





4.0
PRINCIPLES &
STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

As outlined previously, the master planning process has been developed using a framework of six key themes:

1. Environment
2. Water
3. Recreation and Community Facilities
4. Transport, Access and Circulation
5. Heritage
6. Character and Visual Amenity

These themes provide the structure to address the many challenging planning components. To provide a clear direction, planning principles and strategies for each theme have been developed. These guide the development of the Master Plan.

These principles and strategies have been tested with the community as part of the consultation process and have guided the outcomes of the plan.

The strategies are shown in the following sections 4.1 to 4.6.



4.1

ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION:

The provision of habitat and support of environmental services is critical in densely populated urban areas such as Glebe and Forest Lodge. The early phases of site analysis and research revealed some valuable opportunities for the Master Plan to deliver on the City of Sydney Urban Ecology Action Plan. In particular, an opportunity exists to embellish local flora and fauna habitat across the parklands, strengthening the intended green corridor connections to Orphan School Creek.

PRINCIPLES

- Provide habitat for local fauna
- Improve the ecological integrity of the parklands
- Maximise opportunity to link habitat and introduce new habitat areas within the Park.

STRATEGIES


















-  **Improve existing formal, avenue planting**, by filling out and connecting avenue planting in the formal foreshore area.
-  **Improve existing informal planting** and habitat by connecting canopies and providing understory planting.
-  **Bring a landscaped character to the edge of the parklands.** Ensure that tree planting signals the edge of the park, particularly along The Crescent where there is an opportunity to create new views into the parklands, to the viaduct.
-  **Connect vegetation corridors and canopies.**
-  **Connection to Sustainable Sydney 2030 'green links'.** Glebe Point Road and the Orphans creek trail are both part of planned significant green corridors that will connect Sydney Harbour to Botany Bay and other parts of the City. Use improved access and vegetation to connect the parklands to these corridors.
-  **Street Tree Planting** approved as part of the Harold Park redevelopment and to be constructed by Mirvac. The parkland shall connect to, and complement these avenues where possible.
-  **Retain and enhance existing mangrove planting.** Consider strategies to protect and improve the health of the mangroves.
-  **Introduce saltmarsh** in the intertidal zone of the harbour.
-  **Create new freshwater wetlands.** Freshwater wetlands are suitable in these locations that are inundated with stormwater.
-  **Enhance existing saltmarsh community.**
-  **Revegetation Areas.** Provide multi-layered planting (grass, shrubs, ground cover, trees) to ensure habitat for a wide range of local fauna. The height of planting will frame and encourage views through the site; particularly from The Hill, and to the Tram Shed.
-  **New cliff-face habitat.** Opportunity to expand biodiversity in the park, by taking advantage of the localised ecology, and creating amphibian habitat at the base of the heritage listed cliff.
- Aquatic Vegetation:**
 -  **Treatment 1:** Enhance the saltmarsh community at the edges of the canal in the foreshore area, ensuring that the planting complements the formal setting.
 -  **Treatment 2:** Planting in the mid-section of the canal can be increased and can extend down into the stepped edges of the re-shaped canal walls.
 -  **Treatment 3:** Prioritise the natural values of the creek bank, with multi-storey planting in a naturalised canal setting. Vegetation should be designed to provide aquatic habitat and connect to surrounding revegetation areas.
-  **Naturalised Parkland:** Vegetation combines open lawn recreation spaces, pockets of flora providing natural habitat values and interpretive installations.
-  Opportunity to expand natural habitats and re-interpret the Lillie Bridge Creekline.



Figure 4.1: Environment strategy

PROVISION OF HABITAT

It is proposed to provide more habitat for local flora and fauna across the whole site. Ways of delivering this include:

- Increase the area of protected habitat
- Increase understorey endemic planting
- Create and protect rock outcrops for habitat

The provision of new habitat is concentrated in two main precincts, Harold Park and The Hill.

Harold Park

- Planting native trees, shrubs and grasses will create new habitat and provide habitat links within the parklands and to the east and south
- Multi-level planting will create structural diversity and provide habitat for a range of native species including reptiles and small birds such as the superb fairy wren
- The swale will provide additional wetland habitat for frogs and other aquatic species
- The cliff face habitat will include low vegetation and tree canopy suitable for small birds and reptiles as well as wet areas that will capture relatively clean rock face seepage for potential frog habitat.

The Hill

- Re-shaping The Hill will allow contamination treatment, and therefore planting of endemic species
- Multi-storey plantings consisting of low-growing native grasses and taller straight-trunked trees will provide additional animal habitat while maintaining views from The Hill
- Elevated walkways through heritage significant fig trees and an elevated viewing platform will reduce the need for on-ground walkways and maximise habitat availability.

Existing Parklands

To complement the habitat proposed in new areas of open space, it is proposed to improve existing habitats with the following measures:

- Constructing freshwater wetlands planted with native vegetation, providing habitat for aquatic creatures, and improving the quality of water entering the Canal at The Crescent and Federal Park South
- Expanding the existing areas of saltmarsh in Federal Park and along the canal, and creating a new saltmarsh island behind the mangroves, expanding this endangered ecological community in the parklands
- Naturalisation of the canal along the Federal Park precincts will create further habitat for aquatic species, and multi-storey plantings along the banks of the creek will provide additional habitat for a range of fauna.

MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITY TO LINK HABITAT

- Strategic plantings will link habitat within the parklands with neighbouring habitat
- The new open space in Harold Park will establish a strong north-south habitat corridor
- Additional tree planting around The Hill and the canal will create a canopy connection between Harold Park and the northern sections of the canal
- Additional tree planting along The Crescent will connect to surrounding urban street tree networks
- Completion of avenue planting in the existing foreshore parklands will connect canopies east-west across the site.

IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

The above measures together with the proposed water strategies will improve ecological integrity across the whole parklands.

4.2 WATER




INTRODUCTION:

Water is a key element at Johnstons Creek Parklands, which are built over what just 150 years ago were estuarine intertidal wetlands. The canal that now carries stormwater from the catchment rises and falls with the daily ebb and flow of the tide. The Master Plan seeks to make water a much more visible component, using it to unite the park as one foreshore parkland.




