

Victoria Park Plan of Management



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Reconciliation Statement

Our vision for reconciliation is a Sydney that values the living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, embraces the truthful reflection of the history and experiences of First Nations peoples, and is dedicated to equity, opportunity and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In taking action, the City strives to reflect the needs and aspirations of Sydney's First Nations communities and recognise their impact and contribution. The City will listen to and elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Source:
City of Sydney Stretch Reconciliation Plan
November 2020 – November 2023

Executive Summary

The City of Sydney recognises the importance of public open space and the need to ensure that it is appropriately managed in a way that is inclusive, regenerative and resilient for future generations.

This Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the City's objectives identified within the Strategic Community Plan. This includes the City's commitment to sustainability, climate action, equity, access and Caring for Country.

Within this plan, management targets and strategies have been established that seek to Care for Country and to create sustainable spaces that are accessible for all.

Part A

Management Framework

1. Introduction

What is a PoM

A Plan of Management (“**PoM**”) is a document which provides a clear set of guidelines for the short and long-term management of a parcel of community land owned by Council or Crown land under Council’s care, control and management.

A PoM outlines how a park, facility or civic space will be used, improved and managed in the future. It identifies Council’s goals and objectives for the land, and establishes the overall direction for its planning, resource management and maintenance.

Under section 36(3A) of the Local Government Act 1993, the PoM must also:

- Describe the condition of the land, any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the adoption of the plan
- Describe the use of the land
- State the purposes for which the land will be used.

This PoM has been prepared in accordance with and seeks adoption under the LG Act and CLM Act.

Need for the PoM

The Crown Land Management Act 2016 (“**CLM Act**”) commenced on 1 July 2018, introducing a consolidated, modern piece of legislation to govern the management of Crown land in New South Wales.

The CLM Act introduces significant changes to the management of Crown land by councils. Specifically, councils are now required to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land as if it were public land under the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”).

Victoria Park (Crown Reserves R.1003029 - D.500443 R.100262) is now treated as “community land” under the LG Act requiring a PoM.

Process for preparing the PoM

Figure 1 on the following page illustrates the process for preparing the PoM that has been undertaken by the City of Sydney.

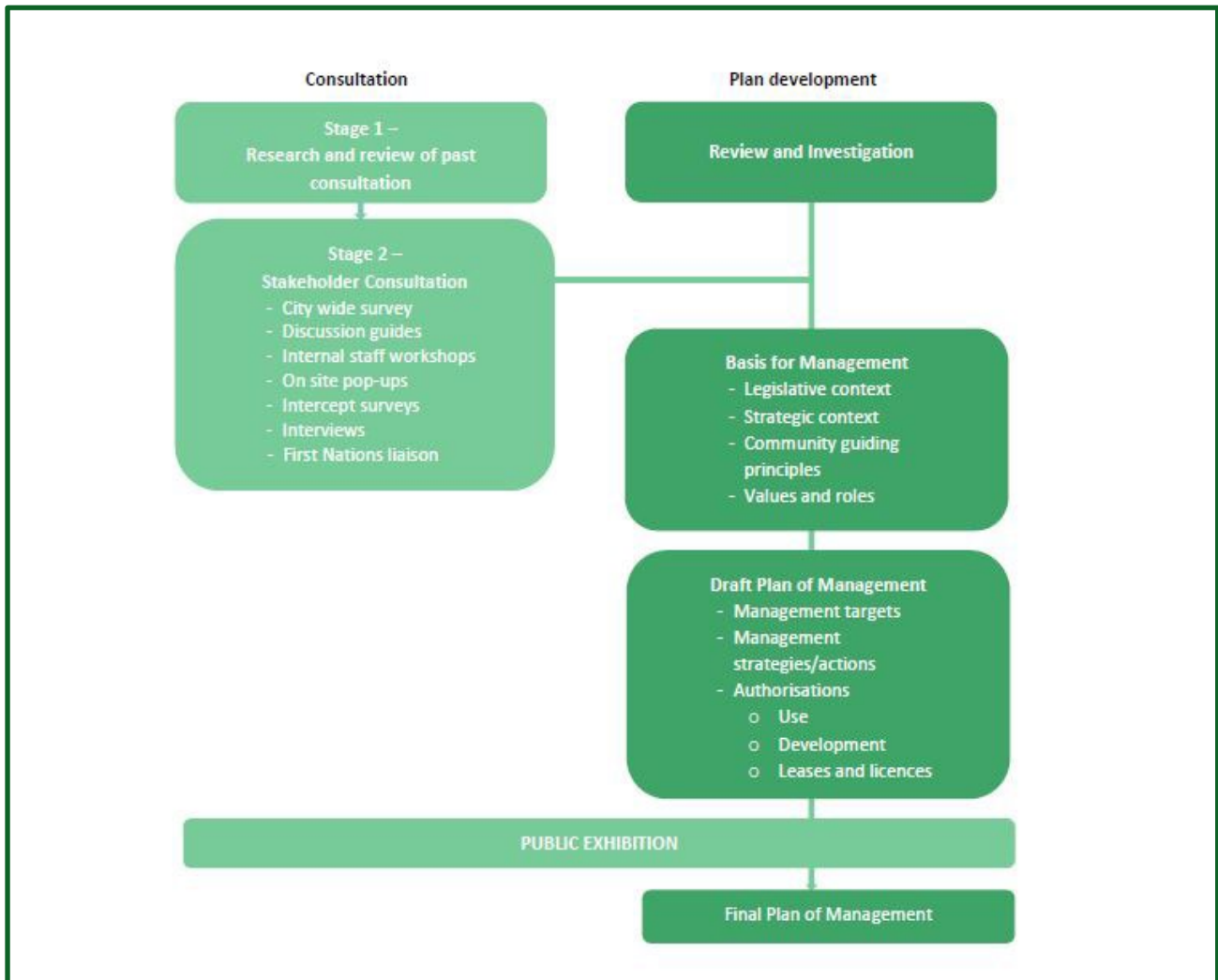
The process has integrated extensive consultation with the broader community, First Nations stakeholders and other authority stakeholders.

Purpose of the PoM

Under section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993, a PoM must:

- Categorise the land in accordance with the legislation
- Contain objectives and performance targets for the management of the land
- Specify the means by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets
- Specify how achievement of the objectives and performance targets are to be assessed.

Figure 1. PoM process



Consultation

Purpose of the consultation program

The purpose of the community engagement was to understand the community's vision for Crown land spaces, how the community use the land now and how they would like to use the land in the future.

An important aspect of the engagement program was to recognise the important relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to these spaces, strengthen the relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and use the PoMs as an opportunity to further recognise and foster Aboriginal people's custodianship, living culture and connection to these places.

The opportunity to participate in the engagement program was communicated to the community via:

- A letter to local residents from the City of Sydney
- Sydney Your Say web page
- Notification signs in parks
- Decals with QR code on footpaths in parks, reserves and civic spaces
- E-newsletter sent to a targeted stakeholder list.

The Engagement program

The engagement program consisted of an online survey, intercept surveys and pop-ups at some of the Crown land spaces, a conversation guide and community and staff workshops.

The surveys and pop-up boards sought to gather statistical data around community values and uses of Crown land, and the workshops provided an opportunity for more in depth discussions around Crown land within different locations across the city and specifically with the First Nations community.

Children’s activity kits were also sent to schools in the area and provided an opportunity for children in years 3-6 to participate.

Detailed findings of the engagement program are outlined in the separate Crown Reserves Plan of Management Engagement Report 2021.

What we heard – community engagement

The community engagement report noted the following highlights:

- **Strong support for the recognition and practice of First Nations people’s continuous Connection to Country and important role as caretakers and knowledge holders of these spaces**
- **Public open spaces are important for mental health, wellbeing and provide a place of refuge and sanctuary for all**
- **Open, green and natural public spaces in the city are highly valued and should accommodate the needs of the growing population**
- **Accessible, safe and inclusive open spaces are important for everyone to enjoy**
- **Diverse and unique open spaces that manage our shared spaces fairly**
- **Open spaces that support wildlife and biodiversity**
- **Preserving our open spaces and safeguarding their history for the future**
- **Improving amenities in our open spaces to increase accessibility and support community use**

City-wide survey: seek to understand community values and visions for their open spaces (informs both generic and specific Plans of Management)

Discussion guides: guided opportunity for regular user groups (e.g schools, sporting clubs) to map values, and places of significance.

Internal staff workshop: internal City of Sydney staff workshop



Engagement tools to inform general plans of management

City-wide survey: opportunity to comment on general issues in addition to specific parks according to preference.

Discussion guides: guided opportunity for regular user groups (e.g schools, sporting clubs) to map values, and places of significance.

On-site pop-ups/intercept surveys: pop-ups/intercept surveys in the specific parks at specific times to capture a wide variety of feedback.

Interviews with key stakeholders: We will conduct interviews with key external stakeholders.

Work in partnership with local First Nations leaders and groups: liaison with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.



Engagement tools to inform specific plans of management

Children told us they value parks because...

“It has at least one thing everybody likes”

“Its just beautiful”

“There is space”

“They make me happy”

“When going outdoors it’s nice to be in a place that is well maintained and easy to access”

“I like having time with nature”

“Everyone’s welcome there”

What we heard – First Nations engagement

A series of **general principles** for the integration of First Nations input into the management of Crown land in the City of Sydney were identified during the conversations. These included:

- **Access to land as a human right of Indigenous peoples (UN Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)**
- **Recognition and respect for sacred sites and places**
- **Truth telling**
- **Talking about Country helps bring the community together**
- **The environment as living culture**
- **Importance of waterways and wetlands-rivers tell stories**
- **Creating opportunities for Aboriginal economic benefit**
- **First Nations design principles that recognise:**
 - **Local cultural knowledge**
 - **Sustainability and resilience**

Putting the principles into action – potential ways that these principles can be followed through by Council and others were also discussed:

The environment as living culture

Imagine having a space like this in Sydney that is real and permanent, not just digital (in response to Brett Leavy's animation – Warrane)

- Respecting ancestral sites
- Connecting places by Songlines (these include many main roads in Sydney)
- Returning Country to how it was (pre-invasion)
- A holistic approach: not just land but also water, sky, seasons, cultural calendar, plants and animals
- Implement 'Caring for Country' principles (including maintenance, planting, holistic understanding of Country etc)
- Important to return the knowledge of waterways and wetlands. Rivers tell stories and are an historical link that have been covered up over time

- Commitment to healing Country
- Designing with Country – a number of participants referred to the work of the State Government Architect

Language and naming

The use of language needs to go beyond naming

- Dual naming in local language based on a geographical feature
- Incorporating Gadigal language into descriptions will help the community better understand the meaning of these places
- Recognising that the first language of this place is the authentic language
- Removal of colonial names of parks

Decolonising spaces and truth-telling

We need a different way of looking at 'monuments' – as significant, empowering, culturally correct markers of the truth

- Trees of significance as monuments
- Sites of significance as monuments
- Take leadership on dealing with colonial artefacts
- Gadigal artists creating new markers of truth

Visibility

We are here - this land was never ceded

- The need to make this more visible in Sydney
- Participants referenced how New Zealand is Indigenous culture, practices and perspectives visible to international visitors
- The potential to push digital notifications when walking on different bits of land (i.e. a notification to acknowledge/welcome to country, when you are close to a sacred site or a burial ground, etc.)
- Permanent acknowledgement in each space that enlivens and engages - not just commemorative

Significance of Sydney as the site of invasion and first contact

Make these important places recognisable to Aboriginal people

- Sydney as the first frontier means it is a critical place for truth-telling and healing trauma

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- Recognise the cultural disruption and diaspora in Sydney
- Burial grounds and should be part of truth-telling
- Recognise places of protest

Practicing and sharing culture and supporting community

- Returning cultural fishing (e.g. Woolloomooloo and Pyrmont)
- Dedicated spaces to practice culture and interact with the community
- Dedicated ceremonial spaces practical for events
- Maker-spaces (places for creating) that are culturally correct
- Locations to busk, make things, be social and demonstrate culture
- Importance of community festivals – Yabun at Victoria Park

Economic and cultural ownership and management

- Importance of cultural ownership and intellectual property rights
- Ongoing employment and business opportunities at all levels
- Making, markets, food, trading, learning, etc. should be able to be practiced somewhere permanently (not a one-off event)
- There are effective working examples of shared arrangements with State Government (DPIE) who work with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on protecting and managing places
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council sought that the City of Sydney provides Crown land or City-owned sites to MLALC for local Aboriginal community needs of culture, health wellbeing, housing and business
- The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council asked that the City of Sydney support addressing the issue of underpayment of NSW Aboriginal Land Rights fund of \$500 Million in perpetuity for all Freehold, Leasehold, Pastoral, National

Parks, State Forests, Reserves and Parks as well as mineral and water

Advocacy/leadership/influence

- Encourage the City of Sydney to take on the hard issues and use position to influence other organisations including other councils and government departments
- Work with other authorities who have ownership over Crown Land parcels
- Advocate and work at local, state and federal levels

Barriers

Several existing barriers to First Nations people's cultural and spiritual use of Crown land were raised that the community want to see resolved. These include:

- Red-tape constraints to the economic use of spaces
- Barriers to the practice of living culture.

It is proposed that the City of Sydney continue to engage with the First Nations community to explore avenues to pursue the above principles and actions.

Section 5 of this plan details a series of "Community Guiding Principles". It is proposed that ongoing management of Crown and community land pursue these principles.

Specific feedback related to Victoria Park

The engagement report identifies the following outcomes specifically related to the subject site.

What we heard - Specific POMs snapshot:

Victoria Park, Camperdown



Number of people who commented on this park:



11

people completed the online survey for Victoria Park.



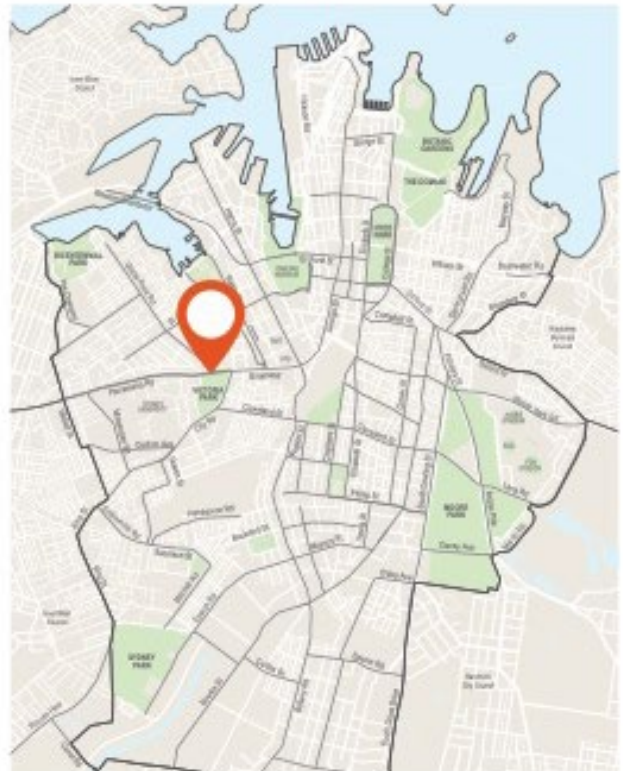
36

people participated in the community pop-ups at this park.

