, and bench seats for spectators.

Amenities

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is in poor condition. The shower facilities are

currently used as storage rooms by the local sports club.

The Master Plan proposes to add a new amenities block to include fully accessible male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, a storage area for sports teams and community run kiosk.



Wider pathways encourage a variety of user groups
Sir James Mitchell Park, South Perth. Photo from City of South Perth website.



Example of cycleway obstacle course
Bicycle play track, Drapers Fields, England. Kinnear Landscape Architects, photo by Adrian Taylor.

Sense of Place + Community

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

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Retain the informal character and laid back vibe of the park as a community asset by grouping any built elements together in a 'hub', to avoid built elements from creeping into the rest of the park.
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.
- Establish additional shady seating areas.

A Unique Open Green Space

Hammond Park is the only open green space within walking distance to a number of residential communities nearby. While the character of the park is sport focused, trees around the perimeter create a sense of retreat and relaxation within the park. The open grassed areas are highly valued by the community for flexible recreation activities. These areas should be protected and maintained into the future.

The demand for additional and improved amenities necessitates the addition of built intervention within the park. This Master Plan identifies that the existing built intervention in the park is concentrated along the south west edge, directly perpendicular to the residential properties at 39 Lucy Street and 142 Fredrick Street. This Master plan recommends that any further built intervention sits within the footprint of the area highlighted (in adjacent image), to prevent built structures 'creeping' into the park land.

Park furniture and facilities

New furniture and facilities are recommended to support passive enjoyment of the park. These are indicated to a number of areas including:

- Benches and picnic tables in the new forecourt in front of the amenities block and around sports ground sidelines. These provide an informal place for people to rest and meet and to supervise children in the playground.
- Basket + netball shooting practice area near the tennis court, taking advantage of the existing flat unused space.
- New amenities block to include male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, storage area for sports teams and community run kiosk
- Bins and water fountains near entrances and along key routes. These should be designed for convenience, and to enhance visitors enjoyment of the park.



Recommended location for built area interventions



Sustainability

Key Objectives:

1. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Hammond Park.*
2. *Protect existing vegetation within the park.*
3. *Optimise and consolidate storm-water strategy*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to park fringes.
- Utilise understorey planting to protect significant trees. Remove dead trees and plant new trees.
- Retain natural turf sport ground and rectify levels in the middle of sport field.

Trees and Understorey Planting

Multiple species of large trees flank the edges of the park along the boundary roads. A great majority of these trees are in good condition and their location offers an informal shaded path around the full perimeter of the park.

It is proposed to undertake a condition assessment of the existing trees for potential renewal, as two of them have reached the end of their lifespan. This will ensure consistent continuous canopy cover along the additional hard landscaping created by new paths within the park.

The Master Plan proposes to introduce new understory planting along Frederick St to create a green fringe between the new paths and the road. It is also recommended to maintain the existing hedge screen along Henry street and increase its density and width by adding new understorey planting where mulch currently covers the ground.

Understorey planting is recommended for areas which are less utilised, to improve the range of habitats available for local fauna and to encourage greater biodiversity. It will also increase safety by acting as a low physical barrier between the sports ground and the roads, deterring players from running out after lost balls during games.

Natural Ground Cover

The physical footprint occupied by Hammond Park is not very large, therefore the sport ground provides a substantial proportion of the soft landscape. Though natural turf sport grounds have restrictions when it comes to weather conditions (i.e. restrict play when heavy rain has fallen), the natural turf ground can be used by a greater proportion of visitors than a synthetic ground, catering for a more diverse uses and providing greater benefit in terms of connecting to nature.

Additionally, the natural turf provides a positive contribution to the biodiversity of this predominantly urban area, and could help to reduce the urban heat island effect and deal more effectively

with stormwater run-off which are both positive factors in the context of the Sydney climate. It is reported that synthetic turf can 'increase land surface temperatures by 40% or more, absorbing heat, warming air temperatures, hardening soil and thus increasing stormwater runoff'.