PRINCIPLES:

- Improve water quality in the park, the canal, and the water entering the Harbour
- Harvest water to use in the park
- Improve active recreation areas' ability to withstand heavy rain and flooding
- Use water to unite the individual parks as one, foreshore parkland.

STRATEGIES:

-  Capture and treatment of water entering the parkland.
-  Create new and enhance existing wetlands to improve habitat and the quality of the water entering Johnstons Creek and the harbour.
-  Retain and enhance existing mangroves and provide saltmarsh into the intertidal zone of the harbour.
-  Enhance existing saltmarsh community.
-  Create entry statement using water where water naturally enters the site.
-  Create water fountain.
-  Opportunity to harvest water from the roofs of buildings for reuse in those buildings and for parklands irrigation.
-  Install gross pollutant traps to filter water entering the site.
-  Improve drainage of active sporting areas.
-  Opportunity to harvest runoffwater from parkland areas.
-  Opportunity to harvest water from new and existing urban catchments.

Canal Naturalisation

-  **Treatment 1:** Maintaining the structure and formal character of the mouth of the canal, retain palms while improving saltmarsh habitat.
-  **Treatment 2:** Integrate natural vegetation, parkland planting and adaptive treatments within the canal structure to reintroduce a more natural creek quality.
-  **Treatment 3:** Prioritise the natural values of the creek line through bank naturalisation, to integrate and contribute to the Water Sensitive Urban Design interventions to the south.

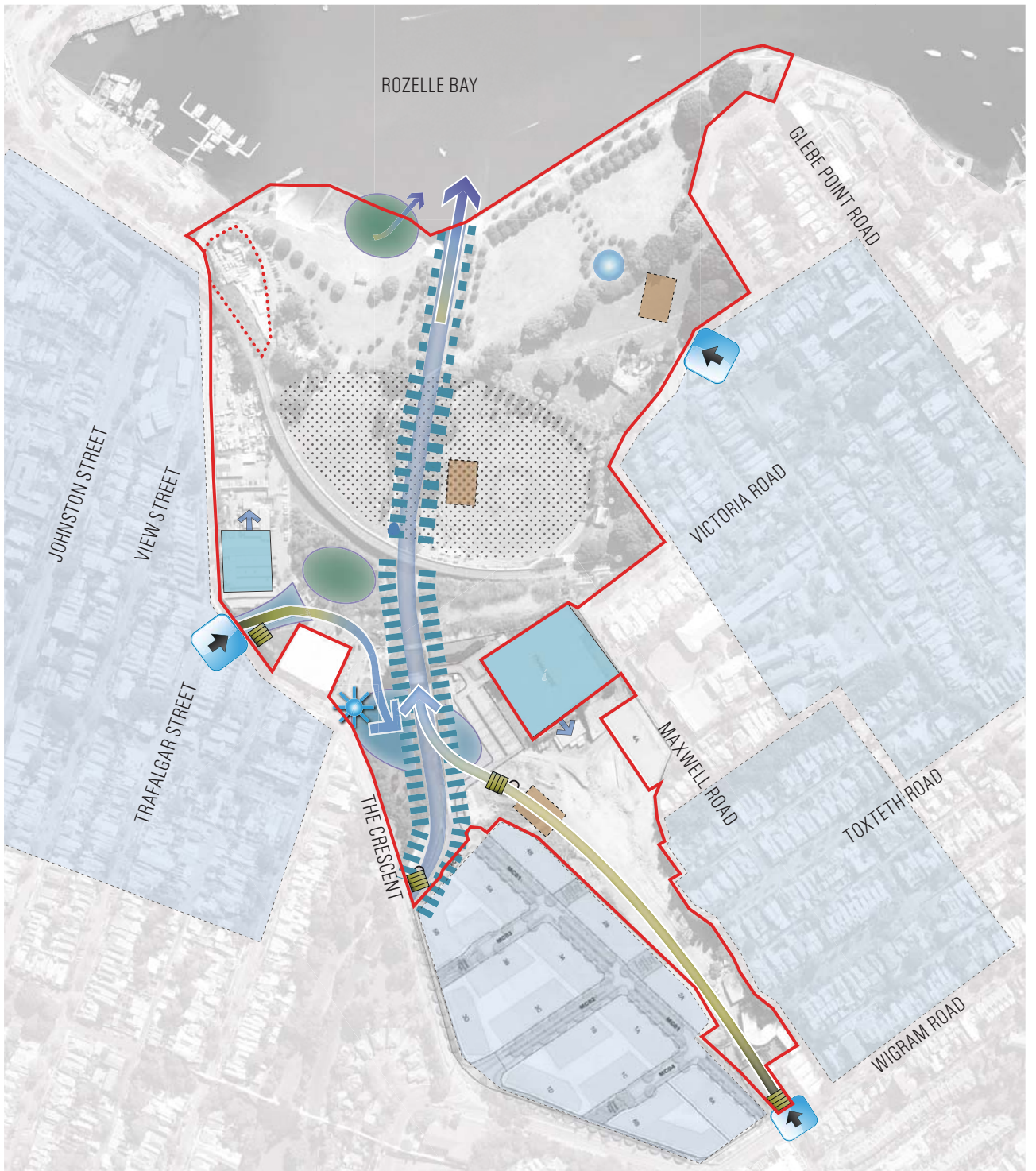


Figure 4.2: Water strategy

The water strategies celebrate water harvest and treatment, while mitigating flooding problems. This is achieved by using new and existing wetlands to improve water quality, harvesting water from parkland areas and new and existing urban catchments for use in the park, naturalising the canal and improving sports areas by upgrading drainage.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN THE PARK, THE CANAL AND WATER ENTERING THE HARBOUR.

Water quality is improved with treatment systems, including a vegetation-lined swale leading to terraced, raingardens in Harold Park and a new freshwater wetland across the canal in Federal Park next to The Crescent.

HARVESTING WATER TO USE IN THE PARK.