Current visitation to Victoria Park

The majority of survey respondents were more likely to live nearby the area (82%; 9 respondents).

- 55% (6) of survey respondents visit the area weekly, followed by respondents who visit daily (27%; 3).
- The majority of respondents usually visit Victoria Park in the morning (9am - 12pm) (55%; 6) or afternoon (12pm - 4pm) (45%; 5).



Victoria Park, Camperdown

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What people value about Victoria Park

Overall

Across engagement, participants were asked to choose what they value most about Victoria Park. As shown in Table 6 8, the top values as indicated by all engagement participants was it's beauty (55%, 26), followed by it's a peaceful place and it's well maintained (49%, 23 respectively).

Survey

Top values as indicated by survey respondents were:

- It's a cultural place (73%; 8 respondents)
- It's a peaceful place (36%; 4)
- It feels safe (36%; 4), and
- Its buzzing atmosphere (36%; 4).

Other reasons why respondents value Victoria Park include that it is an escape from busy roads and it is unceded Aboriginal land.

Pop-up

Top values as indicated by pop-up participants were:

- It's well maintained (64%, 23)
- It's peaceful (53%, 19), and
- Its nature and natural elements, it's a relaxing place and it's accessible (42%, 15 respectively).

Participants also told us they value Victoria Park because of the pool and the festivals and major events.



Consultation pop-up at Victoria Park (Image: Matthew Duchesne)/Fancy Boy Photography

Table 8 - What do you value most about this place? Choose up to 5

| Values | Survey | | Pop-ups | | Total | |
|---|--------|-----|---------|----|-------|----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| It's a peaceful place | 4 | 36 | 19 | 53 | 23 | 49 |
| It's well maintained | 0 | 0 | 23 | 64 | 23 | 49 |
| Its nature and natural elements | 2 | 18 | 15 | 42 | 17 | 36 |
| It's a relaxing place | 2 | 18 | 15 | 42 | 17 | 36 |
| Its beauty | 2 | 18 | 14 | 39 | 16 | 34 |
| It feels safe | 4 | 36 | 11 | 31 | 15 | 32 |
| It's accessible | 0 | 0 | 15 | 42 | 15 | 32 |
| It's a place for sport | 1 | 9 | 10 | 28 | 11 | 23 |
| Its formal/traditional design | 1 | 9 | 10 | 28 | 11 | 23 |
| It's a place for community | 2 | 18 | 8 | 22 | 10 | 21 |
| Its history & heritage | 3 | 27 | 5 | 14 | 8 | 17 |
| It's a fun place | 2 | 18 | 5 | 14 | 7 | 15 |
| It's an iconic place | 0 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 6 | 13 |
| It's friendly and welcoming | 1 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 13 |
| Its buzzing atmosphere | 4 | 36 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 13 |
| It's family friendly | 0 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 6 | 13 |
| It's a spiritual place connecting to a sense of Country | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| It's interesting | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Its diverse landscape | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| It's a cultural place | 8 | 73% | ** | ** | ** | - |
| Its views | * | * | 4 | 11 | - | - |
| Other (please specify) | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Total participants (#) | 11 | | 36 | | 47 | |

*This value was not listed in the online survey

**This value was not listed on the pop-up boards, however received the highest amount of votes by survey respondents

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Current activities at Victoria Park

Overall

Across engagement, participants were asked to choose what are the main activities they do at Victoria Park.

As shown in Table 79, walking through to get somewhere else (87%; 41 participants) is the top activity as indicated by all engagement participants. This was followed by walking or running for exercise (57%; 27) and sitting and relaxing (45%; 21).

Survey

100% or 11 survey respondents indicated walking through to get somewhere else is the most common activity they do at Victoria Park.

This was followed by walking or running for exercise (64%; 7) and meeting with friends (55%; 6).

Other activities survey respondents currently do at this park include going to the pool.

Pop-up

83% or 30 pop-up participants indicated the most popular activity they do at Victoria Park is walking through to get to somewhere else. This was followed by walking or running for exercise (56%; 20) and sitting and relaxing (44%, 16).

Future activities at Victoria Park

One pop-up participant would like to play chess using giant chess pieces in the future.

Survey participants suggested:

- Aboriginal cultural walks
- Night markets
- Carols by Candlelight, and
- Food stands/markets.

Table 9 - What are the main activities you do here?

| Activities | Survey | | Pop-ups | | Total | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Walk through to get somewhere else | 11 | 100 | 30 | 83 | 41 | 87 |
| Walking or running for exercise | 7 | 64 | 20 | 56 | 27 | 57 |
| Sitting and relaxing | 5 | 45 | 16 | 44 | 21 | 45 |
| Enjoying nature | 3 | 27 | 15 | 42 | 18 | 38 |
| Watching the world go by | 3 | 27 | 10 | 28 | 13 | 28 |
| Meet with friends | 6 | 55 | 5 | 14 | 11 | 23 |
| Attend cultural/ community events | 5 | 45 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 21 |
| Fitness training or classes | 1 | 9 | 9 | 25 | 10 | 21 |
| Sight-seeing/enjoying the views | 2 | 18 | 7 | 19 | 9 | 19 |
| Walking the dog | 2 | 18 | 6 | 17 | 8 | 17 |
| Picnics and BBQs | 2 | 18 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 11 |
| Playing with kids | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| Eat lunch | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Informal games and sports | 1 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Cycle, scoot or skate | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Formal team sports | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Attend sporting events | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Other (please specify) | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Total participants (#) | 11 | | 36 | | 47 | |



Consultation pop-up Victoria Park
(Image: Matthew Duchesne)/Fancy Boy Photography

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Additional comments about Victoria Park:

Survey respondents and pop-up participants were asked if there was anything else they would like to share about Victoria Park. Comments included:

- Areas to sit and enjoy a glass of wine (5 comments)
- Additional toilets and increased access (3)
- Desire for to create it as an on-leash dog park (3), particularly for safety of children
- Increased shade, trees and seating areas (3)
- Improved maintenance of grassed areas (2)
- The history is rich at this park, it would be good to have signage and cultural tours
- Lighting should be improved for safety at night
- Replace concrete paths with vegetation
- More nature
- Recognition and connecting to Country.
- Improved maintenance of the pond, in particular removal of rubbish and weeds
- Opportunity for chess Boards and BBQ plates
- Increased markings or a signage
- Additional water fountains and bubblers
- Retain all open space as much as possible
- Keep it open to public - less bootcamps
- Increase variety of foods in the cafe at the pools
- Increased opening hours for the pools
- Improved sense of safety, particularly in the evenings
- Making the toilet in the cafe more obvious during the day
- Opportunity for more festivals and major events, and
- Increased parking for motorbikes next to the pool.

"Grass needs to be well maintained-mow the grass"

- Pop-up participant

"Sitting and having a glass of wine"

- Pop-up participant

"Victoria Park doesn't always feel safe. Parts of it are dark and deserted after dark. It feels more cut off from the uni campus than it should. Perhaps there would be ways to open this space up to the uni, improve the lighting in that part of the park and make it feel more welcoming especially after dark. Also it would be great to see pockets of more dense mini-forests to support local biodiversity."

- Survey respondent

Respondents told us...

"I know some of the history of the park and it is very rich. It would be great to include a historical cultural walk."

- Survey respondent

"The new paths have really ruined the park by covering large sections in concrete and are unnecessary. It would be great if these could be removed and replaced with trees and grass. I also liked the old dirt tracks and miss them."

- Survey respondent

"No more buildings. No monuments. Just nature and some more benches."

- Survey respondent



2. Land description

Location and description

Victoria Park occupies approximately 9 hectares of open space and is located at the junction of City and Parramatta Roads, Camperdown. It is also adjacent to Sydney University.

The location, size and nature of the surrounding land use establishes Victoria Park as an important recreational resource.

The park plays an important role in the continuation of recreational opportunities for local residents, workers, and university students, and provides a heritage landscape and visual amenity for the local urban environment.

The table below summarises key land information for Victoria Park. A Site Plan has been provided on page 17, refer to **Figure 2**.

Table 1. Summary land information

| Item | Description |
|---|--|
| Site Name | Victoria Park |
| Address | 1 Parramatta Road, Camperdown |
| Ownership | Crown (The State of New South Wales) |
| Crown Reserve No., purpose and gazetted date | Dedication 500443, Public Recreation, 21/10/1884 Reserve 1003029, Public Park, 12/12/1924 Reserve 100262, Community Purposes; Public Recreation, 15/3/1996 |
| Zoning | RE1 Public Recreation |
| Area | D.500443 Victoria Park – 49,983.42 m ² R.1003029 Victoria Park (Part) – 28,690.82 m ² R.100262 Victoria Park - 5,761.25 m ² |
| Lot & DP | |
| Crown Reserves | D.500443 - Lot 7035 DP 1051257 and Lot 7046 DP 1051316 R.1003029 - Lot 1 DP 179964 R.100262 - Lot 552 DP 752049 |
| City-owned community land | Lot 12 DP1171806 and Lot 1 DP 1171808 |
| Miscellaneous land | Road Reserve managed by the City of Sydney as Roads Authority |
| Restrictions / easements | n/a |

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| Item | Description |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Community land categorisation | |
| D.500443 | General Community Use / Park |
| R.1003029 | General Community Use / Park |
| R.100262 | Park |
| City-owned land | Park |
| Condition of land | refer to Table 2 for Condition Summary |

Figure 2. Site Plan



Heritage and culture

Overview – recreational role and design

Victoria Park is a significant Victorian-era park proclaimed in 1870. The park retains substantial components of its formative 19th century planning and design, including the grand avenue linking City Road and the remaining original gate lodge to the tower of the Main Building of Sydney University.

Today's Victoria Park has evolved and adapted since 1870, with land being excised from the park area for other purposes and various developments including the provision of recreational facilities to the community.

The land on which the park lies is within the traditional lands of the Gadigal people. Prior to the arrival of European settlers in 1788, the Victoria Park area was a heavily treed, sheltered area with temperate rainforest vegetation with a watercourse that would have drained into Blackwattle Bay.

It's most likely that the walking tracks that are now major city roads on either side of the park were on the same alignment used by First Nations peoples to move between areas within the Sydney Basin.

Victoria Park continues to have significant connections to First Nations peoples and in the 21st century has been the site for gatherings, protests and celebrations including annual events in the park.

The land was the site of some of the earliest land grants in the colony when in 1789, 1,000 acres were reserved for farmlands and pasture for church, government and school officials.

It became Grose Farm in 1792, and in the following years the land had various roles and uses related to the developing colony. In 1855, the site was granted to the University of Sydney and Victoria Park was proclaimed in 1870.

Victoria Park has been a place for sport, leisure, relaxation, theatrical performances and concerts. For many years, the park has hosted the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. In 2000, the southern part of the park was the site of an Aboriginal tent embassy to highlight Indigenous issues during the Sydney Olympics. More recently, the park has hosted the Yabun Festival, the nation's largest showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Consultation conducted in 2020 with First Nations stakeholders has also unearthed a range of significant aspects associated with the site and local area which should be further investigated and acknowledged, including:

- The original landscape was marshland populated by kangaroos
- The site was used as an old teaching ground for hunting
- A place for maintaining the kangaroo population, agricultural and animal husbandry
- A site of a women's birthing place
- Many of the local educational institutions are built on grounds used by the Gadigal for teaching
- This location and the landscape was the original source for the name of Redfern
- The site of Victoria Park is a place of protests and community gathering
- Recognition of the importance that Victoria Park is the home of Yabun Festival

Heritage Context

- Victoria Park – I39 Sydney LEP
- The University of Sydney. University Colleges and Victoria Park – SHR item No. 01974

History

The land in which Victoria Park lies was part of the territory of the Gadigal people, whose territory stretched from Port Jackson to around Petersham. The land was heavily wooded and contained a small pond and the tributary stream of Blackwattle Creek which drained into Blackwattle Swamp (now Wentworth Park and Blackwattle Bay). The Aboriginal people who used and lived in this area subsisted on the wide resource base of the local area, including terrestrial, estuarine and marine resources. Food was obtained through fishing, shellfish collection, hunting and gathering of small plants and animals. The routes of the colonists that would become Parramatta Road and City Road were most likely along the same alignment that the Gadigal people had used to access resources and move through Country from Botany Bay to Parramatta.

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The Victoria Park land was part of a 30-acre (12 hectare) lease given to Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose in **1792, which became known as Grose Farm**. During this phase, the land was used for a period as a military camp and a farm which educated convicts into English land husbandry.

The land was heavily wooded and contained a small pond and stream which drained into Blackwattle Swamp (now Wentworth Park and Blackwattle Bay). Grose's grant was bounded to the north by a track that eventually became Parramatta Road. The pond became known as the Horse Pond, as it was a convenient place for travellers along the road to stop and water their horses. **The land was purchased by the Crown in 1838 and stayed in government hands**, being used to support the Female Orphan Institute, in attempts at agriculture, as pasturage for horses and cattle employed in government works, and later as pasturage let to the butchers of Sydney.

A watch house had been constructed at the corner of Parramatta Road and City Road by 1836.

In the early 1850's, Grose Farm was granted to the University of Sydney for the university and its affiliated colleges, together with an allowance for **'the formation of a park and garden in connection therewith'**. The design and development of Victoria Park was closely related to that of the university, with a wide strip of land along Parramatta Road dedicated in **1865 as a formal approach** to the university. **Victoria Park was formally proclaimed as a park in 1870.**

The park and approach reserve originally had two very distinct landscape designs. The approach reserve, designed by Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens in was essentially a linear corridor which led from City Road to the university, with a bridge over the Horse Pond. The corridor was defined by a substantial triple avenue of shrubs, figs and stone pines. **By 1885**, this grand entrance was emphasised with two sandstone gate lodges—a Messengers Lodge (removed in 1939) and a Gardeners Lodge (which remains)—on either side of the entrance at City Road. These elements were probably designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet in keeping with the neo-Gothic style of the university.

The park itself was formally laid out in 1885 in the picturesque style popular in the late nineteenth century, with curving paths, garden beds at path junctions and large specimen trees. By this time, construction of the Anderson Stuart Building (the university medical school) was underway and the path layout in the park was designed to provide an approach to this building—connecting to a new road between the new medical school and the Great Hall.

In essence, the park was designed to provide a verdant entrance and setting for the university buildings, as well as to provide for open and enclosed views which would have provided variety for people within the park.

Plants for the park and approach reserve were provided by the Botanic Gardens under the design direction of Charles Moore. James Jones, Overseer of the Botanic Gardens and the Domain, was involved in its management.

