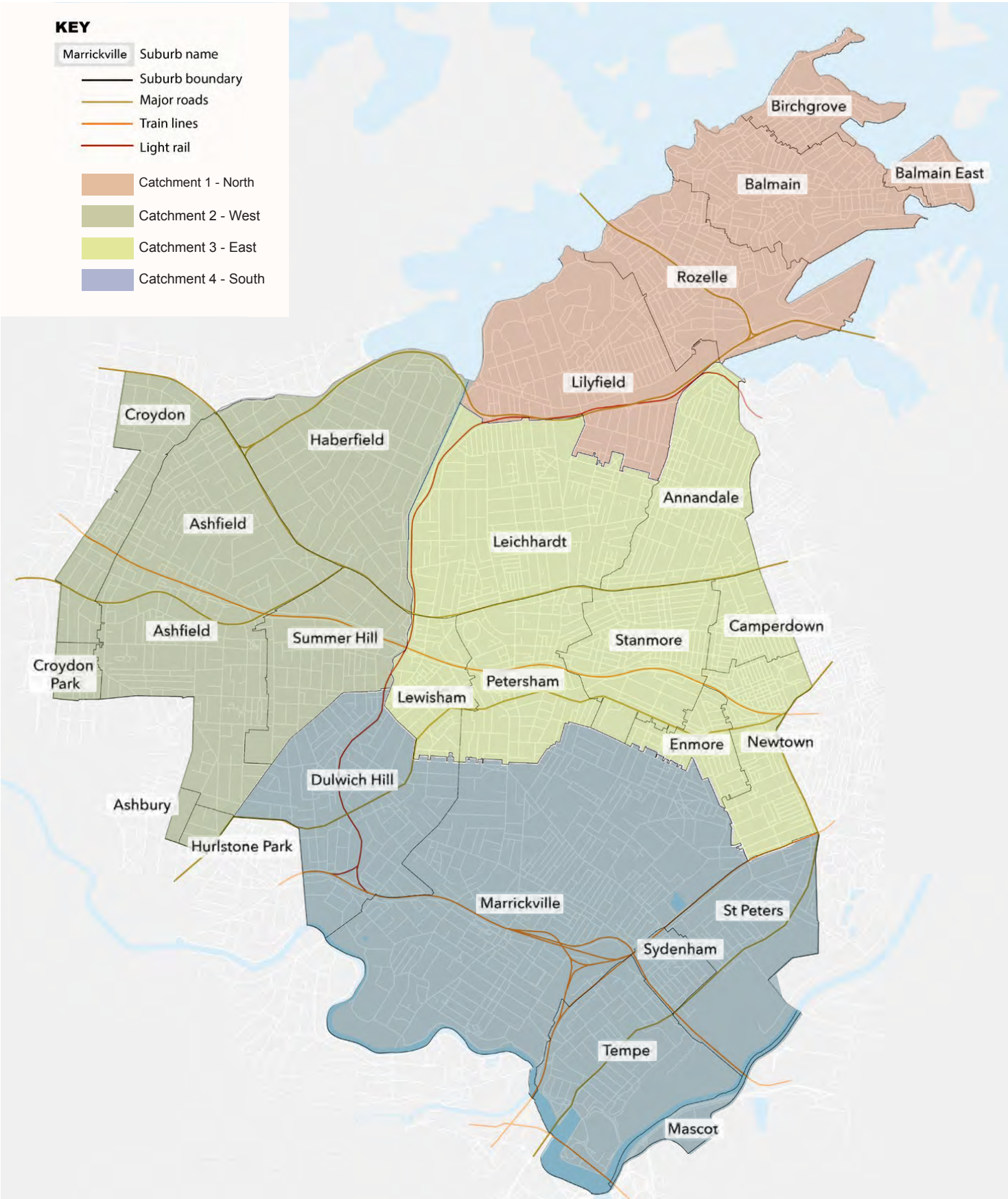




Hammond Park, looking south east from Lucy Street. Photography by Welsh + Major.



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

Demographics

Overview

This section outlines the current community profile of Ashfield using data from the 2021 ABS Census from Profile i.d. as well as future projections outlined in Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, Updated 2021 (Cred Consulting). This study breaks down the Inner West area into 4 catchment areas. Ashfield falls into catchment 2.