The parklands use 5.1 megalitres of water a year to irrigate Jubilee Oval and Federal Park field. It is, however, desirable to extend irrigation to more areas of the parklands that suffer in drier times. In line with the City of Sydney's 2030 strategy, the intention is to reduce the use of drinkable water for irrigation by capturing and re-using storm water.

Opportunities to capture water are maximised from catchments in and outside the parklands. This water is treated and stored to make it available for re-use in the parklands.

IMPROVING ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS' ABILITY TO WITHSTAND HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING.

Active sports areas such as the Federal Park field and Jubilee Oval are heavily waterlogged after even small rain events and this limits their use. The ability of these areas to recover from rain will be helped by improving the soil structure and subsoil drainage. In Federal Park, this will be achieved by minor lifting of the lawn areas.

USING WATER TO UNITE THE INDIVIDUAL PARKS AS ONE, FORESHORE PARKLANDS.

Johnstons Creek traverses the parklands and defines the boundaries of the established and new open spaces. Between Bicentennial Park and Federal Park the severe edges of the canal will be redesigned to a more natural appearance with habitat improvements along the canal edge.

The large freshwater wetland will be a highly visible expression of the parklands' signature character.

The proposed surface stormwater system of planted swale and raingarden proposed for the length of Harold Park reverses the current system of water piped underground never to be seen. The proposal makes visible the story of water treatment. Together with the canal they unite the parklands.

Within the established landscape of Bicentennial Park, an interactive fountain is proposed at the centre point of the formal avenues to help tell the story of water.

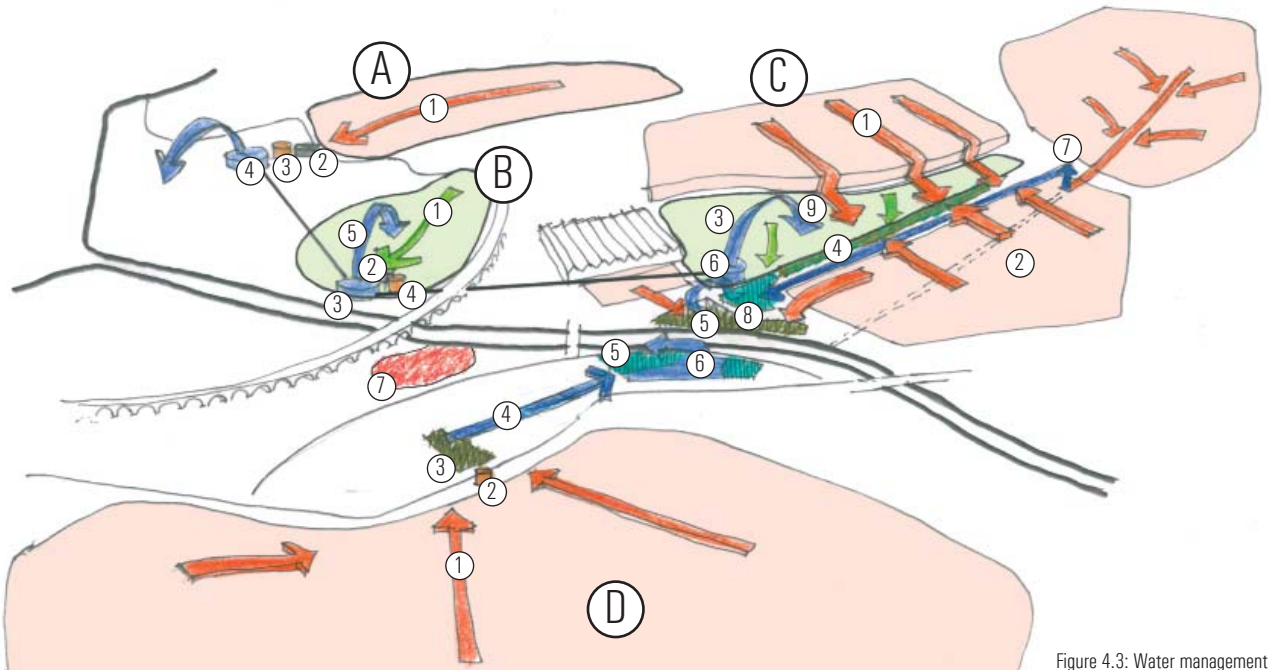


Figure 4.3: Water management

WATER MANAGEMENT:

The process of water harvest (red arrows) and treatment (green arrows) is expressed and celebrated throughout the Parklands. The water process is above and described below.

a. Bicentennial Park

- A1. Capture stormwater run-off from 5.4 hectare urban catchment
- A2. Gross pollutant trap
- A3. UV Filtration
- A4. Storage tank linked to Jubilee Oval tank
- A5. Treated water for irrigating Bicentennial Park

b. Jubilee Park

- B1. Capture stormwater run-off and infiltration from 2.1 hectare parkland catchment by overland flow and subsoil drainage system
- B2. Sand Filtration
- B3. Jubilee Oval tank storage tank
- B4. UV pathogen treatment and pressurisation booster pump
- B5. Irrigation re-use on Jubilee Oval.

c. Harold Park

- C1. Capture stormwater run-off from 7.6 hectare urban catchment of streets above parkland
- C2. Partial capture of stormwater run-off from 3.8 hectare Harold Park development urban runoff

- C3. Capture stormwater run-off from 1.5 hectare parklands catchment by overland flow to swale and subsoil drainage system

- C4. Flows directed to raingardens along overland swale

- C5. Raingarden filtration system

- C6. Filtered water stored for re-use

- C7. Low flows from 13 hectare urban catchment pumped up to feed freshwater wetland

- C8. Freshwater wetland treatment system. Filtered water flows into storage tank for reuse

- C9. Water pathogen treated with UV and re-used for irrigation in Harold Park.

d. Federal Park

- D1. Capture stormwater run-off from 12 hectare urban catchment of streets in Annandale

- D2. Gross pollutant and sediment trap

- D3. Water filtered through 600sqm rain garden

- D4. Water piped to new freshwater wetland

- D5. 2700sqm freshwater wetland with 1600sqm of macrophyte treatment area and 1100sqm of open water UV treatment area

- D6. Clean water flows into Blackwattle Bay

- D7. Existing saltmarsh retained.

