

GALLAGHERSTUDIO

in collaboration with





## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

North Sydney Council engaged Gallagher Studio landscape architects to prepare a low intervention Landscape Master Plan for St Leonards Park. The team included CRED social planners and consultation experts, Collins and Turner Architects, and Alluvium water engineering.

St Leonards Park covers approximately 15 hectares and is bounded by Miller, Falcon and Ridge Streets and the Warringah Freeway. It is the location of North Sydney Oval, as well as other facilities for organised sport including Bon Andrews Oval, netball courts, cricket nets and a bowling club. St Leonards Park is listed as an item of state significance on the State Heritage Register. Items of heritage significance include the Victorian park structure and path network; North Sydney Oval and grandstands; Bon Andrews Oval; Music Shell; North Sydney War Memorial; Tunks Fountain; WWI Field Gun; and the gardenesque style of planting and historic alignments of trees. Several of the above items are listed on North Sydney's 2013 LEP.

The purpose of the Landscape Master Plan is to provide guidance and direction on future park upgrades, in recognition of the park's importance as a heritage asset, sporting destination and open space resource. The objectives of the project are to:

- 1. Improve and enhance the park landscape
- 2. Improve and enhance recreation opportunities for a range of park
- 3. Develop a range of options for additional facilities that could appropriately be provided in the park to meet community needs
- 4. Ensure the park is accessible and appealing to all members of the community
- 5. Resolve existing circulation and access issues for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles

#### PROJECT SCOPE

The project scope includes all external spaces within the park and is defined by the surrounding streets and arterial roads. While the North Sydney Oval complex and Bowling Club are located within St Leonards Park, they are not included in the scope of this Landscape Master Plan. The development of the St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan has been undertaken in 5 stages, commencing in mid-2016. Community consultation has been undertaken throughout the development of the Landscape Master Plan. The project is currently in stage 4 of the process:

- Stage 1: Research and analysis
- Stage 2: Development of principles and ideas
- Stage 3: Preparation of the Draft Landscape Master Plan
- Stage 4: Public exhibition
- Stage 5: Finalise St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan

#### RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

St Leonards Park is uniquely positioned at a topographic high point of North Sydney, with spectacular views towards the Harbour and CBD skyline from the south-eastern portion of the park. The park sits to the north of the North Sydney CBD, with Miller Street, located on the park's western boundary, linking to other important civic facilities and public spaces to the south. Educational facilities surround the park, with numerous schools within walking distance. Several of these schools use the park daily for lunchtime and sporting activities. St Leonards Park is an important public open space providing unstructured and informal recreation space particularly for residents living in apartments.

The project team undertook a comprehensive analysis of the site including a review of background materials, desktop research, detailed site observations and mapping. Alongside this analysis work our team undertook a consultation process that included on site surveys of residents and users, staff workshops and stakeholder interviews. 457 surveys were completed over the stage 1 consultation

The analysis found that the park's spatial structure and assets including the diverse range of heritage tree plantings and items creates a high amenity park. However, a number of issues were identified related to circulation, amenity, and use.

Conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on paths is a key issue, particularly on the diagonal path connecting Falcon Street to Ridge Street. Park paths are often degraded, with centrally located light poles affecting circulation. Conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists is evident on Fig Tree Lane and on the North Sydney Bowling Club driveway. Worn lawn and informal paths are evident on the Ridge Street frontage.

Aging park facilities and clutter is impacting on park amenity. Park furniture is in poor condition and seating infrequent. The public toilets located in the north west of the park are dilapidated and in need of upgrade. Noise from busy arterial roads, particularly on the Falcon St interface impacts on some areas of the park. The North Sydney Oval wall provides a poor visual interface to the park.

Use of the park is generally high throughout the day, particularly for open lawn areas. The children's playground while well used, provides play opportunities

for younger children only and does not cater for older children between ages 6 and 12. The Music Shell and lawn area has been impacted by poor stormwater drainage. The lack of standalone practice wicket of 1st grade standard within the park has been identified as an issue by a few stakeholders.

Community consultation in stage 1 found that St Leonards Park is well used and well loved. The survey indicated that the five main reasons why people currently use the park are for walking (56.8%), relaxation (41.6%), bringing children to play (39.8%), walking the dog (27.1%) and meeting friends (22.6%). What people value most about the park was also surveyed, with the five most valued features identified as: access to green open space (59.4%), trees and greenery (31.7%), peace and quiet - an oasis in the city (14.8%), dog friendliness of the park (11.2%) and the children's playground (12.6%).

Key issues and ideas for improvement identified in the stage 1 consultation included:

- Addressing cycling in the park to prevent conflict between commuter cyclists and pedestrians.
- Upgrades to park amenity including lighting, walking paths, seating and tables, toilets, and water fountains.
- Upgrades to the open space areas to reduce conflict between different user groups including sporting groups, school groups, exercise groups, dog walkers and passive recreation activities
- Upgrades to the playground, and providing facilities for older children and young people.
- Improved sports facilities including a longer cricket net run up, resurfacing of the netball/basketball courts, lighting at the courts
- Improve pedestrian safety on Fig Tree Lane and the driveway to the North Sydney Bowling Club/The Greens, as identified in 2 stakeholder interviews and the staff workshop.
- Resolve drainage issues as identified in 2 stakeholder interviews including flooding near the amphitheatre and drainage along Ridge St under the fig trees.





## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS**

Following the analysis stage, the design team then developed 4 Guiding Principles and 7 Park Improvement Ideas: These are listed below:

#### **Guiding Principles**

- 1. A Park for All
- 2. An Historic Park
- 3. An Accessible Park
- 4. A Generous, Comfortable Park

#### Park Improvement Ideas

- 1. Heighten the Significance of Tunks Avenue and the War Memorial
- 2. Restore Tunks Fountain and Surrounds
- 3. Provide new and Improved Pedestrian Pathways
- 4. Refine and Improve Park Spaces
- 5. Provide a Separated Cycleway on the Eastern Edge
- 6. Provide Expanded Playground and Facilities
- 7. Provide 1st Grade Practice Cricket Nets

Overall, more than 200 people participated in the stage 2 consultation process which included an online survey relating to Draft Guiding Principles for the Masterplan; 5 pop up stalls providing opportunities for people to rate their support or otherwise for 7 Draft Park Improvement Ideas; a community workshop (6 attended); and written submissions (8).

Generally, the Guiding Principles were supported by the community with an average 82.5% of respondents finding the principles very appealing or appealing. Likewise, there was a high level of support for each of the Park Improvement Ideas with over 84% of respondents finding 6 of the 7 Park Improvement Ideas very appealing / appealing. Park Improvement Idea 7 - Provide 1st Grade Cricket Nets - received the least support with almost half of respondents (48%) finding it very unappealing or unappealing.

Eight submissions were received from a range of community members. Common themes included cyclist and pedestrian safety, noise pollution in the park, and accessibility and enhancement of facilities. Feedback from the community and key stakeholders on principles and ideas has informed the development of the Landscape Master Plan.

#### LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

The St Leonards Park Master plan has nominated park wide improvements as well as more detailed proposals to enhance the park structure and elements and improve access. Key improvements are described below.

#### Tunks Avenue / War Memorial Commemorative Walk

This was developed to:

- Reinforce the historic park layout, re-establishing the significance of Tunks Avenue and restoring it as the primary memorial space
- Frame and reinforce views to the War Memorial
- Reinstate the visual prominence of the Field Gun, as its current location is obscured from the street and hard to see

Tunks Avenue is enhanced as commemorative walk, linking landmarks, and reinforcing the historic Park. The Field Gun is relocated to the northern end of Tunks Avenue, to a visually prominent location and providing an 'anchor' to the avenue's northern end. A single line of figs will be planted along Tunks Avenue south, from Fig Tree Lane to Tunks Fountain, restoring the historic line of trees which were removed in the 1950's. Views along Tunks Avenue will be enhanced by selectively crown lifting. The existing pathway will be widened, with sandstone edging and additional seating and accent lighting. The North Sydney War Memorial surrounds will be improved with expanded paving for commemorative events, and a reflection pool located on the Ridge Street frontage. The reflection pool could integrate interpretive features such as text, imagery and lighting. These ideas related to Park Improvement Ideas 1 which 90% of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.

#### Restoration of Tunks Fountain and Surrounds

This was developed to:

- Restore the historic Tunks Fountain and reinforce its visual prominence
- Create more attractive surrounds for the fountain, providing additional opportunities to overlook and enjoy the fountain

Tunks Fountain is upgraded and raised within a new garden bed with seating surrounds. The diagonal pathway is slightly reoriented to intersect at the fountain, to amplify its importance and significance. Providing seating and expanded gardens surrounding the fountain will provide opportunities to sit, overlook and enjoy the fountain. Accent lighting will highlight the fountain at night, and seasonal colour in the surrounding gardens will provide interest throughout the year. These ideas related to Park Improvement Idea 2 which 84% of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.

#### New and Improved Pedestrian Pathways

This was developed to:

- Improve safety for pedestrians
- Improve the park interface to North Sydney Oval boundary wall
- Reduce informal tracks and degraded lawn areas

This involves improvements to existing paths, as well as additional paths in key locations. The existing diagonal path is realigned south of the fountain to improve sight-lines and provide opportunities for gardens adjacent to the North Sydney Oval wall. Additional seating, including picnic and chess tables, will provide multiple opportunities for gathering along this edge. Upgraded path surfacing and lighting on the path edges will improve circulation. A new footpath and gardens is located along Ridge Street adjacent to parking areas. Fig Tree Lane and the bowling club access road will be upgraded with new surfacing and raised thresholds at their entry points to slow drivers. These ideas related to Park Improvement Idea 3 which 94% of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.

### Improved Park Spaces

This was developed to:

- Improve amenity for park users
- Define active and passive park spaces
- Provide a garden edge to noisy and busy roads

Additional seating, including picnic tables, will be provided throughout the park. Park benches are located along the primary paths as well as overlooking the playground and the fountain. Additional picnic tables are in the Palm Grove and southern gardens (adjacent to the southern lawn). New drinking fountains are proposed on the diagonal path, as well as at the playground and adjacent to the netball courts on Ridge Street.

Expanded and refurbished gardens are proposed along park edges, under existing trees and to improve visual amenity in key locations. These gardens provide additional areas for quiet reflection, improving the passive recreation opportunities within the park. A more diverse range of flowering plants will provide seasonal colour and texture, with planting predominantly low throughout the park to maintain sight lines. These ideas related to Park Improvement Idea 4 which 97 % of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.







## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### A separated Cycleway on the Eastern Edge of the Park

This was developed to;

- Currently, many commuter cyclists use the diagonal path to connect from Falcon Street to the CBD
- Conflicts are occurring between commuter cyclists and pedestrians on internal pathways

A separated commuter cycle path will be located on the eastern boundary of the park, connecting Falcon Street to Ridge Street. The route does not impact on existing facilities such as Bon Andrews Oval, and would not impact on views towards the harbour and Sydney CBD from the south-east. The placement of the cycleway on the lower edge of the slope in the south-east protects harbour views and maintains the open lawn spaces in this area - a well-loved and well utilised part of St Leonards Park. These ideas related to Park Improvement Idea 5 which 88 % of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.

#### An Expanded Playground and New Toilet

This was developed to;

- Provide a more diverse range of play opportunities for all park users
- Protect and enhance the existing children's playground
- To upgrade toilets and other associated amenities including tables, benches and BBQ facilities

The playground will be expanded to the west of the current playground, providing opportunities for older children's adventure play, along with areas for nature play in the integrated garden spaces. This expanded area has been inspired by the habitat of the park, with the retained trees with hollows and bird nests providing inspiration. A custom play structure based on a series of interconnected cubby houses of 'birds' nests' is designed on multiple levels of an elevated structure as well as at ground level. Activities such as climbing, swinging, hiding, jumping, balancing, and sliding will be provided. The existing playground will be retained and upgraded, building on the existing play offerings for young children. The wellloved sand play and music room areas will be retained and improved to provide additional play items. The existing public toilets will be upgraded, providing babychange facilities for parents visiting the park with young children. These ideas related to Park Improvement Idea 6 which 92 % of survey participants found appealing / very appealing.

Detailed recommendations have also been developed for park lighting, furniture, planting and paving. Lighting is to be upgraded throughout the park, to improve safety as well as to highlight and celebrate significant park features. Furniture is also to be upgraded, with a greater diversity of seating opportunities with BBQ's, drinking fountains and picnic tables also to provided. New trees are proposed in specific areas to enhance the existing qualities of the park.

Park staging information has been provided, identifying priorities which could guide the upgrades to the park. These stages are as follows:

- Priority 1: North Sydney Oval curtilage paving, lighting and resolving the Music Shell flooding issues
- Priority 1B: Cycleway, diagonal pathway and associated gardens
- Priority 2: Tunks Avenue, Fig Tree Lane, the bowling club access road, memorial, lighting and gardens
- Priority 3: Playground and Palm Grove
- Priority 4: Remaining pathways

Public exhibition of the draft master plan commenced on the 24th October 2017 and concluded on the 2nd February 2018. A total of 70 written submissions were received. Subsequent changes, endorsed by council were made to the master plan including:

- Modification to garden beds on Miller Street.
- Inclusion of the magnolia tree (in the south western entry).
- Extension to the junior cricket practice nets.
- Modification to the junior practice wicket in the northern lawn.
- Addition of an exercise station.
- Modifications to the harbour view lawn.







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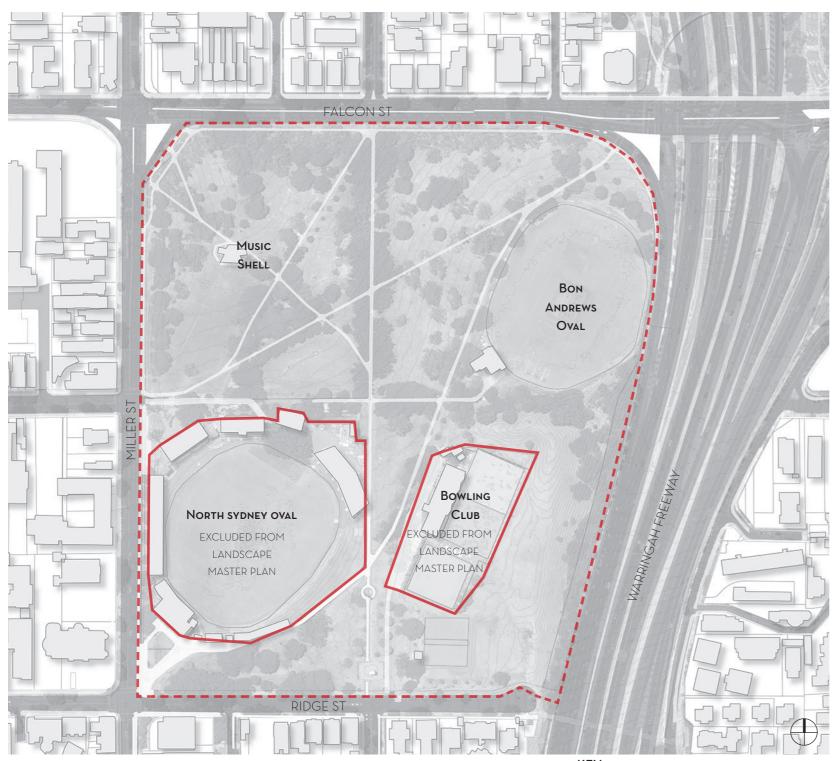
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# INTRODUCTION

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES & SCOPE



KEY:

Excluded from Landscape Master Plan Extent of Landscape Master Plan

#### INTRODUCTION

St Leonards Park is one of North Sydney's oldest and most significant parks. The park is listed on the State Heritage Register, and includes items of state heritage significance such as the Music Shell, the War Memorial, Tunks Fountain and a World War 1 Field Gun, as well as the grandstands and other buildings associated with North Sydney Oval.

North Sydney Council has engaged Gallagher Studio to prepare a low intervention Landscape Master Plan for St Leonards Park. The team led by Gallagher Studio includes CRED, social planners and consultation experts, Collins and Turner Architects and environmental engineer Richard McManus of Alluvium. The objectives of the project as listed in the briefing document are to:

- 1. Improve and enhance the park landscape;
- 2. Improve and enhance recreation opportunities for a range of park users;
- 3. Develop a range of options for additional facilities that could appropriately be provided in the park to meet community needs;
- 4. Ensure the park is accessible and appealing to all members of the community; and
- 5. Resolve existing circulation and access issues for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

The following report includes a review of the existing conditions, assessment of key issues and opportunities, review of relevant precedents, development of principles, park improvement ideas and the Draft Landscape Master Plan.

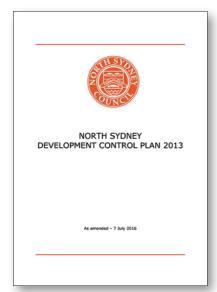
### PROJECT SCOPE

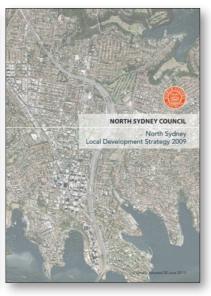
St Leonards Park covers approximately 15 hectares. It is bounded by Miller, Falcon and Ridge Streets and by the Warringah Freeway. It is the location of North Sydney's pre-eminent sports-ground; the nationally significant North Sydney Oval and other facilities for organised sport including the Bon Andrews Oval, netball courts, cricket nets and a Bowling Club as well as extensive open lawns. St Leonards Park is primarily Crown land.

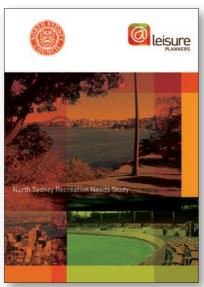
The project scope is nominated in the diagram adjacent, and includes all external spaces within the park defined by the surrounding streets and arterial roads. While the North Sydney Oval Complex (sportsfield, grandstands, tenancies along Miller Street and the Parks Depot) is located in St Leonards Park, it is not included in this Landscape Master Plan. The management of this facility is currently guided by the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management, and the North Sydney Oval Business Plan 2014. The North Sydney Bowling Club (bowling greens, clubhouse, associated buildings and car park) is also outside Council's direct control, being the subject of a perpetual lease from the Crown to the North Sydney Bowling Club Ltd. However, the road leading though the Park to this facility is not part of this lease and thus is included in the Landscape Master Plan.



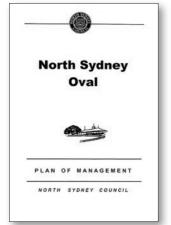
# INTRODUCTION





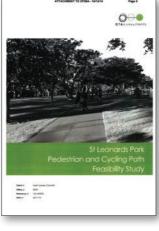


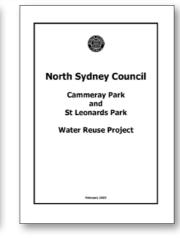












### Top (left to right) North Sydney DCP and LEP (2013), North Sydney Local Development Strategy (2009), North Sydney Recreation Needs Study (2015), St Leonards Park Conservation Management Plan (2013).

Bottom (left to right) North Sydney Oval Plan of Management (2015), St Leonards Park Plan of Management (2011), North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (2013), St Leonards Park Pedestrian and Cycling Feasability Study (2014), North Sydney Council Cammeray Park and St Leonards Park Water Re-use Project (2005)

#### PREVIOUS STUDIES

A range of documents have been reviewed as part of the development of the Draft Landscape Master Plan; these include:

- 2013 North Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environment Plan (LEP)
- North Sydney Local Development Strategy (2009)
- North Sydney Recreation Needs Study (2015)
- St Leonards Park Plan of Management (2011)
- St Leonards Park Conservation Management Plan (2013)
- North Sydney Oval Plan of Management (2015)
- North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (2013)
- St Leonards Park Pedestrian and Cycling Feasibility Study (2014)
- North Sydney Council Cammeray Park and St Leonards Park Water Re-use Project
- North Sydney Public Domain Style Manual and Design Code
- North Sydney Heritage Leaflet 16 St Leonards Park







# INTRODUCTION

## PROJECT METHODOLOGY





STAGE 1:

### **RESEARCH & ANALYSIS**

(PROJECT INITIATION / PARK SURVEY)

**CONSULTATION STAGE 1:** 

ONLINE & PARK
INTERCEPT SURVEYS
STAFF WORKSHOPS
STAKEHOLDER
INTERVIEWS

STAGE 2:

**DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES & CONCEPT IDEAS** 

CONSULTATION STAGE 2: ONLINE SURVEYS
DROP IN SESSIONS
COMMUNITY/
STAKEHOLDER
WORKSHOPS

STAGE 3:

**PREPARATION** OF DRAFT LANDSCAPE **MASTER PLAN** 

COLLINS AND TURNER

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION** 

**REVIEW** FEEDBACK & FINALISE **LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN**  The development of the St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan has been undertaken in 5 stages commencing in mid 2016. The project is currently in Stage 4 of the process.

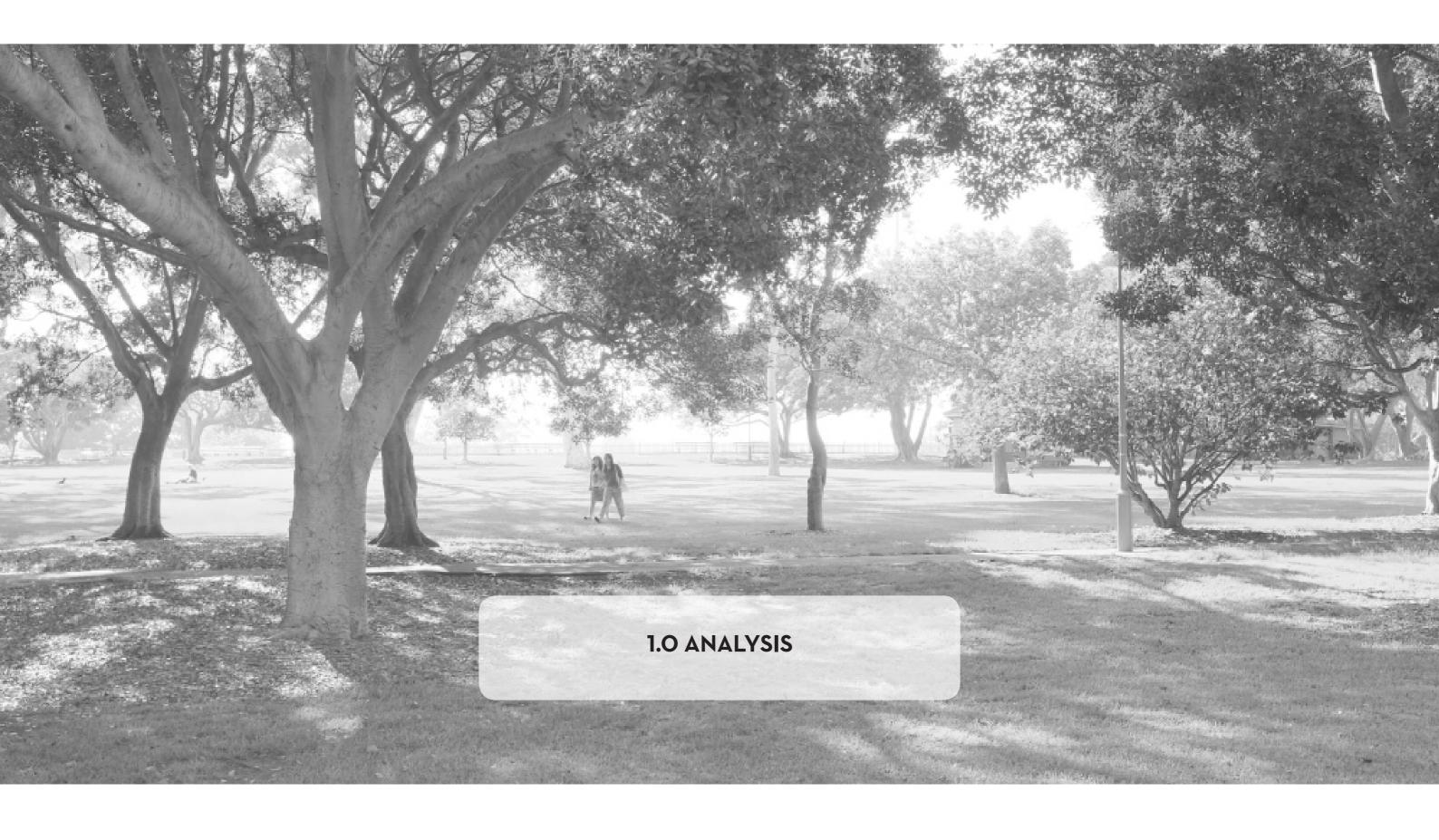
- Stage 1: Research and analysis
- Stage 2: Development of principles and concept ideas
- Stage 3: Preparation of the Draft Landscape Master Plan
- Stage 4: Public exhibition
- Stage 5: Finalise St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan

Community consultation was undertaken throughout the development of the Landscape Master Plan. Stage 1 consultation involved gathering information to understand how the park is currently used and valued to inform ideas for improvement. This included conducting surveys, staff workshops and stakeholder interviews, and reviewing submissions.

In preparation for Stage 2, the local community was consulted on a set of Draft Guiding Principles to drive the Landscape Master Plan. This included consultation on seven Draft Park Improvement Ideas. Stage 2 engagement events were designed to gather feedback on preliminary principles and park improvement ideas and included park and market stalls, stakeholder workshops and an online survey for the project. 139 surveys relating to the Draft Guiding Principles for the Draft St Leonards Park Landscape Master plan were received. Eight submissions were received from a range of community members. More than 200 people participated in 5 pop up stalls at Civic Place and St Leonards Park in May and June 2017. A community workshop was held on the 18th July 2017. Feedback from this process subsequently informed the development of the Draft Landscape Master Plan.



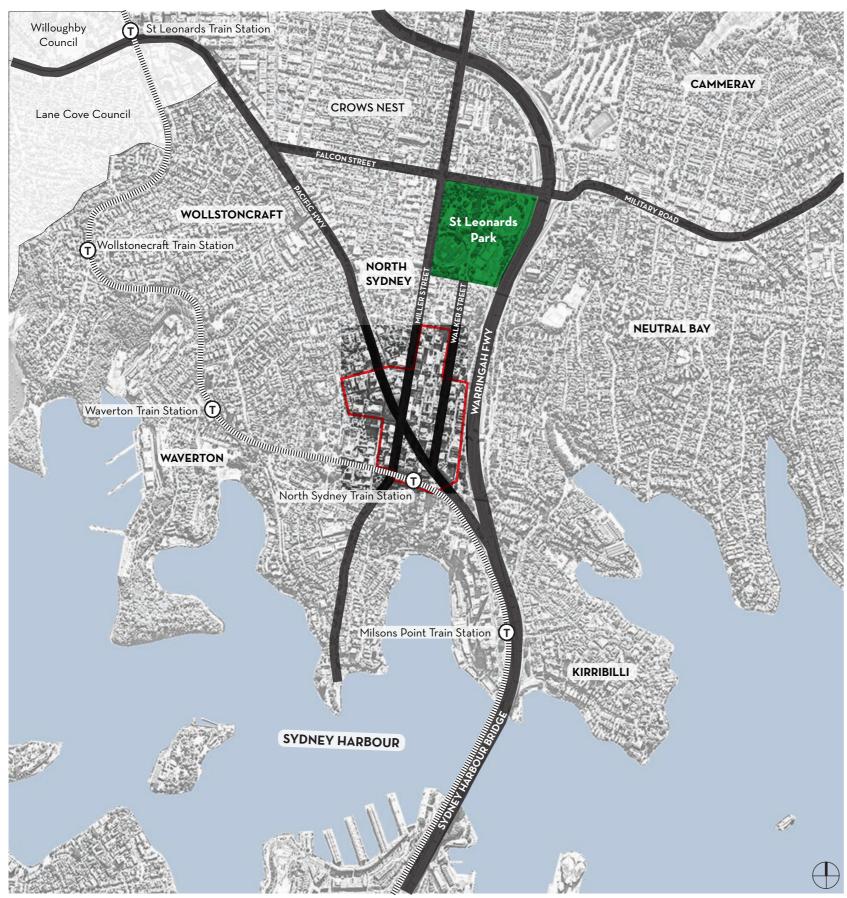








# **WIDER CONTEXT**



St Leonards Park, approximately 15 hectares in size, is bound by Falcon St to the north, Miller St to the west, Ridge St to the south, and the Warringah Freeway to the east. St Leonards Park is located approximately 500m north of the North Sydney CBD.

St Leonards Park has been identified "as a rare and representative example of a largely intact Victorian era park designed in the gardenesque style with its original layout still appreciable". The park's state listing also notes that the continued use of the premises as a cricket ground and bowling club dating from 1867 and 1887 respectively is rare and important.

KEY: St Leonards Park: Landscape Master Plan site North Sydney CBD Major Road



Train Station





# **CIVIC CONTEXT**



St Leonards Park is located on Miller Street, the topographical high point of North Sydney and North Sydney's primary civic street. Miller Street is located on the western boundary of the park and houses important civic facilities and public spaces along its length including Civic Park, Stanton Library, North Sydney Community Centre and North Sydney Council Chambers.