Catchment 2's population is characterised by a higher proportion of people aged 18 to 34 years old and seniors and elderly people. This catchment area has a considerable number of residents who were born overseas and speak a language other than English at home.

Population growth

In 2021, the estimated resident population of the Inner West was 183 772 people. The population decreased by 7422 people or 3.8% between 2016 and 2021. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 7.8%.

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

Hammond Park is located in Ashfield North, approximately 1km north of the neighbouring Ashfield Park. Ashfield North experienced a decline in population, with its population decreasing by 1625 people (12.4%) between 2016 and 2021.

Despite this short term dip, Inner West Council estimates significant population growth by 2036.

Open space provision

The Inner West has an estimated 321.6 hectares of open space which equates to 9.1% of the total land area.

In 2016 the provision of open space per person was 16.4m². To further analyse this data, the LGA was broken down into 4 catchment areas. Ashfield falls into catchment 2, which in 2016 had a provision of open space per person of 10.1m² and an estimated 8.7m² by 2036.

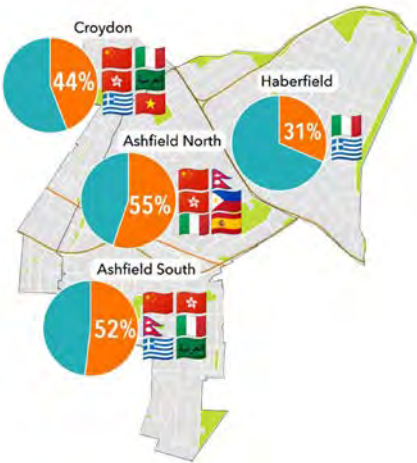


O1 Ashfield - Age + disability profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

KEY

Icons show suburbs with a proportion above the LGA average or high number of:

- Babies and children (0 - 12yrs) (over 12.9% or over 1,000 people)
- Young people (12 - 24yrs) (over 13.1% or over 1,000 people)
- Older people (65yrs +) (over 12.2% or over 1,000 people)
- People with disability (over 4.5% or over 500 people)



O2 Ashfield - Cultural profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

KEY

- % speaking English at home
- % speaking a language other than English at home

>1.5 % Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Languages spoken by more than 2% of the population:

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Greek
- Italian
- Macedonian
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

*In Leichhardt, while the proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home is relatively low, the number of speakers is very high: >2,000



O3 Ashfield - Density, income + housing profile.
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West.

KEY

- Median weekly household income:
- % of households with cars:

- Low density
- Medium density
- High density

Demographics

Age + disability profile

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

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

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

Ashfield North has the second highest proportion of people attending university (10.7%), and Ashfield South has the highest proportion of people attending TAFE (2.5%).

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

Cultural Profile

Ashfield, and its neighbouring suburbs are culturally diverse. Ashfield North has the highest proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, identified as 55% of the population, and 52% of the population in Ashfield South. The primary languages identified included Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese.

In neighbouring suburbs, 44% of the Croydon population also identify as speaking a non-English language at home, speaking primarily Greek, Arabic, Italian, Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Likewise, a third of Haberfield residents identify their primary languages as Italian and Greek.

Density, income + housing profile

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

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

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

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

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

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



Aboriginal Links to Hammond Park

Aboriginal Connection to Country

Statement about Aboriginal ideology in terms of their relationship to Country and the planning/design factors to be considered when using/adapting this ideology.

First Nations History in Ashfield

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

The area would have offered numerous food sources, from the fish and molluscs within the mangrove estuaries of Iron Cove, to the natural Eucalyptus woodlands which would have provided habitat for fauna such as possums and plants such as fern rhizomes and tubers. In the years following first contact, these lands were known as Kangaroo Ground, possibly indicating that kangaroos were common in the area. These open woodlands were on shale soil and waters by numerous creeks feeding the Parramatta and Cooks rivers.¹



History of the Park

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Post European History of the Hammond Park Site

1865-1911

The Hammond Park site comes into focus alongside the formation of the Ashfield Cricket Club over the summer of 1865-66. Matches held, “at Ashfield”, as printed in the Sydney Morning Herald, are said to have been hosted on the site, with many players local residents of the area. At this time, the site was known as Potter’s Paddock, owned local butcher Henry Potter.