4.3

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION:

The parklands are much valued for recreation. They serve a wide range of needs from active sport, to dog walking, jogging, cycling, kayaking, picnicking, children's play and informal play. These needs should be balanced with ecological integrity and complemented with uses that fulfil the current and future needs of the Johnstons Creek community. Additional opportunities have been explored for active, passive, formal and informal recreation. This indicates the need for new and improved spaces and facilities to maximise their performance.

PRINCIPLES

- Ensure that all spaces are flexible to suit a broad range of user groups
- Identify areas for active and passive recreation
- Integrate community and cultural activity
- Balance recreation with ecological integrity
- Ensure active recreation areas are designed to operate at efficient levels of use
- Consider retaining some buildings on The Crescent for re-use as a flexible community space
- Provide accessible toilet blocks near play equipment and other facilities where possible, and generally within 400 metres of any place in the park.

STRATEGIES













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|--|---|---|---|
|  | Passive Recreation Areas: Provide for a broad range of uses, including places to sit and enjoy the water and environment, areas to meet and picnic, small events and informal games. |  | Outdoor Community Space: Create two new outdoor community spaces. A new space adjoining the community building in the Crescent Lands could allow for community uses to spill outside as well as accommodate rock-wall climbing, small courts, eating areas and play areas. |
|  | Active Recreation Areas: Retain the existing sports fields for use by multiple groups for training, social and competition sports. Grounds should be flood-resistant appropriate facilities. Provide opportunities for other active recreation such as additional small playing field, skate area and fitness equipment. | | A new outdoor space next to the Tram Shed could be designed to interpret the historic gardens in this location. The space could allow for gathering, community uses and gardening. |
|  | Toilets: Locate near key destinations within easy walk from all areas of the parklands. |  | Proposed location of food truck and coffee cart: Consider food truck parking near foreshore of Bicentennial Park West and coffee cart in eastern area of Bicentennial Park. |
|  | Playgrounds: Provide a range of playgrounds. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upgrade regional playground and locate new near the community building to allow for multiple generations to share this space.- Pocket playgrounds in Harold Park and on The Hill can allow for more adventurous play for older children, and be integrated with public art.- New playground in Jubilee Park (to be upgraded in 2013). |  | Education and Recreation Opportunities: Provide opportunities associated with saltmarsh and proposed wetlands. |
|  | Circuit: Indicate a 30 minute walking route along path networks in the parkland. Providing places to play, exercise and rest along the way will make the circuit attractive for older visitors and children. |  | Additional seating: Provide additional spectator seating. |
|  | New Community Building: Provide a flexible space for recreation, education and community use. To include activities and uses such as indoor sports, meeting rooms, childcare, over-55 facilities, small function spaces, studios and community sheds. Consider relocating uses in the viaduct spaces to this building in the future. |  | Water access |
| | |  | Site boundary. |
| | | | Site not owned by Council. |



Figure 4.4: Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy

ENSURE THAT ALL SPACES ARE FLEXIBLE TO SUIT A BROAD RANGE OF USER GROUPS

Currently, a wide range of recreational opportunities are available in the parklands, including walking, cycling, play and organised and informal sports. The Master Plan recommends the development of flexible, multi-use spaces for the city.

These existing opportunities will be strengthened by:

- The new Village Green near the proposed community facility in The Crescent will cater for youth cricket, youth hockey and other organised and informal sports in addition to passive recreation activities
- The new Village Green at Harold Park will cater for informal ball games in addition to passive recreation activities
- Creating playgrounds at a variety of scales and offering diverse play opportunities for a range of age groups through an expanded play space in Federal Park, the upgrade of the smaller playground in Jubilee Park and a new pocket playground in Harold Park
- A proposed multi-purpose community facility on The Crescent to provide supporting amenities to the parklands, as well as co-locating a range of community uses to meet needs and further activate the parklands.

IDENTIFY AREAS FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION

Existing sports fields will be retained with their performance increased by flood mitigation measures. New areas in The Crescent expand the active recreation zone to support a range of formal and informal activities such as the proposed junior playing field and skate facility. In addition, the new area in Harold Park will provide less structured, informal ball games.

More areas of passive recreation are provided at The Crescent, Harold Park and The Hill. In addition, opportunities for passive recreation have been increased throughout the parklands with places provided to sit and enjoy the water and environment, to meet and picnic, to host small events and informal games.

New and upgraded footpath connections and bridges will increase walking circuit opportunities.

INTEGRATE COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Many community and cultural opportunities already exist in the parklands, including Shakespeare in the Park in summer, the Esther Abrahams Pavilion and high participation in group recreational activities. To help expand community and cultural activities, new and

upgraded community facilities (indoor and outdoor) will be provided.

BALANCE RECREATION WITH ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Landscapes of ecological value also provide recreation opportunity and access to these areas allows people to enjoy, and learn more about nature. The existing fenced saltmarsh in Federal Park supports an ecology as well as providing passive recreational opportunity. This needs to be well managed to ensure the ecology is protected. A balance of wild spaces for exploration with appropriate habitat protection will be needed at the Hill, the wetlands, salt marshes and naturalised canal edges.

ENSURE ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS ARE DESIGN TO OPERATE AT EFFICIENT LEVELS OF USE

Many of the active recreation areas in the park suffer frequent flooding and have limited use. Performance of these spaces will be improved, with better drainage.

CONSIDER RETAINING SOME BUILDINGS ON THE CRESCENT LANDS FOR RE-USE AS A FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SPACE

A community building with flexible community spaces within the parklands responds to the current and future needs of the local and wider community.

The building at the south-western corner of The Crescent (5-7 The Crescent) is an appropriate location for that facility. A portion of this building, with an existing footprint of approximately 2000 sqm, could be adaptively re-used to maximise community benefit.