A lease to construct a local bowling club was granted in 1892, which marked the commencement of more formal recreation in the park. The bowling club and lawn were established in the eastern area of the park, near City Road and south of the approach reserve. A tennis court had been added to the north, between the green and the Messengers Lodge by 1912. **In 1912, a children's playground** was completed to the south of the bowling club, and its opening was remarked upon in the Sunday Times. The first children's playground in Sydney had been built in the Domain in 1901. A kindergarten had also been established there by 1913. By this time the park was enclosed by a strong border of mature trees, which had been part of the 1885 design. These trees had been removed in the area of the bowling club and green.

The current size and layout of Victoria Park is the result of a number of excisions and developments that occurred during the twentieth century. **In 1919**, the university and City of Sydney Council negotiated a land swap which saw the approach reserve handed over to the council in exchange for a wide strip of land along the park's western side for the university. This land swap was **agreed in 1927**. In the interim, the council had widened Parramatta Road, necessitating removal of a number of mature fig trees along the approach reserve's northern boundary—these works were met with community outrage and protest, to no avail.

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In 1929, vocal public resistance put a stop to what would have been a more “egregious incursion” —a proposed extension of Cleveland Street through the park to Parramatta Road. A flurry of letters to the editor in the Sydney Morning Herald defined a debate familiar to Sydneysiders, with those for the road citing the primacy of improving traffic flow over all other consideration, and those against citing the importance of the inviolability of public space. Those against won the day and the proposal was dropped.

During the Great Depression, relief labour was employed to clean up the Horse Pond. The fence along the new University of Sydney boundary to the park was commenced in 1933, comprising iron palisade railings with a concrete base. The area at the corner of City Road and Parramatta Road was regraded and planted with grass and the outlet in the lake was reconstructed. In 1937, the small pond to the south of the Horse Pond was filled in and a Victorian fountain (erected in 1892 at the small pond) appears to have been removed at this time.

The Messengers Lodge was demolished and the sandstone piers that marked the City Road entrance to the approach reserve were relocated in 1939. During World War II, numerous zig-zag air raid shelters were dug in the park. Aerial photographs from 1943 show that the design of the approach reserve had been eroded by this time, with the bridge over the Horse Pond removed and the avenues of trees considerably reduced. The emphasis instead is on the new curved road to the Great Hall from Parramatta Road.

After the war, in 1946, the council proposed a swimming pool for Victoria Park. This proposal was viewed by some as another unwelcome incursion in the parklands. The pool was one of two proposed by the council after the war—the other being an Olympic pool and ice-skating rink in Prince Alfred Park. The pool in Victoria Park went ahead and was completed in 1955. Its size and siting in the centre of the park further reduced the clarity of the park’s design—it cut across what had been the approach reserve to the university and required the remodelling and reduction of the Horse Pond. The pool proved to be popular, was used by local schools for swimming lessons and included a sunbathing roof. It was visited by the Duke of

Edinburgh not long after its opening—he arrived in the park by helicopter, a dramatic entrance well-received by the waiting crowd. The completion of the pool cemented the park’s recreation focus, with the park now containing an expanded bowling club, a swimming pool and a children’s playground.

A bronze sculpture was installed in the Horse Pond and the pond renamed Lake Northam in honour of Alderman Northam’s participation in the Olympic Games in 1961. The pond was also remodelled. A totem pole was erected in 1964, near the Gardeners Lodge. It was later moved to its current location near the Cleveland Street entrance to the park.

Major development along the university eastern boundary in the 1960’s saw the further erosion of the physical and visual connections between it and Victoria Park. The construction of the Fisher Library in 1963, the Carlaw Building in 1965 and the library’s nine-storey ‘stack’ in 1967 had the effect of further obscuring the park and approach avenue’s original purpose of providing a verdant setting and views to the university’s sandstone Gothic Revival buildings

Not much changed for Victoria Park in the ensuing decades. It continued to be a popular place for recreation and events. In the 1970’s a series of free rock concerts organised by Sydney radio station 2SM were held on the roof of the pool, attracting crowds of up to 40,000 people. The concerts featured big names in Australian rock music at the time. In 1998, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day was held at Victoria Park, attracting crowds of 40,000–45,000 people. It has been held there every year since and has included events such as the Ms Fair Day Competition, live music, community stalls and a dog show. It now attracts yearly attendance of about 70,000 people.

While under its control, South Sydney Council commissioned a conservation plan for the park (completed in 1990) and listed it as a heritage item in 1998. The late 1990’s and early 2000’s saw a concentration of effort by the university and council to reinstate important elements of the park’s design. By 1998, the bowling club had been demolished and replaced with an asphalt carpark, and a new bridge constructed over Lake Northam, aligned with the original approach avenue. By 2003, the university had constructed a wide staircase along the axis of the approach avenue, and by 2007, the

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sandstone gate piers were reinstated at the avenue's City Road entrance. The design for the new Faculty of Law Building at the university, completed 2009, included a grand staircase down to the university's boundary with the park. A new children's playground was installed c.2010.

Victoria Park also has significant connections to Aboriginal people, and has been the site for gatherings, celebrations and protests. **In 2000, an Aboriginal tent embassy** was established in the park. The embassy was established around a Sacred Fire of Peace and Justice and a spear was placed ceremonially in the ground nearby. The tent embassy was re-established in 2002, 2004 and 2007. In 2001, activist Isabel Coe and others involved in the tent embassy planted 18 trees in the park near the location of the embassy, many of which appear to remain. In 2002 a commemorative plaque—an engraved metal plaque set in stone—was unveiled by Isabel Coe and Deputy Police Commissioner Lola Scott. **The Yabun Festival has been held in the park annually on 26 January since 2007**, and in recent years Victoria Park has become the end point for protest marches for Aboriginal rights.

Statement of Significance

The following statement of significance has largely been taken from the NSW State Heritage Register inventory for The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park.

Victoria Park is the traditional country of the Gadigal people the fresh water and other natural resources that the park landscape supported the First Nations' people. Given that many of Sydney's roads are overlaid on Aboriginal people's walking tracks, it is likely that Victoria Park was a place where Aboriginal people may have congregated or camped as they moved across Country from Botany Bay to Parramatta for collecting food, trading, ceremony, family and other business.

The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park are of state historical significance. This relates to their role as a vestige of Governor Phillip's original 1,000 acres (404 ha) 'Kangaroo Ground' Crown reserve of 1790, and for their connection to the 18th century British government's approach to colonialism and its concept of 'terra nullius' as the foundation for dispossession of Aboriginal land in the immediate area of Sydney.

The cultural landscape is of state heritage significance for its ability to demonstrate activities of the colonial era (1792-1855) associated with Grose Farm, convict stockade, and female orphan school.

The University of Sydney is of state historical significance as the first and oldest university in Australia, dating from 1850. Reflecting in the cultural landscape changes in tertiary education, landscape design, institutional architecture, economic development and social attitudes; including pioneering university education for women in NSW (1881) and the establishment of the first university college for women in Australia, Women's College in 1892.

The cultural landscape is aesthetically significant at a state level directly reflecting the influence of E.T. Blacket (1850's), W.L. Vernon (1890's), W.B. Griffin (1910's), Professor L. Wilkinson (1920's) and the Government Architect's Office (1960's) in shaping the place. In particular, Blacket's location of the Great Hall and East Range of the Quadrangle (1854-1862) utilised the site's topography to provide a dramatic presentation of the University on approach from the city, a setting with planning axis that still remains.

The University of Sydney and Victoria Park as connected landscapes have tangible links to Charles Moore, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) and subsequent designers using prevalent 19th century theories of landscape design, plant material and horticultural techniques.

The University grounds, more than any other site, reflect Professor Leslie Wilkinson's work in beautifying and unifying buildings and their settings, along with major contributions to the planning and planting of gardens by Professor E. G. Waterhouse.

Victoria Park is a significant Victorian-era park dedicated in 1870. The park retains substantial components of its formative 19th-century planning and design, including the grand avenue linking City Road and the remaining original gate lodge to the tower of the Main Building of the University.

The Main Quadrangle Building, the Anderson Stuart Building and the Gate Lodges, together with St Paul's, St John's and St Andrew's Colleges, as a rare composition, comprise what is the most important group of Gothic and Tudor Revival style architecture in New South Wales and potentially Australia. Together they deliberately evoke the academic traditions and standards of Oxford and

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Cambridge, as expressed in the University motto ("Sidere Mens Eadem Mutato", meaning, "though the constellation has changed, the spirit remains the same.").

The landscape and grounds features associated with these buildings, including Victoria Park, contribute to its values of civic virtue and support the existence and appreciation of their state aesthetic significance.

The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park has been a major landmark of Sydney and NSW since its inception. they hold substantial social values and associations and are held in high esteem for a range of affiliated communities and groups as an iconic place of historic, academic, cultural, sporting, recreational and social pursuits and events.

The intactness of the groupings of buildings and landscapes across the history of the development of the site represents a microcosm of the development of architectural design, town planning and landscape design in New South Wales and Australia.

Key heritage features

The park is a triangular site sloping from the University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus down towards the swimming pool and Lake Northam at the centre of the park. This topography reflects the early landscape of the area, which sloped down to a spring and creek that ran north toward Blackwattle Bay.

The Victorian layout of the park formerly provided for a series of enclosed spaces and open views that provided a variety of spatial experiences cross the park. Although many of these elements have been removed over time through the progressive and continued modification of the park, some directed views remain, particularly in relation to the landscaping around the lake.

There are also a series of broad views which remain from the early planning and landscape of Victoria Park. These significant views include:

- The approach avenue east and west, which is a long straight vista framed by the mature trees and with the University of Sydney Great Hall providing a focal point to the west
- The views along the tree-lined paths to the south-eastern area of the park, which provide enclosed views along the paths and framed views out across the park

- The high topography of the southwestern area of the park provides broad views extending outside the boundary of the site to the north and the Sydney CBD.

The setting of the park, defined by its urban location, with a backdrop of nineteenth century and early twentieth century terrace houses, shops, warehouses of Chippendale and Glebe, and connection to the university of Sydney are key elements to the significance of the site overall.

The Conservation Management Plan 2017 for the Grounds of the University of Sydney, Camperdown and Darlington campuses identified a moderate to low potential for historical archaeological remains in Victoria Park. These remains would be associated with the 1898 Messengers Lodge formerly located on City Road.

Two sites within the boundaries of Victoria Park have been listed in the NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.

Several plantings are listed on the City of Sydney Significant Tree Register, including:

- 37 Moreton Bay Figs
- 17 Port Jackson Figs
- 1 Deciduous Fig
- 1 Norfolk Island Pine
- 1 Queensland Kauri Pine
- 1 Indian Chir Pine
- 1 Holm Oak
- 5 Canary Island Date Palms
- 1 Sawtooth Oak
- 1 River Bushwillow
- 1 Pin Oak

Previous heritage assessments have identified the following gradings of significance for the components of Victoria Park:

High (Demonstrates the key attributes of the early years of the park and its major c.1855 and 1885 designs, including layout and plantings):

- Reinstated approach avenue to Sydney University from City Road, including avenue of Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and small-leaved figs (*Ficus obliqua*), reinstated gate piers and bridge over Lake Northam

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- Gardener's Lodge
- Lake Northam as a generous water body with a small island (excluding current hard-edged form and fabric) and bridge
- Perimeter plantings of Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*)
- Avenue planting of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*)
- Stand-alone plantings of Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Chir Pine (*Pinus roxburghii*), Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*), Cook Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*), Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*), Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), Senegal Date Palm (*Phoenix reclinata*), River Bushwillow (*Combretum erythrophyllum*) and Cordyline Terminalis.
- Park lighting.

Intrusive (Later alterations which detract from the clarity of the 1885 park design and character):

- Concrete dwarf wall and palisade fence between the park and the university
- Swimming pool and associated elements
- Carpark and square hedges
- Hard-edged treatment to Lake Northam and islands
- Planting around Northam yacht sculpture
- Garden bed at eastern end of Lake Northam
- Square hedges along the approach avenue
- Barbecue which blocks the Brush Box avenue near the children's playground
- Asphalt topping to paths.

Moderate (Demonstrates later phases of the park's development and does not detract from significance):

- Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) avenues
- General topography of park, including slopes to Lake Northam
- Small island in Lake Northam
- Altered path along Parramatta Road
- Plaque commemorating the Aboriginal Tent Embassy
- Totem pole and interpretation.

Low (demonstrates later phases of the park's development which detract from significance)

- Post-1885 paths
- Totem Pole and interpretation
- Northam yacht sculpture in Lake Northam
- Seating area next to the Gardener's Lodge
- Victoria Park signs and interpretation near Gardener's Lodge
- Fabric of the Lake Northam bridge
- Recent children's playground, basketball hoop and flying fox
- Park benches, picnic benches

Figure 3 on the following page illustrates the items of key heritage significance.

Figure 3. Heritage Significance of Victoria Park



Source: GML 2015

Environment and landscape

The following descriptions have been derived from the Master Plan Study 2006, the Draft Plan of Management 1993 and integrated with known current conditions.

Pre-Existing Natural Characteristics:

The land on which Victoria Park is located was once traversed by a creekline known as Blackwattle Creek. The tidal creek extended from its marshy headwaters at Glebe towards the suburbs of Redfern and Waterloo to the south. Lake Northam within Victoria Park is a remnant of the Blackwattle Creek system.

Physical Characteristics:

Landform, Topography, Soil

The park topography can be described as “bowl or basin shaped” with the higher park boundaries falling towards the centre of the park, pool complex and Lake Northam. The park topography provides for a range of views and long vistas from within the park and from many areas surrounding.

The topography creates some significant level changes at the park’s edges which impact accessibility and enable traffic noise generated by adjacent busy roads to infiltrate most areas of the park.

The park is substantially covered in a thin layer of fill. The nature of fill is generally satisfactory for plant growth consisting of a loamy soil. In areas north of the swimming pool and south of the Lake Northam the fill quality varies, and is comprised of building rubble, fragments of concrete, bitumen, broken stone and conditions are more disturbed (Lawrie, 1990).

The old watercourse draining into Lake Northam from the south sections of the park has caused waterlogged conditions in the past upgrade works in 2018 sought to rectify this issue with installation of a new bio-retention zone and a new wetland designed with macrophytic planting to clean and filter stormwater runoff into the lake.

Vegetation

Tree and garden planting in Victoria Park are a key influence on the park’s landscape character and setting. Existing trees are of varied quality and reflect different stages in the park’s development.

Generally, large scale trees around the perimeters of the park, are typical of Victorian era planting including Moreton Bay Figs, Port Jackson Figs, Brush Box, Holly Oak and Canary Island Palms.

The vegetation structure across the park can be described in the following zones:

1. Northern Park and Sydney University Axis

- Established Fig tree planting along Parramatta Road and Sydney University axis provide spatial definition
- The Sydney University Avenue contains recent Fig planting in an attempt to reinforce the axis.