In 1875, first reference of the plot as ‘Ashfield’s Cricket Club’s Ground’ was recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald. That same year, the site was leased from Henry Potter by John Hay Goodlet and George Crane. Taken out for a five year period at 13 pounds per year, the lease stated that it was “lawful to make a Cricket Ground, cut down and fall any trees or timber, erect any fence or buildings needed” for the club.

In 1883 Higinbotham and Robinson designated the site “The Ashfield Cricket Club’s Ground” on the Map of the Municipality of Ashfield prepared for council.

The club purchased the land from Potter in 1884 for 300 pounds, upon the expiration of their second lease. Following the purchase of the land, the Ashfield Recreation Grounds Company was formed, a private enterprise of local residents. The title of the Cricket Ground was quickly secured by the company. Soon after, the company expended with the purchase of neighbouring land, including an additional lot from Harriet Potter, wife of Henry Potter.



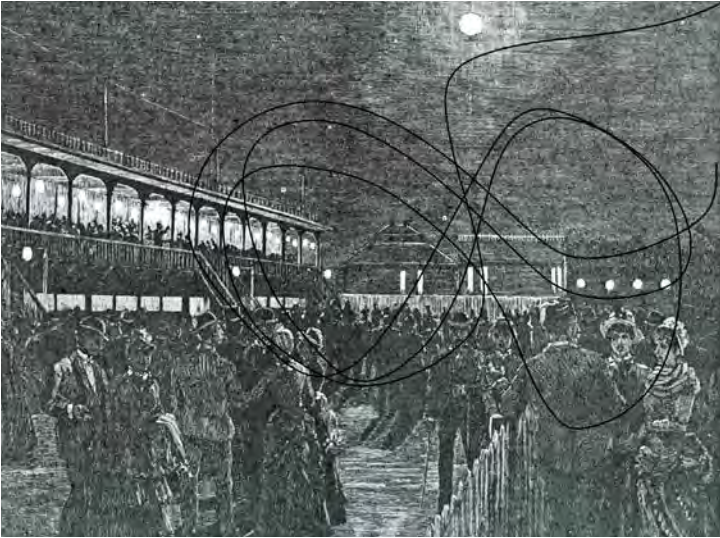
1883 Map of the Municipality of Ashfield prepared for council. Site labelled as “Ashfield C. Clubs Ground”.

at Ashfield Recreation Ground									
SCORECARD									
ENGLAND V 18 of SYDNEY JUNIORS									
at Sydney, March, 5.6.7. 1885.									
ENGLAND									
A.Shrewsbury	b	Spurway	7						
W.H.Scotton	b	Dunbar	6						
G.Ulyett	b	Ferris	5						
W.Barnes	b	Spurway	25						
W.Bates	c	Robinson b Adams	6						
W.Flowers	c	Gray b Sullivan	42						
J.M.Read		not out	52						
W.Attewell	b	Sullivan	10						
R.Peel	b	Ferris	13						
J.Hunter	c-b	Ferris	0						
J.Lillywhite	b	Ferris	6						
Sundries	b13. lb2. nbl.		16						
		Totals	188						
Spurway			2						
Dunbar			1						
Ferris			4						
Adams			1						
Sullivan			2						
18 of SYDNEY JUNIORS									
J.Searle	b	Peel	6	not out					2
F.Zuland	b	Attewell	1	not out					16
H.H.Donnan	b	Peel	5	c-b	Read				24
-.Clifford	b	Peel	4	b	Attewell				0
-.Brown	c	Shrewsbury b Peel	4	c-b	Peel				2
-.Whiting	b	Attewell	0	c-b	Attewell				8
-.Baker	b	Attewell	0						
-.Robinson	b	Peel	0	b	Read				0
G.Adams	b	Peel	0	b	Ulyett				16
-.Dennis	b	Attewell	1	c	Hunter b Bates				6
E.S.Ironside	b	Attewell	4	c	Peel b Flowers				0
E.Tindall	c	Read b Peel	26	b	Peel				36
J.Spurway	b	Peel	24	b	Ulyett				38
-.Gray	b	Peel	4						
R.Hargreaves	b	Peel	0	b	Flowers				19
J.J.Ferris	c	Hunter b Peel	10						
-.Cottam		not out	5	b	Bates				0
-.Sullivan	c	Barnes b Attewell	2						
Sundries			4	b9. lb7. vl.					17
		Totals	100						184
Peel	56	24	51	11	28	13	36	2	
Attewell	56	29	45	6	50	31	25	2	
Flowers	-	-	-	-	25	13	39	2	
Bates	-	-	-	-	24	10	25	2	
Ulyett	-	-	-	-	16	4	32	2	
Read	-	-	-	-	6	2	10	2	
MATCH DRAWN									
New South Wales Cricket Association Archives									