### KEY:

- 1. Crows Nest Community Centre
- 2. Stanton Library
- 3. North Sydney Community Centre
- 4. Don Bank Museum
- 5. McMahons Point Community Centre
- 6. North Sydney Olympic Pool
- 7. Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre
- 8. Neutral Bay Community Centre



Community / Public Facilities



Green Open Space



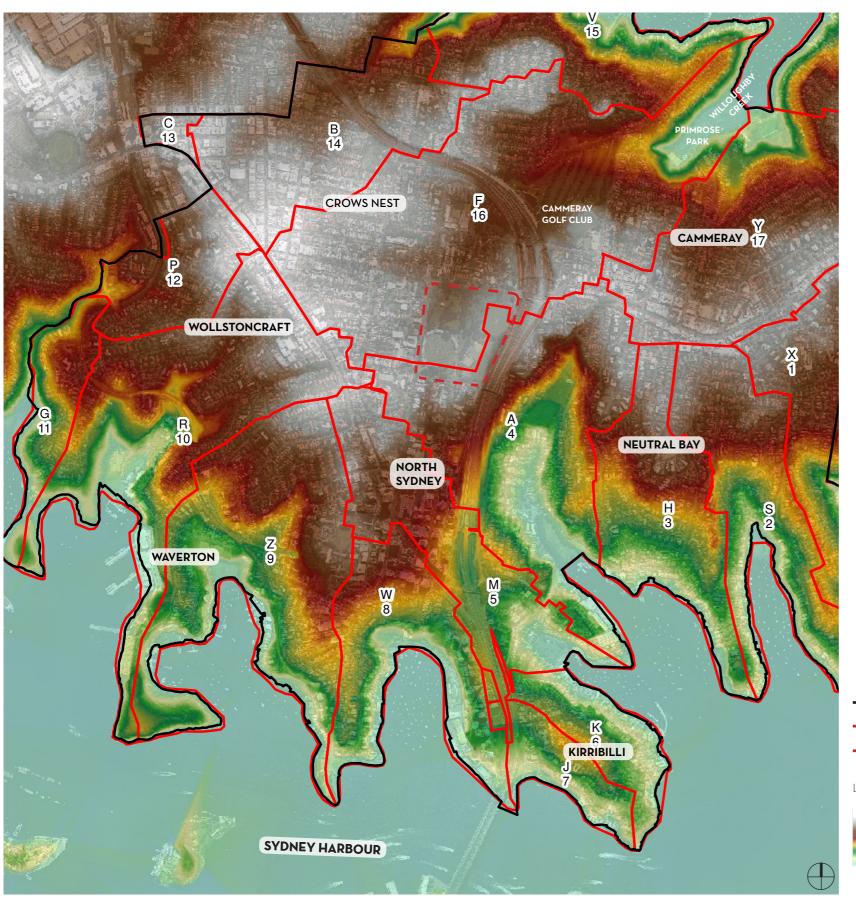
Civic Open Space





# **CATCHMENT**

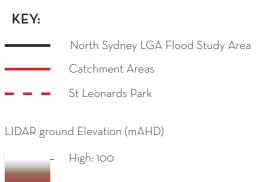
# NORTH SYDNEY LGA FLOOD STUDY (LIDAR SURVEY)



St Leonards Park is located within two catchments; the Fall Street catchment and Anderson Park catchment. The Fall St catchment is 16 hectares and drains in a north easterly direction to Primrose Park through Cammeray Golf Club. The Anderson Park Catchment boundary is 4 hectares located on the eastern edge of the park and drains south to Anderson Park and Neutral Bay.

St Leonards Park is part of the larger North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project, which reuses 90 million litres of stormwater a year. The project collects stormwater within a dam in Cammeray Golf Course which is then pumped from the dam and stored at a series of parks across the area including St Leonards Park. St Leonards park contains a 280kL underground tank which stores this stormwater that is then used to irrigate North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews Oval and the wider park grounds.

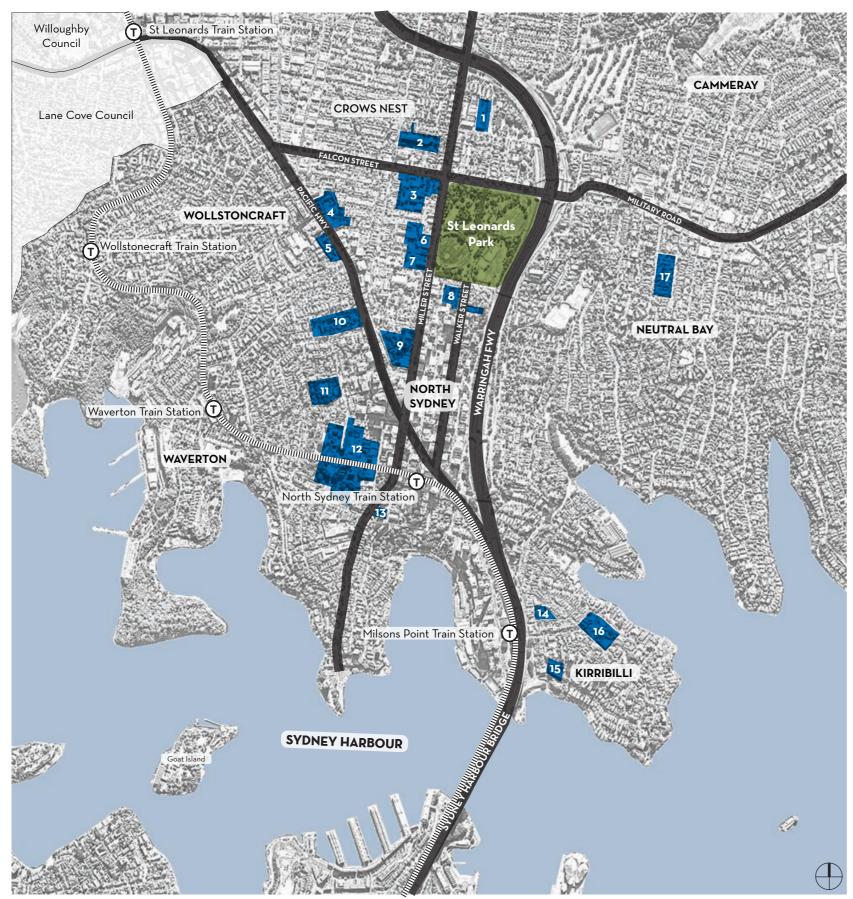
Map sourced from: North Sydney LGA Flood Study Final Report, February 2017 https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Building\_Development/Other\_Planning\_Documents/North\_Sydney\_LGA\_ Wide Flood Study







# **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**



St Leonards Park is surrounded by educational facilities and schools including North Sydney Boys High, Marist College North Shore and St Mary's Primary School on Miller Street. Other schools within walking distance include Wenona School and Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College to the south, North Sydney Girls to the east, and ANZAC Park Primary School to the north. Several of these schools use the park daily for lunchtime and sporting activities.

### KEY:

- 1. ANZAC Park Public School
- 2. TAFE Crows Nest Campus
- 3. North Sydney Boys High School
- 4. North Sydney Girls High School
- 5. Cammeraygal High School
- 6. Marist College North Shore
- 7. St Mary's Primary School
- 8. Wenona
- 9. Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College
- 10. North Sydney Demonstration School
- 11. Australian Catholic University
- 12. Shore Sydney Church of England Grammar School
- 13. Cameragal Monterossi Primary
- 14. St Aloysius College (Junior School)
- 15. St Aloysius College (Senior School)
- 16. Loreto Kirribilli
- 17. Neutral Bay Public School



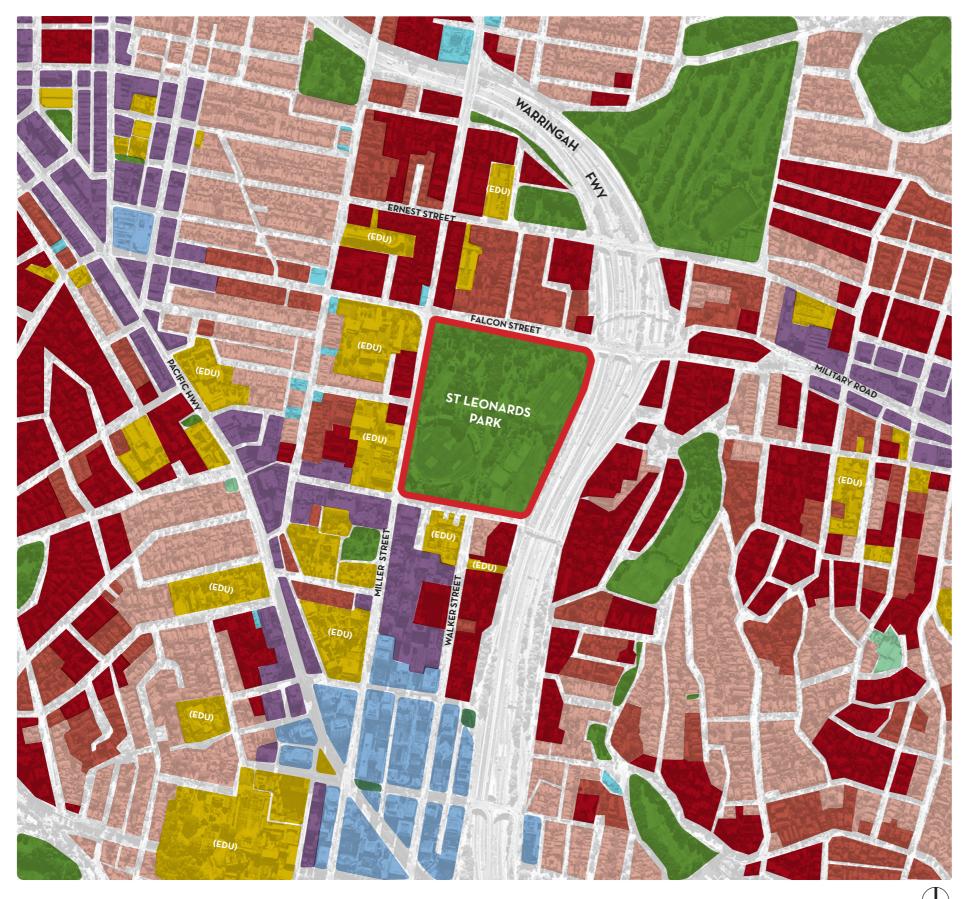
Educational Facility







# **LAND USE**



The park is located within medium and high density residential areas to the north and east, and mixed use to the south. Lower density residential neighbourhoods are zoned to the west. High concentration of educational uses in close proximity to the park is also evident.

This land use plan indicates the park's ongoing and important role as informal green space for local residents. St Leonards Park is particularily important for residents in the surrounding medium and high-density neighbourhoods who do not have private open space, using public open spaces for 'backyard' activities and informal recreation. The park is also an important asset for local school children who use the open space during lunchtime breaks and school sports.

### KEY:



R2 - Low Density Residential

R3 - Medium Density Residential

R4 - High Density Residential

B4 - Mixed Use

B3 - Commercial Core

B1 - Neighbourhood Centre

Sp2 - Infrastructure (EDU = Educational Establishment)

RE1 - Public Recreation

RE2 - Private Recreation









# **BUILT FORM**



The North Sydney LEP indicates that the future built form surrounding St Leonards Park will be between 2 - 4 storeys (8.5m - 12m) high. However, it is also important to note that North Sydney CBD, which is within 500m of the park, has building heights with the potential to reach up to 200m in height.

### MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT





COLLINS AND TURNER

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE**



St Leonards Park is the second largest park in the local area at 15ha, and provides significant active recreational spaces including North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews Oval, North Sydney Bowling club (The Greens) and netball courts. While Cammeray Park is larger (16.2ha) much of the park is dedicated to sports facilities including a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, croquet courts and playing fields. St Leonards Park contains the largest amount of public passive open space.

(Open spaces are ranked according to size)

PARK / RESERVE	TYPE OF OPEN SPACE	AREA
1. Cammeray Park	Public Green Space	16.0 ha
2. St Leonards Park	Public Green Space	15 ha
3. Forsyth Park	Public Green Space	4.5 ha
4. Anderson Park	Public Green Space	2.5 ha
5. St Thomas Rest Park	Public Green Space	1.8 ha
6. Anzac Park	Public Green Space	1.4 ha
7. Civic Park	Public Green Space	0.4 ha
8. Brett Whiteley Place	Public Civic Space	0.1 ha

#### KEY

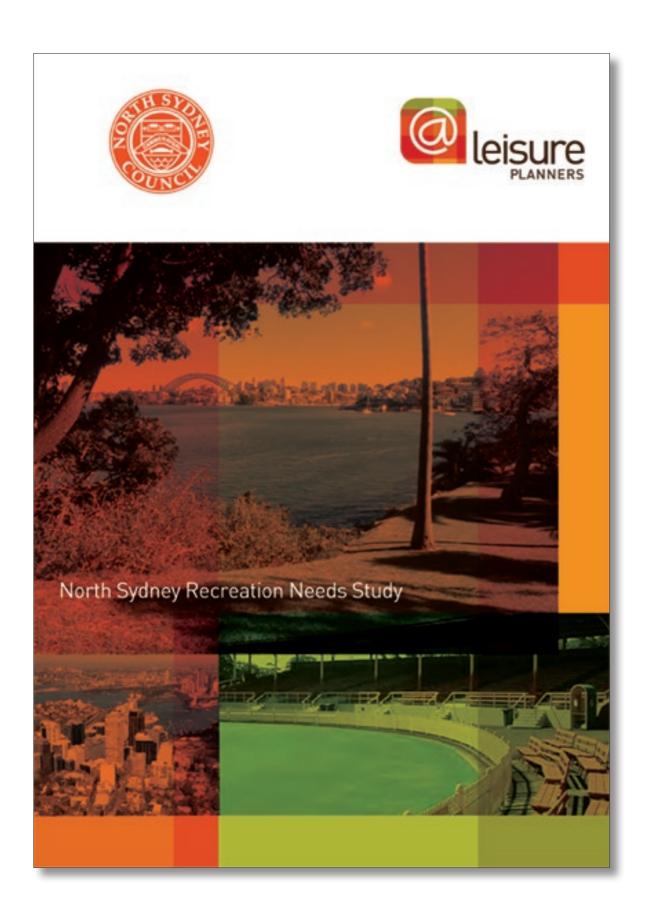


- Playing Fields
- Netball/Basketball Courts
- Playgrounds
- Skate Park
- Lawn Bowls
- Tennis
- Croquet





# NORTH SYDNEY RECREATION NEEDS STUDY 2015



The North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015 identified the importance of St Leonards park as a passive open space and heritage site. The study noted the community's strong objection to the unsolicited proposal to build sports courts underground in St Leonards Park. The report states 'the proposal is inconsistent with much of the intent of the Conservation Management Plan for the heritage listed site. Such a development is not dependent on a parkland setting'. (p45)

In regard to St Leonards Park, the Recreational Needs Study also made the following recommendations:

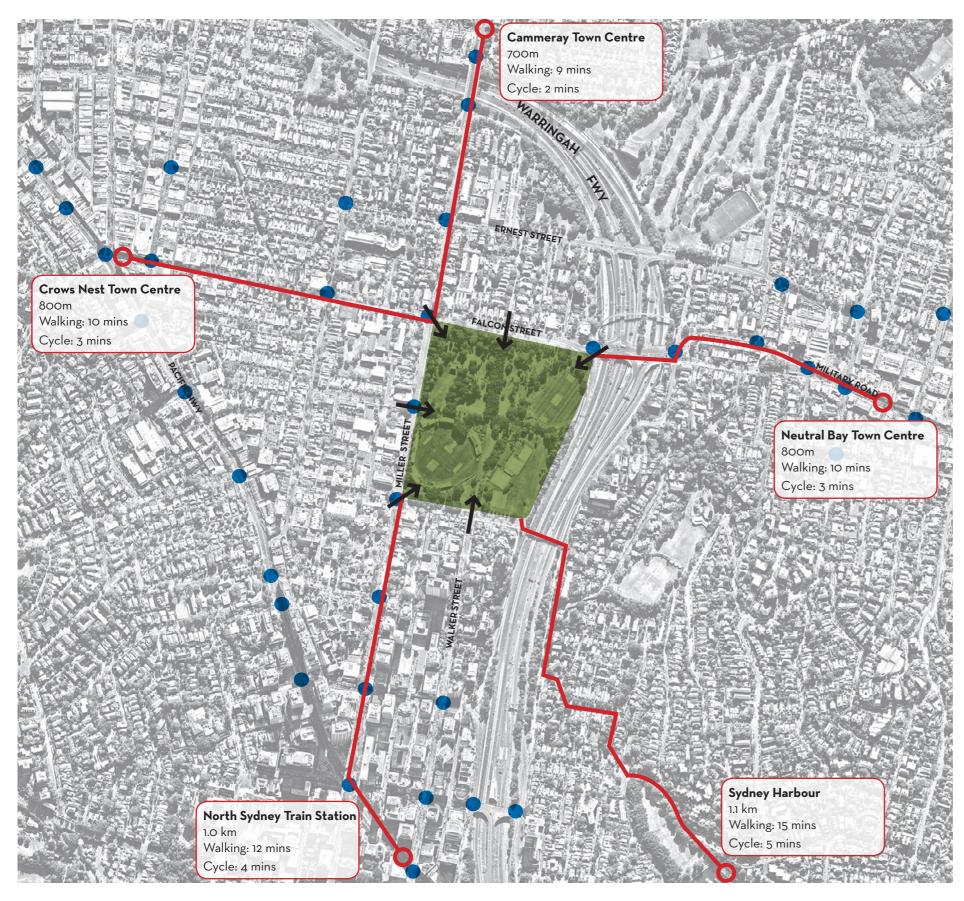
- The importance of adhering to the St Leonards Park Conservation Management Plan 2013 (p6)
- Potential for overuse of the park for active recreation St Leonards Park is also highly used and council tries to divert demand for sports and group activities away from areas experiencing overuse (p25)
- · Opportunities for perimeter path exercise circuits that people can use for jogging and walking away from traffic
- Provide lighting for recreational walking in key areas and routes
- Opportunities to provide more diverse Social Family Recreation (SFR) space such as tables, seating and children's play space (p36)
- Upgrade North Sydney Oval to become more competitive as a stadium for regional and state events (p40)
- Redesign of the eastern side of the park to provide a shared trail (p41)





# **WIDER CONTEXT**

WALKING



St Leonards Park is centrally located between North Sydney CBD, Crows Nest Town Centre, Cammeray Town Centre and the Neutral Bay Town Centre. It is a 12 minutes' walk from the North Sydney train station, and 10 minutes' walk from Crows Nest, Cammeray, and Neutral Bay Town Centres.

Walking Route & Destination

Traffic Light or Pedestrian Crossing

Formal park entrances









Current cycling routes published by North Sydney Council show that some of the park's adjacent streets (Falcon Street, Ridge Street) have on-road marked bike routes. The published route indicates an off-road/shared path running through the park from the north eastern Falcon street / Freeway junction.

Map data sourced from: North Sydney Cycling Map 2012  $http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/docs/5\_recreation\_facilities/assets/public/docs/facilities/assets/p$  $walking\_cycling/northsydney\_bikemap3.pdf$ 



On-Road Marked Bike Route

Off-Road Bike Route/Shared Path

Suggested Bike Route

Traffic Light or Pedestrian Crossing

Formal park entrances







# **WIDER CONTEXT**

### CYCLING: NORTH SYDNEY INTEGRATED CYCLING STRATEGY + CYCLE UPGRADE PROGRAM



The North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy and Cycle Upgrade Program (Dec 2015 update) indicates that several bike routes in the area are in the process of upgrade or construction. Of note is the "future investigation" of the bike path along Falcon and Miller Streets. This is proposed to replace the cycle route through St Leonards Park. Details of some of this investigation can be found in the following

Map data sourced from: North Sydney Cycle Upgrade Program webpage

http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Projects\_Infrastructure/Major\_Projects\_I/Cycling\_ Network\_upgrade\_program

and from the North Sydney Integrated Cycling Strategy (Route 1 - 5)

http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/docs/5\_recreation\_facilities/ walking\_cycling/north\_sydney\_integrated\_cycling\_strategy\_eps.pdf

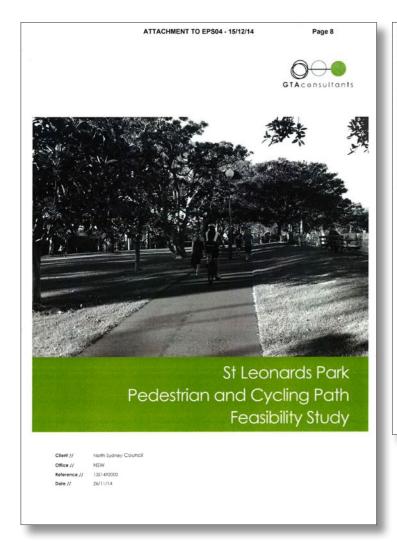


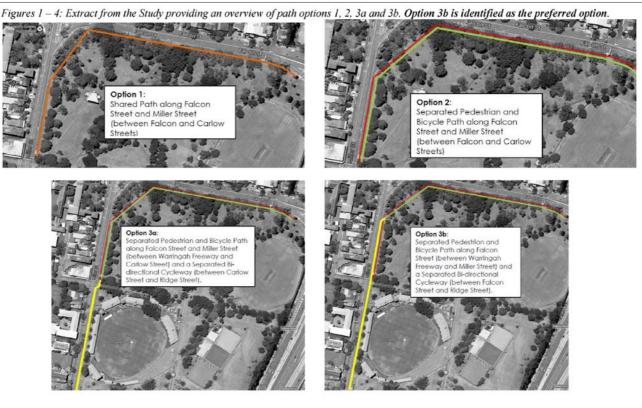
• • • • Future Investigation



# **WIDER CONTEXT**

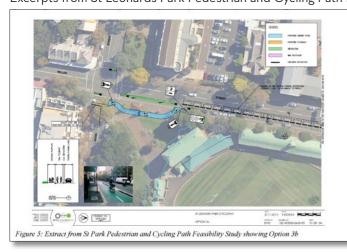
### CYCLING: STIFONARDS PARK PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING FEASIBILITY STUDY



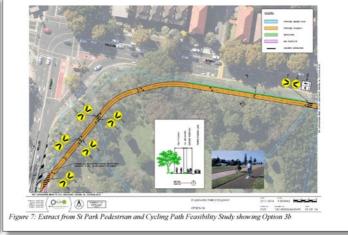


In 2014, GTA consultants prepared the St Leonards Park Pedestrian and Cycling Path Feasibility Study which reviewed the current path network in the park and provided alternative path options to reduce the potential for conflict between different park user groups. The report tested a range of options for bike routes connecting along Falcon Street and Miller Street. The preferred option was Option 3b (p33) which proposed a 3m wide bi-directional cycle path inside the park alongside Falcon Street, parallel to the existing footpath, connecting to an on road bidirectional separated cycleway in the easternmost lane of Miller street to Ridge street. This would require detailed investigation of park layout and implications for established park trees.

Excerpts from St Leonards Park Pedestrian and Cycling Path Feasibility Study showing Option 3b (preferred option):











COLLINS AND TURNER

# **HERITAGE**



St Leonards Park is listed on the State Heritage Register as an item of state significance, and has been identified "as a rare and representative example of a largely intact Victorian era park designed in the gardenesque style with its original layout still appreciable". The listing also notes that "it is also rare as a continuously used cricket ground and bowling club dating from 1867 and 1887 respectively. The post WWII music shell and Modern movement style Bowling Club are rare surviving examples of these types of structures". Several items of heritage significance are located within the boundaries of the park and are listed on the LEP, including North Sydney Oval (Listing No. 11125), the North Sydney War Memorial (Listing No. 11123) and Tunks Fountain (Listing No. 11124).

There are also locally listed heritage buildings located on the park boundaries including St Mary's Catholic Church, North Sydney Boys High and Wenona Girls School Group.

Conservation neighbourhoods including Crows Nest are close to the park.

Map data sourced from: North Sydney LEP 2013 http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2013/411/maps

#### KEY:

- 1. St Leonards Park (10916)
- 2. W. Tunks Memorial Fountain (11124)
- 3. North Sydney War Memorial (11123)
- 4. North Sydney Oval (11125)
- 5. Sewer Vent (10839, State Heritage)
- 6. Houses (10835, 10836, 10837, 10838)
- 7. Flat buildings (10832, 10833, 10834) & "Winstone" (10831)
- 8. North Sydney Bus Shelters (10407), various locations
- 9. North Sydney Boys' High School (10830)
- 10. North Sydney Hotel (10915)
- 11. St Mary's Catholic Church (10971) & St Mary's Catholic Presbytery (10972)
- 12. Trewyn Terraces (10906, 10907, 10909, 10910, 10911
- 13. Wenona Girls' School Group (10991, 10992) & House (10978)
- 14. Houses (10979, 10980)
- 15. "St Helen's" (10981)
- 16. "St Malo" (10982)





LEP Item - Landscape

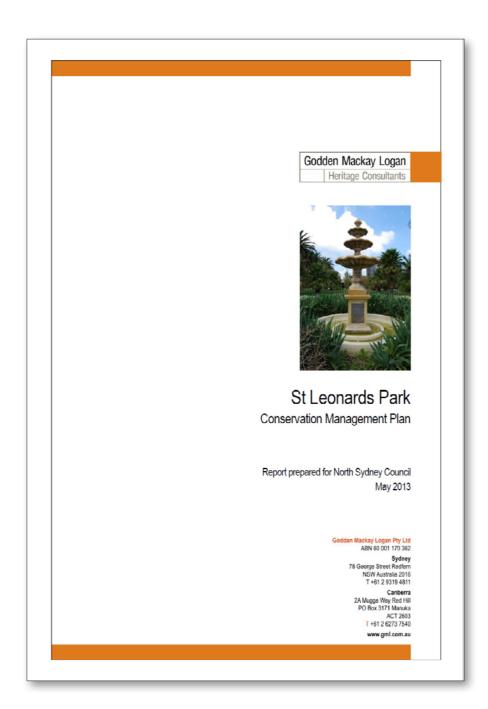






# HERITAGE

## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN



The St Leonards Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was prepared in 2013 by Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) provides conservation policies and actions to provide guidance for the future conservation, management and interpretation of the heritage significance of St Leonards Park. Listed below is a summary of the policies and actions which relate to the preparation of the Landscape Master Plan.

#### LANDSCAPE AMENITY AND AESTHETICS

- Tunks Avenue & Fig Tree Lane: fill gaps in tree avenue planting
- · Ridge St boundary planting: achieve more uniform avenue
- · Boundary plantings: supplement where needed to reinforce existing treed boundaries
- · North Sydney Oval wall: Investigate alternatives to existing wall treatment to reduce negative impact
- Eastern Open Space: Increase use and appeal through provision of well-designed seating or shelters
- Conserve significant views within St Leonards Park

#### PARK FURNITURE AND OTHER STRUCTURES:

- · Reduce clutter in the park
- Playground: Enhance facilities in the vicinity
- Bollards: Remove bollards along Bowling Club access road and investigate alternatives
- New Park Elements: Develop a designed and consistent palette
- · Lighting: Remove from centre of path between Tunks Fountain and the War Memorial; update throughout the park with modern well-designed alternative and consider alternative locations
- Path surfaces: Repair or replace with traditional materials

#### CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE ITEMS:

- · War Memorial: Improve prominence within its setting, maintain centrality and reduce clutter in the vicinity
- Park History: Interpret and conserve the different phases

#### ACCESS TO THE PARK

- Alternative Transport: Encourage alternatives to cars for park access
- · Vehicle Traffic: Minimise impact of vehicle traffic within the park

The following pages detail the historical development of St Leonards Park, using information found within the Conservation Management Plan and Significant Tree Register (1994). Any other references used are noted. The historic periods identified in the following pages follow the structure of section 2.0 Historical Analysis within the Conservation Management Plan. This analysis focuses on the development of landscape elements such as layout and tree plantings, whilst also including information on specific items within St Leonards Park.





PRE 1830: INDIGENOUS HISTORY



The north-west quadrant of the park contains a stand of Turpentines and Port Jackson Pines. These may be remnants as referred to in the Significant Tree Register (Significant Tree Register (1994), prepared by LandArc Landscape Architects for North Sydney Council, p52)

Whilst we do not currently know if there was Aboriginal activity within the vicinity of St Leonards Park, we do know that there were two Aboriginal clans in the region when the First Fleet arrived in 1788 - the Cammeraygal and the Wallumedegal. These two clans were part of the larger Kuringgai Tribe, with Governor Philip reporting in 1790:

"...About the north-west part of this harbour there is a tribe which is mentioned as being very powerful, either from their numbers or the abilities of their chief. The district is called Cammerra, the head of the tribe is named Cammerragal, by which name the men of that tribe are distinguished..."