Based on the needs of the community and subject to further feasibility and consultation, it is recommended that the facility provide:

- Child care
- Flexible community meeting rooms
- Change facilities and field storage, club canteen
- Public amenities
- Kiosk
- Multipurpose indoor courts.

Possible floor plate configurations to achieve the above needs will be tested in future stages of the project.

PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE TOILET BLOCKS NEAR PLAY EQUIPMENT AND OTHER FACILITIES WHERE POSSIBLE, AND GENERALLY WITHIN 400M OF ANY PLACE IN THE PARK

New facilities are generally within 400 metres of any place in the park and are near play equipment and active open spaces.

4.4

TRANSPORT, ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

INTRODUCTION:

Getting to, and around the parklands is integral to ensuring visitors are able to enjoy their experience. Access to public transport and parking is needed to ensure users can access the parklands easily. Once they arrive, a clear hierarchy of entries will help them to navigate a direct route. The provision of a clear wayfinding strategy will then deliver them to their destination within the parklands.

This hierarchy of entries and internal network of shared pathways will create a unified character for the parklands. Pathways will physically connect the new and existing precincts and paving materials will aesthetically and visually draw them together.

PRINCIPLES

- Encourage visits by public transport
- Provide universal access to and between key destination points and facilities
- Provide adequate opportunity for visitor parking
- Establish a hierarchy of entries to the parklands
- Establish a hierarchy of routes into the parklands.

STRATEGIES



Light rail: Promote increased use of the existing light rail station in the park, which will soon connect all the way from the City to Summer Hill by improving signage and the visibility of the station concentrating uses near the station, improving access to the station.



Existing Bus Stops: Improve signage and access.



Proposed Bus Stop: New stops to bring buses closer to key destinations.



Vehicle Entry Points: Maintain current public entries from The Crescent.



Water Entry Points: Enhance existing entry and support it with facilities, and create a new entry to and from Bicentennial Park.



Car Parking: Retain the existing number of parking places, but minimise their footprint, improve their appearance and vehicle circulation. Bring car parking to the edge of The Crescent to allow the new Crescent area to become part of the parklands. Retain and re-configure parking in Chapman Road.



Major Entry: Use common, significant landscaping and signage to signpost key entries and ensure views into the parklands at these points.



Secondary and Tertiary Entries: Use landscaping and signage to clearly signal the entries.



Stair access: Provides direct access to parklands.



Primary Access Routes (Existing and Proposed): Key access routes between major destinations, for higher levels of pedestrian and cycle traffic. Avoid conflict with vehicles. Identify through lighting and signage.



Secondary Access Routes (Existing and Proposed): Shared routes between destinations. Identify through lower-level lighting and signage.



Tertiary Access Routes (Existing and Proposed): Shared access routes between destinations.



Canal crossings: Retain and enhance existing crossings and provide new crossings over the canal to connect access routes.



Signal Crossing: Investigate opportunities for pedestrian crossing with signals.



Continuous loop path around perimeter of parkland.