England Team vs. Sydney Juniors, 1885, match played on Ashfield Recreational Ground.



Shaw's team of Crickets. Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW



Moonlight concrete at Ashfield Recreation Grounds. Showing 1000 person grandstand. Illustrated Sydney News, 1886

The company operated for several years following, hosting a range of activities beyond cricket. By 1886 a covered grandstand with capacity to hold 1000 people had been erected on site. Alongside this was a pavilion built to host a range of clubs and activities. Later, an ice skating rink, known as the "Winter Palace" was built and became a popular public venue. Over this period the grounds were used for cycling, bowling, lawn tennis, skittles and quoits.

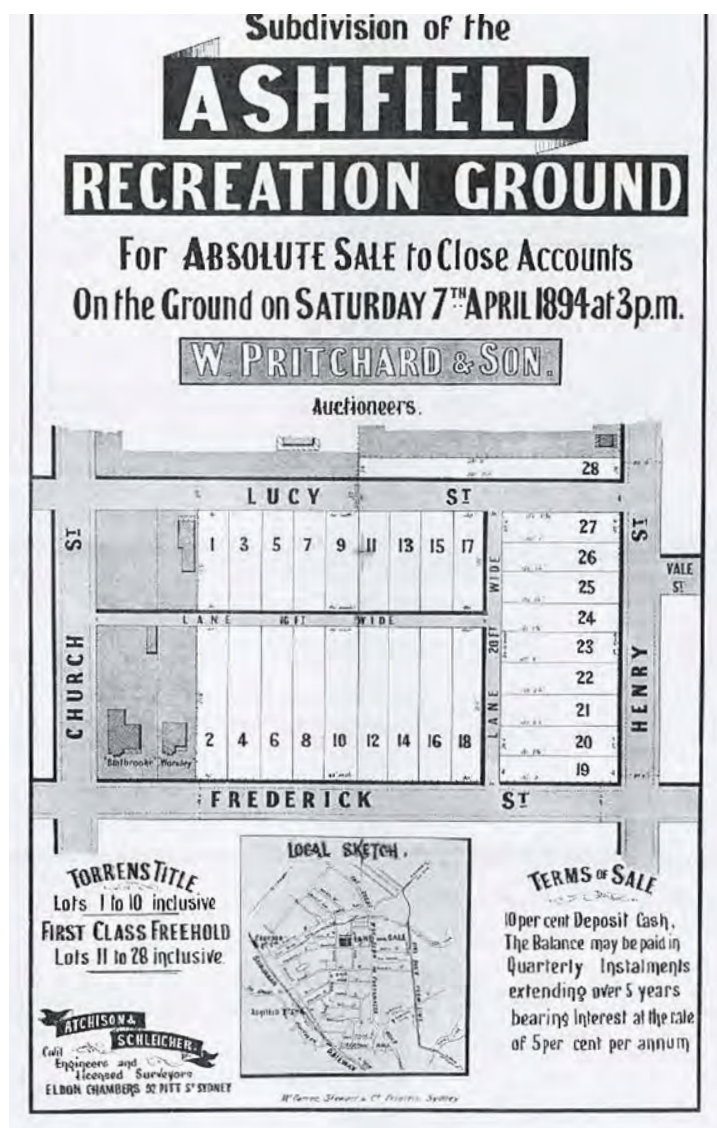
Although business seemed well, In 1887, the company went into liquidation and the Ashfield Recreation Grounds were sold to John William Cliff for 600 pounds, inclusive of an 1884 mortgage of 3,500 pounds to be taken over by the purchaser. The recreation grounds continued to operate after the sale, despite ongoing financial issues. In January of 1888, Cliff took out another loan with the Mercantile Bank.