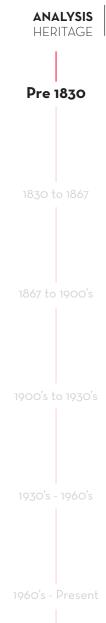
..The opposite shore is called Wallumetta, and the tribe, Wallumedegal..." (North Sydney Heritage Leaflet, North Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Available online at http://www.northsydney.nsw. gov.au/Recreation\_Facilities/Places\_of\_Interest/Aboriginal\_Heritage\_Office)

The Significant Tree Register (1994) also makes reference to the remnant vegetation of St Leonards Park, which would have naturally existed on the site before European influence:

"..important remnant stand of Turpentine (Syncarpia glomulifera) and Port Jackson Pine (Callitris rhomboidea)" (located near the Araucaria bidwillii's in the north-western area of the park) (p52)

"It is important to note that a photograph, circa 1937 (Stanton Library collection PF 436) shows a park still dominated by remnant woodland." (p53)

"...the park still retains a significant number of scattered mature and old growth remnant trees, particularly along the eastern ridgeline." (p53)





1842 - C Martens - Sydney from the North Shore (NLA Ref: GEN 769 MAR)

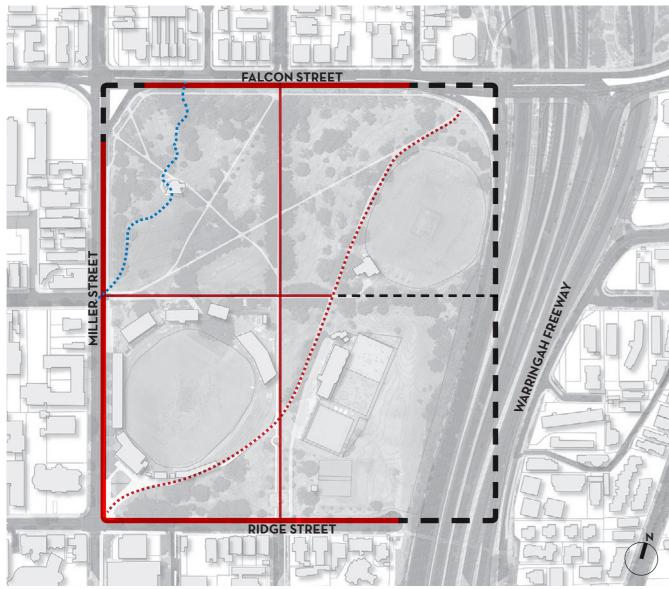


1801 - 1878 - C Martens - Sydney from St Leonards (SLRef: 62716h)



1845 - G E Peacock - Sydney from St Leonards on north bank of Port Jackson

1830 TO 1866: RESERVE ALIENATION



Aerial plan showing the original intent of The Reserve', and indicative location of original track.

#### KEY:

Park components which still exist:

Park boundary & internal pathways

Park components which have since been removed/changed:

Park boundary & internal pathways

Indicative location of original track, which crossed diagonally across the park along the natural ridgeline.

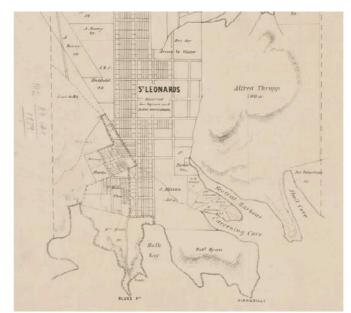
Indicative location of tributary to Willoughby Falls Creek (bridges were located at path crossing points)

**1838:** The township of St Leonards is laid out, in which a 40 acre (16.2 ha) site is "reserved for Square and Public Recreation". It was located at the high point of the new township and had expansive views of the harbour, and became known as "The Reserve" (or "The Public Reserve")

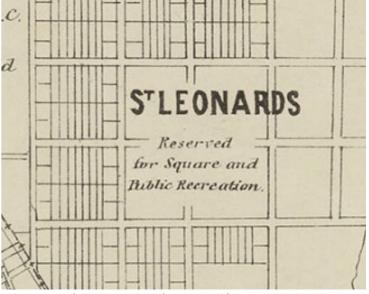
#### 1830 - 1866:

The Reserve remains undeveloped, aside from a track which crosses diagonally across the Park (along the natural ridgeline). A tributary to the local water supply - Willoughby Falls Creek - runs through the site, with several bridge crossing points. A cliff and stone quarry is located at end of Ridge St, whilst a gully and swamp is located around the area of the existing Fig Tree Lane.



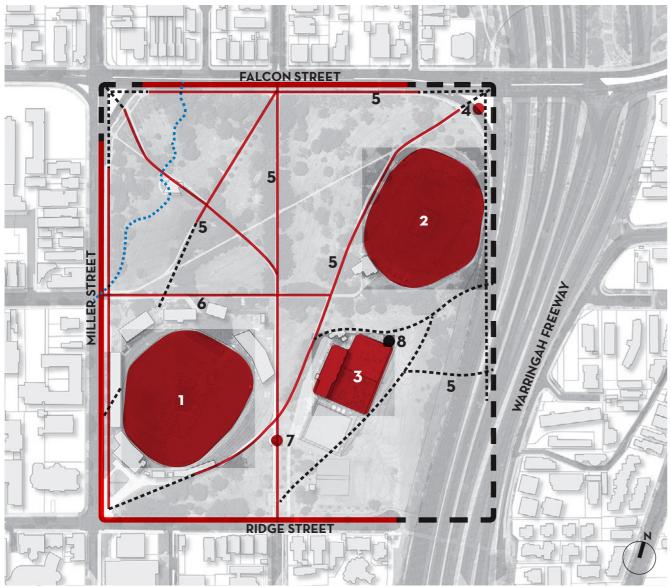






Enlargement of the plan to the left, "Reserved for Square and Public Recreation". Plan of the Municipality of St Leonards, 1859 (State Library,

1867 TO 1899: THE PARK ESTABLISHED



Aerial plan showing the extent of St Leonards Park from 1867 - 1900, and remnant park components.

#### KEY:

- 1. North Sydney Oval (1867)
- 2. Oval No. 2 (1860's)
- 3. Bowling Club lease area (1888)
- 4. Sewer Vent (1899)
- 5. Pathways, including Tunks Avenue (north/south central pathway)
- 6. Fig Tree avenue plantings
- 7. Tunks Fountain (1885)
- 8. Jubilee Fountain (1897)

### KEY:

Park components which still exist:

Park boundary & internal pathways

Park components which have since been removed/changed:

Park boundary & internal pathways Park elements

Indicative location of tributary to Willoughby Falls Creek (bridges were located at path crossing points)



The second portion of the park is set aside for public recreation, with St Leonards Council (later North Sydney Council) appointed as public trustee

1873: Local residents raise funds to fence the park and to plant pines, camphor laurels and figs, and it is probable that the figs of Fig Tree Lane were planted at this time. Mayor William Tunks takes a personal interest in the park, providing cuttings from his own garden and overseeing the positioning of trees and paths

#### An Act of Parliament names the reserve "St Leonards Park".

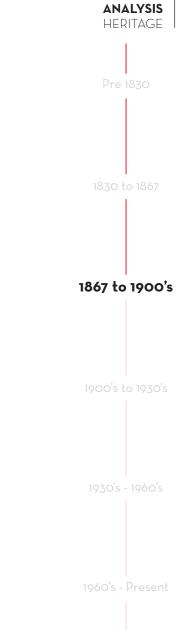
The first spectator's pavilion is built at North Sydney Oval.

### A memorial fountain is erected in honour of Mayor William Tunks. The fountain was made from Carrara (Sicilian) marble, with funds for the fountain raised from public subscription. Tunks had died in 1883.

**1888:** The bowling green first opens (now known as "The Greens")

Jubilee Fountain is erected for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and was located in close proximity to the bowling greens. (The fountain later moved in 1982 to North Sydney Civic Centre Park)

North Sydney Sewer Vent is constructed (and is still operational, though has been separated from the park due to the Warringah Freeway exit at Falcon St)







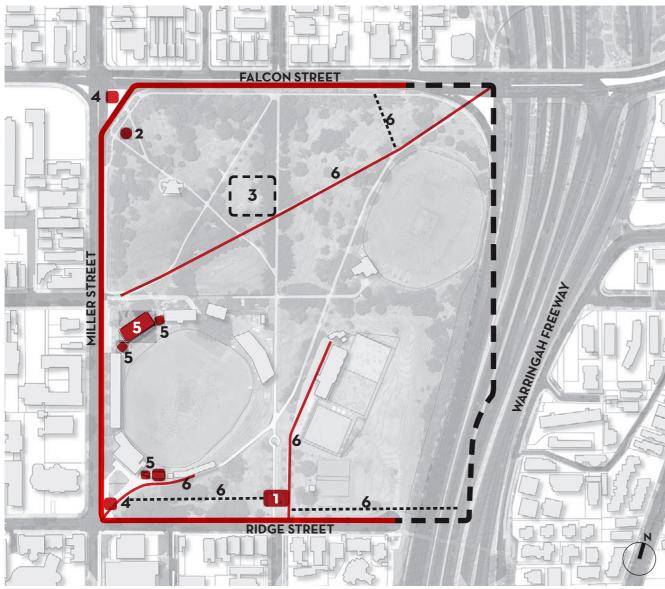


1890's Metropolitan Detail Sheet showing the development of St Leonards Park (Stanton Library)





## 1900 TO 1929: EARLY 20TH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT



Aerial plan showing the extent of St Leonards Park from 1900's - 1930's, and remnant park components.

### KEY:

- 1. War Memorial (1926)
- 2. WWI Field Gun (1921)
- 3. Tennis Courts (now the children's playground)
- 4. Former Tram Shelters (Oval Bus Stop) (1920's)
- 5. Duncan Thompson grandstand, Ken Irvine scoreboard and turnstyle buildings (1928)
- 6. Pathways

### KEY:

Park components which still exist:

Park boundary & internal pathways

Park components which have since been removed/changed:

A low picket fence is built to surround North Sydney Oval

A War Memorial committee is established to raise funds for a memorial in North Sydney. Council chooses a site in a prominent position, located on the crest of Ridge St along the park's central axis and in alignment with the Tunks Memorial Fountain.

1920's: Two tram stops are built along the western edge of the park. These have since been repurposed for use as bus shelters and influenced the design of bus shelters throughout the North Sydney area.

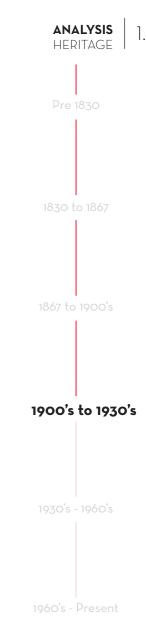
1920's: Two tennis courts are constructed in the north west area of the park.

A WWI Field Gun is placed in the north-west corner of the park, and was unveiled by Major-General Sir Granville Ryrie

1926: The new North Sydney War Memorial is officially unveiled. Designed by Frank Thorp and standing at 13m in height it is made of Bowral trachyte in the Inter-War Art Deco style. The Sydney Morning Herald described it on the 5th August 1925 as "the largest and most imposing war memorial in Sydney.. visible from a great distance, including parts of the harbour".

1928: The new brick 'Duncan Thompson Stand' is opened at North Sydney Oval.

As part of the upgrade, a new scoreboard (the Ken Irvine scoreboard) and three small turnstile buildings are also constructed.



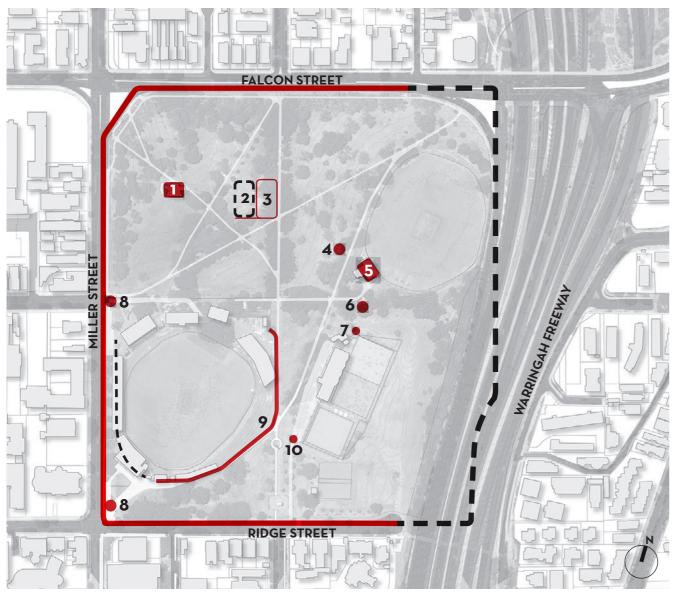


1930 aerial imagery. The fig trees along the main pathways are clearly visible, as is the scattered tree plantings in the north of the park. (Department of Lands)



1928 photograph of the newly completed War Memorial (Stanton Library)

1930 TO 1959: INTER-WAR & POST-WAR YEARS



Aerial plan showing the extent of St Leonards Park from 1930's - 1960's, and remnant park components.

### KEY:

- 1. Music Shell (1948)
- 2. Children's playground (later moved east to its current site)
- 3. Depression era walling (1930's)
- 4. Sandstone shelter (1944)
- 5. Cunningham Pavilion (1930)
- 6. Sandstone picnic shelter (1940's)
- 7. J.D Fletcher Plaque (1934)
- 8. Sandstone walling (1940's)
- 9. Wall surrounding North Sydney Oval (South portion: 1940's; East portion: 1950's)
- 10. JT Warren & Bowing Club Plaques (1949)

### KEY:

Park components which still exist:



Park components which have since been removed/changed:

Park boundary & internal pathways



North Sydney Oval's picket fence is replaced by a brick wall, which saw the removal of a double avenue of large Moreton Bay Figs along Miller St.

1930's: A low stone wall is constructed around the tennis courts (now the children's playground) as part of depression era relief labour works

A children's playground is constructed to the west of the tennis court (the playground later moves east to its current site). The playground is extensive and focusses on active recreation thanks to the involvement of Edgar Herbert - a leading authority on physical training and playground development.

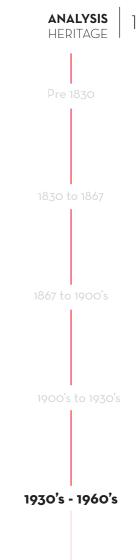
Ornamental gardens are planted near the corner of Miller & Ridge Streets.

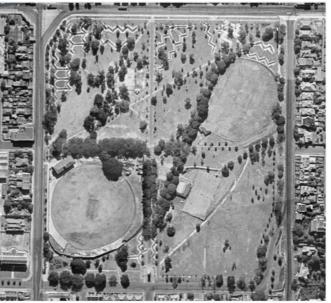
1944: A stone shelter shed is completed in the north-western quadrant for the "use of old age and invalid pensioners". It contains four concrete tables and benches.

1948: The Music Shell, designed by Peddle Thorpe and Walker in the Art Deco style, is opened on the 13 November 1948 by Hon Clive R Evatt, Minister for Housing. An audience of 4,000 attends the grand opening, featuring the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the North Shore Choral Society.

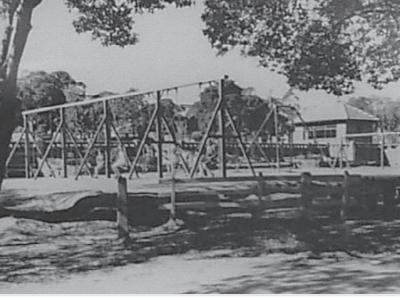
1940's: WWII air raid trenches are dug in several locations throughout the park.

Several low sandstone walls are built, with these walls existing at locations along Miller St (Near Fig Tree Lane and Ridge Street)



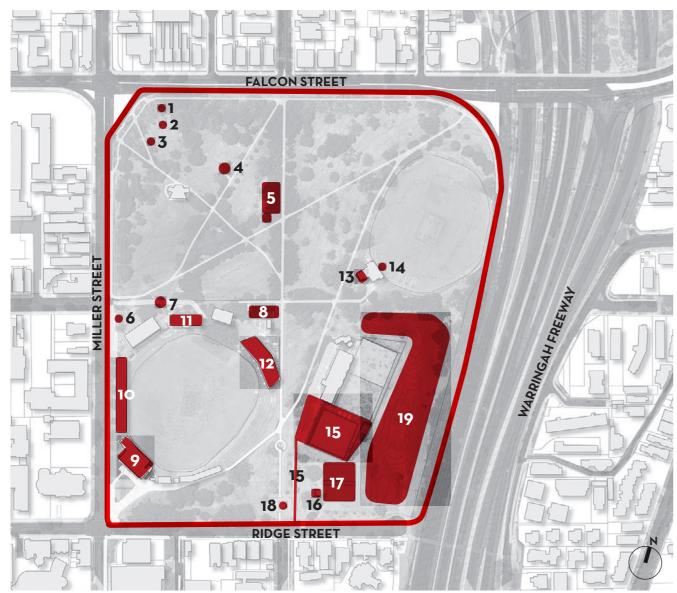






foreground) and the depression era wall (still exists on site) and tennis court beyond. (Stanton Library)

1960 TO PRESENT: POST-WAR BOOM - PRESENT



Aerial plan showing the extent of St Leonards Park from 1960 to the present time, and remnant park components.

#### KEY:

- 1. Clem Renouf Plaque Rotary (1978)
- 2. Judge Boulter Plaque (1988)
- 3. Wheels Tree Plaque Rotary (1935)
- 4. Public toilet (1960's)
- 5. Children's playground upgrade (2000's)
- 6. Queen Elizabeth visit plaque (1954)
- 7. Fig Tree Lane gates and posts (1980's)
- 8. Cricket Nets (1990's)
- 9. Macartney Stand (1987)
- 10. O'Reilly Stand (1987)
- 11. Mollie Dive Stand (1987)
- 12. Bob Stand (1895 / 1987)
- 13. Cunningham Pavilion extentions

- 14. Gavin Andrews Plaque (1995)
- 15 Bowling Club lease extention & access road
- 16. Pinic shelter (1980's)
- 17. Netball courts (Originally 1960's addition, asphalted from grass in 1992)
- 18 War Memorial plaques (2005)
- 19. Eastern area: Fill

1960 - present still-existing park components:



Park boundary Park elements



1960's: Park improvements including the construction of public toilets and grass netball courts. The Bowling Club also undergoes a renovation, with a larger clubhouse built and additional land added for on-site parking.

1970's: Tunks Fountain was demolished by vandals in 1970

1980's: St Leonards Park receives improvements such as new park furniture, light poles, paving and paint scheme. Entrance gates to the park are installed on Fig Tree Lane, along with a picnic shelter being built at the netball courts. The North Sydney Oval also receives new grandstands and a renovation at this time, with the 'new look' adopted across the wider council area.

The Jubilee Fountain is relocated to Civic Park (on Miller St)

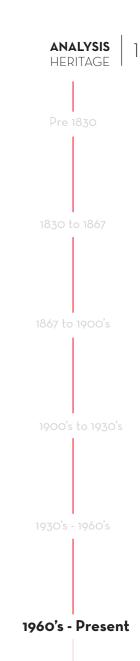
Tunks Fountain is repaired (basin) and replaced, with the entire top section replaced by a concrete 3-tired fountain and rectangular pedestal

St Leonards Park is listed by the National Trust as an item of heritage.

Oval No.2 is formally renamed as 'Bon Andrews Oval, commemorating the contribution from Gavin John (Bon) Andrews to sport in North Sydney.

1990's: Further park upgrades include the construction of cricket nets, stone bollards along the bowling club access road, and asphalting the netball courts.

2001: The Planet X Youth Centre opens in Music Shell, along with the children's playground recieving an upgrade and picnic shelter.





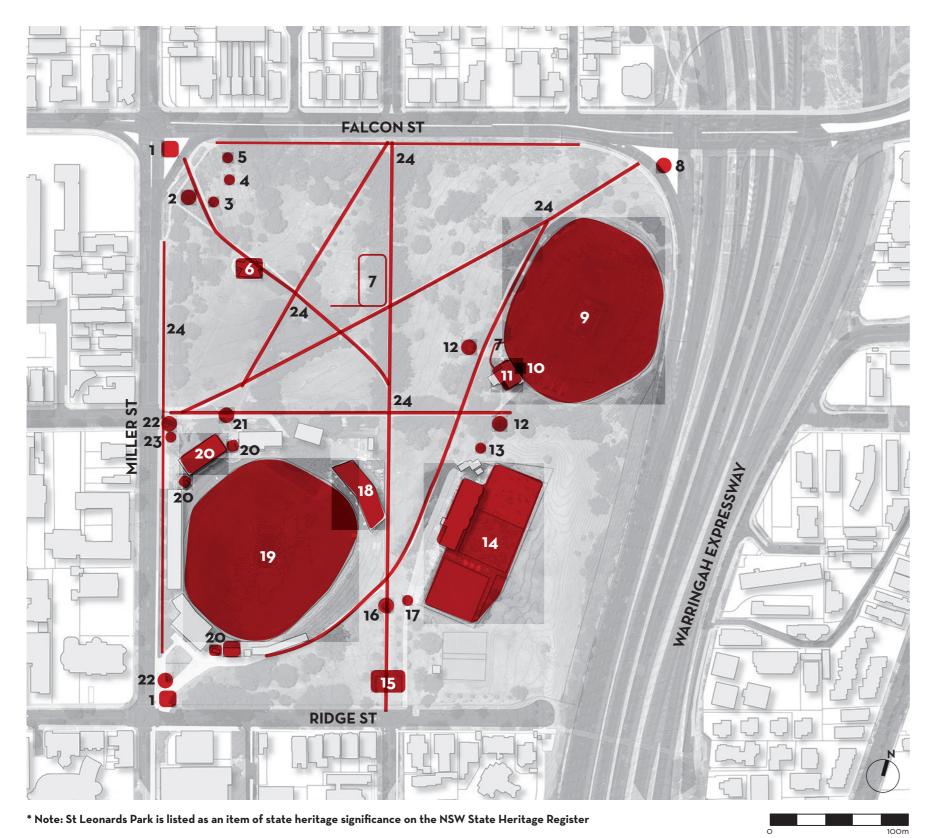




1980's earthworks underway in the east area of the park, seeming to show the construction for the Warringah Freeway. Excavation has begun on the creation of the undulating topography that is evident in this area of the park today. (Stanton Library)

# **HERITAGE**

### ITEMS & ARTEFACTS









1 & 2. Current and 1960's photos of the Tunks Fountain clearly show that only the basin is original (1885), and the column and tiered sections have since been replaced (1988 renovation) 3. North Sydney War Memorial as viewed from inside the park

There is a considerable number of artefacts and heritage-listed items located throughout St Leonards Park. Items range in scale from the two large ovals and associated structures, through to small plaques commemorating local figures. St Leonards Park is listed on the State Heritage Register and it is the inclusion of many of these items in the park which help contribute to the heritage character of this place today.

The only state heritage-listed item is the North Sydney Sewer Vent (1899), which was separated from the park during the construction of the Warringah Freeway.

There are several items within the boundaries of the park which are listed on the 2013 LEP. These are Tunks Fountain (1885), North Sydney War Memorial (1926), and North Sydney Oval (1867) which includes the Duncan Thompson Stand, Ken Irvine Scoreboard and 3 entrance turnstiles (1928). Several bus shelters along Miller St are also listed (1920's & 1970's) - the southern of which is an original former tram shelter (1920's), and is the one which all other bus shelters in the North Sydney municipality have been modelled after.

The above heritage-listed items are listed in bold in the key below.

#### KEY:

### 1. Bus Shelters (LEP) - 1920's & 1970's

- 2. WWI Field Gun 1921
- 3. Wheels Tree Plaque (Rotary) 1935
- 4. Judge Boulter Plaque 1988
- 5. Clem Renouf Plague 1978
- 6. Music Shell 1948
- 7. Depression era stone wall 1930's

### 8. Sewer Vent (State Heritage) - 1899

- 9. Bon Andrews Oval (Oval No. 2) 1860's with surrounding timber picket fence (first installed in the 1890's, since replaced)
- 10. Gavin (Bon) Andrews Plaque 1995
- 11. Cunningham Pavilion 1930
- 12. Sandstone Picnic Shelter/Area 1944
- 13. J.D. Fletcher Plaque 1934

- 14. Bowling Club lease area 1888
- 15. War Memorial (LEP) 1926
- 16. Tunks Fountain (LEP) 1885
- \*Note: only the basin dates from 1885, the column and tierd fountain are more recent additions (part of the 1988 renovation of the fountain)
- 17. Bowling Club & J.T Warren Plaque 1949
- 18. Bob Stand (LEP) 1895
- 19. North Sydney Oval (LEP) 1867
- 20. Duncan Thompson Stand, Ken Irvine scoreboard & turnstyle (LEP) - 1928
- 21. Fig Tree Lane gate & posts 1980's
- 22. Sandstone wall 1940's
- 23. Queen Elizabeth visit plaque 1954
- 24. Pathways





# **HERITAGE**

## PLANTING STRUCTURE







1. Central pathway with fig tree avenue (Tunks Avenue) 2. Planting helps to define the various spaces throughout the park

There has been a strong history of avenue plantings in St Leonards Park, with many of the first trees located along the pathways and boundaries. Many of these alignments have been maintained through succession planting, allowing much of the original intention and design of the park to be still legible today. Specimen trees are evident throughout the park, and includes many unusual species. Several memorial trees are also evident throughout the park.

- 1. Internal avenues: It is noted in the CMP that these were probably the first tree plantings in the park, with residents raising money to plant Pines, Camphor Laurels and Figs around the time that the park was established (1867 - 1899). Note that the eastern portion of the east/west avenue was not first planted out until the 1930's.
- 2. Northern boundary: Council records indicate that a row of established Pines interspersed with palms were planted on the northern boundary. These were subsequently removed in 1935 and replaced by a line of gums, which still remain on this boundary.
- 3. Western boundary: Council records note that a double row of established Figs were removed from Miller Street in 1936. Again, this could suggest that this boundary was first planted at the time of the park's establishment (1867 - 1899). The removed figs were replaced with Brush box (Lophostemon confertus), which are still evident. The Canary Island Date Palms (Phoenix canariensis) along the north of this boundary are evident in 1930 Council records, suggesting they may have been planted around the same time as the Palms near the War Memorial.
- 4. Southern boundary: Little reference can be found to the plantings on this boundary, however several old, large Fig specimens remain on site today (and established canopies are visible on 1943 aerial imagery). This again could suggest that this boundary was also first planted early on in the park's history.
- 5. Eastern boundary: The eastern boundary has changed dramatically since the construction of the Warringah Freeway. Dense native specimens have been planted since the introduction of the freeway to offer a visual buffer to the busy arterial road.

KEY:	Planting still evident on site	No evidence of planting on site remains
First planted 1867 to 1899:		$\bigcirc$
First planted 1900 to 1929:		$\bigcirc$
First planted 1930 to 1959:		
First planted 1960 to Present	t:	

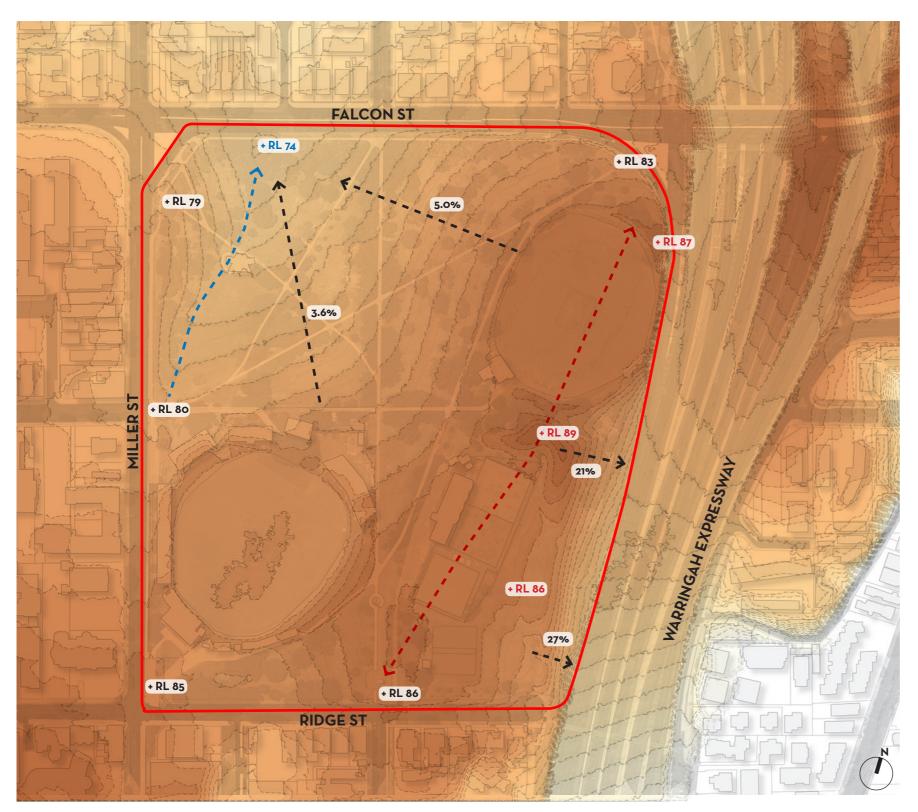






# **PARK STRUCTURE**

# TOPOGRAPHY



A natural ridgeline is located in the eastern portion of the park, and runs roughly north south. Bon Andrews Oval and the Bowling Club are both located along this local high-point.

The land to the west of the ridgeline gently slopes towards the park's low point (RL 74) adjacent to Falcon St in the north. This low point is the location of a drainage pit, which also corresponds to a tributary (now-underground) flowing into Willoughby Creek.

There is a considerable slope in the east of the park (due to the natural landform and construction of the Warringah Freeway in the 1960's), with a sheer cut adjacent to Bon Andrew's Oval, and the land dropping away from the park's highest points in the south-east at a 20 - 27% grade.

Due to the elevation in the east of the park, there are expansive views towards Sydney Harbour and the city beyond.