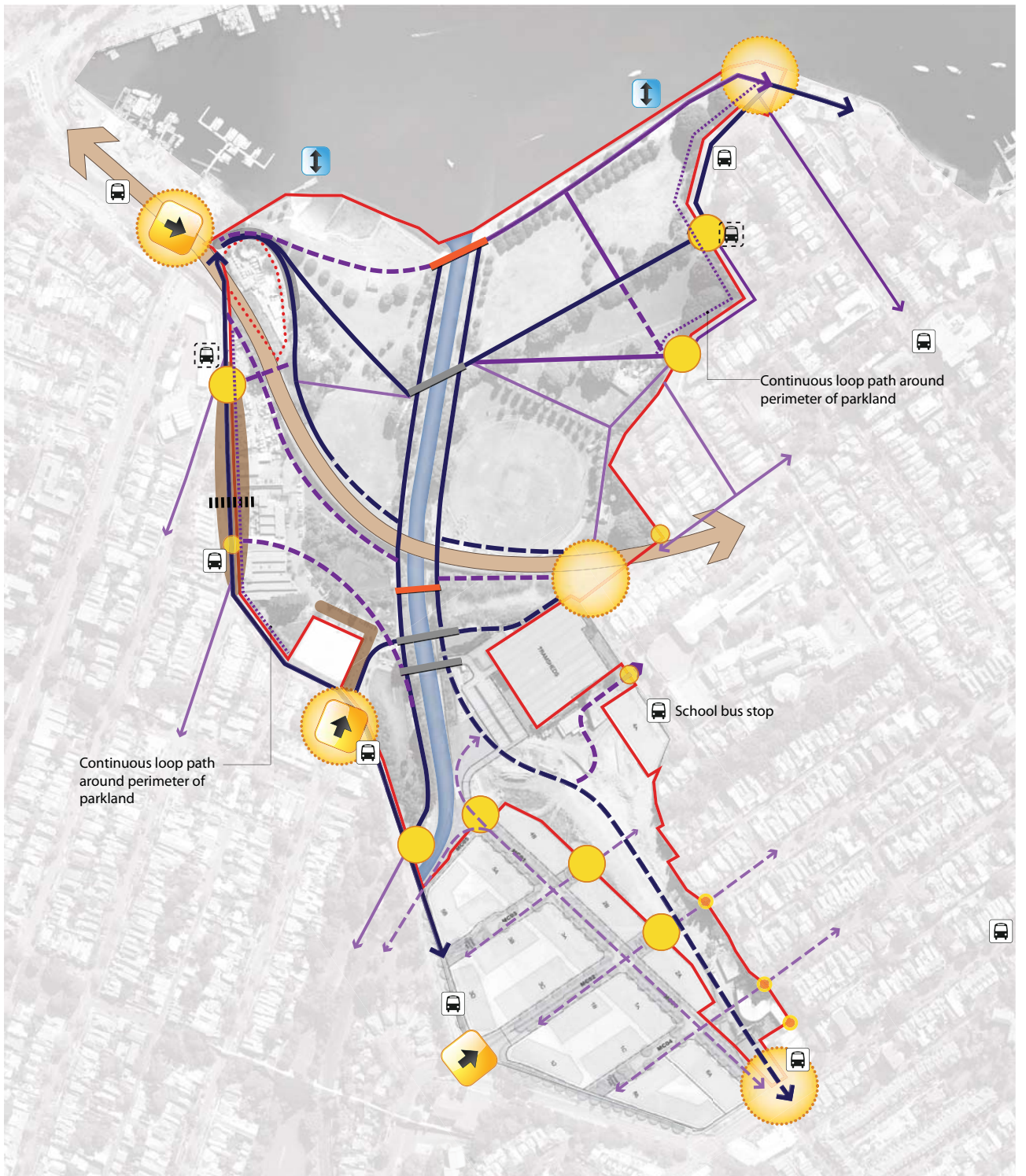


Figure 4.5: Transport, Access and Circulation Strategy

ENCOURAGE VISITS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport use is encouraged primarily by improving connections to existing networks and by promoting a shift to travel by cycle, public transport and on foot. An additional bus stop on The Crescent close to View Street is also proposed.

Strengthening connectivity through additional and upgraded pathways and improving wayfinding and bicycle connections to public transport will facilitate a shift towards better use of existing public transport.

Signage and way finding

A clear signage plan is integral to directing people to and from the light rail stops and the surrounding land uses, both within and around the parklands, and will be extended into the new parkland areas as they are developed.

PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AND BETWEEN KEY DESTINATION POINTS AND FACILITIES

Providing equitable access through the parklands includes meeting the requirements of people who use wheelchairs, people who have ambulatory disabilities and cognitive or sensory impairments. Elements include:

- Equitable access paths and facilities at The Crescent, The Hill, and Harold Park
- All parking areas will be designed to include accessible parking spaces to meet Australian Standards
- Upgrade the existing entry ramp and stairs at the corner of Alexandra and Eglington Roads
- The inclusion of an accessible route from the Toxteth Estate down to Harold Park
- Toilets to be universally accessible and linked to the nearby facilities. Seating, picnic area, play equipment, drinking fountains and rubbish bins are to be linked via accessible routes.

PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITOR PARKING

Although during peak-use periods, parking demand is greater than the supply, more parking is not recommended. Providing additional parking will potentially attract more vehicles and will be at the expense of park area.

A parking management plan will optimise the use of parking, signposting regulations, restrictions and management of parking areas.

It is proposed the majority of parking be relocated to the perimeters of the parklands, primarily adjacent the Crescent. This will reclaim the heart of the parklands for recreation and lessen the impact of vehicles on pedestrians and bike riders. Travelling along The Crescent, vehicles will turn into a dedicated laneway, providing access to approximately 41 spaces configured at 90 degree to the laneway.

Any changes to the existing parking configuration along The Crescent are subject to discussions with and approval by NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

In addition, on-street angled parking on Federal Road and Victoria Road provides further parking spaces on the eastern side of the parklands. Detailed design would ensure protection of existing trees and minimal impact on the parklands.

ESTABLISH A HIERARCHY OF ENTRIES TO THE PARKLANDS

The parklands need visible and inviting entries. The most attractive entry is the north-east pedestrian entry to Pope Paul VI Reserve marked by large fig trees. Other major entries will reference this character. Planting large Fig trees at major vehicle arrival points, the light Rail Station and the pedestrian entrance to Harold Park at Wigram Road will create unity and a stronger sense of place.

The removal of the majority of the existing buildings along The Crescent will significantly improve pedestrian connectivity into the parklands from the surrounding neighbourhood to the west. A new pedestrian crossing along The Crescent is proposed to make entry to the park safer.

With the remediation of The Hill this entry to the park can be restored, and will give more prominence to the light rail station.

ESTABLISH A HIERARCHY OF ROUTES INTO THE PARKLANDS

Connections are improved to and through the parklands by linking the missing pieces in the network and establishing a clear hierarchy of pedestrian and cycling routes.

In particular, the plan knits together the key park features, allowing the park to be experienced to the full.

A range of new path links, designed for shared use, enhance significant north south and east west movement, linking the new open spaces with existing parklands and the continuation of a greater foreshore link.

A new bridge at the mouth of the canal allows an uninterrupted foreshore walk and views directly down the canal to the viaduct. A simple, lightweight pedestrian bridge is proposed to bring pedestrian traffic from the Jubilee Park light rail stop directly down and across to the Federal Park, The Crescent and new community facility.

4.5

HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION:

The gradual development of the parklands and the resultant interwoven layers of history have created a wonderful opportunity to embrace the park's heritage icons. Landmark elements such as the viaduct, the adjacent Tram Shed and Jubilee Park and pavilion, as well as the Johnstons Creek canal, form a varied and rich fabric of stories which should be celebrated.

PRINCIPLES

- Make the layered history of the site clear to users and visitors
- Tell the varied stories of use and development through interpretation and public art
- Retain and enhance all heritage items and heritage landscapes.

STRATEGIES

The multiple heritage elements in the parklands create many opportunities for their enhancement and interpretation. These include:

1. Retaining all moveable/smaller heritage elements in the parkland
2. Retaining the fenced oval and pavilion at Jubilee Park
3. Retaining trees identified on Register of Significant trees
4. Interpreting the former Tram accessway, retaining tram track fencing next to Johnstons Creek and retaining the former Tram Depot water tank
5. Providing adequate space around the heritage-listed Tram Shed, to be adaptively re-used as part of the Mirvac development. The park design should protect views to the Tram Shed
6. Reusing and activating spaces under the arches of the light rail viaduct
7. Interpreting past uses and elements of the former Harold Park Paceway (such as parade ground, building footprints of grandstands, extents and layout of paceway etc.)
8. Providing themed play areas, education uses and public art/interpretation of the timber yard's history
9. Allowing views and access through open space under viaducts
10. Activating the edge of the heritage listed Tram Shed with community uses

11. Retaining views into the parklands
12. Allowing views into the parklands from The Crescent
13. Revealing and protecting the cliff face. Avoiding structures against the sandstone face
14. Enhancing Johnstons Creek canal's industrial and historical significance by retaining and exposing the concrete banks at selected places
15. Allowing for the appreciation of the viaduct along its whole length by providing promenade access at ground level.