2. Lake Northam

- Planting around the lake includes large scale trees, ornamental garden beds and water plants within the lake
- Richness and diversity in the tree planting provide shelter and a unique destination within the park.

3. City Road Perimeter

- Fig planting around the perimeter of the park defines the park character and edge for passers-by
- Trees extend into Sydney University as part of the former combined land parcel
- Trees are of varied quality and recent works have been undertaken to restore health
- New Fig tree plantings east of the car park are recent additions and continue the perimeter tree planting.

4. Pathway Avenues

- Fragmented avenue tree plantings with Brush Box, Canary Island Palms and Turpentine lack legibility.

5. Mixed Tree Plantings

- Areas of mixed species typical of a Victorian planting palette i.e., Figs, Norfolk Island Pine, Date Palm, Cypress Pine
- Mix of tree species create a different planting character to the internal park and not readily perceived from park edges

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- Trees are within the grass however previous information suggests trees were arranged in a gardenesque planting
- Some trees are remnants of former avenues i.e. that from the Cleveland Street entry toward the Library and Quadrangle.

6. Native Tree Woodland

- Groupings of large, native tree planting areas including Eucalypts and Casuarinas
- Planting groups are dense with a mulched surface beneath
- Native 'bush' planting theme.

Landscape Character and visual amenity

Views of the park can be gained from most boundaries and adjoining areas. The park provides a pleasant viewing experience for road users along Parramatta and City Roads.

The corner of Parramatta and City Road is one of the key entrances to the park and also an important orientation and viewing point. From this location, extensive views of the park and many of its elements are available. Within the park, sweeping views are available from many areas. The swimming pool complex is central to most of these views. Lake Northam occupies a natural low point and is an important landmark in the northern zone of the park. Mature trees and grassy slopes are the key features of the southern zone of the park.

The park has previously been attributed with a series of landscape character areas (Master Plan 2006). These areas are distinguished through their physical attributes (aspect, topography, vegetation) and usage.

Broadly, these fall into two areas:

- The northern more formal; and
- The southern, less formal.

The University Axis is generally the demarcation of these character areas.

Northern Formal Area

More intensively developed landscape including paths, garden beds and tree planting (shade). The lake surrounding kerbed-footways and planting beds with seasonal plantings form a focal point and identity are well maintained. The historic building at the University of Sydney's Quadrangle has a strong visual presence as it is

higher and visible from many areas in the northern portion of the park.

Southern Informal Area

Less intensively developed with expansive open grassed areas. Many of the existing footpaths are kerb-less and the pavement is in a less favourable condition.

Trees are generally located to the fringes enabling greater sun exposure than in the northern area. There is limited garden planting in the southern areas aside from the pool kiosk area.

Sub-character Areas:

The two main character areas can be further divided into sub-character areas based on physical attributes and use.

1. Northern Area - Consisting of Lake Northam, the University Axis, the Gate House (Gardener's Lodge)

- Northam Lake and surrounding gardens form a park focal point
- Both natural and formal elements
- Strong visual and physical links to the University and Quadrangle Tower
- Traditional arrangement of plantings, furniture and lighting
- Mature trees and formal garden/flower beds with kerbing
- Detailed and gardenesque.

2. Parramatta and City Road Edges

- Highly urban with significant vehicular noise
- Mature trees along perimeter
- Dilapidated bitumen paths
- Boundary sandstone wall, columns and picket fence are in poor condition
- Exposed at northern end and shaded at southern end.

3. Pool complex and facilities

- Enclosed, secured space with poor physical relationship to rest of park
- Pool building entry has poor address to the Park

- Dilapidated bitumen paths, picnic shelters and landscape are dated and require upgrading.
4. Central Open Space
- Large open grass areas with strong sun exposure
 - Less formal character
 - Informal sports recreation and relaxation areas.
5. Sydney University Edge
- Lacks relationship with Victoria Park except at University stair axis
 - Significant views to the city
 - Mix of mature shade tree types along boundary.

Access and Circulation

Access to the park:

Parramatta and City Roads are major road corridors on the north and east perimeters of the park that carry heavy traffic volumes in and out of the CBD. The width of the roads and volume of traffic restricts pedestrian access to key crossing and nodal points. There are a number of formal and informal entry points to the park from footway of these street corridors.

Vehicles are able to gain access to the public carpark (2-hour time limit) on the southern boundary from City Road. Two accessible car spaces are provided at the southern end of the carpark.

Service and maintenance vehicles are able to access in a number of locations around the park boundary. There have been past issues with control of vehicle access into the park and conflicts with cars and pedestrians at the carpark entry.

Circulation within the park:

There is a well-established path network which caters to large volumes of pedestrians both accessing the park's facilities and as through traffic. This includes movement from the University to Parramatta Road and Central Station.

Recent works completed in 2018, include upgraded path and park lighting improvements, improved and more accessible park entries.

Landscape Elements - Lighting

There are two main types of lighting in Victoria Park with another specifically at the pool building entry. The existing lighting through the park comprises heritage style lanterns reflect the park's heritage character. Area lights are used to light larger open space areas. The age of the area lights is not known but they are evident in photographs prior to 1990.

Light spill is generated by road lighting on both Parramatta and City Roads. This provides additional low-level illumination around the northern and eastern edges of the park.

Upgrades to park lighting, proposed in the Master Plan Study 2006 have been completed in 2018 to meet current City of Sydney standards.

Reserve development

The following summary of Victoria Park's development has been summarised from past studies and City of Sydney background information.

Victoria Park was proclaimed in 1870 and its earliest developments were designed in the picturesque style by Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens and the Domain.

These works were focused on the formal connections between the university and the surrounding areas to the east. The most significant element of this was the axial link between the University Quadrangle Tower and City Road.

Much of the early development in the park sought to reinforce this axis including construction of a bridge over Lake Northam, tree plantings, and two gate houses. Subsequent park developments progressively de-emphasised the axis, until the 1990's-2000's when it was re-established through replacement of the bridge, new furniture, lighting, and a grand stair link access from the University.

Development in Victoria Park became increasingly separated from the University in the early to mid-1900's. Fragmented footpaths, tree avenue remnants and the western boundary fence are an indication of this.

Most of the significant park facilities were developed between the 1930's and 1960's. Major developments included expansion of the

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bowling club and construction of new swimming pools, building, supporting facilities and landscape. Siting of the pool and former bowling club appears to have responded to the flatter topography in these areas of the park with less emphasis being given to overall park planning and design integrity.

- Victoria Park Gardeners Lodge Plan of Management 2010
- Victoria Park Master Plan Study 2006
- Victoria Park Draft Plan of Management 1993

Since the 1960's, development has focused on the redevelopment of the pool, Lake Northam and northern areas of the park. This has contributed to the two distinct identities of the formal northern area and the less-formal, southern areas of the park.

Since the Draft Plan of Management 1993 was prepared, major changes to the park include the removal of the former bowling club and the associated carpark relocated further south.

Recent capital works upgrades

Works most recently completed in 2018 include:

- A new active recreation space with a netball practice court and table tennis tables
- Path and park lighting improvements
- Improved and more accessible park entries on City Road
- New concrete path connections from Cleveland Street to the University of Sydney and Barff Road entry to Victoria Park Pool
- A new decomposed granite path to the park's perimeter from Cleveland Street entry to University Avenue to improve accessibility and provide a new recreation loop
- New seating, water bubblers and park signage
- Installation of two new stormwater pollution traps for Lake Northam
- Removal of existing sediment and installation of a new recirculation system, pump and weir to improve water quality
- Installation of a new bio-retention zone and wetland designed with reed plants to clean and filter stormwater runoff in the lake
- Improved water quality of Lake Northam in the centre of the park.

Past studies and master plans:

Past studies and plans which have sought to guide park development have included:

Figure 4. Timeline of reserve development

Source: Master Plan Study 2006

1.1 TIME LINE

Victoria Park's history and development is well documented in a "History and Conservation Plan" prepared in 1990 by Helen Proudfoot. The following generalised historical time line is based on the Proudfoot report as well as the 1993 Plan of Management.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1855 | University lands allocated and area set aside for formation of a park and garden |
| 1865 | An approach reserve to the University is dedicated to provide a formal axis to the Quadrangle Tower |
| 1870 | Victoria Park formally dedicated and named |
| 1870's-90's | Formal axis constructed and includes; gatehouses/stone piers and gates, road, wooden footbridge over Lake |
| 1890 | Original bowling club and green constructed |
| 1911 | Sydney City Council takes over management of Victoria Park |
| 1920's | Sydney University Development Scheme by Wilkinson. Approach Reserve exchanged between Council and University to turn it into public land |
| 1930's | Remodelling scheme including; landscape upgrade, new pathways, Messenger Gatehouse removed |
| 1950's | Swimming pool constructed |
| 1960's | Lake reshaped (smaller) and bridge removed, totem pole gift from the Canadian Government, bowling club expansion and clubhouse replaced |
| 1990's | History and Conservation Plan, Plan of Management/Masterplan, bowling club and greens removed |
| 2000's | Pool upgrade and building extension |

Reserve purpose and community use

Crown Reserve Purpose

Crown land is to be used for the original purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved. Multiple uses of reserves are encouraged, where those uses are consistent with the original purpose of the Crown reserve.

The public purposes for the Victoria Park Crown reserves are **Public Park, Public Recreation and Community Purposes**.

Community usage

Victoria Park is bordered by the suburbs of Camperdown, Chippendale and Glebe which include a variety of land uses such as institutional, residential and commercial. This context is reflected in the variety of user groups to be found in the park including residents, students, workers and visitors.

The park offers a range of both active and informal recreation opportunities for these groups. It is intensively used as a thoroughfare and link, for children's play, exercise, passive recreation, dog walking, swimming and major events. Its shaded pockets and open grassed areas provide space for socialising, picnics, relaxation and a place to enjoy the outdoors.

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Recent user intercept surveys undertaken for the Crown Reserves Plan of Management in 2020, indicate that the most popular activities undertaken in the park by respondents were:

- Walking through on the way elsewhere
- Walking or running for exercise,
- Sitting and relaxing and enjoying nature.
- Going to the pool.

The majority of the survey respondents were more likely to live nearby the area with just over half visiting the park weekly and approximately a quarter would visit daily. Morning and afternoon are the most popular times respondents would visit the park.

During semester times, university students would comprise a large portion of park users, particularly in the form of pedestrians.

Schools use the swimming pool on a regular basis and would also represent a significant portion of recreational users and pedestrians.

The park is accessible to dogs off-leash between the hours of 6pm to 8.00am with exception to the following prohibited areas: the pool, Lake Northam, barbecue areas and play spaces.

Facilities

Key facilities in the park drive use and activation:

- The pool is the main focal activity in the park and includes the pool building with kiosk/café, gym, changerooms, toilets, plantroom, office and creche
- The pool complex surrounds include a 50m outdoor pool, heated toddlers pool, open grassed garden, deck area and shelters
- The playground and informal recreation elements include a recreation space with a ball practice court, table tennis tables and seating
- Adaptive reuse of Gardener's Lodge (proposed in the Plan of Management 2010) provides for a licenced cafe operator on site with the inclusion of an outdoor dining area.

Event use of the park

Victoria Park has been an important venue for a variety of events from small scale community focused events to large scale theatrical performances, concerts and fair days. Other events have included promotional, charitable fundraising events, public assembly and filming.

For many years, the park has hosted the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. In 2000, the southern part of the park was the site of an Aboriginal tent embassy to highlight First Nations issues during the Sydney Olympics. More recently, the park has hosted the Yabun Festival, the nation's largest showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. This has been an annual event since 2007.

Events attendance can range up to 80,000 people. The City of Sydney registered 26 events between 2015-19.

Table 2. Usage and condition of facilities and improvements

| Facilities | Usage | Condition assessment (source / reference) |
|--|---|---|
| Aquatic building and pool | General public | Good (2) |
| Gardeners Lodge | Leased as a cafe – patronised by general public | Good (2) |
| Lake Northam | General public | Fair to Good |
| – Recirculation system, pump and weir | Water quality management | |
| – Bio-retention zone and wetland | | |
| Victoria Park Gates | n/a | Good (2) |
| Carpark | General public | Fair to Good |
| Playground | General public | Good (2) |
| Park Furniture - seats | General public | Fair to Good |
| Park Furniture - signage | General public | Fair to Good |
| Park Furniture - Lighting | General public | Fair to Good |
| Path network | General public | Fair to Good |
| Recreation facilities – ping pong table | General public | Fair to Good |
| Recreation facilities – ping pong table | General public | Fair to Good |
| Recreation facilities – Basketball practice area | General public | Fair to Good |
| Public Art - The Totem Pole | n/a | Good (2) |
| Public Art - Barrenjoey Memorial Fountain | n/a | Good (2) |
| Public Art - Swimming a Line | n/a | Good (2) |

(#) City of Sydney asset assessment - other assessments by general observation for PoM

Table 3. Existing leases and licences

| Lease / licence | Crown Reserve / Lot and DP | Lease / licence holder | Date commenced Date expiring Term | Purpose / Comments |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|--|
| Retail Lease - Gardeners Lodge | R.1003029 / part Lot 1 DP 179964 | Ethical Ventures | 01/12/2018 Expiry 30/11/2023 5 years | Café eat-in and take away restaurant Includes outdoor dining |

3. Legislative context

Ownership and management

The Victoria Park Crown reserves are owned by the State of New South Wales. The City of Sydney is the Crown land manager responsible for the management of the Crown reserves. Refer to **Section 2**, pages 15-16 for further property details.

Relevant legislation

Crown Land Management Act 2016

Crown land is governed by the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (“**CLM Act**”). Historically, reserve trust managers were appointed as the custodians of Crown reserves. Upon the introduction of the CLM Act in 2018, the reserve trust regime was abolished. The management of Crown reserves is now delegated to Crown land managers, many of which are local councils.

The Objectives of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 under section 1.3 are identified as:

- Provide for the ownership, use and management of the Crown land of NSW
- Provide clarity concerning the law applicable to Crown land
- Require environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations to be considered in decision-making about Crown land
- Provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of NSW
- Facilitate the use of Crown land by the Aboriginal people of NSW because of the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to enable the co-management of dedicated or reserved Crown land
- Provide for the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management.

State Environmental Planning Policy – Infrastructure 2007

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (“**ISEPP**”) aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across NSW. The Infrastructure SEPP assists local government and the communities they support by simplifying the process for providing essential infrastructure.

The ISEPP has specific planning provisions and development controls for 25 types of infrastructure works or facilities including roads, emergency services, electricity delivery, parks and other public reserves and telecommunications networks.