KEY:

Site Boundary

Spot Height: High Points

**+RL74** Spot Height: Low Point

**•RL80** Spot Height

**← - →** Ridgeline

**←** - Direction of Slope

← - Drainage Line

5.0% Slope Grade



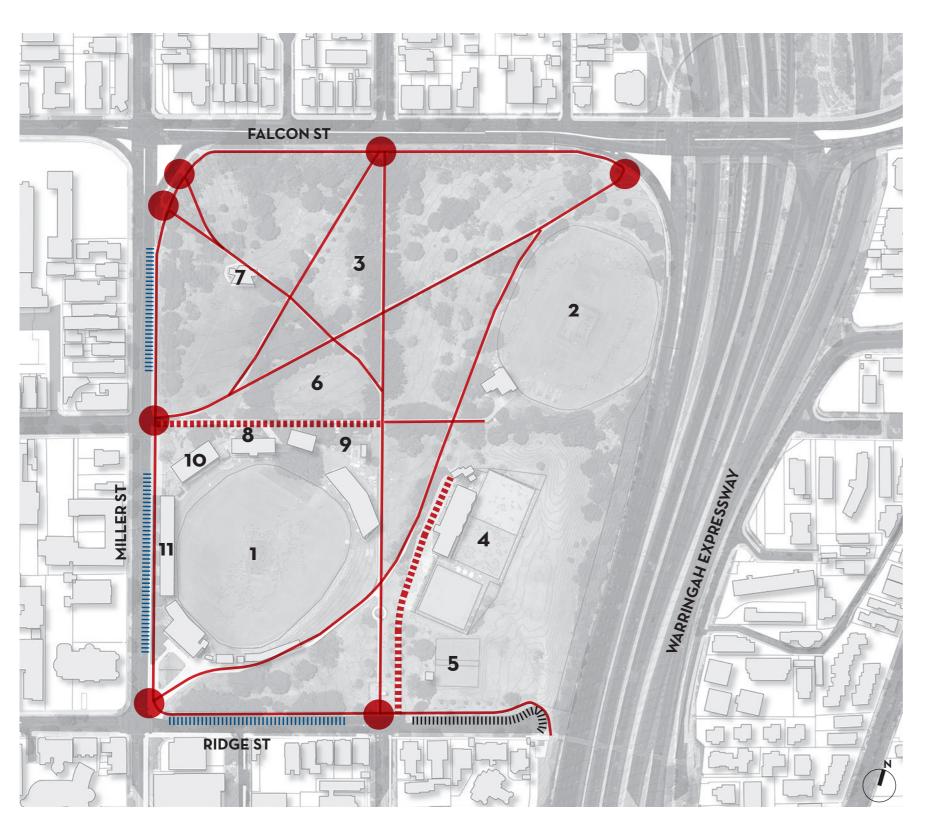






# PARK STRUCTURE

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION



Initially, it was the topography which influenced the path network of St Leonards Park, with the first path diagonally crossing the park laid along the natural ridgeline. However it is the Victorian cross-axial path layout which is most evident in the park today.

There are seven pedestrian entry points located at street intersections along Miller Street, Ridge Street and Falcon Street. These generally correlate with wider neighbourhood connections and desire lines, with the exception of the mid-block entry at Falcon Street.

Pedestrian paths are currently shared with cyclists, causing considerable user conflicts. The Northern Sydney Cycling Map lists the route through St Leonards Park as an "Off-Road Bike Route / Shared Path", with many cyclists using the route during the morning and evening commuting periods.

Destinations in the park include sports facilities such as North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews Oval, The Greens (Bowling Club), junior cricket pitch / lawn and the netball courts. Other destinations include the children's playground, Music Shell / Planet X Youth Centre, KU Grandstand Preschool, Council Depot and the retail and commercial spaces along the Miller Street frontage. St Leonards Park is also a popular destination for unstructured recreation due to the variety of spaces provided, with picnicing, dog walking, exercising and walking popular throughout the park. This variety in destinations ensures the park is frequented by a wide age range of visitors.

Pedestrian Path

Vehicle Access

Formalised Pedestrian Entry Point

IIIIIIII On-Street 90° Parking

IIIIIIII On-Street Parrallel Parking

- 1. North Sydney Oval
- 2. Bon Andrews Oval
- 3. Children's Playground
- 4. Bowling Club (The Greens)
- 5. Netball Courts
- 6. Junior Cricket Lawn
- 7. Music Shell / Planet X Youth Centre
- 8. GU Grandstand Preschool
- 9. Council Depot
- 10. North Sydney Function Centre
- 11. Active Frontages







An analysis of views and landmarks from the surrounding streets was undertaken. The park layout has key entrances located at street corners and at the terminating junctions to surrounding streets. A series of observations have been included in the following text.

**PARK STRUCTURE** 

ENTRANCES AND VIEWS



South-west entrance, showing buildings of North Sydney Oval and forecourt space.



North-west entrance, with two of the area's heritage styled bus shelters and landmark plantings of Canary Island Date Palms)



Row of Lemon-Scented Gums visible along the Falcon Street frontage.

### **Observations:**

- · Visually disparate range of buildings and trees, overhead power lines, furniture, materials etc
- Views into the oval blocked by the grandstands buildings
- Potential to realign path entry to open up a views to the very large Moreton Bay Fig located on the north side of the oval

### **Observations:**

- Line of Canary Island Date Palms define park boundary
- Field Gun is visually obscured by trees, planting and bus shelters
- Temporary signage is currently displayed between palms

### **Observations:**

- Avenue of elevated Lemon Scented Gums along Falcon act as local landmark and allow views through to the park
- Current fencing / wall along the boundary is often used for temporary signage display





# **PARK STRUCTURE**

ENTRANCES AND VIEWS





Southern entrance (Ridge St), showing the War Memorial and plantings of Canary Island Date Palms (which date from the 1920's).

### **Observations:**

- The war memorial is a significant visual landmark framed by Canary Island Date Palms (Phoenix canariensis)
- Worn pedestrian desire lines in lawn at the Ridge Street entrance
- Overhead power lines detract from views from Walker Street



The western entrance (looking along Fig Tree Lane), with recent palms and historical plantings of Moreton Bay and Port Jackson Figs beyond.

### **Observations:**

- Large fig trees and sandstone gateway define the historic lane
- Cocos Palms appear to be recent plantings and detract from historic avenue character.
- Bollards, lighting and signage create visual clutter.
- Conflicts evident between vehicles (delivery trucks & council vehicles), pedestrians and cyclists



Northern entrance, showing large figs (planted in the 1930's) and a more recent garden to deter people from crossing Falcon St at Lytton St to enter the park.

### **Observations:**

- · Historical alignment of oldest Fig tree plantings
- No traffic lights at this location
- Low garden to discourage pedestrian movement across Falcon Street obscures views





# PARK STRUCTURE

ENTRANCES AND VIEWS





View of the park from just inside the north-western entrance, with the Music Shell and scattered specimen tree plantings clearly visible.

### **Observations:**

- Open lawn character defined by landmark trees
- Music Shell at the topographic low point on the edge of the path



Looking along the pathway adjacent to Bon Andrews Oval, with the historic avenue of Figs

#### **Observations:**

- Bon Andrews Oval at high point with distinctive picket fence contributes to the park's heritage character
- Pathway with boundary alignment of figs follows the ridgeline
- Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists due to narrow paths and centrally located light poles
- Formal path with adjacent open lawn areas with scattered trees



Looking north along the central pathway towards Tunks Fountain, with the row of palms clearly evident.

#### **Observations:**

- Tunks Fountain lacks presence and is out of scale in the current context. It is also not currently functioning as a fountain
- Succession plantings of Palms (Washingtonia robusta) used to reinforce few remaining Canary Island Date Palms (Phoenix canariensis)
- Historic avenue of trees to the north removed when the wall surrounding the North Sydney Oval was extended outward
- The North Sydney Oval & surrounding wall negatively affects the character of this area, blocking access and views to the rest of the park to the north







ENTRANCES AND VIEWS





 $\label{thm:continuous} Fantastic\ views\ out\ over\ Sydney\ Harbour,\ thanks\ to\ the\ natural\ topography\ and\ location$ of the park on a high point.

COLLINS AND TURNER



The Sydney CBD and harbour landmarks can be seen from the south-east areas of St Leonards Park.

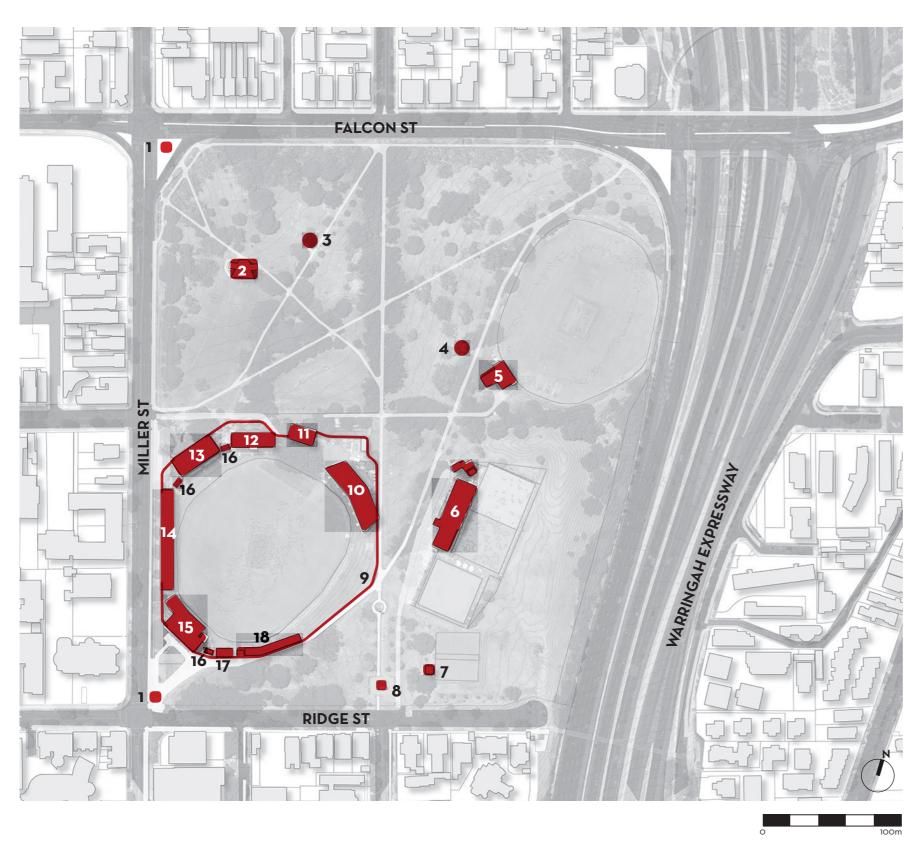
### **Observations:**

- St Leonards Park is located at a high point in the local area, giving the southeastern area of the park commanding views of Sydney Harbour and CBD.
- The topography has been altered through construction of the Warringah Freeway in the 1960's and park works in the 1980's.
- The Bowling Club has expansive views of the Sydney skyline.





BUILT FORM



There are many built structures noted throughout the park, with the majority of these associated with the North Sydney Oval complex. The high concrete/brick wall surrounding the complex forms a physical and visual barrier to the rest of the park, limiting views and access particularly from Ridge Street/ Miller Street Intersection.

Other structures within the park include the Music Shell, the Bowling Club, North Sydney War Memorial and the Cunningham Pavilion. These smaller structures include the public toilets, two picnic shelters and the bus shelters located along the Miller St frontage.





1. Music Shell 2. Wall which runs around the east and south portions of the North Sydney Oval complex

### KEY:

- 1. Former Tram Shelters (Oval Bus Stops) 10. Bob Stand
- 2. Music Shell 11. Council Depot
- 3. Public Toilets 12. Mollie Dive Stand
- 4. Stone picnic shelter 13. Duncan Thompson Stand
- 5. Cunningham Pavilion 14. O'Reilly Stand
- 6. Bowling Club 15. Macartney Stand
- 7. Picnic Shelter 16. Turnstyles
- 8. North Sydney War Memorial 17. Ken Irvine Scoreboard
- 9. Wall surrounding North Sydney Oval 18. Shade structure on 'the hill'





### TREE CONFIGURATIONS





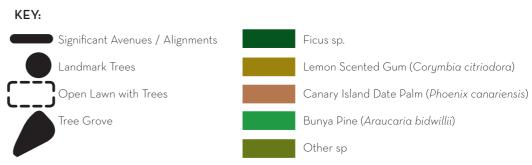






1. Bunya Pines 2. Central avenue of figs 3. Lemon Scented Gums 4. Canary Island Date Palms

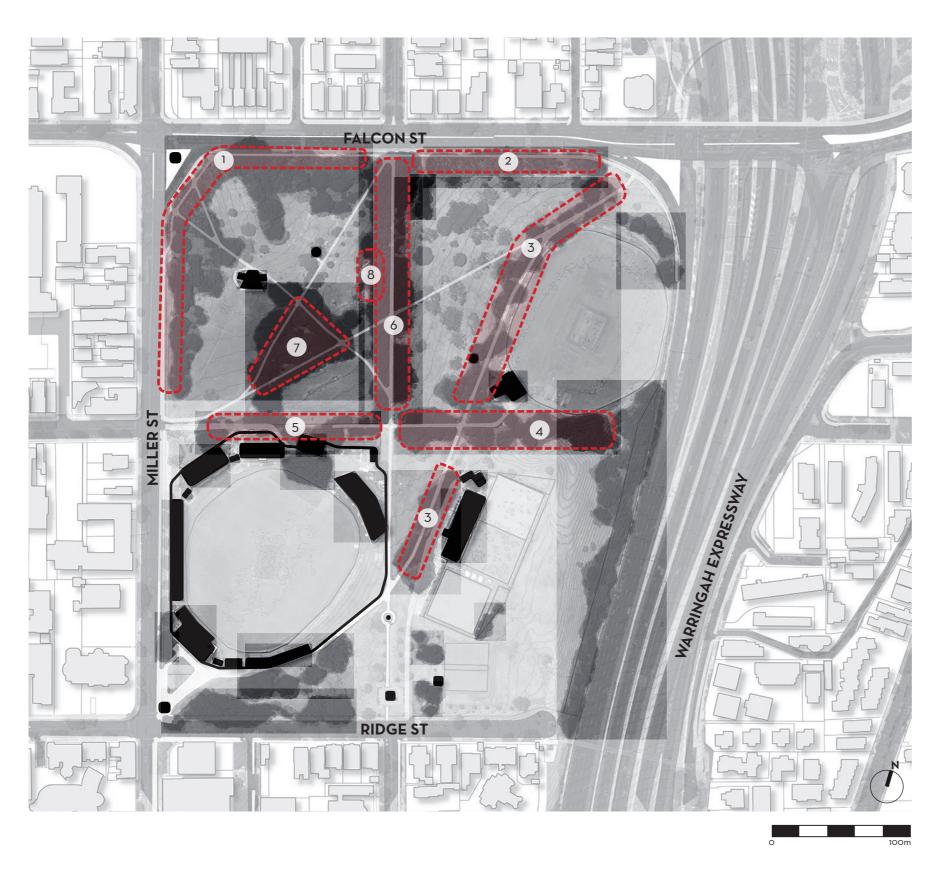
The park is defined by the configuration of tree plantings. Established avenues of trees are evident on the park frontages and on the primary diagonal and axial pedestrian paths. Some of the historic avenues have been removed. Informal groupings of established gums including Argyle Apples (Eucalyptus cinerea) , Scribbly Gums (Eucalyptus haemastoma) and Turpentines (Syncarpia glomulifera) are evident in open lawns areas. Distinctive trees such as the Bunya Bunya Pines (Araucaria bidwillii) and Strangler Fig (Ficus superba var henneana) are local landmarks and mark key locations.



- Mix of species includes: Canary Island Date Palms, Turpentines, Brush Box, Figs, Firewheel Tree, and various Pines and Gums
- Mix of species includes: Turpentines, Kurrajong, Macadamia, Bunya Pines, and Palms including Cocos, Kentia, and various Fan Palms
- Mix of species includes: Brushbox and variety of gums including Scribbly Gums, Lemon Scented Gums, Argyle Apples, Ironbark and Red Bloodwood



### SPATIAL STRUCTURE: AVENUES & ENCLOSED GARDENS



The configuration of buildings, paths and tree plantings have created a series of distinct park spaces. The closely planted avenues of trees have created a series of enclosed spaces throughout the park. These include the north/south and east/west axial tree lined paths (6,4,5). Other avenues include the border planting on the north and west (2,1)

The enclosed garden spaces include the tree grove located between the triangular pathway in the north western corner of the park (5) and the children's playground (1). These spaces feel contained, and have their own distinct character and 'garden' feel.





1. Central Avenue - Tunks Avenue (#6) 2. Rainforest-Type planting (#7)







Park Space

2. North Border Plantings

3. Diagonal Path Avenue

4. East/west Fig Tree Avenue

5. Fig Tree Lane

1. North/East Border plantings 6. North/south Fig Tree Avenue (Tunks Avenue)

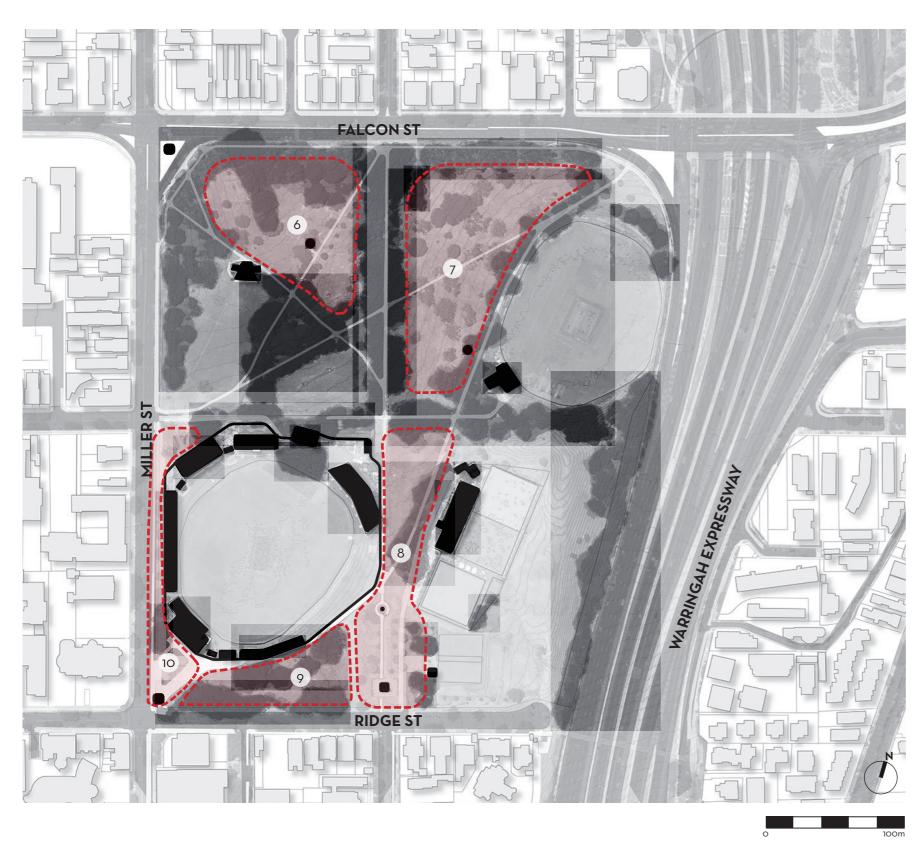
7. Rainforest-type Planting

8. Children's Playground





## SPATIAL STRUCTURE: SEMI-ENCLOSED SPACES



The semi-enclosed spaces of St Leonards Park include scattered trees in lawn, creating an 'open woodland' feel. These areas are designed in the 'gardenesque' style. Species vary; in elevated north-east areas (7), lighter canopied gums dominate creating a visually open vista. In the lower lying north-west areas (6) rainforest trees and pines create a more intimate park spaces.

Park areas to the south are visually defined by the North Sydney Oval wall that creates a boundary to this area of the park.





1. North-west park (#6) 2. North-east park (#7)







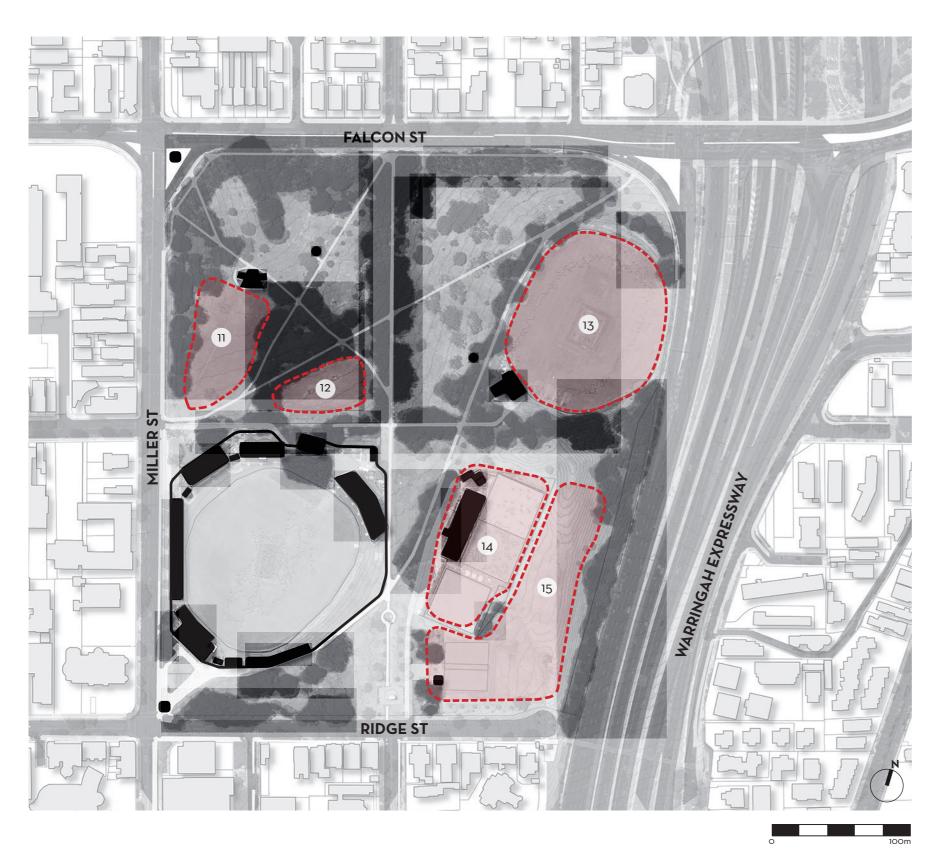
Park Space

- 6. North-West Park
- 7. North-East Park
- 8. Southern North-South Avenue
- 9. South Park
- 10. 15. Miller St Edge & Oval Entrances





## SPATIAL STRUCTURE: OPEN AREAS



Formal and informal park areas are located in the park. These include Bon Andrew's Oval (13), the junior cricket wicket and lawn (12), the Bowling Club (14) and the eastern plateau and harbour view lawn including the Netball Courts (15). The lawn in front of the music shell (11) also provides space for community events and concerts held in the park.

The eastern open areas, located at the highest points in the park, provide district views of Sydney Harbour and the Sydney CBD.





1. Bon Andrews Oval (#13) 2. Eastern Plateau and Harbour View Lawn(#15)



Built Form

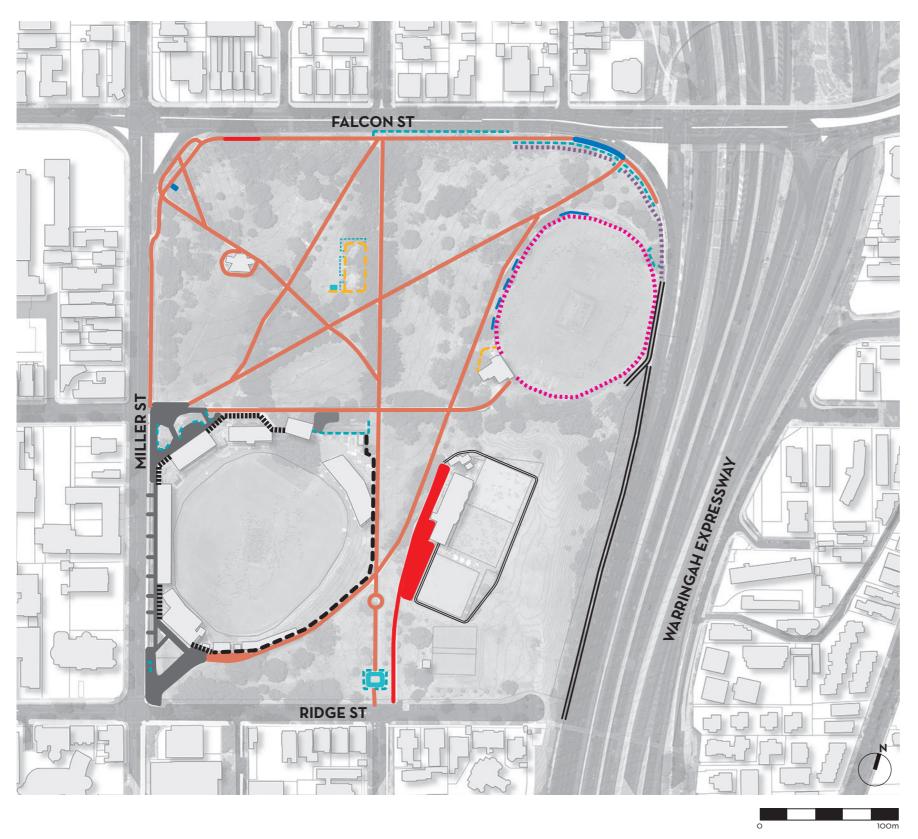


Park Space

- 11. Music Shell Lawn
- 12. Junior Cricket Wicket & Lawn
- 13. Bon Andrews Oval
- 14. Bowling Club
- 15. Eastern Plateau, Harbour View Lawn & Netball Courts



### PAVING, WALLS AND EDGES



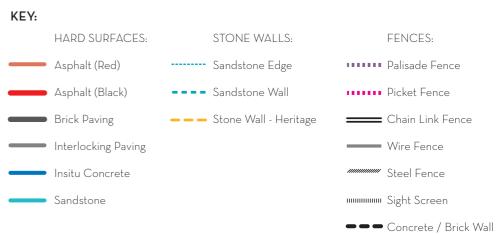




1. Bon Andrews Oval 2. Wall surrounding the North Sydney Oval complex

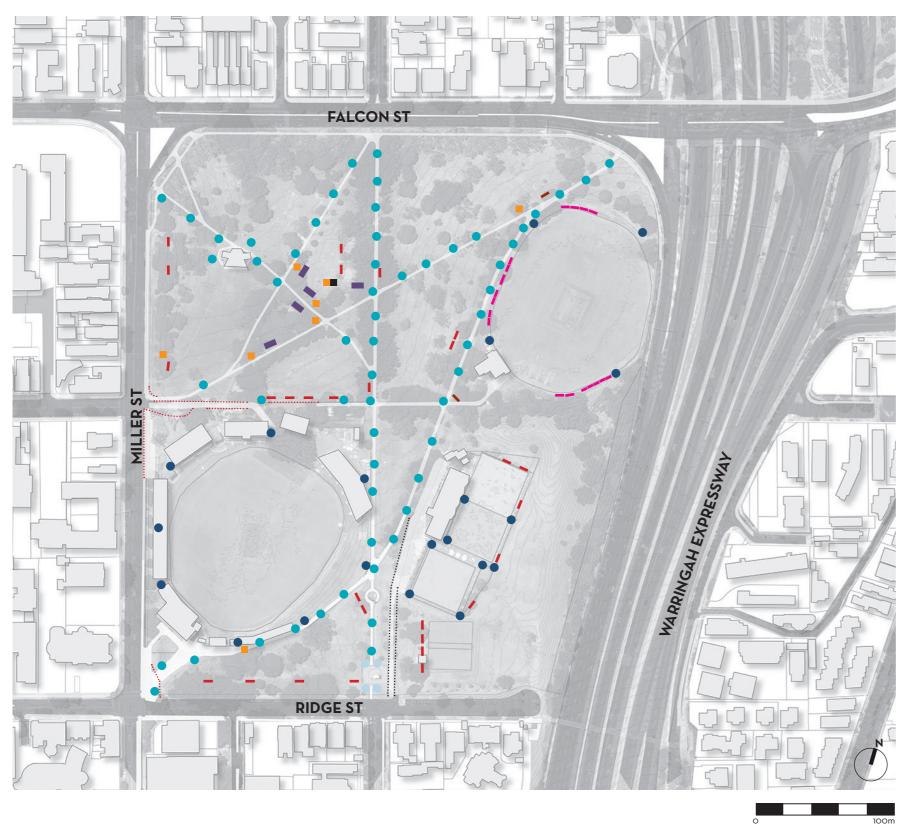
In many areas park paths are worn and deteriorated with uneven edges. Asphalt paving has been used on most pathways. Brick surfacing has been used at entrances to North Sydney Oval, and on the Miller St frontage. A small area of sandstone paving defines the North Sydney War Memorial, along with sandstone edging and walling.

Stone walls and archways built in the depression-era define the playground, and are evident on the western boundary of the Cunningham Pavilion. The picket fence provides a distinctive character to the Bon Andrews Oval. Palisade fences are located on the northeastern boundary of the park. While the simple palette creates a unified park character, the degraded and worn finish on some surfacing detracts from the park.