- Site boundary.
- Site not owned by Council.

ALLOW THE LAYERED HISTORY OF THE SITE TO BE EVIDENT TO ALL USERS AND VISITORS

The parklands seek to tell the story of the evolution of this estuarine creek system, which is outlined below as five key interpretive themes. These stories can be revealed through the retention of heritage elements, their interpretation and reference in the parkland design.

- The site's pre-history, its natural systems and the interaction of the Cadigal people with this environment

Segments of Johnstons Creek will be naturalised in an attempt to re-establish the original edge condition of the creek.

- The story of timber and the development of timber industries on the site

New recreation, amenity and leisure elements in the parklands have an opportunity to reflect the former timber industries on the site by incorporating timber elements in their structure, form and expression.



Figure 4.6: Heritage Strategy

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- The story of the trams - state-of-the art early 20th century industrial achievement

The Tram Shed precinct provides many opportunities for heritage interpretation telling the story of trams and their role in the industrialisation of 20th Century Sydney. These opportunities are interpreted through the terraced rain garden sculptured by the fan of the tram tracks and the overhead lighting gantry in the forecourt.

- The story of the Harold Park Paceway as a reflection of its social contribution during its rise and decline

Harold Park provides informal play opportunities that reflect the spirit of the paceway and provide a legacy of its social contribution to the greater community. Heritage-significant elements will be located throughout Harold Park to ensure that visitors have a visual and interpretive connection to the former paceway.

- The story of water as a linking element through the parklands.

Water will be seen, heard and felt in each of the precincts of the Johnstons Creek Parklands. Existing water bodies, including the existing saltmarsh and mangroves, are to be preserved and enhanced by best practice water sensitive urban design measures. New natural and formal water elements will expand the water story, such as the planted swale and terraced rain gardens through Harold Park, the freshwater wetland at the entry to Federal Park South, a new fountain at Bicentennial Park and water play elements in an expanded playground at Federal Park.

- The story of community activism

The continuing development of the parklands provide opportunities to reveal the community members, school groups and businesses that have all contributed to the evolution of the park.

TELL THE VARIED STORIES OF USE AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTERPRETATION AND PUBLIC ART:

- There are many opportunities for interpretation and integration through themed play areas, public art, retaining views and vistas to significant heritage elements, retention of existing elements, integration of past elements and treatment of stormwater and establishment of new habitats

- For example, in Harold Park there are opportunities to reflect the site's history of harness racing. The Tram Shed provides inspiration for historical interpretation of the tram operations. The Crescent also has many stories of industry and commerce.

RETAIN AND ENHANCE ALL HERITAGE ITEMS AND HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

The parklands contain physical infrastructure and vegetation of heritage significance. To name a few, the viaduct is a significant and dominant architectural element running east- west across the park. Other remnant elements such as the Tram Shed and its water tank are retained and located to support the contextual storytelling. The existing parklands contain several fine palm avenues and stands of mature trees that are heritage listed. The Master Plan is respectful of these precious assets, and has reinforced their importance through application of appropriate landscape works.

The Master Plan enhances heritage items and landscapes by:

- Opening up viaduct arches to increase views and access. This will require the removal of existing toilets under the arches and relocating existing community uses.
- Installing new bridges across Johnstons Creek. These should be simple functional structures that do not visually compete with or obstruct views of the viaduct and harbour edge
- Ensuring new planting in the raingarden terrace does not obscure views to the Tram Shed
- Ensuring any extra seating at Jubilee Oval next to the existing would be a lightweight structure that does not compete visually with the pavilion
- Locating the Water Tank next to the Tram Shed building to provide meaningful interpretation
- Views to the cliff face in Harold Park remain visible along key view corridors (at street junctions)
- Retaining the existing figs at the base of The Hill next to the Tram Shed
- Preserving and maintaining existing strands of mature trees and palm avenues
- Retaining the historic fence alongside the canal at The Crescent
- Marking and interpreting the site of the Old Members Stand at Harold Park.

4.6

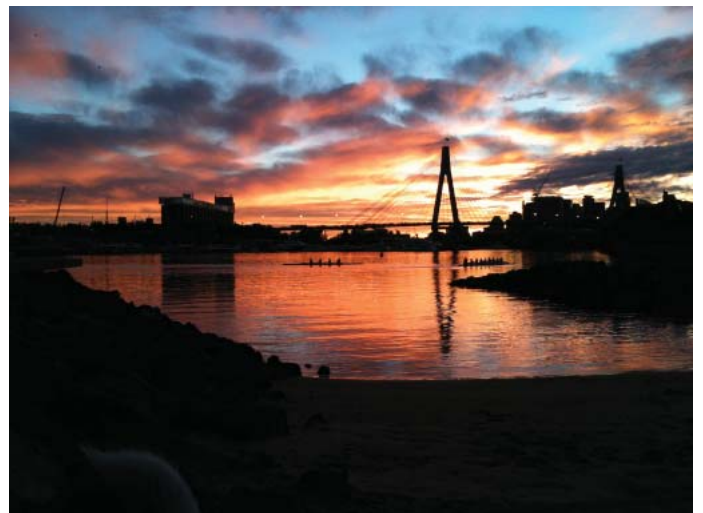
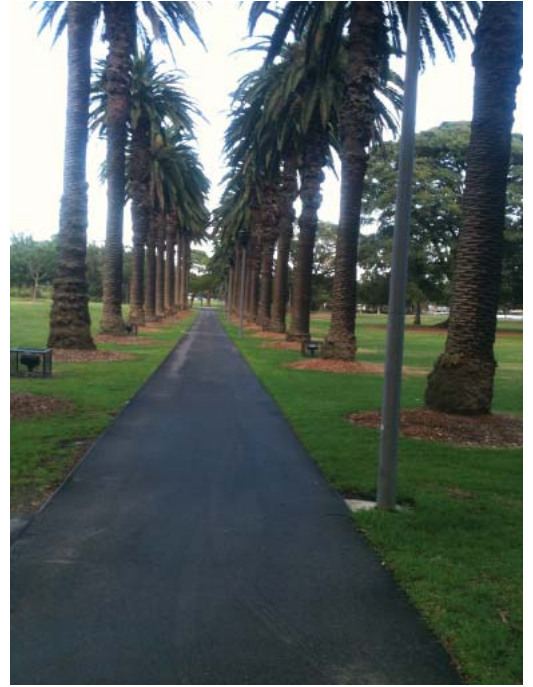
CHARACTER AND VISUAL AMENITY

INTRODUCTION:

Character is the first thing that a visitor will notice, and is the element that leaves a lasting impression. Character is defined by the qualities of a space, whether an open green lawn area, densely planted habitat zone, or a public domain paved plaza. The parklands have many distinguishable character precincts, which together create a sense of place. With the release of three new areas of open space it is critical for the Master Plan to respect and reference the established character and translate this into new opportunities.