The ISEPP outlines the planning rules for such works and facilities, including:

- Where such development can be undertaken
- What type of infrastructure development can be approved by a public authority under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (“**EP&A Act**”) following an environmental assessment (known as ‘development without consent’)
- What type of development can be approved by the relevant local council, Minister for Planning or Department of Planning under Part 4 of the EP&A Act (known as ‘development with consent’)
- What type of development is exempt or complying development.

Of relevance to Victoria Park is Clause 65 that specifies that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent if the development is for the purposes of implementing an adopted Plan of Management. The clause also lists a range of ancillary developments permitted without consent.

Clause 66 provides for a range of exempt developments within a public reserve such as the construction, maintenance and repair of walking tracks, boardwalks, stairways, gates, seats shelters and shade structures.

Applicable planning controls for the reserve

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Local Environmental Plans are statutory planning tools that set controls over development in the area to which they apply and are one of the main instruments for implementing the EP&A Act. They contain zoning controls as well as controls for heritage conservation areas and protected areas, amongst other matters.

Victoria Park is zoned **RE1 – Public Recreation**.

1 Objectives of zone

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes
- To provide links between open space areas
- To retain and promote access by members of the public to areas in the public domain including recreation facilities and waterways and other natural features

2 Permitted without consent

Environmental protection works

3 Permitted with consent

Aquaculture; Boat launching ramps; Boat sheds; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Centre-based child care facilities; Community facilities; Electricity generating works; Emergency services facilities; Environmental facilities; Food and drink premises; Horticulture; Information and education facilities; Jetties; Kiosks; Marinas; Markets; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (indoor); Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (outdoor); Registered clubs; Research stations; Respite day care centres; Roads; Roadside stalls; Signage; Water recreation structures; Water recycling facilities; Water supply systems

4 Prohibited

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

Native Title

On Crown land, Native Title rights and interests must be considered unless Native Title has been extinguished, surrendered, or determined by a court to no longer exist.

Dealings in land or water that affect (impair or extinguish) Native Title are referred to as 'Future Acts' and these acts must be done in compliance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) ("**NT ACT**"). The NT Act specifies procedures that must be followed before future acts can be done legally.

Some examples of acts which may affect Native Title on Crown land managed by the City include:

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

On Crown land, a future act undertaken by the City which is not covered by one of the Future Act subdivisions of the NT Act will be invalid.

Section 8.7 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 requires that written Native Title Manager advice is required before a council Crown land manager does any of the following:

- a. Grants leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements or rights of way over the land
- b. Mortgages the land or allows it to be mortgaged
- c. Imposes, requires or agrees to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removes or releases, or agrees to remove or release, covenants, conditions, or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land
- d. Approves (or submits for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c). Accordingly, Native Title Manager advice must be

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obtained prior to the approval (or submittal for approval) of a PoM that allows a dealing in (a)–(c) and the execution of any lease, licence, permit, etc. that may be authorised under that plan.

The City's Native Title Manager has been and will continue to be consulted in all relevant aspects of Native Title pertaining to the land that is covered by this Plan of Management.

Heritage management

The planning and management of Victoria Park must recognise and adhere to the requirements applicable to Local and State heritage listings.

4. Strategic context

Past planning and management

Planning and management directions have been established for Victoria Park through past master planning (2006), studies (Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016) and plans of management (Draft prepared in 1992 and revised in 1993, and Gardeners Lodge Victoria Park Plan of Management 2010).

This Plan of Management references the Master Plan 2006 and Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016 as the current planning directions for Victoria Park and supersedes the Draft Plan of Management 1993.

Key strategic directions

The following guiding strategic directions are summarised for the planning and management of Victoria Park. A Strategic Plan can be found on page 38 (refer **Figure 5**).

Strategic Directions from Open Space Sports Recreation Needs Study (“OSSRNS 2016”)

Recommended works generally seek to complete those works identified within the Draft Plan of Management and Master Plan 1993.

Note, some of these items have already been undertaken in the 10-year Capital Works Program and completed in 2018.

Landscape

- Full lighting upgrade
- New stormwater recycling and storage system for onsite reuse
- Measures for improving the water quality of Lake Northam
- Strengthen the relationship between the park and University through the alignment of paths, planting, boundary and entry treatments
- Review and upgrade perimeter planting
- Emphasise the historical North-South and East-West axes through planting and vistas

- Preserve open lawn areas; maintain avenue plantings in keeping with the original design
- Restore heritage fencing
- New park furniture
- Additional BBQ facilities.

Access

- Improve park entry points
- Perimeter pathway loop
- Establish hierarchy of access routes
- Upgrade path finish to provide equal access across the site
- Review and improve service access.

Events

- Provide infrastructure for events and improve event management
- Provide 3 phase power outlet at southern end and install more water points throughout park.

Future Considerations

- Review opportunities to locate a new public toilet within the Victoria Park Pool building
- Environmental performance to contribute to the City of Sydney and Local Government Area’s environmental targets.

Demographic context

As part of the Plan of Management process Cred Consulting reviewed the demographic and recreational context of the subject reserve which provides useful background to ongoing planning and management.

Key observations are summarised following:

More residents

The City of Sydney’s increasing resident population and density will result in more use and capacity pressures on all levels of the open space network, particularly the larger parks that offer opportunities for active sport.

The majority of population growth will be accommodated in various urban renewal areas. This trend will continue over the next 10-15 years.

The planning of urban renewal areas will provide opportunities to increase the open space and recreation facility network provision and provide linkages to the established open space network.

More workers and visitors

In the city centre and other concentrations of workforce population and visitors the quality of public spaces to allow people to lunch sit and socialise as well as provision of larger spaces for lunch time sport and exercise needs to be an important consideration.

Increasing density

Open space provision will be critical to the liveability of higher density urban areas by supporting community well-being, physical activity, social interaction, and a sense of space within an otherwise intensive built environment.

More lone persons

The acceptance for high density housing in order to live close to the city centre and lone person households' places importance on the distribution of the open space network to ensure people have convenient access to a park that serves as a "backyard" and facilitates social interaction and recreation opportunities. Open space planning and management is an important component of the liveability and quality of high-density developments.

More young and old people

The age structure profiles increasing in the city of families with young children, young adults, and older people are expected to be heavy users of open space network.

In 2041, 47% of the City of Sydney's residents will be between 18 and 34 years of age. This age group has high participation rates in active sports and recreation, and many reside in new high density urban renewal areas which suggests higher density communities could potential be very active communities and will require opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

The open space network needs to be flexible and provide a diverse offer of recreational, social,

cultural and creative activities and facilities to cater for various age, cultural and income groups.

Total population

City of Sydney is forecast to grow by 949,824 people or 37% in 2041. The highest growth will be in Green Square-City South, CBD-Harbour, Chinatown-CBD South and Redfern Street villages respectively.

Service age structure

Decrease in the proportion of 25 to 49 year old people

While the working age population will remain the largest demographic group to 2041, the proportion of this age group decreases across the Local Government Area ("LGA"). The villages with the most significant change in this age group proportion will be King Street (-5%), Glebe Point Road (-4%), Harris Street (-4%), Macleay Street-Woolloomooloo (-4%) and Oxford Street (-4%).

Increase in the proportion of 60 to 84 year old people

The proportion of people aged between 60 and 84 years is forecast to increase by 2% in 2041. While the increase in proportion of 60 to 69 year old people is consistent across all villages within the LGA, the increase in proportion of 70 to 84 year old people varies. The villages with the highest increase in proportion of 70 to 84 year old people will be Glebe Point Road (+4%), Crown – Baptist Streets (+3%), Harris Street (+3%), Macleay Street-Woolloomooloo (+3%) and Oxford Street (+3%).

Households

The total number of dwellings in the LGA is forecast to increase by 35%. The villages that will see the highest increase in number of households are CBD-Harbour, Green Square – City South and Redfern Street. Villages including CBD-Harbour and Redfern Street with a high number of Crown lands will cater to an increasing number of households by 2041.

Household type

The overall LGA is forecast to see a high increase in households with one parent families and group households. However, there are

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variations in forecast household type across the villages including those within this PoM study area:

- Chinatown – CBD South, Harris street and Crown – Baptist Streets will see a high increase in one parent families
- Glebe point road will have an increase in lone person households and a decrease in group households
- King Street will have a high increase in other families, group households and couples without dependants

Overnight and daily visitors

The City of Sydney is Sydney's premier metropolitan core that contains regional and village level services including retail to health, education to entertainment. The Sydney CBD and surrounds are also attractive places for tourists to visit, explore and stay overnight.

Given the diversity of offerings across the LGA, visitors are distributed to places such as Oxford Street, Kings Cross/Darlinghurst, Newtown, the Rocks, Chinatown and Central Station. Accommodation is provided throughout the LGA via short term rental accommodation as well as through traditional hotel and hostel services. The City experiences 680,000 daily and overnight visitors for range of purposes and services including:

- Shopping
- Health and education
- Recreation and entertainment
- Accommodation
- Personal business
- Work related business.

It is forecast that this will grow to approximately 860,000 by 2036. (*Source: Infrastructure Baseline Assessment, City of Sydney 2019*)

Social and cultural considerations (as per 2016 census data)

Cultural diversity

47.7% of City of Sydney population are born overseas with top countries of birth being China, United Kingdom and Thailand. Villages areas with highest born overseas rates include Chinatown and CBD South (76%), Harris Street (57.1%) and Green Square and City South (54.7%).

36.1% of City of Sydney population speak a language other than English with top languages being Mandarin, Thai and Cantonese. Village areas with highest percentage of other language speakers include Chinatown and CBD South (71%), Harris Street (47.1%) and Green Square and City South (45.9%).

Low-income households

18.2% of households in City of Sydney LGA are characterised as low-income households. Village areas with highest percentage of low-income households include Redfern Street (29.5%), Chinatown and CBD South (17.5%) and King Street (15.6%).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA Index)

City of Sydney has a SEIFA index 1,027. Village areas with lowest SEIFA scores being Chinatown and CBD South (940.2) and Redfern Street (970.2).

Figure 5. Strategic Plan

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016



City of Sydney Policy and Strategy framework

The City of Sydney has developed an extensive range of policies which provide guidance to Council decision-making. A number of these influence planning and management decision-making for open space and must be referred to in conjunction with this Plan of Management.

The City of Sydney has also developed a range of strategies focused on specific issues. While strategies are high-level guideline documents and usually carry less influence than policies, they can provide important references for planning and management of open space.

Generally, policy guidance for management of specific issues shall take precedence where no guidance is provided in the plan. However, all decision-making, and ongoing management must also have regard to the conservation of the specific park values and application of the core objectives of the applicable community land category/categories.

A summary of the key policies and strategies is provided in the Appendices.

Future Policy and Strategy guidance

In addition, it is intended that future policy and strategy development should also inform specific aspects of reserve planning and management as applicable.

5. Community guiding principles

The City acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area, and we acknowledge their continued Connection to Country. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

Community and place

These are the principles for our plans of management for Crown and community land. They were developed by listening to our communities – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, community gardeners, bushcare contributors, local residents, school children, city workers and visitors, and they reflect their values.

These principles are guided by the world view of Aboriginal people. They reframe our systemic relationship with the land. Since invasion, the relationship between people and land has been disrupted with little respect for the land, animals, waterways, and First Peoples. We've seen the extinction of plants and animals and damage to waterways and land. Aboriginal lives have been lost in trying to protect Country. By challenging our approach in this way, we hope to cause no further harm and begin to heal.

The City of Sydney has an important role as caretaker of these places. We will consciously consider these principles in the decisions we make for the Crown and community land we are responsible for. This includes how we maintain, change, and manage this land.

Aboriginal world view of Country – First Nations workshop participant

Country is our identity; spiritually, culturally, physically, and socially. We refer to Country as part of the family. We speak to Country; we sing to Country; and we dance for Country.

Increasingly we worry for Country and seek greater protection measures to carry out our cultural obligations to the land and waterways. These are our fundamental rights and cultural responsibilities in protecting country as First Nations People.

We are on Gadigal Country

These principles are founded in the understanding of **Country** in the worldview of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This understanding of Country includes the landscape – land, water and sky, the plants and animals, and the relationship between these. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's responsibility for Care of Country and the continuation of these relationships. Country has existed in this place for thousands of generations. Country precedes the colonial boundaries and definitions of 'Crown land'. We acknowledge the responsibility that First Nations people have in the carriage of their living cultures including access to land for practising culture. Crown and community land should bring social, spiritual, and economic benefit to First Nations people.

We commit to truth-telling and decolonisation

Gadigal Country was never ceded. In managing the Crown and Community land in Gadigal Country, we recognise the significance of this land as the site of invasion.

We work towards telling the history of these places with honesty and acknowledge the negative impacts caused to Country and to the people.

We endeavour to cause no further harm to Aboriginal people and the relationship they hold to the land.

We challenge ourselves to decolonise our approach to managing Crown and community land. This is evident in the decisions we make as we manage these places.

We value how important these places are to people's wellbeing

Crown and community land are a place of refuge and respite in an intensely urban environment. These places have cultural and community significance to many people. They are places of shared identity and pride, of community connection and celebration, and of protest and social transformation. They must be welcoming to all people and will provide equity of access to all to enjoy. We strengthen the connections between and within these places.

We are guided by Country and strive to heal and care for it

We learn about how this Country has been cared for thousands of generations. We respect the natural landforms, waterways, and endemic species. We work to heal places that have suffered degradation. We support these places to play their role in the health of the whole environment.

We protect these places for future generations

We accept our role as caretakers of these places. These places must benefit the community now and in the future. As we face a changing climate and growing population, we make decisions that prepare these places and ensure their continued health into the future.

Guiding documents

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Principles of Co-operation with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols

City of Sydney Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023

City of Sydney Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy

Designing with Country – NSW State Architects

6. Basis for management

Values and roles of Victoria Park

Community values and roles have guided the development of this Plan of Management. Values are the qualities and roles of Victoria Park that the community wishes to protect, conserve, and enhance. These have been identified through:

- Consideration of past plans of management and master planning for the site
- Past and current community engagement
- Liaison with City of Sydney staff
- Site appraisal.