## FURNITURE









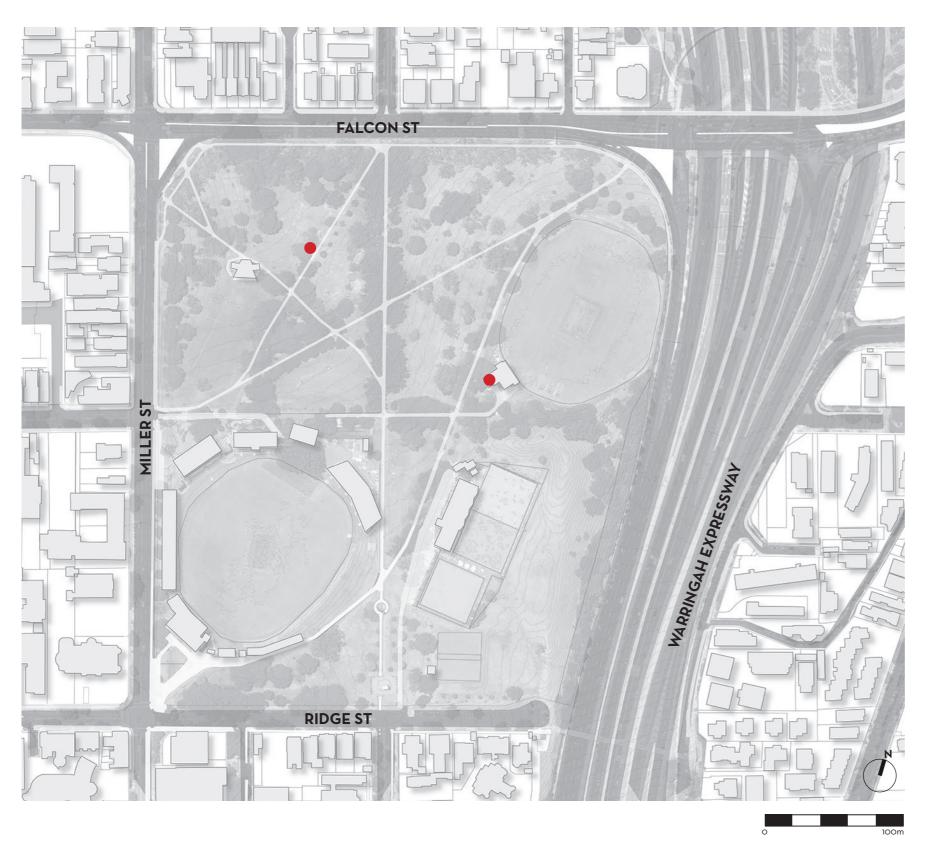
1. Light Pole 2 & 3. Park Benches

The existing park furniture largely consists of items which were part of the 1980's park upgrade, which now are quite dated. Benches (3 different styles) and picnic tables are scattered throughout the park, however seating is lacking along the major pathways. There are a lot of wheelie bins located throughout the park, and one older style BBQ located next to the children's playground.

The red post-top light poles are particularly prominent due to both their colouring and central placement on some of the pathways. This configuration creates circulation issues and conflicts between users. Flood lighting is used in the vicinity of both Ovals at the Bowling Green at to the War Memorial.



TOILETS











Photos detailing the conditions of the public toilet block

The toilet block near the Music Shell and children's playground is in a deteriorated condition and needs upgrading. The roof is in very poor condition and the interior is degraded.

A new toilet facility has been provided in the recent upgrade and extention to the Cunningham Pavilion, next to Bon Andrews Oval.

KEY:

Toilets



### PLAYGROUND











1. Playground entrance, part of the depression-era walling which surrounds the playground 2. Current playground equipment 3. Depression-era walling 4. Shade shelter, seating and bubbler

The children's playground is a well-loved and well-used feature of St Leonards Park. It was last upgraded in 2001 and features swings, a sand pit with diggers, climbing equipment for different age groups, a round-about, an area with musical instruments and pathway with painted activities including snakes and ladders. The playground also provides accessible equipment including arm operated swings, and is suitable for children from toddlers through to primary school aged children.

Despite being well-used, the playground currently only caters to a limited age range. The playground is currently surrounded by 1930's depression era stone walling, with seating, a shade structure and bubblers located within the playground area. A BBQ is also located close by.



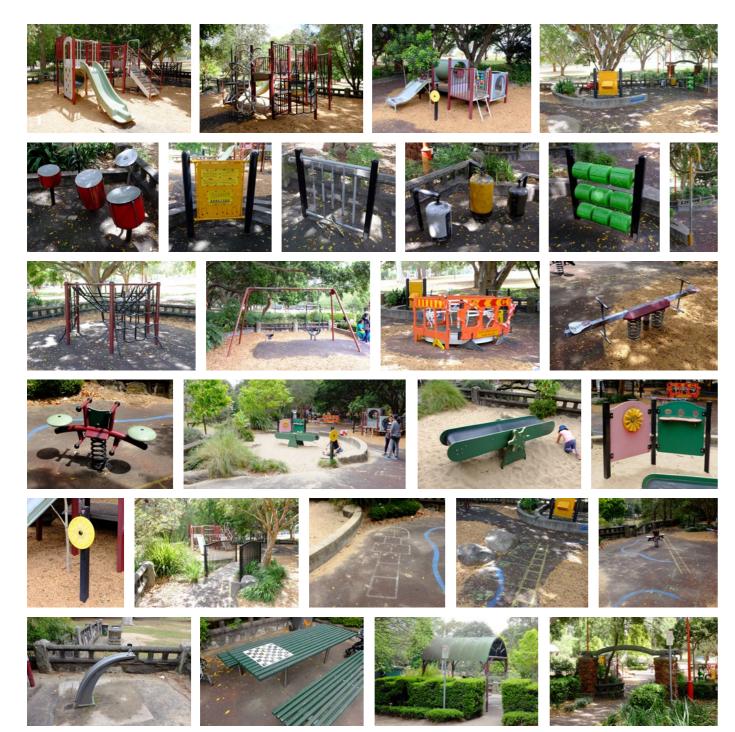


Playground



# **PARK SPACES**

## EXISTING PLAYGROUND: INVENTORY

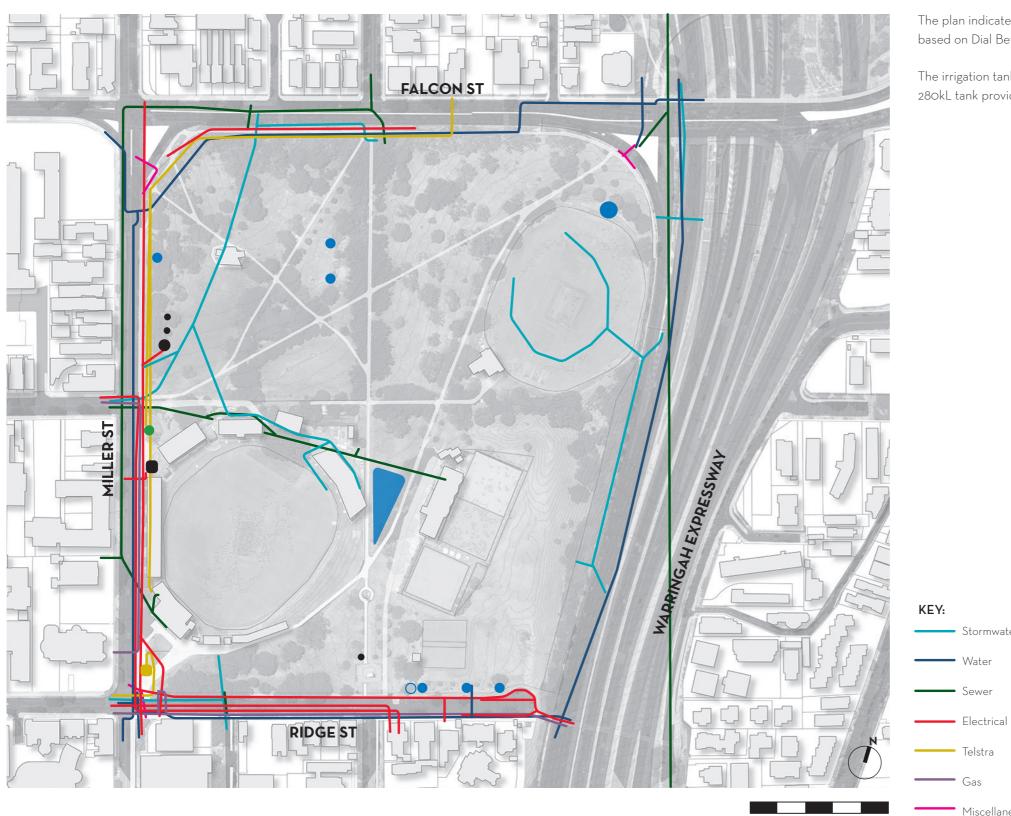


ITEM	FEATURES	CONDITION	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION
large play structure	Steel frame with steel and plastic elements.      slide     fireman's pole     tunnel     climbing wall     climbing nets     climbing hoops     stairs     plastic 'tightrope'     shopfront	Fair condition	Replace
play structure	Steel frame with steel, plastic and timber elements.      slide     tunnel     abacus     mirror     long ramp     stairs	Poor condition	Replace
'music room'	Musical items in steel and plastic, gathered together in space surrounded by low wall and garden	Poor condition	Upgrade and expand
climbing structure	Steel frame with plastic / rubber covered chain 'netting'	Good condition	Relocate
swings	1 x accessible swing, 1 x swing for small children	Moderate condition	Upgrade
merry-go-round	Steel construction with seat and table / spinner (currently broken)	Poor condition	Replace
see saws	1 x larger steel spring styled see saw 1 x smaller plastic spring styled see saw	Good condition	Upgrade
sand pit	Sand pit surrounded by low wall and garden with play items	Good condition	Upgrade and expand.
number dials	Number dial on pole in 3 locations throughout playground	Good condition	Relocate
ground games	Painted on soft fall throughout playground  Hopskotch Snakes and Ladders	Poor condition	Upgrade



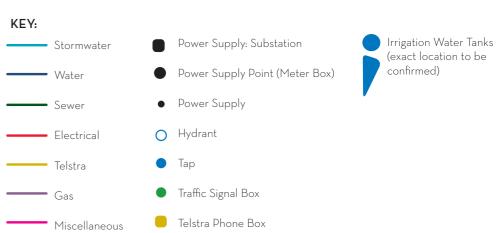


### SERVICES AND UTILITIES



The plan indicates existing services located in the Park. This is an indicative layout only based on Dial Before your Dig information. Detailed investigation is required.

The irrigation tanks in the park are part of the North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project. The 280kL tank provides irrigation for North Sydney Oval and Bon Andrews Oval.





### DRAINAGE: PEAK FLOOD DEPTH AND FLOOD LEVEL CONTOURS 1% AEP







1. Music Shell as viewed from the front 2. Rear of the Music Shell, where you can see that the surrounding lawn slopes down towards the back entrance

Council's stormwater drainage system enters St Leonards Park at Carlow Street in the west, and heads in a north-easterly direction under the park, exiting the park opposite Bardsley Gardens. All of the stormwater runoff generated within the park drains to the north-western corner of the park where it connects with Council's main stormwater drainage system.

There are constraints in the stormwater pipe capacity within St Leonards Park, resulting in stormwater ponding during storms.. The area of ponding is within the north-western corner of the park - the park's lowest point - directly to the north of the Music Shell. Whilst this is a hazard within the park, it has been designed to alleviate flooding further downstream (to Miller Street and the north).

Discussions with staff from Planet X Youth Group based in the Music Shell indicate that stormwater flooding frequently occurs, flooding the basement level of the building.

### KEY:

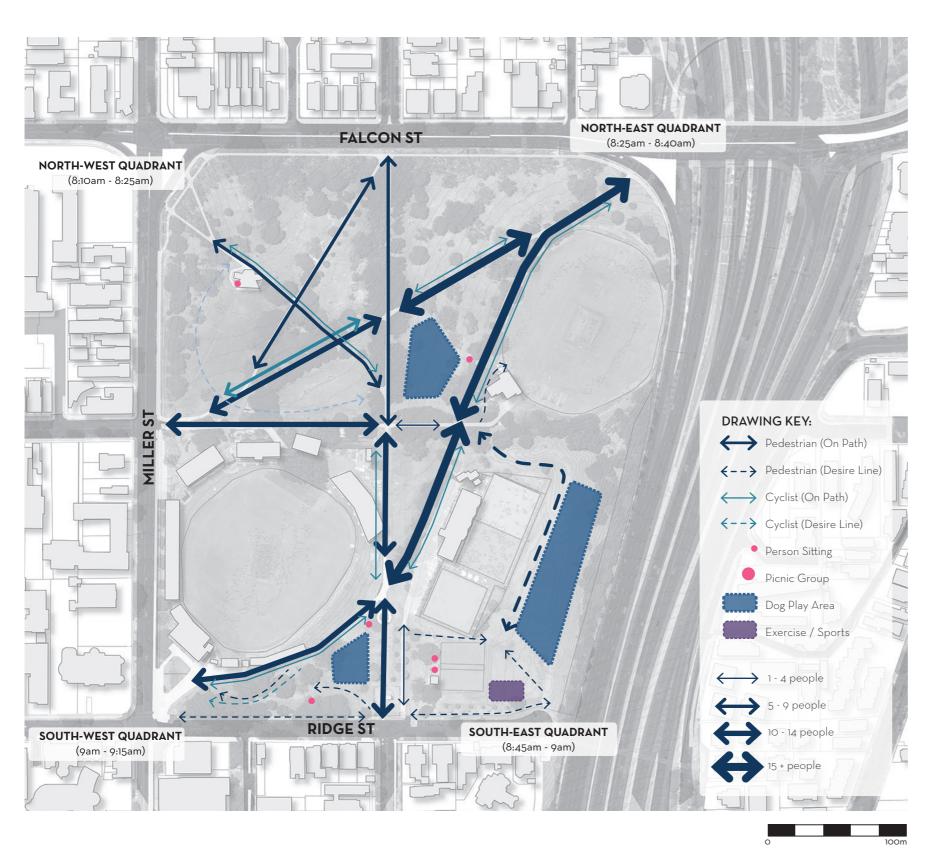


Map data sourced from: North Sydney LGA Flood Study Final Report, February 2017

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Building\_Development/Other\_ Planning\_Documents/North\_Sydney\_LGA\_Wide\_Flood\_Study

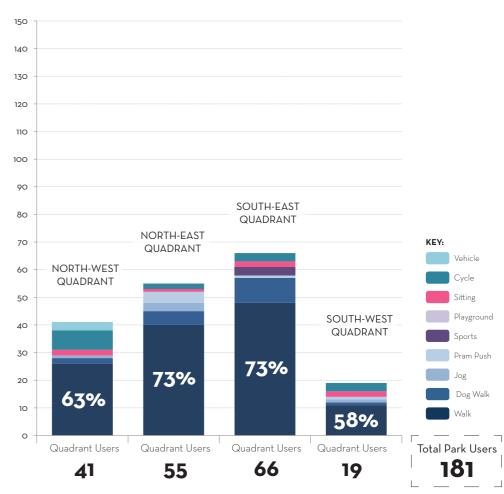


## OBSERVATIONS: MORNING (8:15AM - 9:15AM)



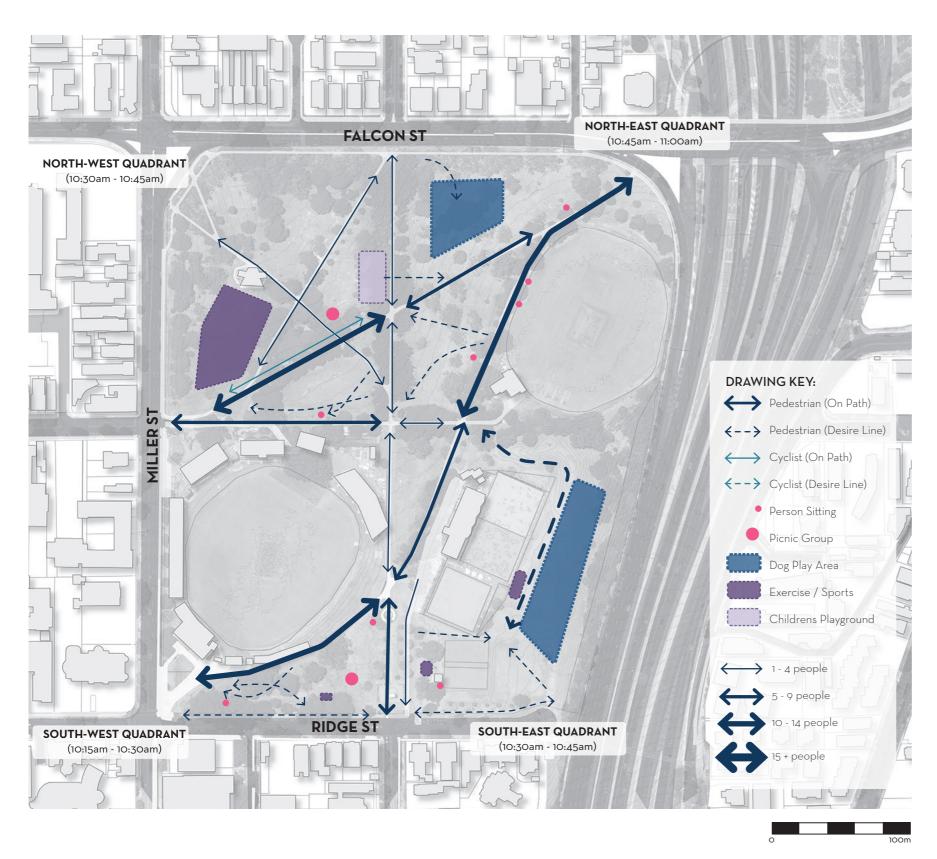
Each quadrant was observed for the duration of 15 minutes.

The morning commute featured heavy pedestrian traffic travelling from the north-east park entrance through to the southern park entrances, reflecting commuter foot traffic.



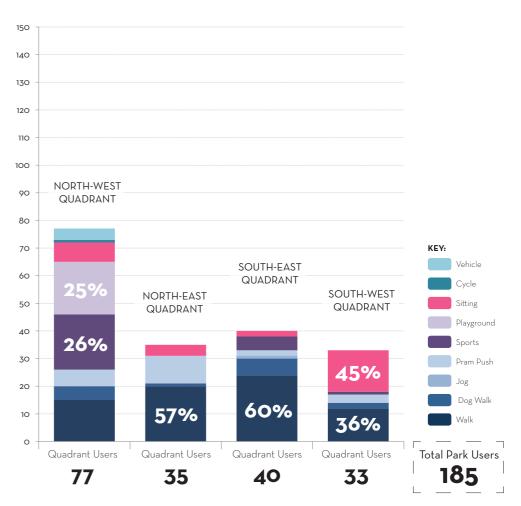


## OBSERVATIONS: MID-MORNING (10:15AM - 11:00AM)



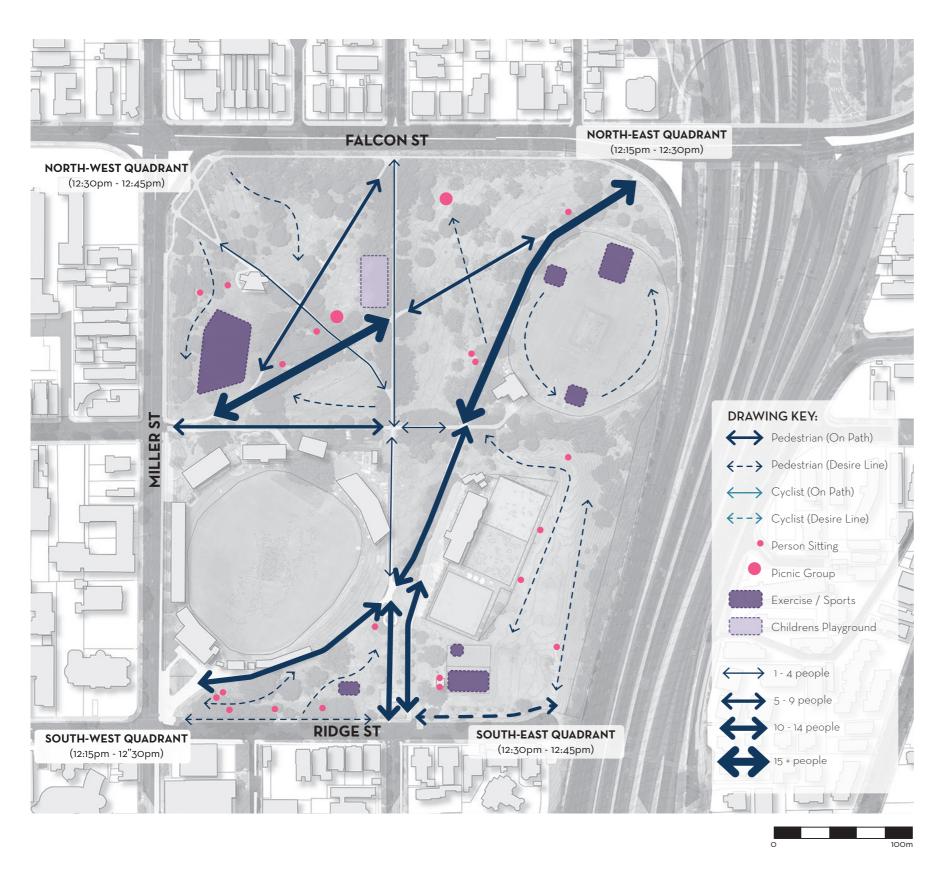
Each quadrant was observed for the duration of 15 minutes.

The mid-morning period featured many dog-walkers and parents with small children, along with school groups starting to use the park for sports lessons.



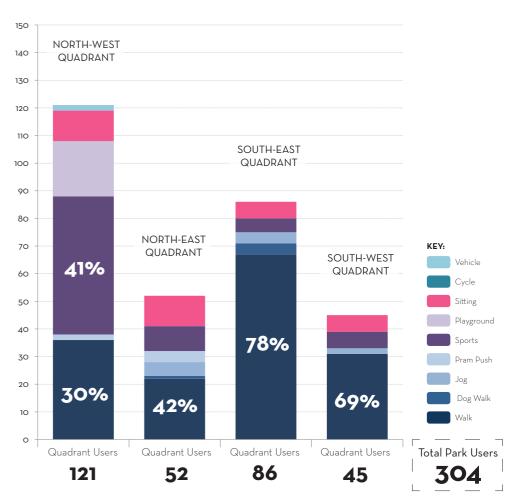


## OBSERVATIONS: LUNCHTIME (12:15PM - 12:30PM)



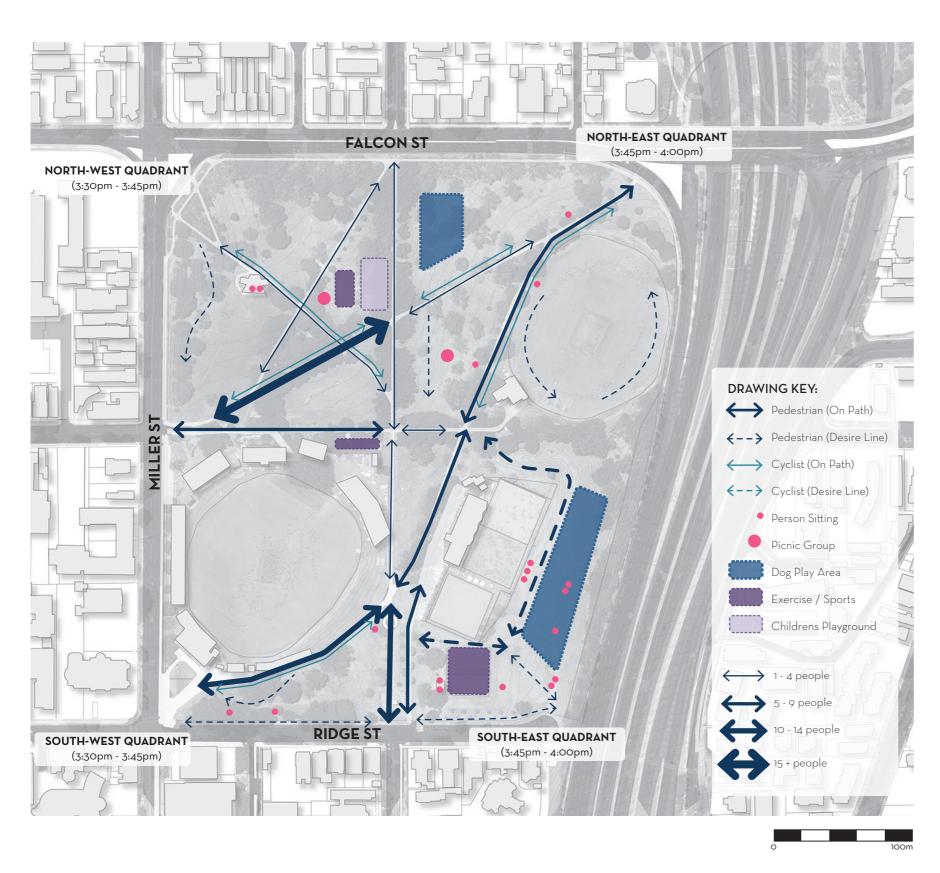
Each quadrant was observed for the duration of 15 minutes.

There were many workers visiting the park during lunchtime to eat lunch or exercise. Parents with small children were also evident. There was also a group of adults playing social sport in the north-west quadrant during the observation period.



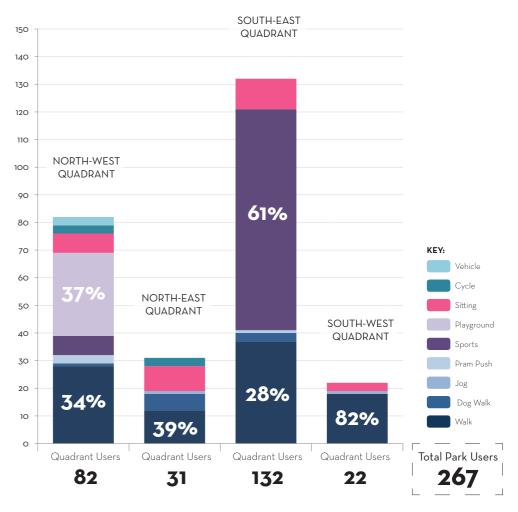


## OBSERVATIONS: AFTER SCHOOL (3:30PM - 4:00PM)



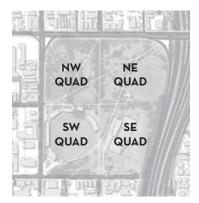
Each quadrant was observed for the duration of 15 minutes.

The after school period saw a large group of school children using the netball courts. The playground and surrounding area were populated by young school-aged children and their

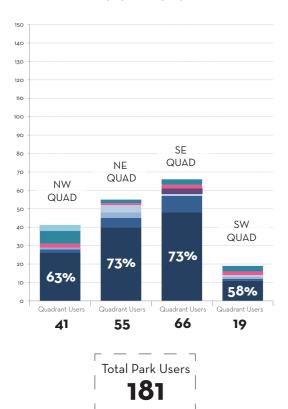




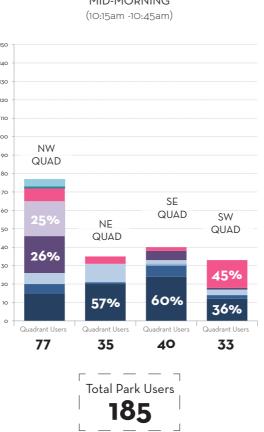
### **OBSERVATIONS: SUMMARY**



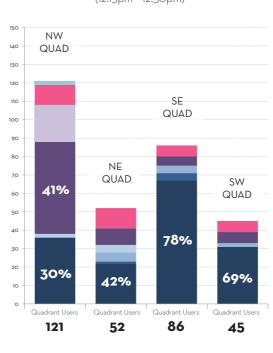
MORNING (8:15am - 9:15am)







LUNCH (12:15pm - 12:30pm)



Total Park Users

31

QUAD

AFTERNOON

(3:30pm - 4:00pm)

QUAD

34%

82

QUAD

61%

28%

132

SW

QUAD

82%

22

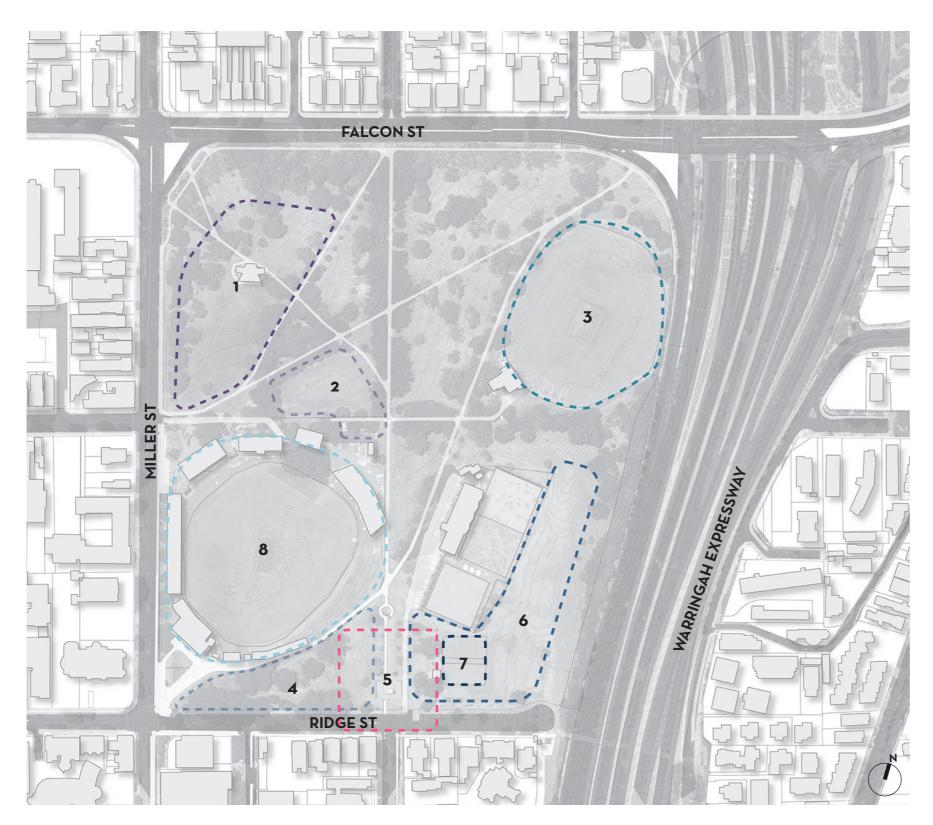
Total Park Users 304

The period with the lowest number of recorded use observed in the park was during the morning commute, with 181 users counted.