In 1888, Australia's first ladies bicycle races were held on site.

On 8 December of that year, 4000 people gathered on site to witness watchmaker, J. T. Williams, make the first planned parachute decent from balloon. "The enthusiasm among those who had witnessed him leave the ground, many of whom were all too fearful he would never return alive, knew no bounds as the parachute, spread out in mid-air like a huge umbrella, could be seen making its way back." (S.M.H. 10.12.1888).

As a result the looming 1890's depression, the Ashfield Recreation Grounds were signed to the Mercantile Bank in 1891.

The land was divided in the 1894 subdivision plan by Atchison & Schleicher. Upon its failure to sell, the land was purchased by Ashfield Council in 1910. In 1911 the park was renamed to Hammond Park in honour of former Mayor and MP, Mark J. Hammond.



1894 Subdivision Plan following the collapse of the Ashfield Recreation Grounds Company and the Banks acquisition of the site.



The old Ashfield Recreation Ground Grandstand re-erected at Bathurst Showground in 1982. The occasion is probably the official opening of the show on Thursday, April 7th by the Governor, Victor Albert George Child Villiers. (Image: Bathurst District Historical Society)

01. Ashfield & District Historical Society Journal 09, 1992 / 02. - Ashfield & District Historical Society Journal 10, 1993 / 03. Croydon in Focus - Ashfield History No.18 - Journal of the Ashfield & District Historical Society



Neighbourhood Context

Local Character

Hammond park is located in the suburb of Ashfield North, close to the boundaries of neighbouring suburbs Croydon, Haberfield and Five Dock. The park lies similar distance from the main high streets of Ashfield, Croydon, Haberfield and Five Dock. The park is approximately 18 minutes walk (1.4km) north of Ashfield train station.

Currently there is no clear link between Ashfield centre and Hammond Park. A physical distance and a general lack of signage both contribute to this separation.

As a result, the park primarily serves the immediate residential community which surrounds it. Dwellings along Henry, Frederick, Lucy and Church Street, vary in size and character. The park is the only open green space within walking distance to a number of residential communities nearby.

While the immediate context is defined by quiet residential streets, the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Area suggests a shift in pace and development to the north of the site.

Major Roads

Parramatta Road (Great Western Highway) runs five minutes walk north east of the park, which is a major thoroughfare. To the east of the park, the City West Link Road, Parramatta Road and the M4 Tunnel meet at what is known as the Parramatta Road Interchange.

Public Transport

The site is not serviced by train or light rail. Ashfield and Croydon train stations are approximately 18 minutes walk south and south-west.

Bus services following Frederick Street and Parramatta Road have stops within a five minute walking distance to the site.

These include:

- Bus Route 491, with stops from Hurstville to Five Dock
- Bus Route 461N, with stops from Burwood to Hyde Park
- Bus Route 461X, with stops from Burwood to City Domain

Cycle Routes

The local area is generally lacking a designated cycle network. Presently, none of the roads surrounding the site are identified as bike friendly roads. The report 'GOING PLACES - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Inner West' does identify Frederick Street and Parramatta Road as 'missing routes' in the Future Planning Network.

Local Parklands

Centenary Park, in Croydon is an 8 minute walk (700m) west of Hammond Park. The Wadim (Bill) Jegorow Reserve which follows the Iron Cove Creek is approximately 10 minutes walk to the north-west of the site.

Hammond Park has no link to the Iron Cove Creek just 200m north. Church Street and other streets which link the park and Iron Cove Creek, have little room for expansion of fauna beyond the existing trees. The narrow green spaces along the creek are undeveloped and lie within a flood zone.



01. Sports field / 02. Entryway pergola at corner of Frederick + Henry St / 03. Shaded tree flank along Frederick St / 04. Frederick St entry / 05. Tennis court / 06. Utility area incl. tank + pump station / 07. Amenities block / 08. Netball hoop / 09. Shaded playground + swings / 10. Native garden at Lucy St entrance / 11. Shaded sitting area along Lucy St / 12. Henry St entrance + planted area

Existing Conditions

Character

While the character of the park is sports focused, flanks of established trees around the perimeter create a sheltered condition for a range of leisure activities. These trees screen the neighbouring dwellings to harbour a sense of retreat and relaxation within the park.