In brief, these values and roles are identified as:

1.0 Identity Character and Experiencing the Place

- A meaning of the place that resonates with Country
- A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural history
- An iconic park character
- A valued water feature

2.0 Access, Connections and Accessibility

- A well-connected space to adjoining neighbourhoods and to district and regional users
- Wayfinding that seamlessly aids access and use
- A place that is clear, easy and safe to move around
- An appropriately lit environment

- A community destination accessible from the cycle network
- A place that is not compromised by parking and vehicle access

3.0 Community Use and Activation

- A place of respite for users and adjacent residents
- Spaces and facilities that support youth use of the park
- Play spaces that support children and family use of park
- Outdoor courts that facilitate recreation and fitness
- A place for dog walking and exercise
- A place that recognises and celebrates First Nations living culture
- A place for events
- A place that is open and usable by all members of community
- A safe place to visit day and night
- A place that provides access to public amenities
- Important aquatic facilities for the city's western fringe
- A quality café in a heritage building

4.0 Facilities and Built Infrastructure

- Park elements that support park use and create an attractive character
- Underground infrastructure

5.0 Environment and Sustainability

- Resilient landscaping to future-proof our green spaces

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- Landscaping and planting that interprets the original natural environment
 - A place of diverse habitats
 - A place that is cool, calm and comfortable in summer heat
 - Established plantings which contribute to the park setting and habitat
 - A place exhibiting water sensitive urban design
 - A place exhibiting sustainable energy management
 - A place exhibiting sustainable waste management practices
-

6.0 Culture and Heritage

- A place that represents Aboriginal people and their living culture
 - A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage
 - A place that provides the community access to cultural expression and awareness through arts and culture
 - A place that connects the community to the city's past and present
 - A place that provides a canvas for arts and culture
-

7.0 Management and Maintenance

- A place which is clean, well-maintained and carefully managed
- Facilities that continue to service and meet the community's needs
- Appropriate leases and licences

Reflecting Crown reserve purpose

Under the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”), all community land is required to be categorised. Where the land is owned by Crown Lands, one or more categories may be assigned that should align with the public purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved.

The public purposes for the Victoria Park Crown reserves are **Public Park, Public Recreation and Community Purposes**.

Current / existing use

In accordance with Crown Lands requirements the City of Sydney has established initial categorisations for Victoria Park. The application of these categories is consistent with the way in which Victoria Park is currently used and has been endorsed by Crown Lands.

Any change to the initial categorisation to support a future use should be altered via an amendment to the Plan of Management and in accordance with requirements under the LG Act.

Figure 6 maps out the community land categorisations in the context of Victoria Park.

Characteristics of the land

The physical characteristics of the land must be considered in applying community land categorisations. Land that possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature should be considered for categorisation as one of the Natural Area categories. In such a case the plan should describe the related characteristics of the land.

For Victoria Park there are no site characteristics that would justify Natural Area categorisation.

Likewise, where land is of Aboriginal or historical heritage significance Council should consider whether Area of Cultural Significance is applicable. This should consider whether there are heritage listings or controls on the land that address heritage conservation. Where such protections are not afforded and a site warrants heritage significance, the Area of Cultural Significance category may be applicable.

For Victoria Park, **Section 2** describes the heritage characteristics of the land, and the applicable listings and controls. These will be considered in all management decisions related to the land. The additional layer of Area of Cultural Significance categorisation is not deemed to be required.

Proposed community land categorisations

Table 4 outlines the guidelines for categorisation as listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Part 4 - categorisation, use and management of community land for the applicable categories to Victoria Park. Under the guidelines for each category, its interpretation and application to Victoria Park is explained.

In addition, the core objectives and purpose (as outlined in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021), are also listed.

Table 4. Community land categorisation

| Guidelines for categorisation and application to Victoria Park | Core objectives for management |
|---|---|
| Park | |
| <p>Land should be categorised as a park under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others</p> <p>Application</p> <p>The Park categorisation applies to the carpark and green space within Victoria Park, including Lake Northam. The categorisation enables these spaces to be used and developed to complement social and passive recreational activities.</p> | <p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. |
| General Community Use | |
| <p>Land should be categorised as general community use under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public, and (b) is not required to be categorised as a natural area under section 36A, 36B or 36C of the Act and does not satisfy the guidelines under clauses 102–105 for categorisation as a natural area, a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance. <p>Application</p> <p>The General Community Use categorisation applies to the footprint of the aquatic centre and Gardener’s Lodge. The categorisation enables these facilities to be leased/licenced for complementary commercial, social, recreational and community uses.</p> | <p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities). |

Figure 6. Community land categorisation map



7. Review of the plan

Lifespan of the plan

If the Plan of Management (“**PoM**”) is to remain relevant in the future it is essential that its implementation is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure any relevant changes are incorporated.

Changes that may need to be addressed include:

- New legislation
- Changes in community values
- Inclusion of additional land
- Project priorities
- Funding resources
- New opportunities for future upgrades.

Given that community expectations and requirements change over time, this plan also needs to have some flexibility to adapt to any changes of circumstance.

Other triggers for review / update

Should a major development or works be proposed that is not represented in the authorised uses and developments listings, the PoM will require amending.

Should changes in categorisation be proposed, the PoM will require amendment, re-exhibition and the need to undertake a public hearing prior to adoption.

Process for review

It is recommended that the plan be reviewed in the following sequences and time spans:

Annually: Monitor progress of PoM

Every five years: Undertake a review of all values based on revised analysis, issues and amended planning legislation

Review outcomes against survey information, photographic record and register of correspondence

Review and amend the PoM, where required

Every ten years: Review of the PoM

Part B

Management of community land categories

8. General requirements

This section sets out the specific requirements for the individual management areas located within Victoria Park and is applicable to all community land categories, as outlined in **Section 6** of this Plan of Management (“**PoM**”).

Management Frameworks

A Management Framework is provided in **Section 9** of this PoM. It provides a decision-making framework for the future management of the reserves and addresses the requirements of section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“**LG Act**”).

Management targets

The framework sets out management targets that define a series of “desired outcomes” for the management of Victoria Park. The outcomes seek to conserve and enhance the values of Victoria Park and address management challenges and opportunities identified by the community and City of Sydney.

Means of implementation

In response to the identified management targets, the means of implementation define recommended strategies to be implemented over the life of this PoM.

Assessment indicators and measurement

A means of assessing the achievement of the identified management targets is provided for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

Permitted development and use

Section 36 of the LG Act states that a PoM must expressly authorise any proposed uses and development activities on community land.

The City of Sydney encourages a wide range of uses on community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of the land, where appropriate. The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment, amenity blocks or food kiosks.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park and General Community Use and the forms of development generally associated with those uses are set out in **Sections 10-11** within this PoM.

Any proposal for the development and use of buildings, structures and spaces at Victoria Park will be considered on merit and benefits to the community and balanced against physical constraints, the amenity of adjoining residents and land uses.

Restrictions on management of Crown land

The City of Sydney is the Crown land manager of the Crown reserve described within this PoM in accordance with the legislation and conditions imposed by the minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016. The use and development of the land described in this PoM must:

- Be consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- Consider native title rights and interests and be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993
- Consider the inchoate interests of Aboriginal people where an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim exists
- Consider and not be in conflict with any interests and rights granted under the Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Consider any interests held on title.

Legislative requirements

The Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (“LEP”) specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land, in accordance with the relevant zoning and associated objectives. Several uses are also set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (“Regulation”).

Guidelines and core objectives of the community land category

Under the LG Act, uses and the development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation, the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives that Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

Consistency with Council adopted policies and strategies

Relevant Council policies as at the date of adoption of this PoM are identified in the Appendices and have been used to guide the outcomes of this PoM.

Council’s adopted policies and strategies will continue to develop after the preparation of this PoM. Management of Council assets, and their development will consider existing policies and strategic frameworks at the relevant time.

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Protocols

Activities that involve the representation or depiction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s heritage or living culture must adhere to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Protocols.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is guided by the City of Sydney’s Community Engagement Strategy.

To ensure that that matters impacting Crown and community land continue to reflect community values, priorities and interests, the City of Sydney will undertake engagement activities that are:

- Clear in scope and purpose
- Promote dialogue and open up a genuine discussion
- Influence outcomes and decisions
- Are inclusive and accessible

In addition, engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be guided by the City’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols and respect cultural practices and Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights.

In line with this Plan of Management, the Native Title Act 1993 and Crown Land Management Act 2016, the City of Sydney will always notify Traditional Custodians and Cultural Knowledge Holders on decisions about Crown land that may impact Native Title.

Buildings and structures

Express authorisation

This PoM expressly authorises the development of new buildings, structures and civil infrastructure, and the redevelopment / refurbishment of buildings, structures and civil infrastructure which support the desired use of Victoria Park.

Such buildings, structures and civil infrastructure will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes in which it was dedicated or reserved and will be consistent with the:

- Core objectives of the categories that apply to the land
- Crown reserve purpose
- LEP and any other applicable Environmental Planning Instruments
- Applicable master plans, asset management plans and any subsequent detailed design plans.

Consistent with the objectives of this PoM, development activities must also include sustainable initiatives and measures, where feasible.

Native Title and Public Works

Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where Native Title is not extinguished, prior to approval, the City of Sydney will ensure that Native Title Manager advice is sought to ensure that the works can be validated under the Native Title Act 1993 and the appropriate native title holders, claimants or NTSCorp will be

provided the appropriate procedural rights as required under the Native Title Act 1993.

Assessment and approval of permissible uses and development activities

The authorisation in a PoM gives 'in principle' support for activities, uses and development activities consistent with the objectives for land categorisation to proceed to development assessment under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ("**EP&A Act**").

This PoM does not in itself imply or grant consent for uses or development activities. Any proposed uses and development activities which are consistent with this PoM must still be referred for development consent and where required, be advertised widely for information and invitation to comment. Any subsequent application for development consent would be supported by and assessed against this PoM.

Prohibited activities

Activities and uses that are inconsistent with the Crown reserve purposes or core objectives associated with the applicable community land category are prohibited.

Certain activities at Victoria Park may also be prohibited by the applicable land use zoning. The City of Sydney may prohibit certain activities from time to time. Prohibited uses will be communicated via City bookings, lease, and licence agreements, or otherwise communicated where prohibited activities may be temporary.

Managing impacts on adjoining land uses

Uses and activities permitted at Victoria Park must consider the needs of and impacts on residents, workers and adjoining land uses in terms of accessibility, noise, lighting, traffic and parking.

Scale and intensity of use

The scale and intensity of development and activities on Crown and community land is to be generally compatible with the scale and anticipated use of the park, reserve and associated facility.

In particular, the scale and intensity of use will be consistent with the carrying capacity of the land, and any master plan or development consent relating to the land.

High Intensity use

This PoM specifically authorises activities at Victoria Park which may attract high numbers of people including one-off community events and performances.

Applications for permissible activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Outdoor Venue Management.

The scale and intensity of such activities will be managed by the City of Sydney's booking process and associated conditions of use.

Organised sports use

This PoM specifically authorises activities at Victoria Park which may attract high numbers of people including organised sport activities and training, school sport competitions, commercial activities and one-off community events and performances.

The allocation of Victoria Park for organised sport and school sport will comply with the City of Sydney's seasonal allocations process. Applications for permissible activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Outdoor Venue Management.

The scale and intensity of such activities will be managed by City's booking process and associated conditions of use.

Informal use

The intensity of use for informal recreational activities across Victoria Park and settings will be determined by the community use of the site but will be managed to avoid undue impacts on park fabric and environment.

Commercial uses

Commercial operations for cafes, markets and kiosks that support and encourage community use of the open space, and/or address a community need are to be assessed based on the proposed scale and intensity of use and are authorised subject to compatibility with the objectives identified within this PoM.

Funding

Funding is integral to implementing the management targets identified with this PoM and is defined under two categories:

- Capital works involving the construction and development of new facilities and structures
- Maintenance and management of the park.

The implementation of this PoM is achieved through its linkage with Council's management plan, operational budget, and capital works program.

Council currently funds management and maintenance costs through its annual budget allocation and uses capital funds and 7.11 contributions for capital and nonrecurrent works.

Funding arrangements for the park need to address recurrent costs of management and maintenance, together with capital costs for new facilities or upgrading works. Funding for construction of new facilities is generally through the annual budgeting process, but special projects may be partly funded through New South Wales Government grant allocations, which may involve matching funding from Council.

Sources of funding include but are not limited to:

- 7.11 contributions – utilised for new landscaping and/or facilities complementary to the core management objectives.
- Partnerships – there is an opportunity to develop further partnerships with residents and interested people in relation to park improvements and ongoing management, such as bush regeneration.
- Park revenue – income from the park is generated by lease and licence fees, and from applicants for approved functions and events.

- Grants – several state and federal government grants are available to assist with capital works in the park.

What are leases and licences

Leases and licences formalise the use of Crown and community land by groups such as sporting clubs, community groups and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities or services for public use. The occupation of Crown and community land not only applies to the surface of the land but also includes the airspace above and subsurface below.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the park, or associated facilities are proposed. Several licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The City of Sydney's ability to lease or licence Crown reserves managed as community land such as Victoria Park is authorised by Section 3.22 of the CLM Act, which requires the preparation of a community land PoM, adopted by Council, to authorise an occupancy or use agreement.

What are short-term uses

Agreements for the use of Crown and community land may be granted for short-term activities such as access, filming and events. These casual arrangements allow for non-exclusive use of any associated land and/or facility that may range in duration from a few hours to 12 months. The short-term uses permissible within this PoM are detailed within **Sections 10-11**.

Other Estates

Easements across Crown and community land for the purpose of public utilities, providing pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground, for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility on the community land shall be authorised by this PoM, and shall be subject to the following criteria:

- There is no feasible alternative to connecting to a facility on the community land
- There is no significant impact on the land
- Where the proposal involves the creation of an easement and/or a restriction on the future development potential of the property, compensation is assessed.

In instances where there is an encroachment (existing or proposed) upon public land by a permanent structure, and the structure does not significantly interfere with the functioning of the Crown reserve, the City of Sydney may consider the creation of an easement. In all cases, the applicant is to be responsible for all costs incurred by City of Sydney in the creation of the easement.

Subject to the provisions of Section 47F of the LG Act, an estate in respect of this land category is expressly authorised by this PoM for the purpose of a “public road” where the provision of that road is consistent with the core objectives stated herein and where the road is necessary for the enjoyment of that land.

Authorisation of tenure

Tenure may be granted for exclusive and non-exclusive uses to any organisation for any compatible purpose, as determined by Council, on such terms as Council may provide.

Under Section 46 of the LG Act, a lease or licence may only be granted for a maximum term of 21 years, including options. A lease or licence for a term exceeding 5 years may be granted only by tender unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation. All leases and licences must be publicly notified for a minimum period of 28 days.

Agreements for a short-term, casual purpose may be issued in accordance with Section 46 of

the LG Act where that purpose is prescribed by the Regulations.

To ensure that usage or occupation of the reserve is appropriate for the proposed tenure, a council Crown land manager must always consider:

- Compatibility with the Crown reserve purpose and core objectives for the category of the land
- Compatibility with the applicable land zoning
- If development consent is required and has been obtained (and other consents under the EP&A Act and LG Act)
- Environmental and social impacts of the activities to be permitted by the proposed tenure
- Appropriate term (period of occupation)
- Capability of the Crown reserve to support the proposed tenure
- Current and future use of the land
- If the issue of the proposed tenure will materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

In addition to the conditions provided within the authorisations, the granting of tenure must also:

- Have no negative impact on historical heritage sites or significant fabric
- Not alienate the park or reserve unreasonably
- Be ecologically sustainable
- Have a component of community benefit
- Demonstrate a clear nexus between the activity and the park or Crown reserve
- Not result in overuse of the area or conflict with community use of the area
- Ensure traffic, parking and essential or required vehicular access implications are considered.