Though each option presents valid opportunities and constraints, in light of the scale of Hammond Park and the range of users it caters for outside of organized sports, this Master Plan recommends that the sports ground should be retained as natural turf.

Reference: 'Synthetic Turf Study in Public Open Space' Report prepared for the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.



Proposed understory planting fringe





Example of use of understory planting as physical barrier - High Line, New York



Example of use of understory planting as physical barrier - High Line, New York



Parkland 'pocket' and shaded path created with native grasses on Gadigal Land, City of Sydney
Sue Barnsley Landscape Architects. Image Brett Boardman

Safety

Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
2. *Implement strategies to reduce balls going over the road and protect young children from traffic.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Reducing traffic speed near Frederick St.
- Introduce physical barriers between park and road

Lighting

There was support for lighting upgrades to improve safety and to extend the hours that the park can be used. The Master Plan proposes an new low level consistent lighting along the new perimeter path for increased safety of visitors after dark.

Consideration should be given that this area is a biodiverse environment and lighting should be directed so as not to limit the effect of light pollution on sensitive nocturnal habitats.

Reducing traffic speed around public parks

A number of park users requested additional crossing points over Frederick St. There already exists a number of pedestrian crossing points over Frederick St and a pedestrian 'zebra' crossing near the intersection of Frederick and Church St. These crossings are within 200m of each other so the use of another crossing would not be necessarily suitable.

Traffic calming measures along Frederick St could greatly improve the safety of the park users as well as improving connectivity between the park and its immediate neighbourhood.

Implementing speed humps or road narrowing with planted chicanes as well as additional appropriate signage are all measures that could be considered to achieve this objective.

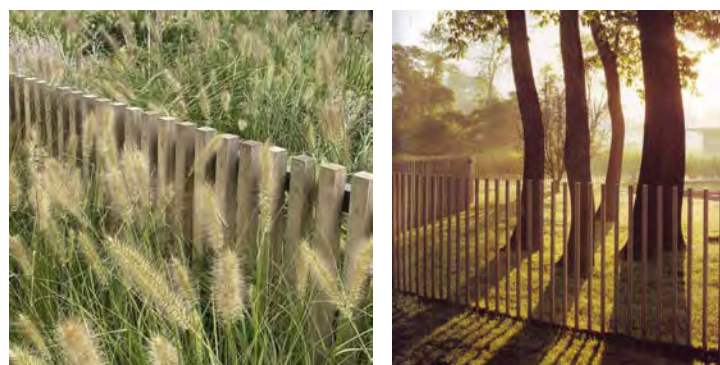


Examples of low level path lighting

Fencing

The demand for additional fencing along Frederick and Lucy St was highlighted by repetitive comments of concern. Separation between the sports ground and the roads is desirable to increase the safety of junior sports players and dogs, as well as to reduce traffic disruptions caused by balls on the road.

Understory planting and new low level fencing along Frederick St are proposed to address this concern.



Examples of low level fencing

Sports + Recreation

Key Objectives:

- 1. *Address the demand for play areas to cater for wider age range.*
- 2. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
- 3. *Maximise the use of the sports fields during night time and inclement weather.*

Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Provide additional recreational facilities near playground
- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use.
- Upgrade the existing amenity block
- Level and improve drainage to the sports field. Implement new flood light management system for night time use.

Recreational use

The community consultation observed that the tennis court is frequently used and was encouraged to be maintained and kept free of charge. Some comments have also been made about the unused flat areas adjacent to the court that could be used for recreational activities in order to activate these neglected spaces.

The playground area is in good condition but it has been mentioned that it could be more inclusive of all ages.

As mentioned previously, the Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and playspaces, catering for children, teenagers and adults, with a small scale 'Learner's Loop' and a basket and netball shooting practice area including goal circle hard stand to replace the existing freestanding netball hoop.