PRINCIPLES

- Recognise the value in the varied landscape characters and respect the landscape types
- Use landscape to create a sense of arrival at key entrances to the Park
- Provide the right balance of wild spaces for exploration or habitat protection and more formal spaces for recreation, play, eating and gathering
- Integrate a common design language that knits the park together
- Recognise the park's high level of visibility from the water and beyond
- Ensure that the Harold Park open space is integrated with the parklands and has a clear public character
- Tell the varied stories of use and development through interpretation and public art.





Some examples of the distinctive character qualities of the Johnstons Creek Parklands



Figure 4.7: Character and Visual Amenity Strategy


STRATEGIES


 Harbour Foreshore: Formally arranged lawns and tree-lined promenades. Encourage a range of passive recreation and free play that complements the heritage values of the plantings and architectural setting. This area should remain uncluttered and any additional art or structures should complement the artwork by the foreshore – Earth vs Sky.


 Social Parklands and Playing Fields: Broad expanse of grassed fields, formal oval, indoor recreation and community facilities. The different areas are visually linked by the viaduct, expanses of open grass areas and tree canopy. In this parkland setting, the built form of the cricket pavillion and community facility will contribute to the landscape.


The opening the viaduct arches will help improve this connection. The arches are to be connected by a new path at the base of the viaduct and acts as a spine to connect, shelters, playgrounds, spectator seating and the park open spaces.

The proposed community centre in The Crescent will provide a focal point for activity and a meeting spot. Apart from the heavily vegetated saltmarsh area, vegetation in this character area should be designed to maintain views throughout the precinct,


 Urban Forest: A mix of larger trees, understory planting and grass in this area will provide a landscape character that recalls the area's historical gully landscape. Informal grassed areas allow for views to the heritage-listed cliff and Tram Shed and provide spaces for informal games, socialising and play interpretation.

 Revegetation and Habitat Areas: Environmental network of wetland, shoreline, cliff-side and ridge-top vegetation communities, creating a variety of relaxed natural settings, habitat pockets, and educational opportunities.

 Urban arrival experience: Formal entry and drop-off into the parklands, including terraced rain gardens and interpretation of tramline tracks.

 Views: Protect and enhance significant views at key entries, from the lookout on the Hill, and views to the Tram Shed. Landscaping should not impede views.

Public Art: Investigate public art opportunities in the following locations:
A – Integrate art into playgrounds and signage in Harold Park to help interpret the site's history. Art in this location could be tactile and interactive and 'hidden' in the landscape setting. There is also an opportunity to design the stair access from the cliff as public art.
B – A landmark piece of public art on The Hill will mark the park from a distance.
C – Some public art may be appropriate in the formal foreshore setting. Given the strategy to minimise clutter in this area, a sound piece might be most appropriate. It could also tell stories about the parklands.

 Entry Statements: Use consistent, significant planting to reinforce the key entries to the parklands.



A community building will provide a focus for community activity and provide facilities that support other uses in the park.

 Site boundary.

 Site not owned by Council.

RECOGNISE THE VALUE IN THE VARIED LANDSCAPE CHARACTERS, AND RESPECT THE LANDSCAPE TYPES.

The parkland is an amalgam of parks with distinct and diverse characters. The proposals add to the diversity of landscape characters within the master plan, and strengthen existing qualities to make more distinct places.

USE LANDSCAPE TO CREATE A SENSE OF ARRIVAL AT KEY ENTRANCES TO THE PARK.

With the inclusion of the new precincts, the edges of the park are greatly expanded contributing to the surrounding neighbourhood and improving the parklands legibility as a public open space.

The Crescent provides an extended street address. In addition, a new pedestrian entry point is presented at Wigram Road, at the south end of Harold Park. A strong sense of unified identity at all entry points will be achieved through design language, signage, street furniture, planting and pavement design.

INTEGRATE A COMMON DESIGN LANGUAGE THAT KNOTS THE PARK TOGETHER.

While respecting the existing character of the parklands, a subtle identity for the parklands as a whole will also be achieved by:

- the extension of existing plant communities and open areas of grass
- the expression of water and drainage, be it foreshore, canal, swale or wetland
- a consistent design language and coordinated materials palette, applied to the ancillary infrastructure of the park without detracting from the established character.

UTILISE TOPOGRAPHY TO MAXIMISE VIEWS AND VISTAS.

Maximising visual connections throughout the parklands unites the varied precincts, such as connecting the northern and southern precincts by re-opening many of the viaduct arches.

The Hill maximises district views to the harbour, and south into Forest Lodge and provides a vantage point across the parklands.

RECOGNISE THE PARK'S HIGH LEVEL OF VISIBILITY FROM THE WATER AND BEYOND.

Importantly, Johnstons Creek parklands are visible from the harbour in Rozelle and Johnstons Bay. The foreshore character will be retained and reinforced.

ENSURE THAT THE HAROLD PARK OPEN SPACE IS INTEGRATED WITH THE PARKLANDS AND HAS A CLEAR PUBLIC CHARACTER.

Legible entry points and a strong park landscape character will contribute to the surrounding precinct and connect to the adjacent residential streetscapes.

A generous and connected path network facilitates movement both across and through the park.