A use agreement (lease, licence, short-term use or other estate) on Crown land may impact Native Title rights and interests. A use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993, and in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act unless Native Title is

extinguished. For Crown land, which is not excluded land, this will require written advice from Council's Native Title Manager that it complies with any applicable provisions of the Native Title legislation.

Where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted.

Express authorisation of Tenure under this Plan of Management

Sections 10-11 detail the specific authorisations and purposes for which tenure may be granted in accordance with the community land categories for Victoria Park. The purposes for which tenure may be granted are consistent with existing uses and will enable the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the City of Sydney area.

The following outlines general authorisations applicable under this PoM and an indication of the criteria in which specific activities are to be assessed by the City of Sydney.

Access

Access for building-related activities including for construction or maintenance purposes

Access across community land shall be authorised under this PoM provided that (but not limited to):

- The access is of a temporary nature
- In circumstances where proposed works require access and it is associated with an adjoining property, proponents must clearly demonstrate that there are no alternative means of access available to avoid access through community land to undertake the required development works
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in

respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney

- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

Temporary structures

Land use planning controls

Under the LEP, the temporary use of community land may be deemed as exempt development if the proposed activity can be authorised under the LG Act and is no more than 52 days in any 12-month period ("**the prescribed period**").

Temporary structures for building-related activities including for construction or maintenance purposes

The City of Sydney may authorise a short-term licence for the placement of temporary building-related structures provided that (but not limited to):

- The use of community land is within the prescribed period
- In circumstances where the proposed works are associated with an adjoining property, proponents must clearly demonstrate that there are no alternative means of placement available to avoid use of community land to undertake the required development or maintenance works including satisfying any safety requirements under the Work, Health and Safety Act 2011
- Building-related structures comply with the City of Sydney's technical requirements
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney
- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

Proponents can refer to the following City of Sydney documents as a technical guide for temporary structures until such time as they are revised and adopted:

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- Guidelines for Hoardings and Scaffolding 2017
- Draft Code of Practice for Hoisting and Construction Activities in Public Places.

If the City of Sydney is unable to approve short-term licence for these activities, applicants should consider an application under the provisions of the Access to Neighbouring Lands Act 2000.

Temporary structures related to events

The use of community land for the placement of temporary event structures shall be authorised under this PoM provided (but not limited to):

- The use of community land is within the prescribed period
- The event structures comply with the City of Sydney's technical specifications and where required, relevant standards identified within the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- A performance bond as prescribed in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges in respect of potential damage to City assets is lodged with the City of Sydney
- All necessary approvals have been obtained
- The City of Sydney is in receipt of proof of suitable insurances including public liability insurance.

Bookings and events

Temporary events

Temporary events and activities are to be assessed and approved in accordance with the City of Sydney's temporary event approvals process and in line with existing applicable guidelines, policies and legislative requirements, both locally and at a State Government level.

The following criteria is not an exhaustive list but provides guidance on how temporary events and activities are assessed:

- Location including permissible use and compatibility with the relevant land
- Scale and intensity
- Duration and date sensitivity

- Proposed operational times
- Required infrastructure and proposed production design
- Access and logistics requirements
- Environmental impacts
- Proposed signage and/or advertising
- Addressing safety and security requirements.

Venues for hire

The City of Sydney offers a diverse range of indoor and outdoor venues for hire on a short-term or hourly basis that service the community enabling cultural, recreational and social outcomes.

Applications to use venues for hire are to be assessed and approved in accordance with City's venue for hire approval process and in line with existing applicable guidelines, policies and legislative requirements.

All applicable fees are outlined in Council's adopted schedule of fees and charges.

Banner Hire

The City of Sydney banner network is used to promote events and activities which are of public interest. Banner campaigns are subject to approval and must comply with the City's Banner Terms and Conditions. All applicable fees are outlined in Council's adopted schedule of fees and charges.

Personal trainers

The City of Sydney encourages all members of its community to use parks and open space responsibly in meeting their health, well-being and fitness needs.

The City of Sydney chooses not to charge for the use of its parks and open spaces for outdoor fitness training as it does not wish to create a barrier to participating in physical exercise.

Personal fitness trainers including commercial, not-for-profit and community groups, wishing to train outdoors in Council's local government area are expected to comply with the Outdoor Fitness Training Voluntary Code of Conduct and its criteria for use.

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Fitness training groups and activities that are exempt from this Code are:

- Walking groups
- Activities of schools under the supervision or a teacher
- Hirers that have a current booking with the City of Sydney to use a sports field, oval or court and comply with the City's Terms and Conditions of Use.

9. Management targets and strategies

The table below outlines the management targets or desired outcomes for Victoria Park, including the means and strategies for their realisation, and means of assessment and review by the City of Sydney.

| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1.0 IDENTITY CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCING THE PLACE | | | | |
| 1.1 | A meaning of the place that resonates with Country | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement a meaning and description that reflects connection to place | Work with the community to establish a meaning and description that captures the place's Connection to Country | Community consultation Adopted meaning and description |
| 1.2 | A place which signposts and celebrates local, natural and cultural history | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the spaces identity and character | Investigate the inclusion of informative and interpretive elements that reflect the spaces historical identity and natural character | Increased visibility of park identity |
| 1.3 | An iconic park character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and enhance the unique character of the park | Management has regard for conserving green and natural character of the park | Increased use of park measured by survey and observation |
| 1.4 | A valued water feature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and maintain lake as a key element within the park | Maintain Lake Northam in accordance with asset management plan and heritage requirements | Measured against contract KPIs Inspections and audits Heritage elements retained |
| 2.0 ACCESS, CONNECTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY | | | | |
| 2.1 | A well-connected space to adjoining neighbourhoods and to district and regional users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide functional, inviting, accessible and safe routes to the park from adjoining areas | Review, monitor and work towards improving local access routes for workplace precincts and adjoining residential areas | Maintain records of public comments in relation to park access. Regular review of register to guide future directions |
| 2.2 | Wayfinding that seamlessly aids access and use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide effective wayfinding and signage for park users and cyclists | Maintain and upgrade wayfinding and signage in accordance with asset management plan Where required, implement new wayfinding and signage | Increased local use of park, measured by observation Routine surveys, audits and inspections |
| 2.3 | A place that is clear, easy and safe to move around | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide functional, attractive and compliant internal circulation routes and path networks | Maintain and upgrade paths and pavements in accordance with park service levels Where required, implement new pathways to create greater connectivity in park | Path and pavements managed in accordance with Australian Standards Routine surveys, audits and inspections |
| 2.4 | An appropriately lit environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide adequate lighting to support desired night access, recreational and leisurely use of open space | Maintain and renew lighting in accordance with asset management plan Monitor to identify lighting issues and address as require | Lighting maintained in accordance with Australian Standards Routine surveys, audits and inspections |

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| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|-----|---|--|---|---|
| 2.5 | A community destination accessible from the cycle network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the park to be effectively accessed from cycle network and encourage cycle use | <p>Investigate the integration of park access to adjoining and potential future cycle corridors</p> <p>Where required, integrate enhancement of cycle facilities into park improvements</p> | Increased local use of park by cyclists, measured by surveys and observation |
| 2.6 | A place that is not compromised by parking and vehicle access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a balanced approach to parking To provide and manage functional maintenance and emergency access mitigating adverse impacts on park and uses To prevent unauthorised vehicle access | <p>Manage existing on and off-street parking to ensure efficiency and equity</p> <p>Ensure that the use of vehicles, when permitted in parks are regulated and do not affect the normal functioning of these spaces for community use</p> <p>Ongoing surveillance and enforcement of open space areas</p> <p>Incorporate educational activities into ongoing management</p> | <p>Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts</p> <p>Improved public safety</p> <p>Management measures carried out</p> |

3.0 COMMUNITY USE AND ACTIVATION

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|---|
| 3.1 | A place of respite for users and adjacent residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the park provides a range of flexible and informal use spaces that are attractive and comfortable to be in | Ensure that park planning, and management maintains and enhances flexible informal use of spaces for broad community benefit | Increased local use of park measured by survey and observation |
| 3.2 | Spaces and facilities that support youth use of the park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustainably respond to youth needs for gathering and activity spaces | Manage spaces and facilities to support youth gathering and activity | Increased youth participation measured by survey and observation |
| 3.3 | Play spaces that support community and family use of park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide access to quality play environments that aid early childhood development and provide engaging play settings | Ongoing provision of play experiences complementary to park character and capacity | Increased local use of play spaces measured by survey and observation |
| 3.4 | Outdoor courts that facilitate recreation and fitness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance role of outdoor courts in providing fitness and leisure for workforce and residents | <p>Enhance role of courts for a diverse range of uses</p> <p>Monitor to identify management issues and address as required</p> | Increased local use of courts measured by survey and observation |
| 3.5 | A place for dog walking and exercise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for effective dog exercise in accordance with Companion Animals Act | <p>Manage off leash dog access to spaces as defined by City's Companion Animals Policy</p> <p>Monitor to identify management issues and address as required</p> | <p>Dog access maintained</p> <p>Reports of conflicts between dogs and other park users</p> |
| 3.6 | A place that recognises and celebrates First Nations living culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To celebrate First Nations heritage and living culture | For the pursuit of 'practising living culture', work with the First Nations community to understand the processes and procedures required to enhance access to spaces and facilities | Review existing policies and procedures |
| 3.7 | A place for events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustainably encourage temporary event use that contributes to local activation and cultural and community outcomes | <p>To facilitate temporary event use that is appropriate to scale of spaces and in consideration of other park uses</p> <p>Manage events in accordance with event's guidelines for Victoria Park</p> | <p>Increased use of park for events appropriate to scale and intensity</p> <p>Ongoing review and compliance of guidelines</p> |

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| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 3.8 | A place that is open and usable by all members of community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the park is managed as part of a coordinated compassionate approach across the city to assisting homeless persons | Ongoing management of people sleeping rough in the park needs to be in accordance with the City of Sydney's policy on homelessness in public spaces, which 'recognises the right of everyone in the community to use public spaces' (Homelessness Action Plan 2019) and aims to ensure that public space can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone, including people who are homeless | Maintain records of public feedback in relation to people sleeping rough. Regular review of register to guide future directions |
| 3.9 | A safe place to visit day and night | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the park and park facilities provide a safe place to visit and pass through, appropriate to intended (and varied) usage times of facilities and access routes | <p>Monitor ongoing safety and access in park and facilities</p> <p>Coordinate with local police to identify and act on safety issues</p> <p>Where improvements are proposed, ensure that they are designed and maintained in accordance with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles</p> | <p>Percentage of people who feel safe in these spaces</p> <p>Safe spaces with no reported incidents</p> <p>Sustained relationship with local police</p> |
| 3.10 | A place that provides access to public amenities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain access and provision of public toilet facilities for all park users | <p>Monitor to identify management issues for public toilet facilities, address as required</p> <p>Implement new improvements, where required</p> | Maintain records of public comments in relation to public toilets. Regular review of register to guide future directions |
| Victoria Park Pool | | | | |
| 3.11 | Important aquatic facilities for the city's western fringe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the value and role of the Aquatic Centre for the residential and workforce community | <p>Maintain and enhance the role of Victoria Park Pool</p> <p>Regularly monitor for improvements to centre services and operations</p> | <p>Usage and visitation of aquatic centre, measured by bookings</p> <p>Centre user satisfaction surveys</p> |
| Gardener's Cottage | | | | |
| 3.12 | A quality café in a heritage building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the cafe continues to meet the needs of the community | <p>Maintain current use within existing footprint</p> <p>Ensure operations and offerings integrate with and complement ongoing park usage</p> | Ongoing monitoring and compliance of lease |

4.0 FACILITIES AND BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Park elements

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--|---|---|
| 4.1 | Park elements that support park use and create an attractive character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support recreational and leisure use of park while avoiding proliferation of elements | <p>Maintain and renew park furniture and other park elements in accordance with asset management plan</p> <p>Monitor the appropriateness of placement</p> <p>Implement new improvements, where required</p> | <p>Measured against contract KPIs</p> <p>Inspections and audits</p> |
|-----|--|--|---|---|

Underground Infrastructure

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 4.2 | Underground infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure services infrastructure requirements are effectively integrated into planning and design | <p>Liaise and coordinate with services authorities to identify amplification and renewal works that may impact spaces</p> <p>Manage to limit impacts on use and facilitate effective make good / integration</p> | <p>Maintained relationship with authorities</p> <p>Limited disruption to park usage</p> |
|-----|----------------------------|--|--|---|

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| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 5.0 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY | | | | |
| Vegetation management and urban ecology | | | | |
| 5.1 | Resilient landscaping to future-proof our green spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustain a green landscape for continued community enjoyment | Maintain and renew horticulture, grass cover and plantings in accordance with park service levels and City guidelines | Improved grass cover condition Measurement and monitoring of vegetation Compliance with park service levels |
| 5.2 | Landscaping and planting that interprets the original natural environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase indigenous plantings within the park landscape | Where appropriate and site conditions allow, investigate the planting of indigenous species | Increased indigenous plantings |
| 5.3 | A place of diverse habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase habitat value of natural and built features | Investigate the potential to enhance habitat values through areas of built form and natural ground | Monitoring of natural habitat |
| 5.4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance ecological importance in open space | Maintain urban ecology advisory role for proposed works associated with open space Where appropriate, explore opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the Aboriginal community to celebrate, promote and educate on ecological knowledge and principles Increase community understanding and participation in the preservation of green space and ecological elements | Ongoing internal participation in open space works Consultation completed Increased public participation in community greening initiatives |
| Shade and temperature management | | | | |
| 5.5 | A place that is cool, calm and comfortable in summer heat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve existing shade tree canopy and to selectively extend to create new shade | Maintain and manage existing tree canopy for ongoing health Plan for and integrate tree canopy shade in suitable locations across site | Preserved and increased shade cover Increased use of park measured by observation |
| 5.6 | Established plantings which contribute to the park setting and habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively maintain and manage the existing tree resources at optimum health for their safe and practical lifespans To effectively plan for succession planting | Implement tree management including pruning and/or removal of trees and replacement planting in accordance with park service levels and City guidelines Plan and implement a succession planting program in accordance with tree management plan | Improved tree health and successful establishment of new trees as measured by arborist's survey Compliance with park service levels and City guidelines Implemented succession planting and tree management plan |
| Water management | | | | |
| 5.7 | A place exhibiting water sensitive urban design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively manage water use and runoff | Where feasible, implement water saving initiatives, alternative water sources and install metering to effectively manage water use Implement water-sensitive urban design to minimise environmental degradation and improve waterway quality | Increased savings in water consumption Reduced potable water demand for park Improved water quality |