Organised sports

Organised sports at Hammond Park are a key aspect of the park's history. Contributions from participants who use the sports ground for organised sports generally raised issues that the games were often cancelled due to inclement weather and poor drainage.

The function of the existing sports field is also impaired by its uneven surface, mounding up towards the centre.

The Master Plan proposes to resurface and level the sports ground with natural turf and adequate drainage underlay. Council may consider using hybrid turf patching in high wear areas such as goal mouths. Hybrid turf contains blades of synthetic grass with natural grass and increase durability of fields whilst reducing the use of synthetic materials.

The existing cricket pitch is to be replaced by 'roll out' cricket pitches.

Lighting

Whilst the existing lighting to the sporting ground itself is generally appropriate for use, lighting to the 'sideline' areas of

the ground should be added to allow safe and amenable light levels to these areas and allow the field to rest when not used for organised games.

An upgrade to the existing floodlights is also proposed, with activation by text message, to allow the use of the sports ground after dark.

Capacity of amenities

The Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes both identified that the existing amenities which cater for the site are run down and in need of refurbishment. The shower area is currently used for storage.

The Master Plan proposes replacing the existing amenity block by a new one with increased capacity and largely open on a forecourt that will be connected to the existing pathways. It will contain a new kiosk and a large equipment store to be used by the local sports clubs.

Planting is introduced at the back of the block to restrict access as well as in the forecourt to create a parkland 'pocket' with shaded tables and benches.