The arrangement of existing structures serve the community well, defining particular areas for different users. The amenities, playground and tennis courts lie to the south, placed conveniently for self directed sports and family oriented activities. While the north end of the site remains quiet and undisrupted for the picnic goer or avid reader. As such, the park is much loved by the local community which it serves.

Activity

The park is well used by the community for a number of activities. The sporting ground itself is utilised for both sporting events and informal sports, as well as joggers running around the perimeter of the field. The field is used for both summer and winter sports. The tennis courts are well used by the community who enjoy the self directed operating system. The grassy areas are also popular for unstructured recreation, with people relaxing, meeting for picnics and gatherings or dog walking. The playground equipment is well used by younger members of the community and families.

Furniture

The park does not have a specific picnic area defined by furniture. Instead, a combination of fixed benches and picnic tables are scattered among the playground area and along the perimeter of the sports field. There are three timber benches along Lucy street which face the field. These are fixed to concrete pads and are in good condition.

There are two picnic table arrangements to the end of the field along Henry St, which are also in good condition. These are uncovered, but do receive shade from trees overhead. The boundary along Frederick St has no seating. Three benches are placed to face the playground and one adjacent to the entry of the tennis courts. A bubbler with a dog bowl, in good condition, is also located alongside the tennis courts.

There are two red wheelie bin locations, one at each end of the park. No fixed bins or recycling bins were observed.

Lighting

There are 4 tall floodlights associated with the sporting grounds which appear to be in good condition. A further three flood lights service the tennis court which operate from 5-9:30pm on a text message system.

There are 8 dilapidated telegraph poles with street light attachments which sit among the trees along Frederick + Lucy St. These lights have overhead power lines which connect to the mains beyond the park boundary. Two similar lights are located alongside the playground and amenities area. These lights are in poor condition.

Signage & Wayfinding

Overall, signage in the park is outdated and at times unclear. The park sign along Frederick St and overhead sign on the pergola are out-of-date and bare the branding of Ashfield Council.

Hammond Park has clear and current dog on-leash signage. The park is an on-leash park at all times. Two types of signs indicate dog rules to users, a red sign which prohibits dogs within 10m of playground areas, and a green sign which dictates the parks on-leash rules. These bare the new Inner West Council branding.

Scattered throughout the park are bollard style signs which prohibit smoking within 10m of a playground or sports ground. These signs are in average condition and bare no branding or consistent style to other signs in the park.

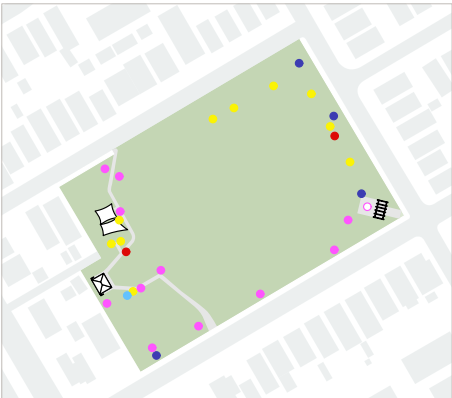
At the southern corner of the park is an old sign, referencing the Municipality of Ashfield, which lists prohibited items in the park. This sign is poorly positioned and out-of-date. The information on this sign would be better communicated to park users in a consistent format.

Tree Cover + Planting

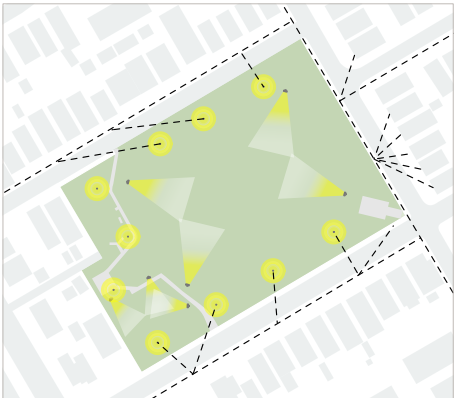
Multiple species of large trees flank the edges of the park along the bounding roads. These trees are predominantly Brush Box, but also include other Eucalyptus varieties. Two established Plain trees frame the entryway at the corner of Frederick and Henry St. The size and density of these trees create a strip of shaded area approximately 20 metres wide which spans the full perimeter of the park. There are a number of dead trees amongst this existing tree flank. Three younger saplings amongst the large established trees along Frederick St have been planted to replace some of the lost tree cover.