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| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Energy management | | | | |
| 5.8 | A place exhibiting sustainable energy management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively manage energy use | Where feasible, implement energy management initiatives, renewable energy, investigate alternatives to temporary generators and install metering as appropriate to effectively manage energy | Sustainable initiatives implemented Increased savings in energy consumption Reduction in open space maintenance post event activities |
| Waste management | | | | |
| 5.9 | A place exhibiting sustainable waste management practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A place that maximises the diversion of waste away from landfill | Ongoing implementation and support of best practice waste management activities | Minimised waste measured against contract KPI's and audits |
| 6.0 CULTURE AND HERITAGE | | | | |
| 6.1 | A place that represents Aboriginal people and their living culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the local area | Consult with Aboriginal people on how to interpret and integrate cultural heritage values in ongoing planning of improvements | Consultation completed Implementation of processes |
| 6.2 | A place which is a conservatory of natural and cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appropriately manage and conserve elements of heritage significance To guide management and design decision making to achieve optimum heritage management outcomes | Preparation and ongoing implementation of supporting documentation to guide the maintenance of sensitive and significant heritage assets or fabric | Completed supporting documentation |
| 6.3 | A place that provides the community access to cultural expression and awareness through arts and culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a canvas for public art and artistic and creative expression that is sustainable in the context of existing character and use | Monitor existing art pieces for their ongoing role and fit within the park Conserve and manage in accordance with asset management plan | Maintain records of public comments in relation to appropriateness of public art. Regular review to guide future directions Measured against contract KPIs Inspections and audits |
| 6.4 | A place that connects the community to the city's past and present | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable park users to understand the rich and complex layering of natural and cultural values represented on the site and add to the experience and use of the park | Develop a cohesive framework that recognises Strategies 6.1-6.3 | Adoption of supporting framework |
| 6.5 | A place that provides a canvas for arts and culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate public art in temporary and permanent forms that complements the park setting and adds to the range of experiences provided | Consider opportunities to implement temporary and permanent art installations, where appropriate | Increased representation of public art in parks |
| 7.0 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE | | | | |
| 7.1 | A place which is clean, well-maintained and carefully managed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide well-maintained parklands | Maintenance programs carried out in accordance with City of Sydney Parks Maintenance Technical Specifications | Regular visitation and condition assessments Measured against contract KPI's and audits |
| 7.2 | Facilities that continue to service and meet the community's needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide well-maintained facilities | Maintain and renew facilities in accordance with asset management plans | Regular visitation and condition assessments Measured against contract KPI's and audits |

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| Ref | Values / Roles | Management Target | Means (strategies for implementation) | Performance Measures |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 7.3 | Appropriate leases and licences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that tenure and permitted use arrangements allow the widest possible community access to open space and are orientated to mutually compatible recreational, sporting, community, educational, cultural and social activities | All future leases and licences to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Native Title Act 1993 | Ongoing review and compliance of leases and licences |

10. Park category - authorisations

Table 5. Permissible uses and development activities – Park Category

Table 5 outlines the permitted uses and development activities of the areas of Victoria Park categorised as Park subject to City of Sydney assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems.

This is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed uses and development activities may still be permitted subject to merit and compatibility with the Crown reserve purposes, core objectives and aims of this Plan of Management.

| Uses | Development Activities |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage) – Broadcasts associated with any event, concert or public speech – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Casual and informal recreation – Catering and coffee carts – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV) – Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993) – Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advertising structures and signage (e.g. banners and signage) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ relate to approved uses/activities ○ are discrete and temporary ○ complies with Planning requirements ○ are approved by the City of Sydney – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Development that facilitates community, cultural, educational, recreational and social activities, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adaptive reuse of existing building/structures for a use compatible with the park ○ Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the park (e.g. seating, shade structures, BBQ, picnic tables, toilets, bike rings) ○ Ancillary areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community (e.g. storage and change rooms, car parks) ○ Buildings and structures that facilitate the permissible uses and activities (e.g. grandstands, pavilions, fitness equipment, playgrounds, outdoor courts) ○ Community greening ○ Improving access including active transport, disability access to facilities, amenity and the visual character of the general community area (e.g. fountains, pathways, lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas) |

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| Uses | Development Activities |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities) – Markets – Outreach services – Passive and active recreational activities – Playgroups – Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward – Public art or other cultural installations – Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs – Publicly accessible ancillary areas (e.g. toilets) – Recreational and sporting activities consistent with an outdoor recreational facility, for example but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marked courts (basketball, volleyball, badminton and netball) – Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding) – Social events (e.g. weddings, picnics and community gatherings) – Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes – Storage (e.g. ancillary to use of park) – Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related) – Venue hire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development that facilitates energy and water efficiencies (e.g. solar lighting and photovoltaic panels, stormwater harvesting and storage, swales, rain gardens, irrigation and reticulation systems) – Environmental management (e.g. remediation and flood mitigation work) – Heritage and cultural interpretation (e.g. memorials and public art) – Markets – Naturalisation works including ongoing management (e.g. wetlands, dredging of salt marsh) – Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding) – Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related) |

Table 6. Express authorisation of tenure – Park Category

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that any lease, licence, short-term use or other estate over community land must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management. **Table 6** outlines purposes for which tenure may be granted on community land categorised as Park. Licences and approvals for short-term casual use or occupation for a range of uses may also be granted for Victoria Park in accordance with Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Any lease, licence or short-term proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and the capacity of the area to support the activity. The below is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed purposes may still be permitted subject to merit.

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| Type of tenure arrangement | Purpose for which tenure may be granted |
|---|---|
| Lease (up to 21 years) | Sympathetic, compatible uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables |
| Licence (up to 21 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Coffee carts – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Markets – Outreach services – Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of park) |
| Short-term agreement (12 months or less) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage) – Broadcasts associated with any event, concert or public speech – Casual and informal recreation – Catering and coffee carts – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV) – Conducting a commercial photography session or filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993) – Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities) – Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities) – Kiosks – Markets – Outreach services – Playgroups – Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward – Public art installations – Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs – Signage |

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| Type of tenure arrangement | Purpose for which tenure may be granted |
|----------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Social events (e.g. weddings, picnics and community gatherings)– Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes– Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of park)– Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related)– Venue hire |
| Other estates | <p>This Plan of Management allows City of Sydney to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p> <p>Note: refer Section 8 for Express authorisation of tenure under this Plan of Management.</p> |

11. General Community Use category - authorisations

Table 7. Permissible uses and development activities – General Community Use Category

Table 7 outlines the permitted uses and development activities of the areas of Victoria Park categorised as General Community Use subject to City of Sydney assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems.

This is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed uses and development activities may still be permitted subject to merit and compatibility with the Crown reserve purposes, core objectives and aims of this Plan of Management.

| Uses | Development Activities |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the relevant indoor recreational facilities, for example but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aquatic facility (learn to swim classes, squad training, fitness and health classes including aqua aerobics, recreational and competitive swimming and diving, organised water sports including water polo, diving, hydrotherapy facilities) – Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purpose (e.g. banners and signage) – Broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Catering and coffee carts – Centre-based education and care (e.g. long day care, pre-school, occasional care and outside school hours care) – Commercial uses ancillary to community and indoor recreational facilities (e.g. sale or hire of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advertising structures and signage (e.g. banners and signage) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ relate to approved uses/activities ○ are discrete and temporary ○ complies with Planning requirements ○ are approved by the City of Sydney – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Development that facilitates community, cultural, educational, recreational and social activities, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amenities that facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the facility (e.g. kitchens and toilets) ○ Buildings and structures that facilitate the permissible uses and activities ○ Improving access including disability access to facilities, amenity and the visual character of the general community area (e.g. fountains, pathways, lighting, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas) ○ Provision of ancillary areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community (e.g. storage, waste rooms and change rooms/showers) |

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| Uses | Development Activities |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational equipment, sports tuition, health-related services) – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV) – Conducting a commercial photography session and filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993) – Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities) – Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities) – Management and operation of recreational facilities – Markets – Outreach services – Playgroups – Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward – Public art or other cultural installations – Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs – Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding) – Social events (e.g. weddings and community gatherings) – Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of recreational facility) – Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related) – Venue for hire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development that facilitates energy and water efficiencies (e.g. solar lighting and photovoltaic panels, stormwater harvesting and storage, irrigation and reticulation systems) – Environmental management (e.g. remediation and flood mitigation work) – Heritage and cultural interpretation (e.g. memorials and public art) – Markets – Signage (cultural, educational, regulatory and wayfinding) – Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related) |

Table 8. Express authorisation of tenure – General Community Use Category

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that any lease, licence, short-term use or other estate over community land must be expressly authorised by a Plan of Management. **Table 8** outlines purposes for which tenure may be granted on community land categorised as General Community Use. Licences and approvals for short-term casual use or occupation for a range of uses may also be granted for Victoria Park in accordance with Clause 116 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Any lease, licence or short-term proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and the capacity of the area to support the activity. The below is not an exhaustive list and other non-listed purposes may still be permitted subject to merit.

| Type of tenure arrangement | Purpose for which tenure may be granted |
|---|--|
| Lease (up to 21 years) | <p>Sympathetic, compatible uses may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Centre-based education and care – Commercial activities ancillary to recreational use (e.g. hire or sale of recreational equipment) – Health or Social Support services (e.g. medical practitioner) – Recreational purposes (e.g. fitness and dance classes) – Management and operation of recreational facility |
| Licence (up to 21 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Café/Kiosk, including outdoor seating and tables – Centre-based education and care – Commercial activities ancillary to recreational use (e.g. hire or sale of recreational equipment) – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Health or Social Support services (e.g. medical practitioner) – Management and operation of recreational facility – Outreach services – Recreational purposes (e.g. fitness and dance classes, games) – Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to recreational use) |
| Short-term agreement (12 months or less) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access through a Crown reserve (e.g. to undertake building activities associated with adjoining property) – Active and passive recreational activities – Advertising consistent with Crown reserve purposes (e.g. banners and signage) – Broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech |

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| Type of tenure arrangement | Purpose for which tenure may be granted |
|----------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Catering and coffee carts – Community, cultural, educational and social uses – Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV) – Conducting a commercial photography session and filming (as defined in the Local Government Act 1993) – Decorations, displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades, festivals and shows – Emergency occupation for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – Engaging in an appropriate trade or business (e.g. community auctions and similar activities) – Functions (e.g. commemorative services, book launches, film releases, balls, and similar activities) – Kiosks – Organised and unstructured sporting activities (including fixtures and events) – Outreach services – Playgroups – Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward – Public art or other cultural installations – Public speeches, meetings, workshops, seminars and presentations, including educational programs – Seasonal, one-off, and irregular sporting competitions and training – Signage – Social events (e.g. weddings and community gatherings) – Sports, fitness and leisure training or classes – Storage hire (e.g. ancillary to use of recreational facility) – Temporary structures (e.g. building/construction or events related) – Venue hire |
| Other estates | <p>This Plan of Management allows City of Sydney to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p> <p>Note: refer Section 8 for Express authorisation of tenure under this Plan of Management.</p> |

12. Appendices

Glossary of terms

| Term | Definition |
|----------------------------|--|
| Categorisation | This informs the category for the specified land under the Local Government Act 1993 Confined to Park and General Community Use |
| Community Greening | Community participation in activities, initiatives and programs that promote education and awareness on greening and the environment. |
| Community Land | Classification of land under the Local Government Act 1993 requiring a Plan of Management |
| Council Crown Land Manager | City of Sydney's appointed position under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 |
| Crown Land | Land owned by the State of New South Wales |
| Crown Reserve | Crown land that has been dedicated or reserved in accordance with legislation |
| Outreach Services | Voluntary and Professional Services - a service, group or program that provides food and material support, social contact, clinical outreach, and critical care to people who are homeless as well as other disadvantaged groups. Mobile voluntary services are not provided from a building or other fixed place but are provided from vehicles or general 'pop up' infrastructure within an outdoor public space |
| Temporary Structure | Is not designed, installed or constructed to be permanent; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is erected on public land to facilitate demolition, excavation, construction, or maintenance work; and site safety/security fencing, scaffolding, cantilevered work platforms and other constructed-related temporary structures; or Is erected on public land to facilitate events activities and involves the installation of stages, platforms, tents, marquees, booths, and other events-related temporary structures. |
| Tenure | The authorisation upon which land or buildings are occupied, e.g. lease, licence, short-term agreement or easement. |

References

- Victoria Park Draft Plan of Management, City of Sydney 1993
- Victoria Park Master Plan Study, City of Sydney 2006
- Gardener's Lodge Victoria Park Plan of Management, City of Sydney 2010
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study, City of Sydney 2016
- NSW State Heritage Register inventory for The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park
- Crown Reserves Plan of Management Engagement Report, City of Sydney 2021

Refer also to policies and strategies review in this Appendix.

City of Sydney Policy framework

The City of Sydney has developed an extensive range of policies which provide guidance for decision-making. The policies that have informed the preparation of this Plan of Management have been referenced in the table below.

| Policy Name |
|--|
| A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy 2016 |
| Asset Management Policy 2016 |
| Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy 2019 |
| Community Gardens Policy 2016 |
| Companion Animals Policy |
| Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021 |
| Inclusive and Accessible Public Domain Policy 2019 |
| Markets Policy 2019 |
| Mobile Voluntary Services Policy 2020 |
| Naming Policy 2018 |
| Outdoor Dining Policy 2016 |
| Public Art Policy 2016 |
| Tree Management Policy 2013 |

City of Sydney Strategy framework

The City of Sydney has also developed a range of strategies focused on specific issues and open space considerations relevant to planning and management. While strategies are high-level guideline documents and usually carry less influence than policies, they can provide important references for planning and management decision-making for open space. The strategies that have informed the preparation of this Plan of Management have been referenced in the table below.

| Strategy Name |
|---|
| A City for All – Community Safety Action Plan 2019-2023 |
| A City for All – Homelessness Action Plan 2020 |
| A City for All – Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 |
| A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan 2018-2028 |
| A City for All – Youth Action Plan 2017-2027 |
| Adapting for Climate Change 2019 |
| Asset Management Plan 2020 |
| City Centre Public Art Plan 2013 |
| City Plan 2036 – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 |
| Climate Emergency Response 2020 |
| Creative City – Cultural Policy and Action Plan 2014-2024 |
| Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030 |
| Decentralised Water Master Plan 2012-2030 |
| Energy Efficiency Master Plan 2015-2030 |
| Environmental Strategy 2021-2025 |
| Greening Sydney Strategy 2020-2030 |
| Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2015-2017 |
| Leave Nothing to Waste – Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 |

Strategy Name

Open Sydney – Future Directions for Sydney at Night Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2030

Park Fitness Equipment Plan 2015

Parks Water Saving Action Plan 2012

Public Art Strategy 2011

Public Toilet Strategy 2014

Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023

Sustainable Sydney 2030 Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan 2014

Urban Forest Strategy 2013

Walking Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2030

Wayfinding Strategy Report 2012