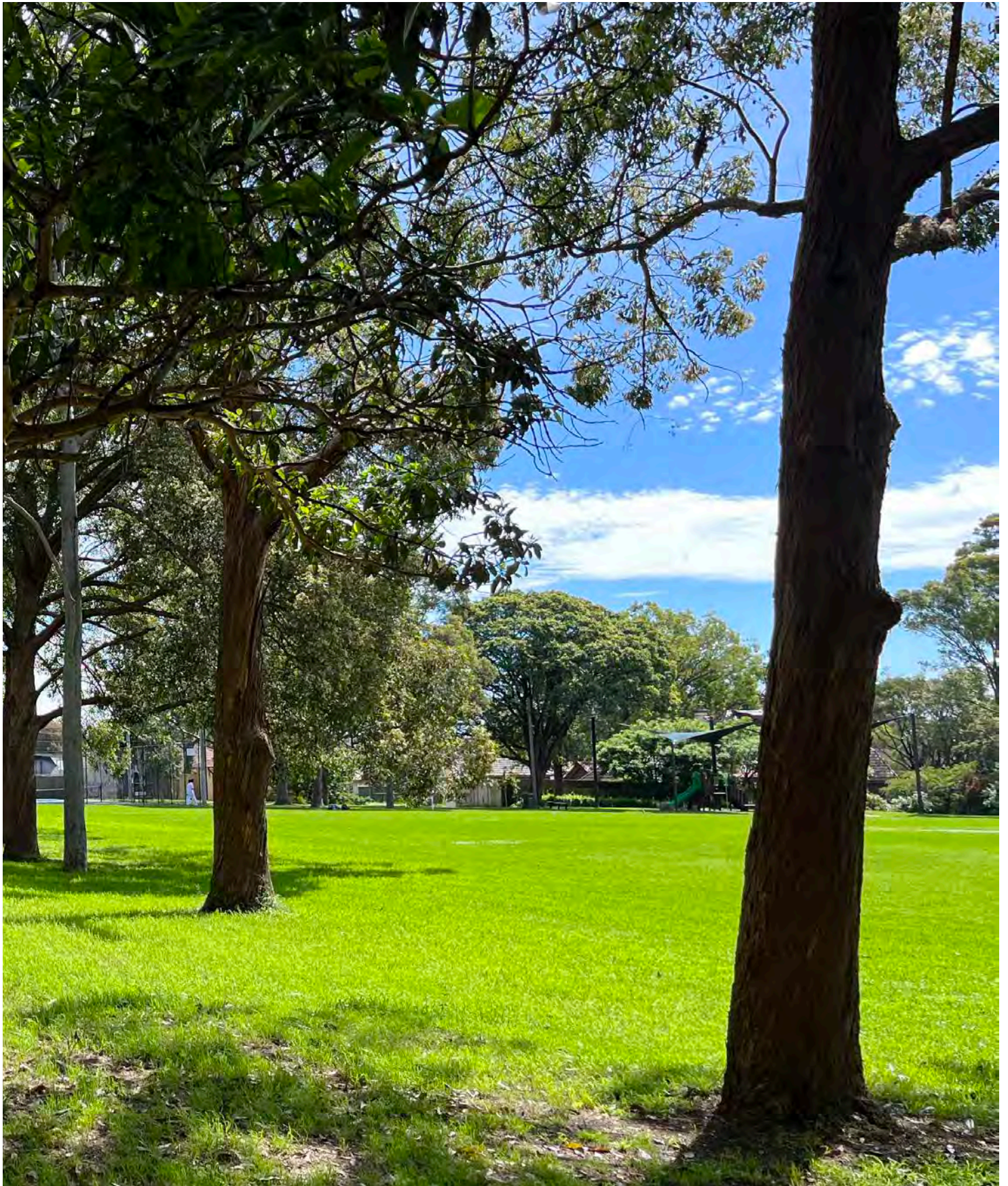


Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major Architects

5.0 Draft Master Plan



Existing trees at Hammond Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



Draft Master Plan
Hammond Park, Ashfield



Draft Master Plan

Hammond Park, Ashfield





- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Park Boundary | Planting | Softfall Surface | Tree |
| Building/Structure | Turfed Area | Flood light | Signage Point |
| Mulch/ bark surface | Path/Hardscape | Park Furniture | Fence |

Existing Plan

- ① Natural turf floodlit sportsground
- ② Synthetic turf cricket pitch
- ③ Uneven mulch and bark surface
- ④ Metal mesh fence
- ⑤ Existing picnic tables and benches
- ⑥ Timber entry structure
- ⑦ Decorative landscape beds
- ⑧ Lamp post lighting
- ⑨ Footpath across park
- ⑩ Tennis court with text message activated lighting
- ⑪ Netball hoop
- ⑫ Rendered brick amenities block
- ⑬ Service access road
- ⑭ Play park
- ⑮ Dense planting to adjacent property



Uneven mulch + bark surface, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Rendered brick amenities block, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Netball hoop, Hammond Park, Ashfield
Photo by Welsh + Major



Proposed Plan

01 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths

- 02 Low level consistent path lighting around circuit track
- 03 Dead trees removed and replaced
- 04 Existing understorey planting along Henry Street maintained, additional native planting introduced to Henry and Frederick street edges
- 05 Mulch corner at intersection of Lucy + Henry Streets replaced with native planting, with fence extended to deter illegal dumping
- 06 Existing paths from Henry Street into Hammond Park paved and graded to be fully accessible
- 07 New ball fence along Frederick Street and Henry Street, set back from existing trees at park boundary

08 Basketball half court

- 09 Condition of existing tennis court monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

10 New amenities block

Amenities to include toilets, changing rooms, storage area for sports teams and community run kiosk

11 Forecourt and park 'hub'

With consolidated signage and pocket parkland with benches and picnic tables

- 12 Condition of existing play area monitored, maintained and upgraded as required

13 Sports ground upgraded

Natural turf sports ground graded, adequate drainage underlay installed and consistent maintenance programme implemented

- 14 Synthetic cricket strip replaced 'roll out' cricket strips
- 15 Hybrid turf trialled in high wear areas (eg goal mouths)
- 16 Condition of existing flood lighting to sports ground monitored, maintained and upgraded as required. Enable text message activation system as per tennis court lighting

17 Bike Track

Bike track for learner riders incorporates creative surface treatment and local history interpretation