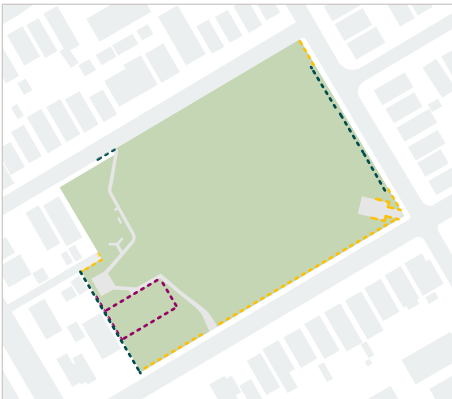
Tree cover & Understorey Planting



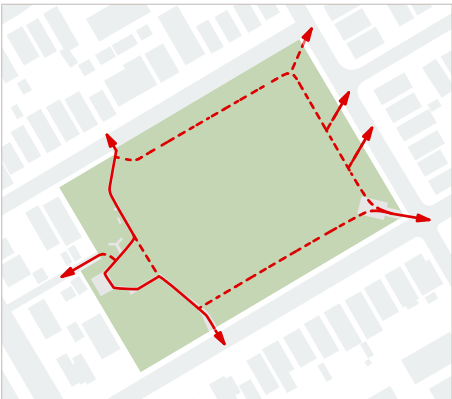
Existing Structures + Facilities



Lighting



Fences + Enclosure



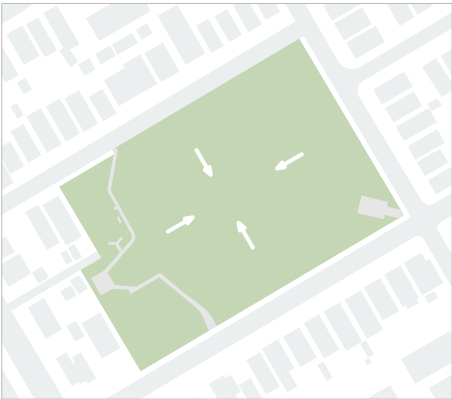
Pedestrian Access Points & Existing Pathways



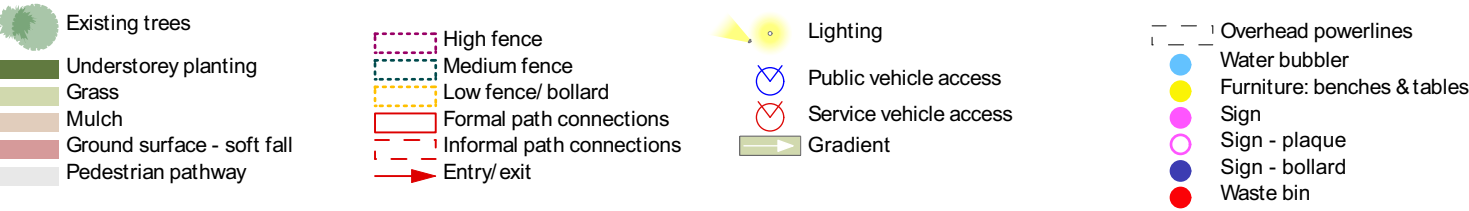
Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Carparking



Sports + Recreation Grounds



Gradient (Approximate)



Following the border along Henry St, a stretch of hedges screen the park from the road. This planting is in average condition. Alongside this hedging a wide area of mulch covers the ground where trees provide shade.

A large area of native shrubs + Eucalyptus trees occupy the corner of the park at Lucy Street to the west. This planting stretches around the playground area to the south, creating some separation between the park and neighbouring dwellings. These gardens are in good condition.

Fauna Linkages

The park is isolated from any wider network of green spaces, as it is predominately surrounded by roads. However, within the park, the stretch of established trees offers a large and diverse habitat for local fauna, particularly birds. The native planting along Lucy St is connected to the greater flank of trees and promotes biodiversity.

Ground Cover & Surfaces

Existing pathways in the park are concrete, with a small area of bitumen at the corner of Henry + Frederick St. The area surrounding the playground is wood chipped with soft-fall pads at the base of equipment. A concrete kerb around the perimeter holds wood-chip in place. Surfaces around the playground are in good condition.