The period with the highest number of recorded use observed was during lunchtime, with 304 users counted. This included groups of workers playing sport, and large numbers of visitors walking throughout the park.



## USER GROUPS (ORGANISED/EVENTS)



Please refer to table. The park has very high weekly usage with fitness classes, informal sports groups and school groups using the open lawn spaces. There are less frequent events using the music shell and feedback has indicated that this may be due to the lack of all-weather protection and on site power. Less frequent events such as the ANZAC Dawn Service are significant and evidence indicates that usage is increasing.

Evidence indicates that there are high volumes of use in the open lawn areas, particularly by school groups in the north-eastern areas of the park. This may require higher levels of maintenance and management, particularly of worn and degraded lawn areas. The community has raised concerns in regards to damage of sensitive heritage items such as significant trees and the war memorial by exercise groups.

	WEEKDAY MORNING	WEEKDAY	WEEKDAY EVENING	WEEKEND	ANNUAL EVENT
1. Music Shell & Surrounds:					
Fitness Classes					
Lunchtime worker's social sports					
School PE & Sports Lessons					
Youth Centre Activities					
Qigong in the Park					
Community Events (Concerts etc)					
2. Junior Cricket Pitch:					
Junior Cricket Club Training					
Milo Cricket (Oct/Nov/Dec)					
3. Bon Andrews Oval					
Lunchtime worker's social sports					
Fitness Classes					
High School Running Group					
School Athletics & Sports Canivals					
Regional Sporting Events					
4. Area under Fig trees on Ridge St					
Primary School Lunchtime Playground					
5. War Memorial					
ANZAC Day Dawn Service					
Commemorative Events					
6. Area around Netball Courts					
Fitness Classes					
High School PE & Sports Lessons					
Primary School Lunchtime Playground					
7. Netball Courts					
High School PE & Sports Afternoons					
Inter-School Netball Competition					
Social Netball Competition					
School Sports Team Training					
NORTH SYDNEY OVAL COMPLEX:					
8. North Sydney Oval					
Regional & National Sporting Events					

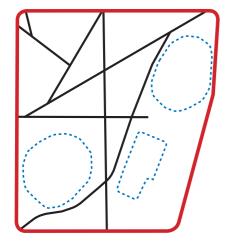
Note: Whilst North Sydney Oval is excluded from this Landscape Master Plan, the use of the complex impacts on the park, particularily when large numbers of people arrive and leave.

Community Events (Concerts etc)





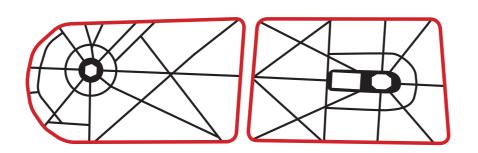
## SCALE COMPARISONS

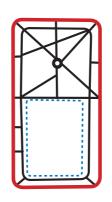


ST LEONARDS PARK,

**NORTH SYDNEY** 

AREA: 15ha





### HERITAGE PARKS: SCALE COMPARISONS

St Leonards Park is a heritage park, and shares similarities with Hyde Park in Sydney's CBD, and Redfern Park in City of Sydney Coucil. Redfern Park shares a similarity with St Leonards Park in that they are both Victorian-era heritage parks, and both contain large-scale sports facilities. Redfern Park is about one third of the size of St Leonards Park.

HYDE PARK SYDNEY CBD

AREA: 16.2 ha

REDFERN PARK SYDNEY CBD

AREA: 4.5ha

KEY:

----- Sports Facility

Circulation

Site Boundary







Central avenue, Redfern Park

Central avenue, St Leonards Park Central avenue, Hyde Park

### VICTORIAN-ERA (1837 - 1901) PARKS IN NSW

















1. Wide gravel pathways with avenue jacaranda trees and a bandstand in the lawn (Victoria Park, Dubbo, 1871).
2. Dubbo War Memorial is located at the junction of several paths at the entrance to Victoria Park (Victoria Park, Dubbo, 1871).
3. Asymmetric avenue trees and understory garden planting along a gravel pathway (Albury Botanic Gardens).
4. Lawns, floral displays and cultural plantings (Albury Botanic Gardens, Albury, 1871-77).
5. Fountain (1899) commemmorating a local figure. Interestingly, this fountain is a duplicate of the Diamond Jubilee Fountain which was formerly located in St Leonards Park (Belmore Park, Goulburn, 1867).
6. A monument commemmorating a local figure is located at the junction of two axial pathways and framed with floral displays (Belmore Park, Goulburn, 1867).
7. A fountain sits at the junction of cross-axial pathways, framed by Canary Island Date Palms (Redfern Park, Sydney, 1885).
8. Trees are scattered in the lawns surrounding the bandstand (Prince Alfred Square).

### The Conservation Management Plan notes:

"St Leonards Park displays the principal characteristics of a nineteenth century gardenesque style urban park. The place has significance as a representative example of a Victorian era park and displays key characteristics that are typical of public parks within NSW including axial paths, avenue plantings of ficus species, specimen trees, open grassed areas, war memorials, fountains, cricket pitches and sporting ovals." (p86)

COLLINS AND TURNER

#### Common characteristics of Victorian-era parks are:

- Paths: Often featuring symmetrical or axial layouts and using gravel as the surface material, paths were provided to encourage walking
- Trees: Avenue and border plantings featured, with horticultral variety common throughout a park
- Focal Points / Statues & Monuments: items were located to create focal points, often at the junctions of pathways
- Variety of spaces: Active and passive recreation spaces were provided, often with paths or tree plantings used to demarcate areas and separate or screen the uses
- Sporting Grounds: Included as another way to improve the health of citizens, spaces for cricket, tennis, bowls and later football were commonly provided
- Playgrounds: Specific facilities for children were quite common





### PARKS WITH SPORTS FACILITIES: REDFERN PARK













1. Continuous views from the Oval to the park are achieved by swing gates which remain open whilst the Oval is not in use. 2. The swing gates are open and allow public access and views. 3. The old gates have been retained. 4. A heritage fountain has recently been restored, with the surrounding garden and fence removed. 5. Recently upgraded park furniture. 6. The Redfern War Memorial has had its former setting of a low chain fence removed and is now much more integrated into the park.

### Redfern Park is successful in the following areas:

- Heritage park with sports field: The heritage of the park has been successfully retained whilst still allowing a high-standard sports field to function
- Connection: The sporting ground is clearly visible from the rest of the park and gates open when the sports ground is not in use
- Classic Victorian park structure: The park features symmetrical cross axial paths with avenues of cultural tree plantings and a fountain as the central focus where the paths cross. The surrounding settings of the War Memorial and fountain have also been opened up, allowing the monuments to more effectively integrate and be appreciated in the historical park layout
- Park Furniture: The park furniture is modern and does not attempt to masquerade as heritage items, maintaining the integrity and authenticity of the heritage items throughout the park





### IMPROVING AMENITY IN HERITAGE PARKS



1. The palm grove is densley planted with a variety of species (Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney). 2. Garden edging helps to give definition to the park spaces (St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh). 3. Asymmetrical border planting provides a buffer to the edge of the park (Albury Botanic Gardens, Albury). 4. Garden beds with paths and seating provide places for prospect and refuge (French garden). 5. Fountains provide a focal point and are surrounded by seating and low gardens (The People's Park, Dun Laoghaire). 6. Seating edge along a path (St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh). 7. Modern seating references this Victorian-era park's former use as a quarry (The People's Park, Dun Laoghaire).

### Lessons from heritage parks (illustrated above) and opportunities for St Leonards Park:

- 'Palm Grove': Strengthens the existing character of the rainforest planted area (north east quadrant) and builds on the existing horticultural diversity in this zone (succession planting)
- Low border gardens / plantings: Provides buffer to busy surrounding streets and reinforces the park's boundaries whilst maintaining important site lines into the park. Garden beds also allow opportunity for WSUD in the north east quadrant where drainage issues exist
- Seating and edges: Seating provides a place for outlook, relaxation and respite. Using seating in conjunction with edge treatments can help define the different spaces which exist within the park.
- Horticultural interest: Builds on the existing gardenesque character of the park and provides horticultural interest in a garden setting
- Maintenance: low gardens can help deal with current lawn degradation and maintenance issues due to the dense canopies and high amounts of shade under significant fig trees (e.g. south west quadrant)





## LIGHTING OPPORTUNITIES



1. Green Point Cenotaph lighting was designed to be subtle yet highlight the sandstone and lettering. 2. Uplighting can highlight significant trees at night and provide visual interest. 3. Bollard lighting can be subtle while improving pedestrian amenity. 4. Lighting could be used on Tunks Fountain to reinforce its promenance and importance in the park. 5. Central avenue lighting would reinforce the importance of pathway alignments and significance of Tunks Avenue.

### Lessons from lighting precedents (illustrated above) and opportunities for St Leonards Park:

- Feature lighting: Highlighting important heritage items such as the War Memorial, Tunks Fountain and significant trees after dark
- Bollard Lighting: Low-level lighting to minimise visual impact on views and vistas
- Pedestrian Amenity: Utility lighting to improve pedestrian amenity and safety at night time





### **ANALYSIS: SUMMARY**

ISSUES











### **CIRCULATION**

- Lamp posts are hindering circulation due to their central placement on some pathways
- Conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists on Fig Tree Lane
- Conflict on internal pathways between pedestrians and commuter cyclists

### **USAGE**

- Very high usage
- Conflict between certain users
- Commuter cyclists using the park as a thoroughfare
- Practice wicket is not currently of a 1st grade
- Children's playground caters to a limited
- Restricted use of Music Shell lawn, particularly for events due to stormwater drainage issues in that location

### **AMENITY**

- Public toilets in the west of the park are dilapidated and are in need of an upgrade
- Seating is dated and not frequently located
- Lack of seating choice
- Lighting is located in the middle of already narrow pathways and are visually obtrusive
- Noise and visual impact of traffic, particularly on the Falcon St edge
- Lawn maintenance issues with the lawn under the figs in the south western corner of the park due to the dense canopies and low light levels
- Ponding of water in the north-western corner and regular flooding of the Music Shell during high rainfall events

### **CHARACTER**

- Items from the 1980's upgrade of the park often clash with the heritage character of
- Clutter is having a negative visual impact
- Materiality is worn out and in need of repair in many locations. e.g. Asphalt pathways throughout the park is worn along the edges, park furniture is dated.

### **BARRIERS**

- The North Sydney Oval complex is hindering movement and visual connections throughout the park
- Wall surrounding the North Sydney Oval complex is visually undesirable





### **ANALYSIS: SUMMARY**

### **OPPORTUNITIES**











### **CIRCULATION**

- Improve path usability: address the issue of the lamp posts being in the middle of the pathways; and the narrow path widths & damaged surfacing
- Improve park entrances: Maintain landmark trees and provide succession planting; remove clutter to provide clarity to park entrances
- Minimise user conflict on Fig Tree Lane
- Minimise conflict on internal paths

#### **USAGE**

- Protect landmark trees: provide succession planting for avenue Figs, landmark plantings of various Palms, and the scattered border plantings of Gums
- Clarify & update materials: Potential to upgrade park furniture and materials palette to provide a more appropriate response to the park's heritage character
- Restore Tunks Fountain to working order and improve its setting, giving it new life and acknowledging its historical importance

COLLINS AND TURNER

Reinforce the importance of the War Memorial on the Ridge Street frontage

### **AMENITY**

- Upgrade park furniture: look at upgrading the seating, lighting and bollards to provide a more harmonious effect on the park
- · Upgrade public toilets and potentially relocate them to a more suitable location
- Improve the amenity of the southern areas: find a solution for the degraded lawn under the figs in the south west area of the park.
- Opportunity to turn well-worn desire lines (ie southern boundary) into new pathways
- Re-design entrance to the lower ground floor of the Music Shell so as to minimise flooding from storm events
- Acknowledge existing drainage system and incorporate creek / stormwater treatment elements into areas of overland stormwater flooding in the north-western section of the
- Incorporate passive irrigation by directing sections of pathways into garden beds with higher water demands

### **CHARACTER**

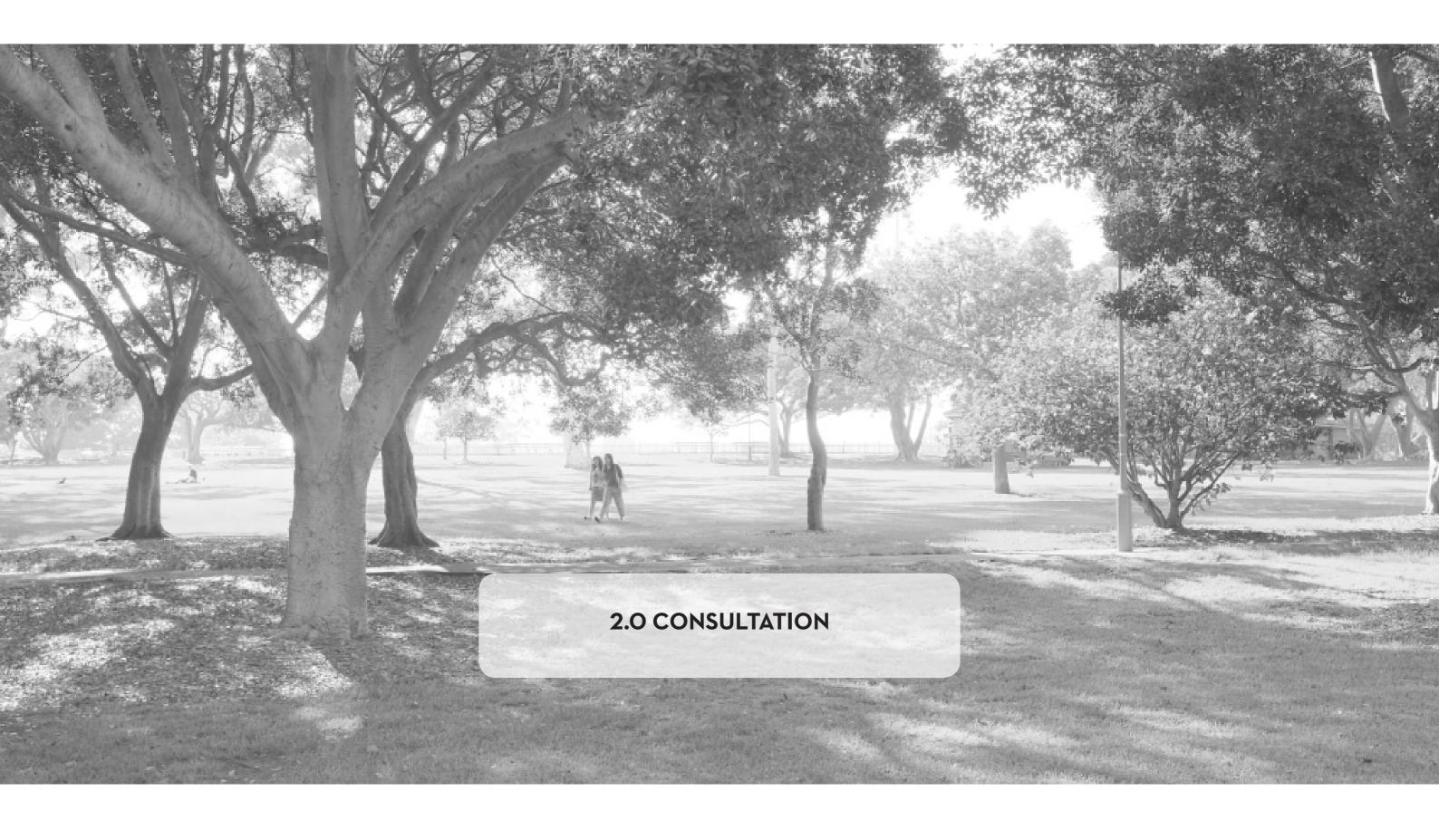
- Protect landmark trees: provide succession planting for avenue Figs, landmark plantings of various Palms, and the scattered border plantings of Gums
- Clarify & update materials: Potential to upgrade park furniture and materials palette to provide a more appropriate response to the park's heritage character
- Restore Tunks Fountain to working order and improve its setting, giving it new life and acknowledging its historical importance
- Reinforce the importance of the War Memorial on the Ridge Street frontage

#### **BARRIERS**

Improve visual impact of the wall surrounding the North Sydney Oval complex











### **OVFRVIEW**

#### STAGE 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Surveys were available online via North Sydney Council's website. Intercept surveys were also conducted on a number of dates and locations (details below)



Known stakeholders were directly contacted for interviews. Stakeholders ncluded: the local RSL, bowling club, child care / OSHC centres, schools, youth centres, community centre, sporting groups, community groups, residents and state government agencies



Written submissions were received from sporting groups and community members

2016 STAGE 1 CONSULTATION START 9THAUG



#### STAGE 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### SURVEYS WERE AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA COUNCIL'S WEBSITE





Five pop up stalls were set up in May and a community workshop was conducted in June 2017. These focused on gathering feedback on developed principles and Park Improvement ideas

COLLINS AND TURNER

Written submissions were received

#### 5 POP UP STALLS & 1 X COMMUNITY WORKSHOP WERE CONDUCTED

Community consultation was undertaken throughout the development of the Landscape Master Plan.

Stage 1 consultation involved gathering information to understand how the park is currently used and valued to inform ideas for improvement. This included conducting surveys, staff workshops and stakeholder interviews, and reviewing submissions.

A total of 457 surveys were completed between 19 August 2016 to 3 February 2017.

The survey was available online via a link provided on the Council's website and intercept surveys were conducted onsite at St Leonards Park, and off site during the Northside, Markets and Twilight Food Fair (Civic Park). Intercept surverys were conducted on the following dates:

- St Leonards Park: 29/08/16, 30/08/16. 03/09/16, 15/12/16
- Twilight Food Fair (Civic Park): 16/12/16
- Big Bash St Leonards Park: 20/01/17
- Northside Markets (Civic Park): 21/01/17
- Twilight Food Fair (Civic Park): 27/01/17

Eleven Council staff attended a community workshop on 25 July 2016.

Thirty-two known stakeholders were contacted between 19 August 2016 to 16 September 2016.

The stateholders included:

- 1 RSI
- 3 child care/OSHC centres
- 1 community centre
- 2 youth centres
- 6 community groups and residents
- 9 sporting groups
- 1 bowling club and restaurant
- 7 schools, and
- 2 state government agencies.
- 24 stakeholder interviews were completed.

Six written submissions were received from sporting groups and community members between 19 August 2016 to 3 February 2017.

#### Stage 2

For Stage 2, the community was consulted on a set of draft guiding principles and seven draft park improvement ideas to drive the Landscape Master Plan. Stage 2 engagement events were designed to gather feedback on preliminary principles and park improvement ideas, and included five park and market stalls, one stakeholder workshop and online surveys for the project.

Over two hundred people participated in the five pop up stalls at Civic Place and St Leonards Park in May 2017. The community workshop was held on the 18 July 2017 and feedback from this process subsequently informed the development of the Draft Landscape Master Plan.

One hundred and thirty-nine surveys were completed either online or through intercept surveys between 10 May and 24 July 2017.

The five park and market stalls were conducted on the following dates:

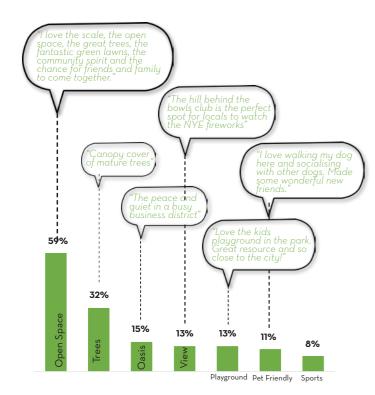
- 2pm to 4pm 17 May, St Leonards Park
- 5pm to 7pm, 17 May, Civic Place
- 11am to 2pm, 31 May, St Leonards Park
- 8am to 11am, 17 June, Northside Produce Markets
- 12pm to 2pm, 17 June, St Leonards Park.

There were six participants in the community workshop on 18 July 2017.

Eight written submissions were received on 24 July 2017.

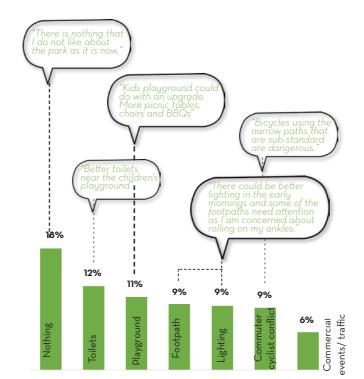


STAGE 1



WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT ST LEONARDS PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU NOT WANT TO CHANGE?

TOP 7 RESPONSES



WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT ST LEONARDS PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE?

TOP 7 RESPONSES



WHAT PARK IMPROVEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Community engagement was undertaken by CRED Consulting between 19 August 2016 and 3 February 2017. The purpose of Stage 1 community consultation was to gather information in order to understand how the park is currently used and valued to inform ideas of improvement. The key findings are detailed in CRED's Stage 1 report. For further details on the key findings and detailed survey outcomes, please refer to the St Leonards Park Landscape Master Plan Stage 1 Engagement Outcomes Report. Graphs to the left illustrate respondents' comments on:

- · What do you value most about St Leonards Park? What would you not want to change?
- What do you not like about St Leonards Park? What would you like to change?
- What park improvements are important to you?

Facilities that were a priority were nominated as:

- Open spaces for relaxation (Extremely/ very important = 331 people );
- Walking paths (Extremely/ very important = 306 people);
- Informal space for socialising/relaxing (Extremely/ very important = 271 people);
- Recreation space for young people/older children (Extremely/ very important = 241 people);
- Adventure play for young children (Extremely/ very important = 220 people); and
- Improved seating and tables (Extremely/very important = 226 people).

Amenities that were a priority were nominated as:

- Improved toilet block (Extremely/ very important = 240 people);
- Increased numbers of water fountains/water refill stations (Extremely/ very important = 208 people);
- Improved lighting (Extremely / very important = 202 people); and
- Improved pathways and circulation (Extremely/ very important = 185 people).

Other issues and ideas for improvements, include:

- · Retaining and improving open space grassed areas for relaxation;
- · Addressing cycling in the park to prevent conflict between commuter cyclists and pedestrians;
- Upgrading the open space areas to reduce conflict between different user groups including sporting groups, school groups, exercise groups, dog walkers and passive recreation activities;
- Improving existing sports facilities including a longer cricket net run up, resurfacing of the netball/ basketball courts:
- · Improving the spaces for children and young people to play including upgrading the playground, and providing a recreational space for older children and young people;
- · Improving pedestrian safety on Fig Tree Lane and the Bowling Club driveway; and
- Resolving drainage issues including flooding near the amphitheatre and drainage along Ridge St under the fig trees.







STAGE 2: GUILDING PRINICIPLES









#### #1: A PARK FOR ALL

78%

Very Appealing or Appealing

9%

13% Very Unappealing

Unappealing or

#### **#2: AN HISTORIC PARK**

81%

Very Appealing or Appealing

10%

10%

Unappealing or Very Unappealing

### **#3: AN ACCESSIBLE PARK**

82%

Very Appealing or Appealing

11% Neutral

7% Unappealing or Very Unappealing

#### #4: A A GENEROUS COMFORTABLE PARK

89%

Very Appealing or Appealing

5%

Unappealing or Very Unappealing Over two hundred people participated in the Stage 2 consultation process which included an online survey relating to draft guiding principles for the Landscape Master Plan; five pop up stalls providing opportunities for people to rate their support or otherwise for seven draft park improvement ideas; a community workshop (6 attended); and written submissions (8).

One hundred and thirty-nine surveys relating to draft guiding principles for the Landscape Master Plan were received. There was overwhelming support for the draft guiding principles.. The main reasons given for support of the guiding principles were: support for separate cycleways, improved facilities and amenity, and the protection of heritage values, and flora and fauna. People who did not agree with the guiding principles raised concerns about possible over delineation of the usage of the park to the point that it would become inflexible, or thought that the park was working well at the moment.

The seven park improvement ideas proposed are as follows:

Number 1: Heighten the significance of Tunks Avenue and the War Memorial

Number 2: Restore Tunks Fountain and Surrounds

Number 3: Provide new and improved pedestrian pathways

Number 4: Refine and Improve park spaces

Number 5: Provide a separated cycleway on the eastern edge

Number 6: Provide expanded playground and facilities

Number 7: Provide 1st Grade Cricket practice nets

Overall, there was a high level of support for park improvement ideas number 1 to 6, with more than 80% of people rating these ideas as 'Very Appealing' or 'Appealing'. Park improvement idea number 7 to 'Provide 1st Grade Cricket practice nets' was the least supported, with nearly half of the participants finding it 'Unappealing' or 'Very Unappealing' (48%).

Eight submissions were received from a range of community members. Common themes and ideas included cyclist and pedestrian safety, noise pollution in the park, and accessibility and enhancement of facilities. The images on the following page illustrate the consultation panels and response to the guiding principles and to the Park improvement ideas.





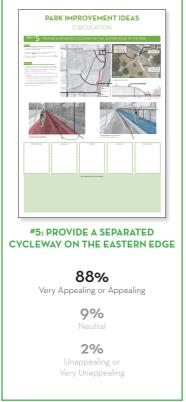
STAGE 2: DESIGN IDEAS



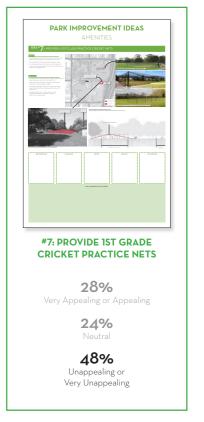




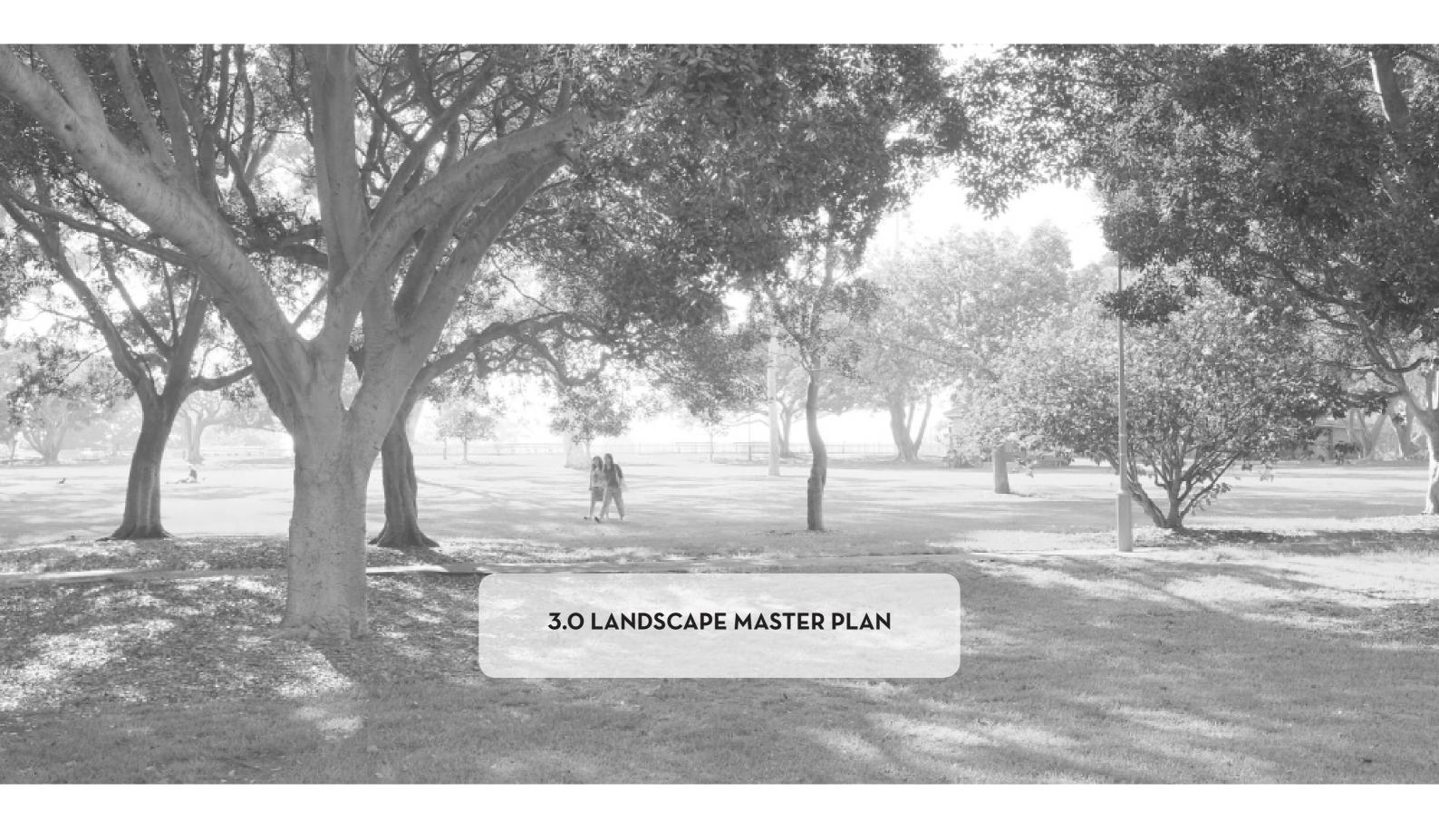






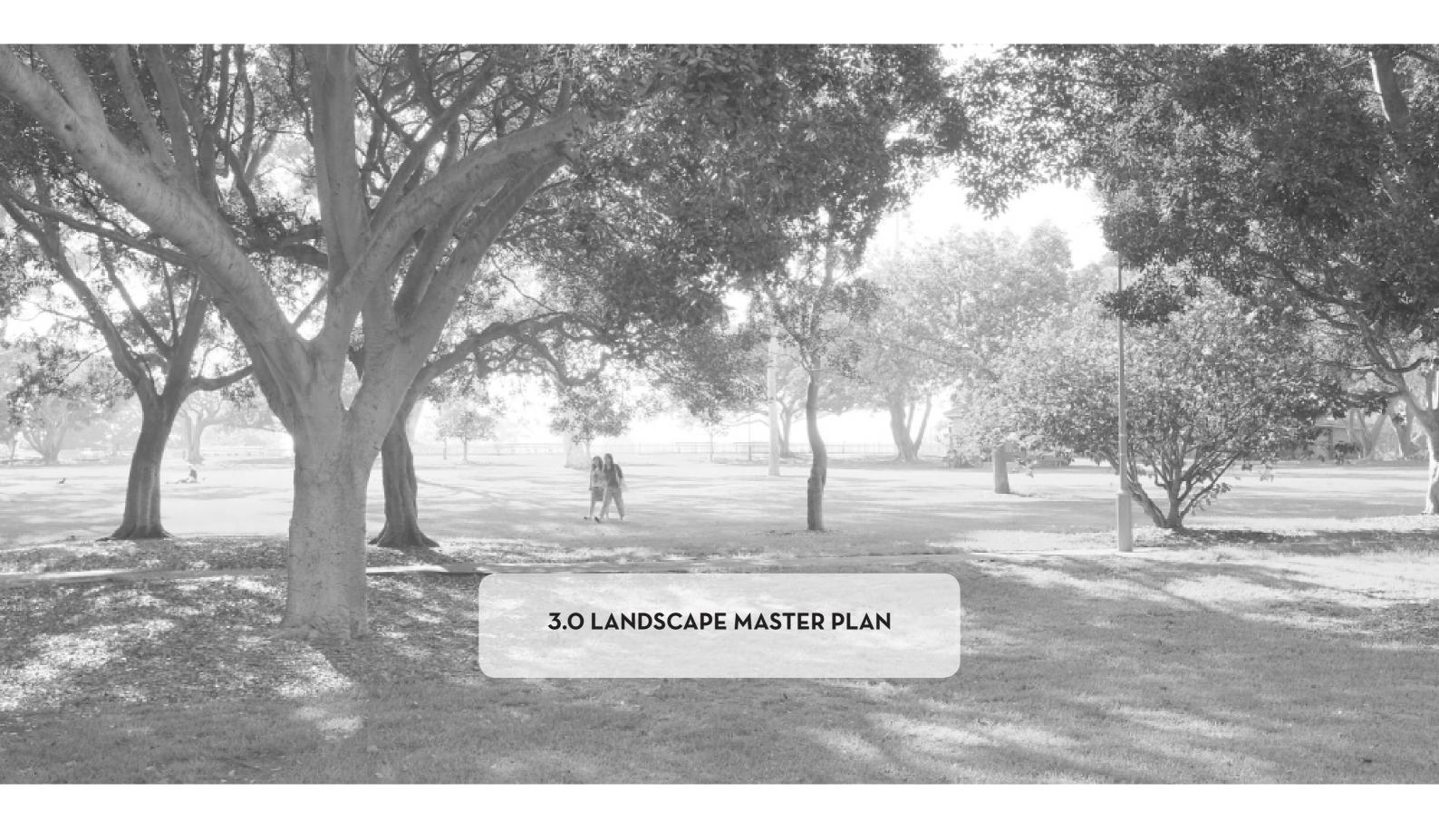
















### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### #1: A PARK FOR ALL



 Relaxing and taking in the expansive view in the south-eastern lawn area of the park.
 Visitors enjoy a community event on the lawn in front of the Music Shell.
 Cricket match on Bon Andrews Oval.