- 18 New tables and benches around sports ground sidelines
- 19 Entrance arbour used for interpretation signage, including park map, instructional and historical information about Hammond Park



Native understorey planting at Prince Alfred Park on Gadigal Land, City of Sydney
Sue Barnsley Landscape Architects



Example of low level path lighting



Precinct A

01 New amenities block

Replace existing amenities with new, larger and more inviting facility. Amenities to include toilets, changing rooms, kiosk, equipment store

02 Footprint of existing amenities block outlined red

03 Forecourt and park 'hub'

Create forecourt in front of amenities block, include water fountains, bins and consolidated signage point. Connect forecourt to existing pathways

04 Introduce planting to sides and rear of amenities block to restrict pedestrian access and enhance aesthetic of amenities

05 Loading area for equipment store and kiosk

06 Replace worn out service access barriers and old fences with fixed and fold down bollards

07 Pocket parkland

Introduce native planting and benches tucked around existing trees to create a parkland 'pocket' close to amenities for spectators, kiosk users and other park visitors

08 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths

09 Condition of existing tennis court monitored and maintained; surface finish, fencing and lighting upgraded as and when required

10 Basketball half court

Replace single netball hoop (shown red) with basketball half court and reversible basket/ netball hoop. Existing tennis court fence doubles as ball fence backdrop for basket/ netball

11 Benches for spectators to half court tucked into new native planting, in underused corner of the park

12 New mid height fence along Frederick Street boundary, with informal unpaved entry point near half court



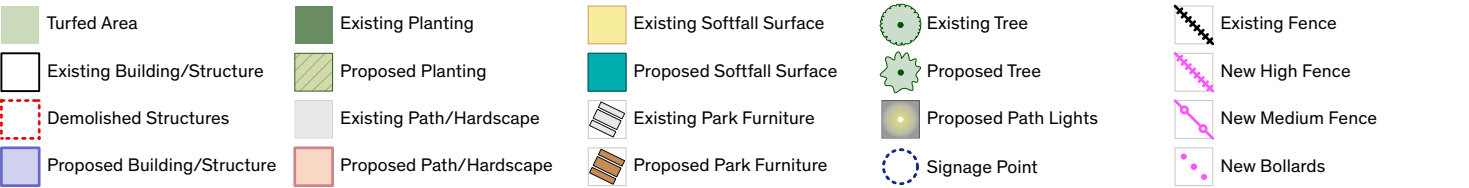
Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney
Welsh + Major Architects



Citizen Garden, Monterrey Mexico
Práctica Arquitectura



Reversible basket + netball hoops at Richard Murden Reserve, Haberfield
Inner West Council



Precinct B

01 Bike Track

Bike track in a brightly coloured soft fall surface provides an activity for children older than play park age. Track is set out around existing trees and connects to the new circuit path. Incorporate creative features into bike track, such as textured surfaces, colours, gradients

02 Interpretation signage around bike track to highlight the cycling history of Hammond Park, which hosted the first women's cycling race in Australia. Signage incorporated in-ground at crossing point, or with a creative 3d installation alongside the track

03 Use contrasting surface treatment where bike track and circuit path intersect to emphasise intersections, increasing user safety

04 Low level, informal fencing where bike track turns towards Lucy Street

05 Circuit Path

Fully accessible graded footpath 2.4m wide, loops around sports ground and connects to existing paths. Path set out between existing trees to provide a pleasant shaded route

06 New picnic benches and tables around edges of sports ground. Where possible, fix park furniture to permeable surface instead of concrete to limit hardscape added to park

07 Sports ground upgraded

Natural turf sports ground upgraded with adequate drainage underlay and consistent maintenance programme



Wave form features at Draper's Field bike track, Waltham Forest, London UK
Kinnear Landscape Architects



A playful and gentler alternative to a typical fence
Welsh + Major



Soft fall path in distinctive finish at Bogaardplein Rijswijk Park, Netherlands
Delva Landscape Architects