The artificial surface on the tennis court is in average condition.

Grass throughout the site is in good condition. Patchy grass is observed in particularly shaded areas. Deterioration of grass is also present along unformed pathways made by park users.

Boundary Conditions

The park shares a boundary with two neighbouring dwellings to the south west. A tall fence and screen protects these houses from tennis balls, while a strip of planting offers privacy and screening as well.

A low timber bollard along Frederick St creates some boundary distinction, but does not separate balls or dogs from the road. Along Lucy St, only a concrete kerb separates the park from the road. A low fence and hedge along Henry St does create separation between the park and the road.

Services & Drainage

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

Many concerns were raised on missed games during inclement weather, mostly due to the unlevelled field and poor drainage.

Degradation to grassed areas is observed throughout the park due to pooling water, particularly towards Henry Street.

Pedestrian Access & Existing Pathways

There are designated entry points from all four boundaries into the park. A stretch of concrete paths connect Fredrick Street and Lucy Street at the south west end of the park. The existing paths are in good condition, but do not follow the most ergonomic route for the needs of the public. At the park entry on the corner of Henry and Fredrick Street, a small section of concrete path comes to a dead end. Two other entry points from the north east have mulch paths which end once inside the park, forcing users to walk through a combination of mulch and dirt when entering the park from Henry St.

Vehicular Access Points, Roads and Car Parking

There is no vehicle access into the park, however service vehicles have access via a rear lane from Church Street, to the south west of the park. A removable chain fence blocks access to general cars. There is no car parking on site and street parking is very limited. Parking is not permitted on the park side of Frederick or Lucy Street.

Sporting Facilities

The park serves a number of sporting communities for a range of activities, including football, cricket, tennis and netball.

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is considered unhygienic and unpleasant. A lack of storage has forced the local club to use the shower/change amenities as a storage room.

The function of existing sports field is impaired by its uneven surface, mounding up towards the centre at the cricket pitch. Ongoing drainage issues also have negative impacts on the field and limit its use by local sports clubs.

Existing Structures and Heritage Significance

To the corner of Henry and Frederick Street is a painted timber entryway pergola in average condition. Two plaques are set into the bitumen here with historical information of the park.

A small amenities block to the south west boundary of the park provides a male + female accessible toilet and shower facilities which are used as storage rooms by the local sports club. This building is in poor condition and not suited to the needs of the community.

Two large shade sails cover a playground adjacent to the amenities block. These sails provide adequate coverage and are in good condition.



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



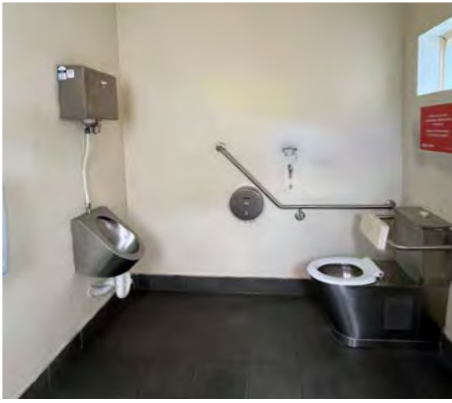
08



09



10



11



12

01. Painted timber pergola at corner of Frederick + Henry St / 02. Playground tower / 03. Swing set + shade structure / 04. Park sign along Frederick St. / 05. Tennis court / 06. Fencing at rear lane-way off Church St. / 07. Water tank + pump station / 08. Typical park bench / 09. Netball hoop / 10. Shaded grassy areas alongside Lucy St. / 11. Public toilet / 12. Amenities block

Constraints + Opportunities

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

There are opportunities to:

- Upgrade existing amenities. Consider how an extension of the existing block could better serve the needs of the community.
- Reconsider the function of current amenities block.
- Upgrade existing public toilets.
- Improve signage consistency throughout the zone.
- Remove contradictory, confusing and low quality signage.
- Establish a design for new signage that communicates the civic and historic character of the park.
- Investigate options for understorey planting to select areas along Frederick Street.
- Improve the surface quality and level of the sports field.
- Improve circulation and accessibility with additional pathways.
- Future proof existing tree cover by planting of new trees.