- Provide a balance between active and passive recreation
- Provide a clear definition between various spaces throughout the park
- Minimise conflict between various users of the park, particularly cyclists / pedestrians, and active recreation / passive recreation
- Provide a strategy for managing park use and develop appropriate maintenance strategies
- Maintain views and open amenity in the south eastern lawn area ( Harbour view lawn).

### **#2: AN HISTORIC PARK**







**1.** Tunks Avenue and line of historic Fig trees. **2.** North Sydney War Memorial. **3.** Lighting that could be used to highlight Tunks Fountain at night. **4.** Potential improvements to Tunks Fountain.

- · Celebrate the strong historical layout of the park
- Retain and manage historic trees
- Enhance the scale and prominence of War Memorial and Tunks Fountain
- Redesign park furniture and paving to support the heritage character of the park
- Provide opportunities to highlight the park's history
- Explore local history and stories past and present

### **#3: AN ACCESSIBLE PARK**



 Wide pathways and avenue trees creating a memorable space in Hyde Park.
 Colourful gardens and wide generous pathways.
 Wide pathways and modern seating in the historic Redfern Park.
 A separated cycleway helping to alleviate path conflict issues.

- Relocate lamp posts and reduce clutter on paths
- Minimise the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on internal park pathways
- Investigate the possibility of a dedicated cycleway path on park boundaries

### #4: A GENEROUS, COMFORTABLE PARK



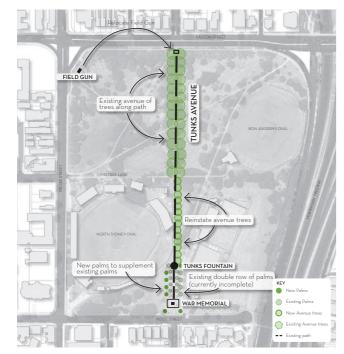
1. Lawn areas providing space for informal activities.

- 2. Upgraded play facilities catering to a wider age range of children in Jubilee Park, Glebe. 3 + 4. Colourful flowering gardens and seating options improving visual and physical amenity.
- Upgrade public toilets
- Improve the amenity of the park by providing new park furniture
- Provide new park lighting
- Explore opportunities to expand the playground to provide a wider range of activities for older children

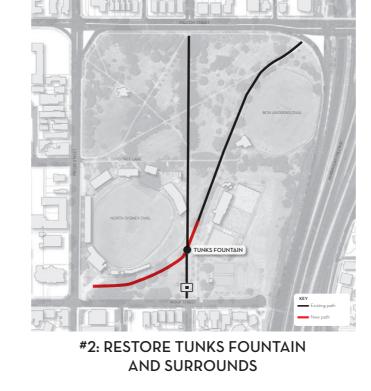


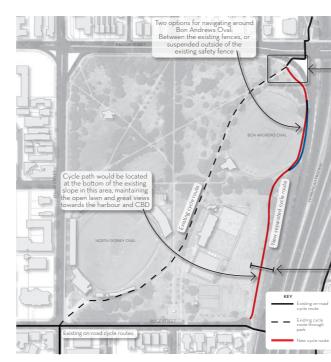


**KEY MOVES** 

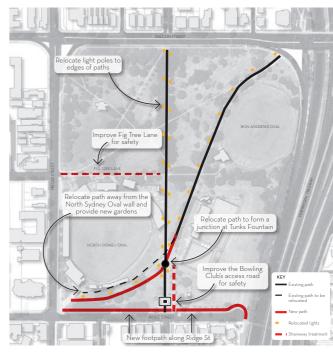


#1: HEIGHTEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TUNKS AVENUE AND THE WAR MEMORIAL

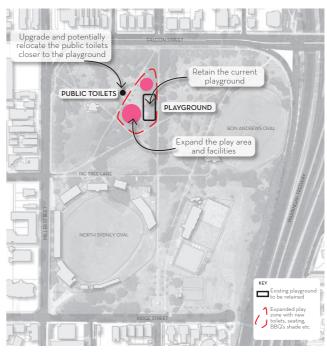




**#5: PROVIDE A SEPARATED CYCLEWAY** ON THE EASTERN EDGE



**#3: PROVIDE NEW AND IMPROVED** PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS



#6: PROVIDE EXPANDED PLAYGROUND AND FACILITIES



**#4: REFINE AND IMPROVE** PARK SPACES

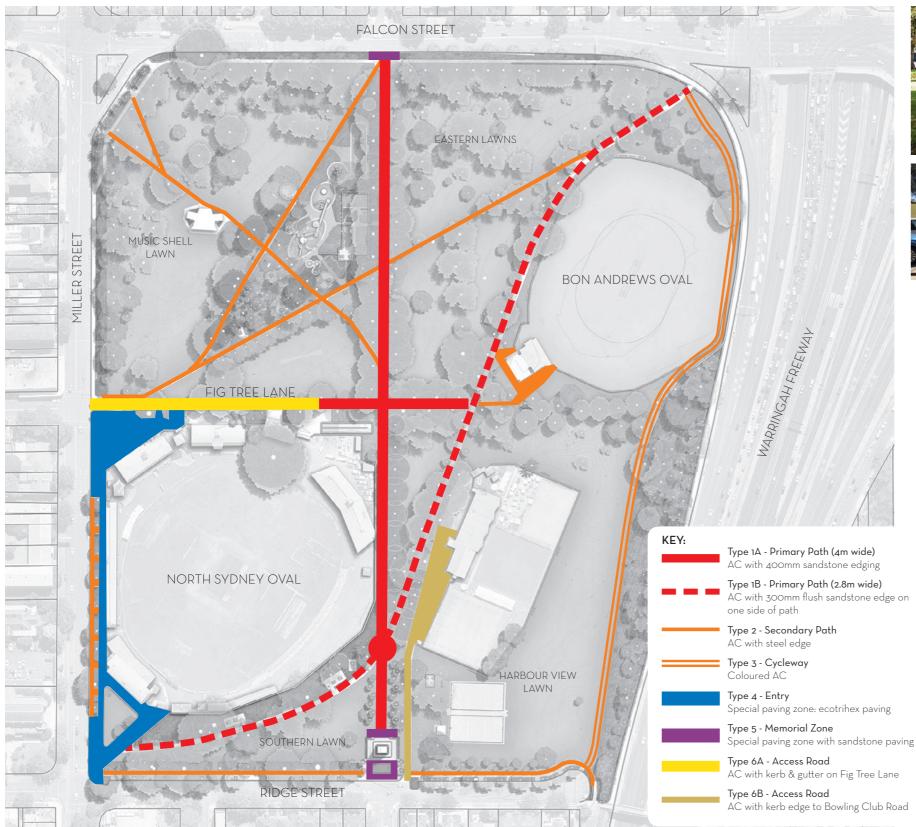
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



- 1. Install low gardens along street frontages.
- Relocate Field Gun to northern end of Tunks Avenue on sandstone paving, with accent lighting.
- 3. Widen Tunks Avenue to 4m and provide new AC (Asphalt Concrete) path with 400mm wide sandstone edging.
- Provide new park benches along length of Tunks Avenue.
- Upgrade existing pathways.
- Install low gardens with shade tolerant species.
- Retain and upgrade existing playground.
- Provide additional play spaces and equipment, along with picnic tables.
- Install gardens with low flowering planting and provide nature play.
- 10. Upgrade toilet facilities.
- 11. Address drainage and flooding issues at the Music Shell through localised path reconstruction.
- 12. Provide seating areas and additional shade tolerant plantings in the Palm Grove.
- Crown lift existing figs on Tunks Avenue and remove selected trees to improve sight lines.
- 14. Remove bollards and lawn, provide palm grove entry with new and existing palms, paving and uplighting.
- Remove bollards, resurface and replace kerb and gutter along western end of Fig
- 16. Plant single row of figs (9 Figs) on Tunks Avenue south to reinstate historic
- 17. Install gardens and bench seating and jacent to North Sydney Oval Wall.
- 18. Replace existing wire fence around Bowling Club.
- 19. Widen path and relocate column lighting adjacent.
- 20. Realign path to provide expanded garden to North Sydney Oval wall.
- 21. Improve and reinstate historic Tunks Fountain and provide new elevated base. Provide expanded gardens to surrounds.
- 22. Provide new palms along southern portion of Tunks Avenue.
- 23. Improve War Memorial surrounds with expanded paving, plantings and water reflection feature with water and interpretation.
- 24. Upgrade access road to the Bowling Club with AC surface and broken sandstone edging. Remove existing bollards.
- 25. Install AC footpath along Ridge St boundary adjacent to parking bays.
- 26. Provide seating areas within new garden spaces alongside relocated diagonal pathway (3m wide) - 2.6m AC path with low 400mm wide wall and steel edging.
- 27. Install low 400mm wide seating wall and raise lawn area.
- 28. Replace brick paving with new concrete unit paving.
- 29. Provide cycleway on eastern edge of park; locate cycleway on lower park areas to maintain views.
- 30. Existing picnic shelters / tables to be retained.
- 31. North Sydney Oval: excluded from project scope.
- 32. Bowling Club: land is leased directly from the Crown and therefore excluded from the project scope.
- 33. Existing planting.
- 34. Minor regrading to create flatter surface adjacent to netball courts.
- 35. Minor regrading to create flatter surface adjacent to junior practive wicket
- 36. Extension to junior cricket practice nets.
- 37. New fitness station with outdoor exercise equipment.



### PATHS & PAVING

















Existing paths in the park vary in condition, and the Draft Landscape Master Plan recommends upgrading key existing paths and providing new paths to improve circulation and access. Key recommendations include:

- Upgrading Tunks Avenue (Central Avenue) this path is one of the most significant heritage features of the park. A 4-metre-wide path with raised sandstone edging is proposed to restore its significance and visual prominence.
- Upgrading the diagonal path linking Falcon Street to Miller Street. Light poles will be relocated to lawn areas adjacent. The path will be realigned adjacent to the southern lawn and away from the existing high boundary wall to improve amenity.
- Provide a new cycleway on the eastern boundary of the park, adjacent to the Warringah Freeway. Refer to Park Spaces: Cycleway for further detail.
- Upgrade shared vehicular paths. This would include upgrading the existing path; providing new kerb and gutter at Fig Tree Lane; removing damaged bollards; and providing new stone edging and surfacing to define the path of travel for the access driveway to the Bowling Club.
- It is recommended that special paving areas be provided adjacent to artefacts and memorials and to the curtilage to North Sydney Oval. Specifically, this includes:
- Replacing existing brick paving in the North Sydney Oval curtilage with new permeable concrete unit paving (such as Eco tri Hex).
- Providing new sandstone paving at the war memorial and proposed location for the relocated Field Gun.







### LIGHTING

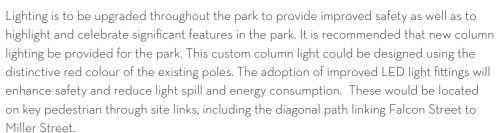












On Tunks Avenue, where there is established avenue planting, artefacts and heritage items, the emphasis will be on accent lighting to illuminate this key promenade. The trees, Tunks Fountain, Field Gun and War Memorial will be highlighted. Low level directional lighting such as bollards are recommended along the cycleway to maintain city skyline views.



Type 1 - Primary Path Accent & Uplighting Type 2 - Primary Path

Column Lighting : Type A Type 3 - Secondary Path Column Light : Type B

Type 4 - Feature Lighting Monuments and heritage items

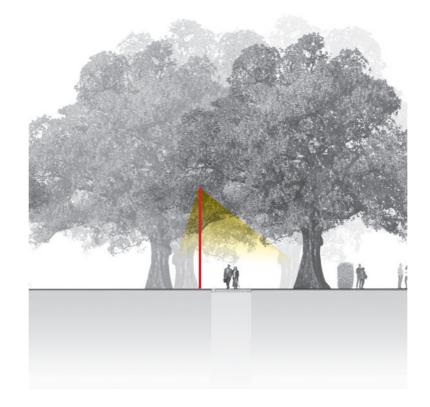
Type 5 - Cycleway Lighting Low directional lighting to maintian views





LIGHTING







Type 1: Primary Path Accent & Uplighting

Type 2: Primary Path Column Lighting

Type 4: Feature Lighting Monuments and Heritage Items

### KEY ELEMENTS - RELOCATED AND ENHANCED















Key elements in St Leonards Park are proposed to be relocated and enhanced,

A reflection pool is to be installed on the on the Ridge Street frontage of the War Memorial. This installation will reinforce the significance of the memorial, and provide an opportunity for pause, reflection, and contemplation for park visitors. The reflection pool could incorporate interpretative features such as text and imagery and lighting.

The Field Gun is to be relocated from its former location at the Miller Street / Falcon Street junction behind the bus stop to the northernmost end of Tunks Avenue. This will enhance visual connections to this item, and create an axial link to the War Memorial at the southern end of the park.

The Tunks Fountain is to be reproduced to match its historic form (as indicated in the historic image in the top middle) and elevated on a new plinth, with garden surrounds to increase its visual prominence. Paths are realigned here to reinforce its significance.

KEY:



Relocated Field Gun



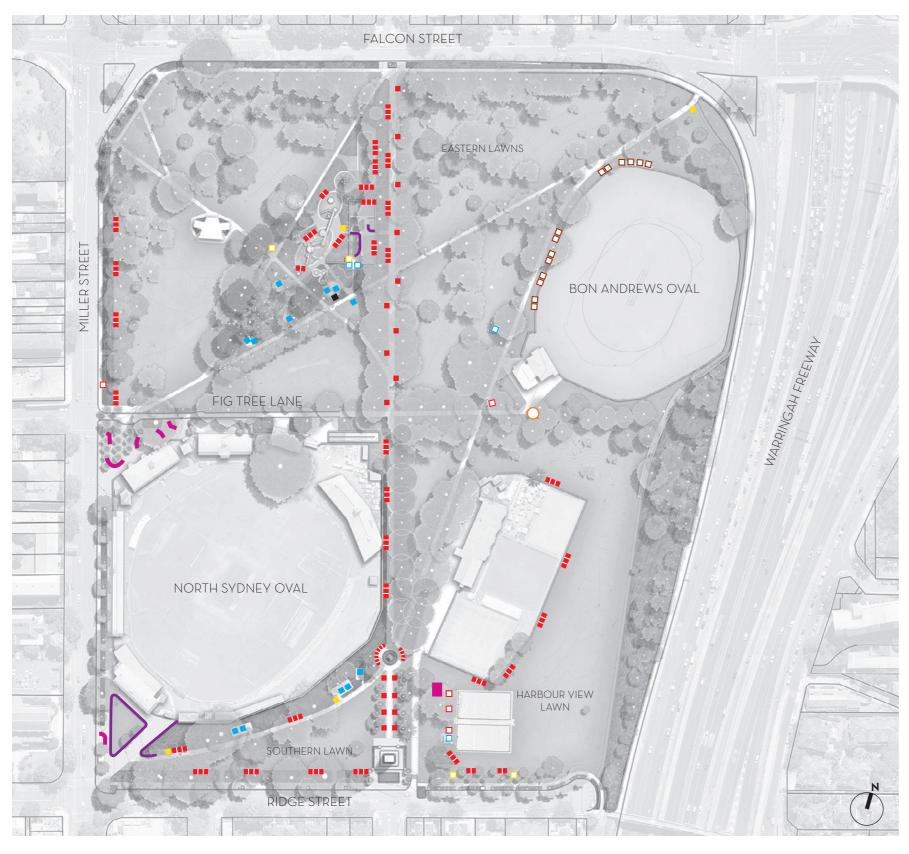
Central Avenue Figs Restored Tunks Fountain



Reflection Pool



### FURNITURE AND ELEMENTS













New furniture is proposed for the park. This includes new park benches, picnic tables, BBQs and drinking fountains. Park benches are located along the primary paths as well as overlooking the expanded playground and the fountain. Additional picnic tables are loacted in the Palm Grove and southern gardens (adjacent to the southern lawn). New drinking fountains are proposed on the diagonal path, as well as at the playground and adjacent to the netball courts on Ridge Street.

Low walls (both new and retained existing sandstone walls) provide informal seating throughout the park.

### KEY:

### Existing:

- ☐ Bench Seats
- ☐ Heritage Bench Seats
- ☐ Picnic Tables
- O Heritage Picnic Table
- Bubblers
- Low Walls

### Proposed:



Picnic Tables

Bubblers Low Walls

BBQ

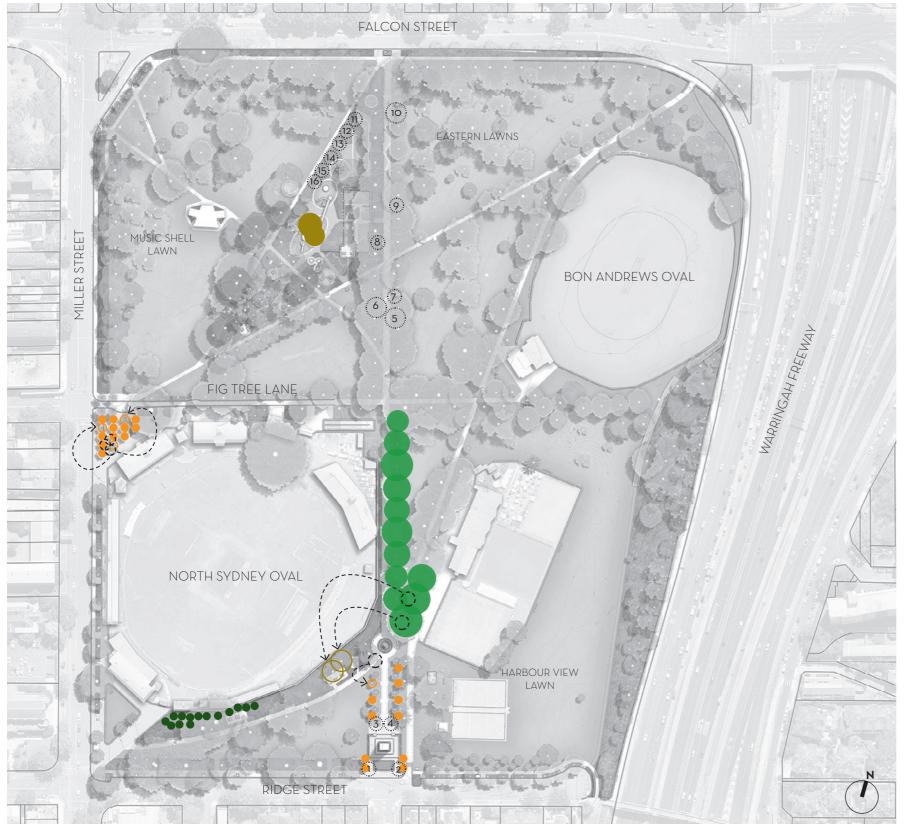
Fitness Equipment Station





### **PARK PLANTING**

TREES







The Landscape Master Plan proposes some change to park trees to improve amenity, enhance views, and reinforce the historic park structure. New tree plantings are proposed on the southern end of Tunks Avenue to reinstate the heritage avenue that was part of the original 1880's park structure and subsequently removed during the 1950's. Three new figs are also proposed at the southern end of the diagonal path to reinstate the former alignment and conceal views of the adjacent car park. Additional palm plantings at the War Memorial and Fig Tree Lane entry on Miller Street supplement the existing palm plantings. Additional gum trees are proposed in the southern gardens to reinforce the existing native character. New gums are also located within the expanded nature playground. Smaller trees (such as Camellia's) located under the fig plantings are recommended for removal to improve views. Recent tree plantings located on the diagonal path adjacent to the playground are recommended for removal to provide expanded playspace.

### KEY:

- New Figs: Ficus rubiginosa
- New Cabbage Tree Palms: Livistona australis
  - New Gums: Endemic species such as Eucalyptus haemastoma
  - New tree fern plantings: Cyathea australis
- Remove trees: Existing Location
- Re- instate Trees: Proposed Location
- Removed trees

### Trees recommeded for removal;

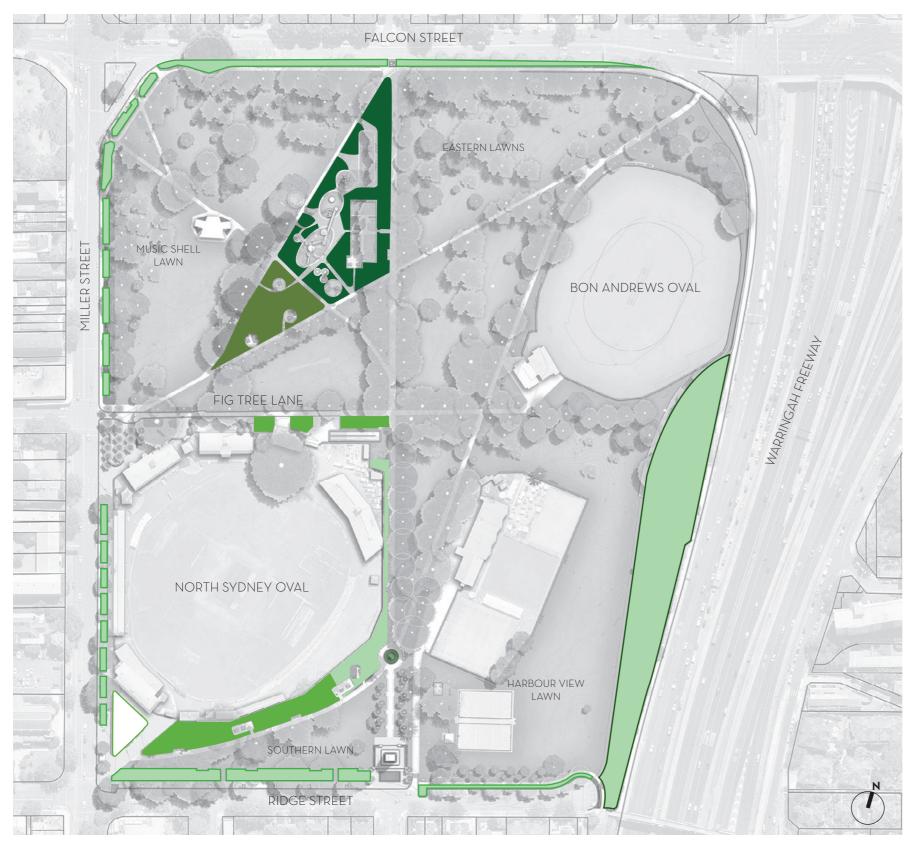
- #1 #4 Poplars surrounding North Sydney War Memorial
- #5- #10 Trees along Central Avenue to improve sight lines
- #11 -#16 Trees to west of expanded playground





### PARK PLANTING

**GARDENS** 





Garden planting is to be predominantly low shrubs and groundcovers to retain views into and throughout the park. A mix of plant species are proposed, depending on the location of the garden as listed below:

- Type 1: Playground area to incorporate flowers, colour and texture to facilitate nature play
- Type 2: Palm Grove to be planted with lush, shade tolerant species with a focus on texture and foliage
- Type 3A & B: North Sydney Oval wall gardens transition between shade tolerant and more sun-loving species, with taller species at the back to assist in screening views of the
- Type 4: Low perimeter gardens provide buffer to busy roads whilst maintaining views and sightlines into the park
- · Tunks fountain gardens: emphasis on colour, foliage and texture

### KEY: Low gardens with emphasis on colour and texture Type 2 Low shade tolerant plantings such as ferns Shrubs and shade tolerant groundcovers to provide screening to North Sydney Oval boundary wall Shrubs and sun loving groundcovers to provide screening to North Sydney Oval boundary wall Type 4 Low perimeter gardens provide buffer to busy roads Expanded gardens to buffer from freeway



## PARK SPACES: NORTH - WEST PLAN: MUSIC SHELL, PLAYGROUND & CENTRAL AVENUE





#### KEY:

- 1. Relocate Field Gun to northern end of Tunks Avenue, with paving surrounds
- 2. Low gardens to Falcon St & Miller St
- 3. Existing Bus Stop
- 4. Remove existing informal gardens and reinstate turf
- 5. Improved surrounds to Music Shell to address flooding and drainage issues
- 7. Upgraded pathways 2.0m AC path with steel edging
- 8. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 9. Bench seats
- 10. Low gardens with mix of shade tolerant species
- 11. Existing playground to be upgraded including expanded sandpit, new swings and upgraded music area, merry go round and see saws
- 12. Expanded play area with facilities for older children (5 and over). Custom play structure and equipment including slides, monkey bars, swings, walkways, nets, etc. Garden surrounds to provide nature play. Planting to emphasise texture, foliage, colour, and seasonal change.
- 13. Picnic Tables
- 14. BBQ





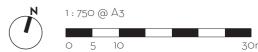
### PARK SPACES: WEST PLAN: MILLER ST ENTRANCE & FIG TREE LANE





### KEY:

- 1. Low gardens to Miller St boundary
- 2. Existing Bus Stop
- 3. Palm Grove entry court to the North Sydney Oval entry. New plantings of Cabbage Tree Palms to supplement existing palm plantings. Remove existing lawn and expand paving to entry forecourt.
- Existing low sandstone walls. The heritage significance of the walls is currently being investigated in more detail. If the walls are found not to require retention for heritage reasons, they will be removed, in accordance with feedback received regarding the draft Masterplan.
- 5. Remove existing bollards and resurface Fig Tree Lane.
- Existing Fig: protect and provide new low planting to surrounds
- 7. Extend junior cricket nets to increase length and provide low garden edge to boundary. Provide fully enclosed nets with new gate entry.
- 8. Provide expanded garden areas under figs.
- 9. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 10. New plantings of fig trees (Ficus macrophylla) planted along southern portion of Tunks Avenue
- 11. Install gardens and bench seating, improving visual impact of North Sydney Oval Wall
- 12. Upgraded pathways 2.0m AC path with steel edging
- 14. Seating areas with picnic tables within the palm grove





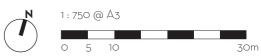
# PARK SPACES: SOUTH - WEST

### PLAN: SOUTH-WEST ENTRANCE, SOUTHERN GARDENS & MEMORIAL ZONES





- 1. Low gardens to Miller St and Ridge St
- 2. Raised lawn with seating wall edge
- 3. Existing low sandstone wall
- 4. Existing Bus Stop
- 5. Replace brick paving with new concrete unit paving such as Ecotrihex paving to North Sydney Oval entrance area and under colonnade on Miller St
- Install gardens to reduce visual impact of North Sydney
- 7. New endemic gum trees (two) to reinforce native tree character.
- 8. Tunks Fountain reinstated on raised plinth and with expanded gardens
- 9. Bench seating
- 10. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4 m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 11. Upgraded and realigned diagonal path 2.8m wide with flush sandstone edge on one side.
- 12. New plantings of Fig trees (3) planted along southern portion of Tunks Avenue and diagonal pathway
- 13. New palm plantings between Tunks Fountain and the North Sydney War Memorial
- 14. Improved surroundings to North Sydney War Memorial expanded paving and reflection pool / feature
- 15. New Ridge Street footpath
- 16. New street tree plantings
- 17. Remove existing bollards and resurface access road and install kerb edge to define vehicular path.









### PARK SPACES: PLAYGROUND PLAY THEMES













The expanded playground is inspired by the habitat of the park. The retained trees with hollows and nests scattered throughout St Leonards Park serve as the inspiration for the playground concept. A custom play structure based on a series of inter-connected cubby houses or "birds nests" is proposed. This would be designed at mutiple levels, on elevated structures as well as at ground level. This structure could be designed in various ways to reflect variations in nest structures between species, such as Maggpie nest (open to the sky), Ring Tail Possum nest (fully enclosed), to Bower Bird nest (colourful and on the ground).



### PARK SPACES: PLAYGROUND DETAILED PLAN





- New toilets
- 2. Soft fall surfacing zone
- 3. Large rotating disk
- 4. Custom timber structure with integrated play elements, including slides, rope walk, climbing ropes, bridge, treehouses and lookout points
- 5. Rope bridge connecting to nest lookouts and slides
- Magpie birds nest lookout and cubby house (open to the sky)
- 7. Ring Tail Possum nest (enclosed) cubby house
- 8. Spiral slide and curved slide
- 9. Turning/spinning elements
- 10. Trio of trampolines nestled in the garden
- 11. Informal garden path with opportunities for exploration and nature play
- 12. Upgraded junior and toddler swings
- 13. Two see-saws (large and small)
- 14. Sand play area with tap, water course, basin and digger
- 15. Water play area with tap and sandstone platform
- 16. Upgraded music room
- 17. Expanded garden with tunnel under bridge
- 18. Merry-go-round (relocated and fixed)
- 19. Custom timber play structure Bower Bird nest for younger children; giant sculpture eggs at the base
- 20. Existing heritage wall
- 21. Bench seats
- 22. Picnic tables and BBQ
- 23. Low gardens with lush, shade tolerant species
- 24. Low gardens with a focus on colour, texture and flowers, providing opportunities for nature play







## PARK SPACES: PLAYGROUND PLAY ITEMS



- 1. 'Bower Bird's nest' play area
- 2. Maxi Swings
- 3. 4-way Teeter Swings
- 4. Birds nest rope climbing structure
- 5. Large spinning disk
- 6. Slide 7. Ropes climbing area
- 8. Bridge
- 9. Timber tower structure with 'Magpie 22. Sculpture animals nest' and 'Possum nest' lookouts / 23. Young children's custom tower treehouses
- 10. Ropes area
- 11. Monkey bars & climbing area
- 12. Giant spiral slide
- 13. Turning/spinning platforms

- 14. Trampolines 15. Sand digger
- 17. Water & sand play area 18. Swings (upgraded)
- 19. See-saws
- 20. Music room (upgraded)
- 21. Merry-go-round

16. Water play with tap

- structure with slide and climbing































# PARK SPACES: NORTH SECTION: PLAYGROUND

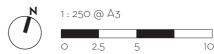


# PARK SPACES: NORTH DETAILED PLAN: TUNKS AVENUE NORTH





- 1. Relocated Field Gun with sandstone paving surround to match North Sydney War Memorial surrounds
- 2. Accent lighting to highlight Field Gun at night
- 3. Low gardens to buffer Falcon St whilst maintaining sight lines
- 4. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 5. Accent lighting along Tunks Avenue to highlight historic avenue of figs
- 6. Upgraded pathways
- 7. Existing retaining wall along Miller St
- 8. Low gardens with shade tolerant species
- 9. Playground area with Bower Bird nest play area
- 10. Expanded play area catering to older children, with custom and off-the-shelf play items, soft fall and gardens for nature play
- 11. Bench seats





### PARK SPACES: WEST DETAILED PLAN: MILLER ST ENTRANCE





### KEY:

- 1. Low gardens to Miller St
- 2. Existing bus stop
- Existing Cocos Island Palms
- Remove existing lawn
- New palm plantings of Cabbage Tree Palms
- Relocated Palms
- Resurfaced Fig Tree Lane with kerb and gutter
- Vehicle passing bay
- Ecotrihex paving surrounding North Sydney Oval
- 10. Existing low sandstone walls. The heritage significance of the walls is currently being investigated in more detail. If the walls are found not to require retention for heritage reasons, they will be removed, in accordance with feedback received regarding the draft
- Low, shade tolerant gardens to maintain sight





# PARK SPACES: SOUTH

DETAILED PLAN: NORTH SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL





- 1. North Sydney War Memorial
- 2. New Palm plantings
- 3. Existing Palms
- 4. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 5. Expanded sandstone paving
- 6. Ridge St footpath
- 7. Low, gardens along Ridge Street
- 8. Bench seats
- 9. Remove existing bollards and resurface access road and install stone edge to define vehicular path of travel
- 10. Existing shade structure
- 11. Low gardens under existing tree
- 12. Existing services
- 13. Drinking fountain
- 14. Reflection pool in front of North Sydney War Memorial



### PARK SPACES: SOUTH TUNKS FOUNTAIN: DETAILED PLAN





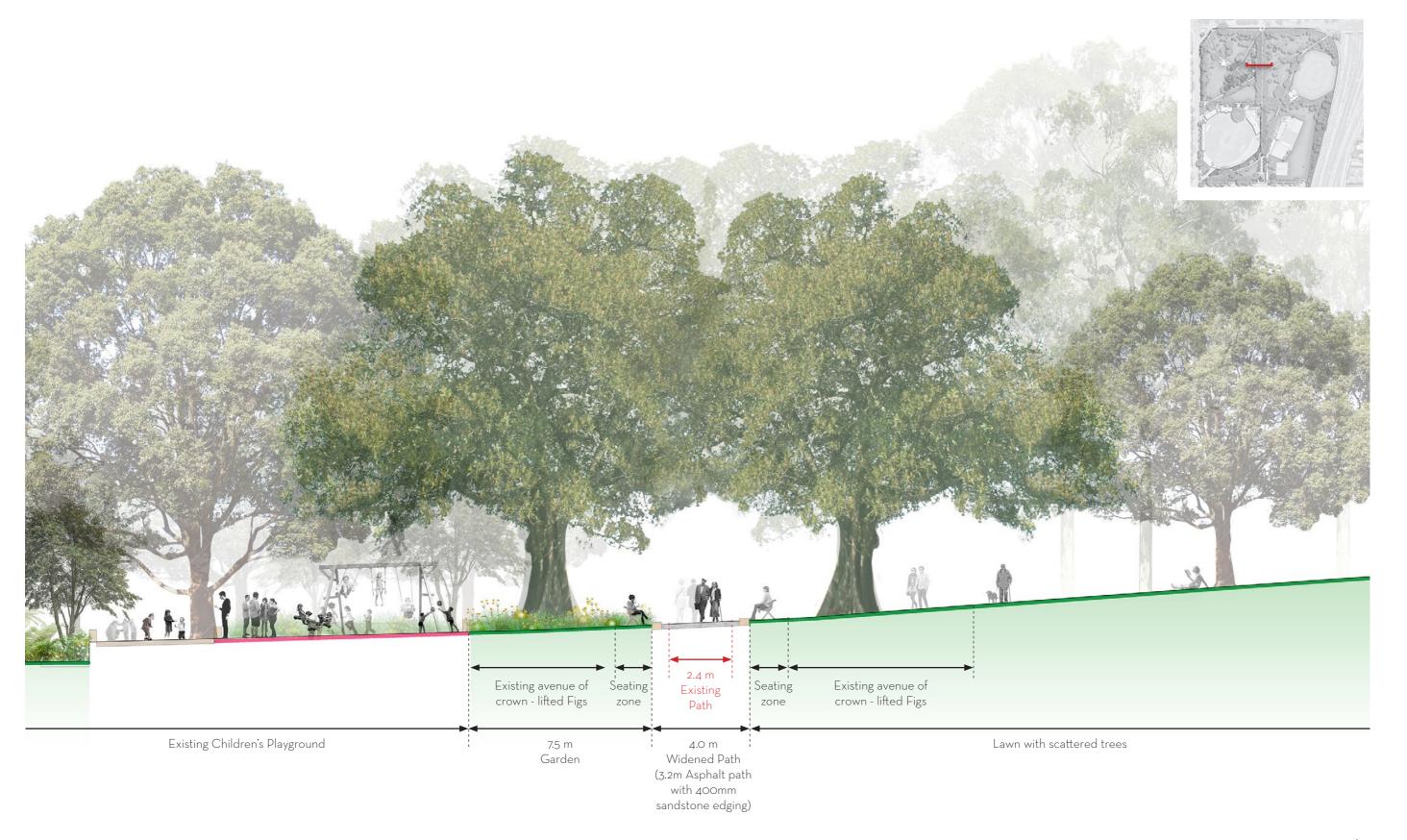
- 1. Install gardens improving visual impact of North Sydney Oval wall
- 2. New plantings of Fig trees planted along southern portion of Tunks Avenue and diagonal pathway
- 3. Widen and resurface Tunks Avenue to 4m wide with sandstone edging on both sides
- 4. Upgraded diagonal path 2.8m wide AC path with flush sandstone edge on one side
- 5. Tunks Fountain, raised and restored
- 6. Expanded gardens surrounds to Tunks Fountain
- 7. Existing iron fence to Tunks Fountain
- 8. Bench seating overlooking fountain
- Picnic tables in seating areas nestled in gardens
- 10. New / relocated gum trees
- 11. Existing gate posts
- 12. Remove existing bollards and resurface access road and install broken kerb edging. This will improve the visual impact of the access road and prevent cars from entering the lawn spaces whilst still allowing movement across for parents with prams etc.
- 13. New fitness station with outdoor exercise equipment.



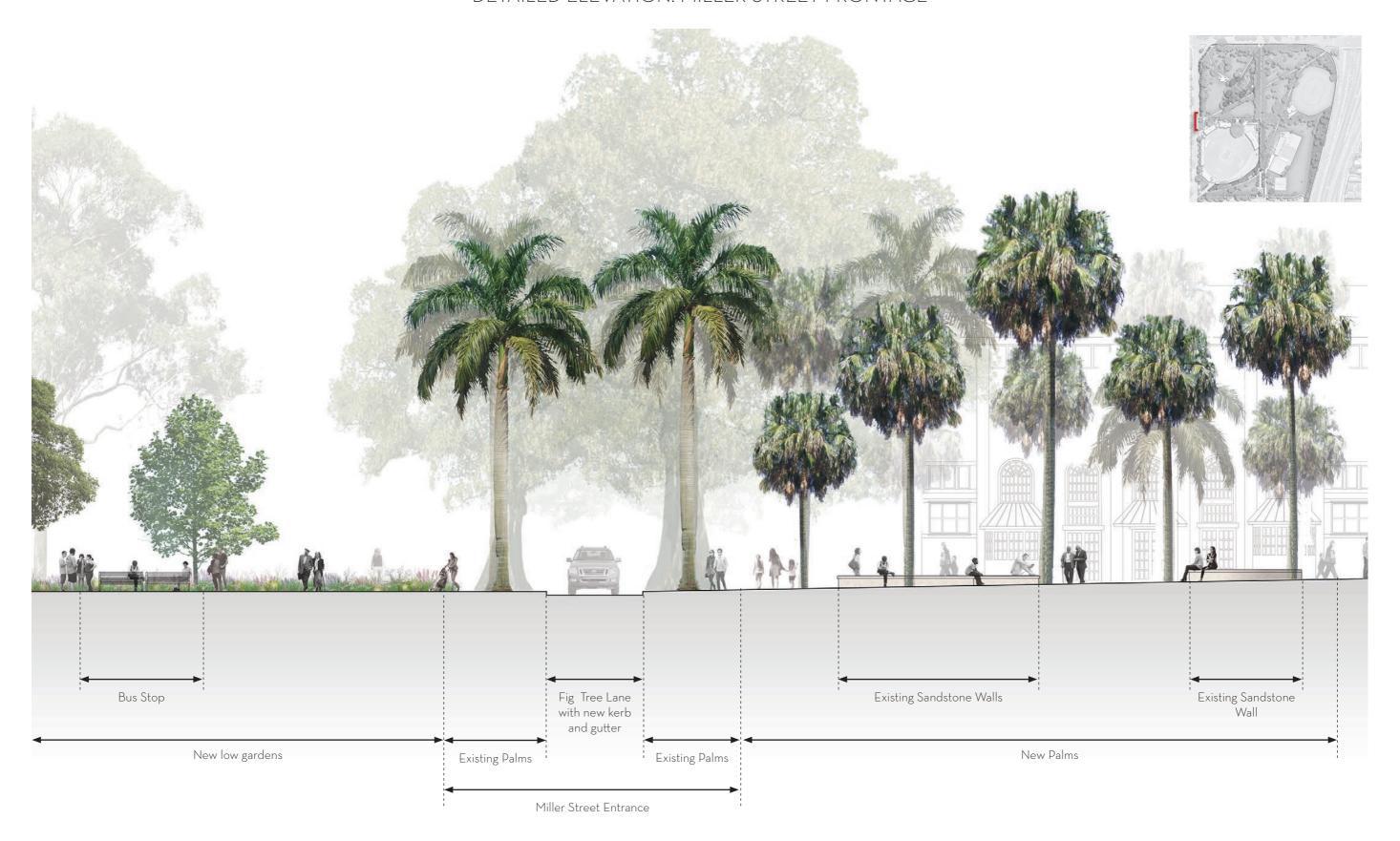




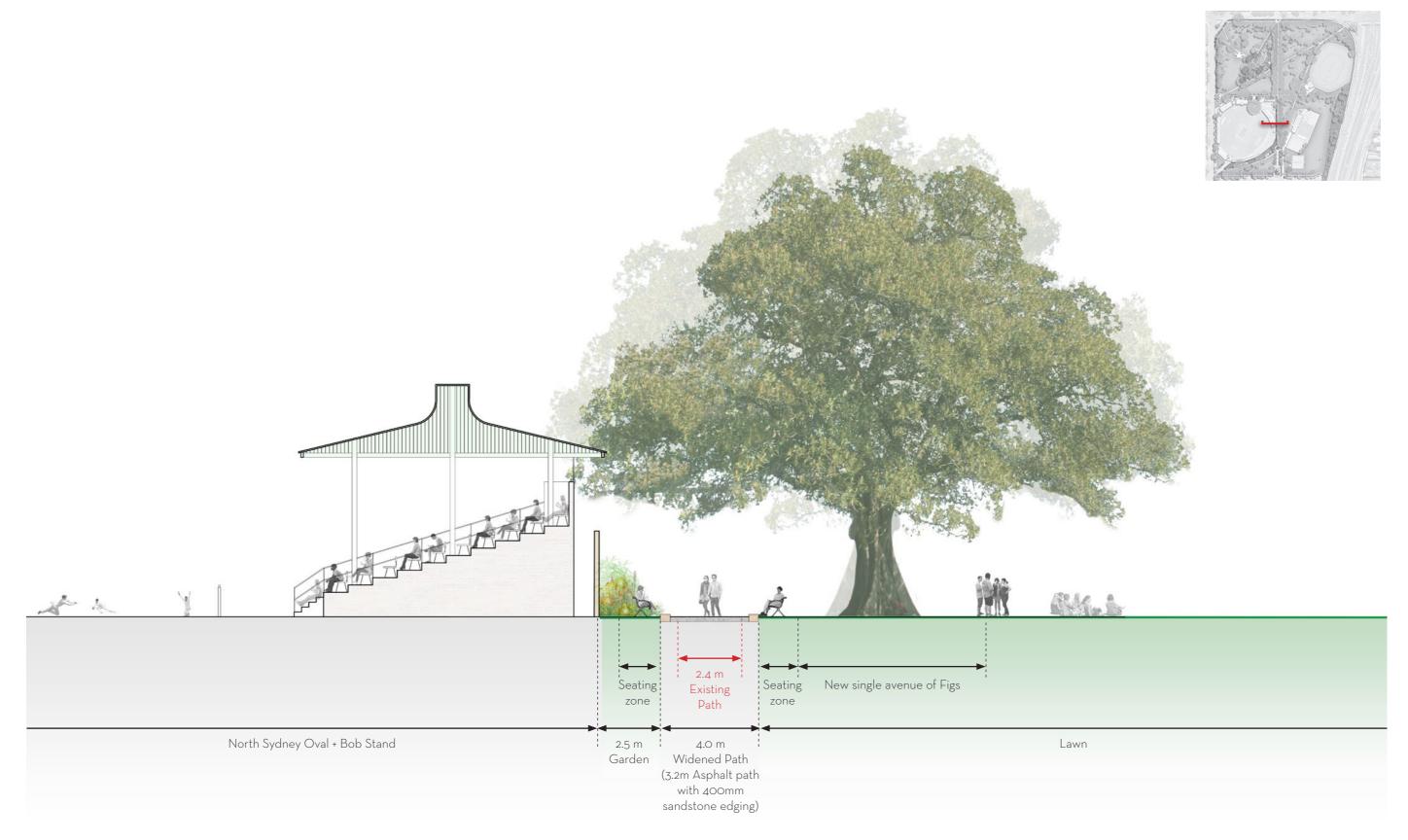
# PARK SPACES: NORTH SECTION: TUNKS AVENUE / CENTRAL AVENUE (NORTH)



# PARK SPACES: WEST DETAILED ELEVATION: MILLER STREET FRONTAGE



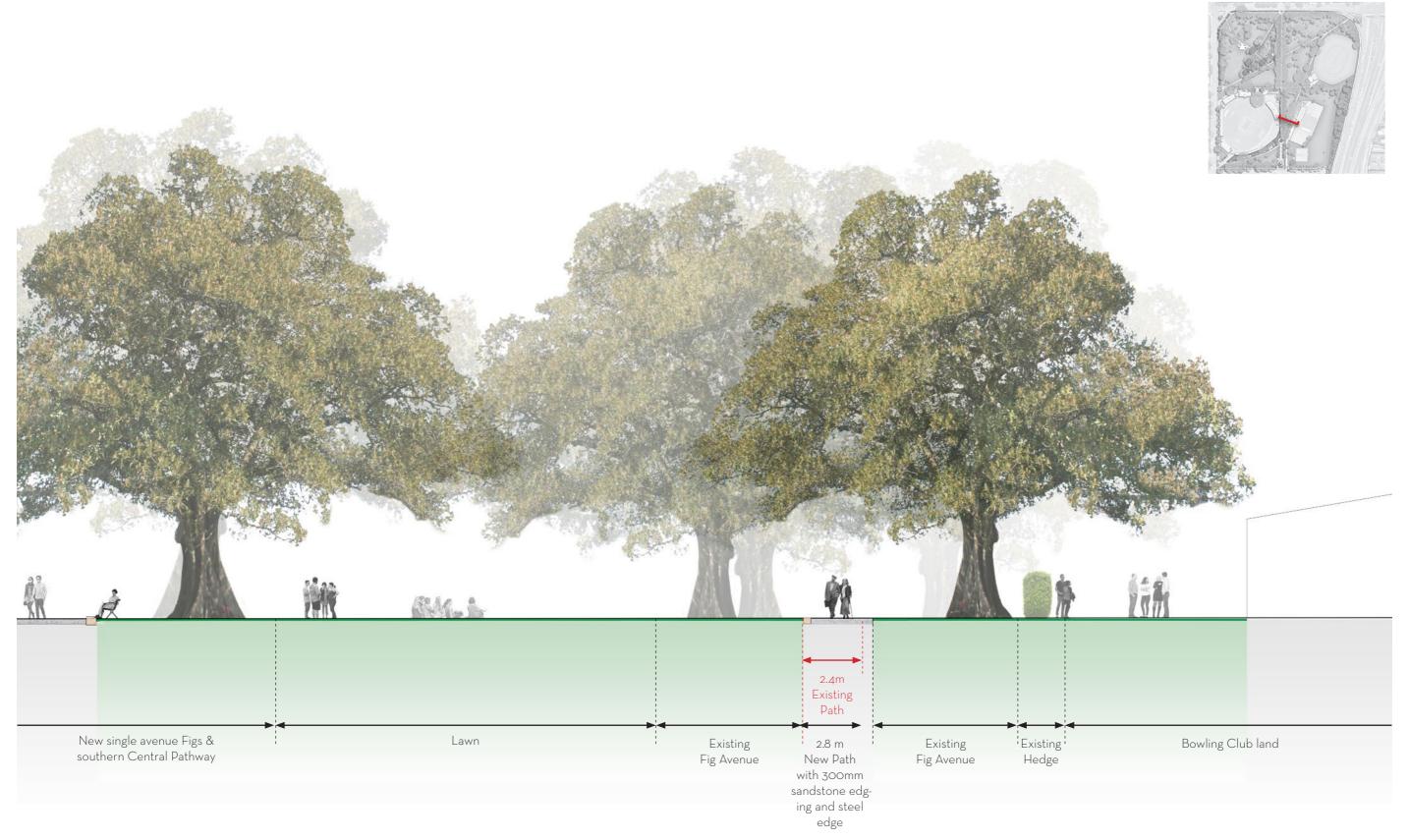
# PARK SPACES: SOUTH SECTION: TUNKS AVENUE / CENTRAL AVENUE (MID)



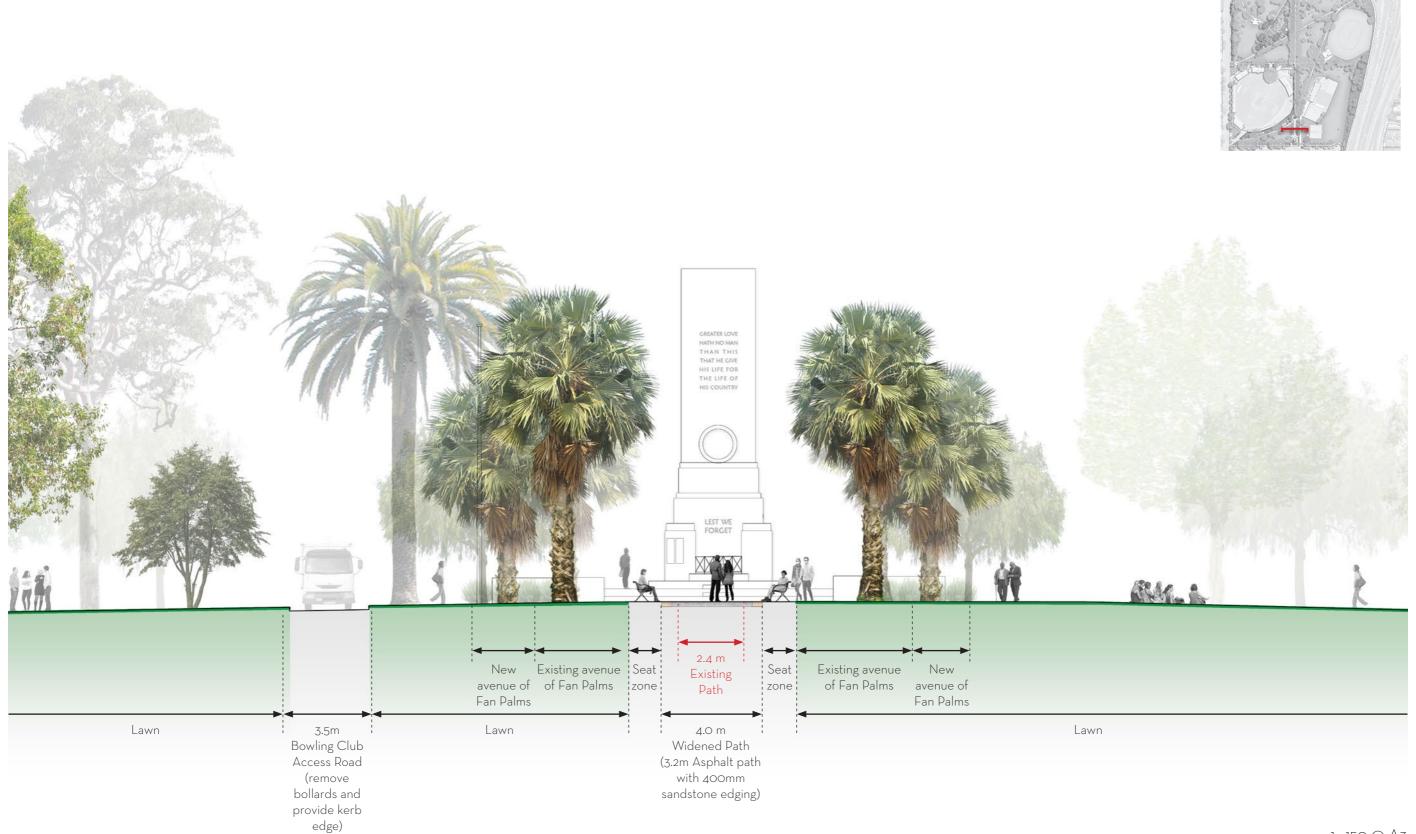




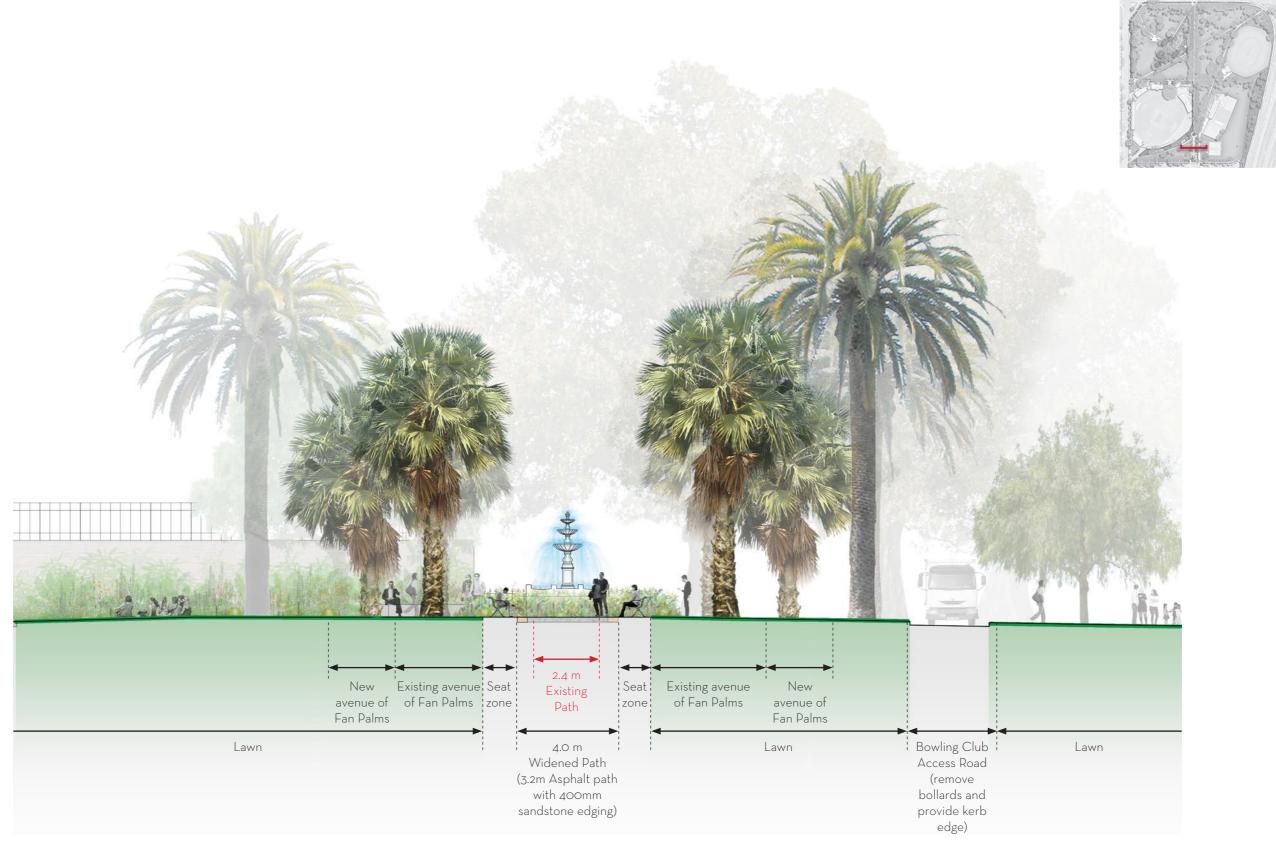
# PARK SPACES: SOUTH SECTION: DIAGONAL PATHWAY



## PARK SPACES: SOUTH SECTION: NORTH SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL

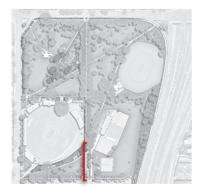


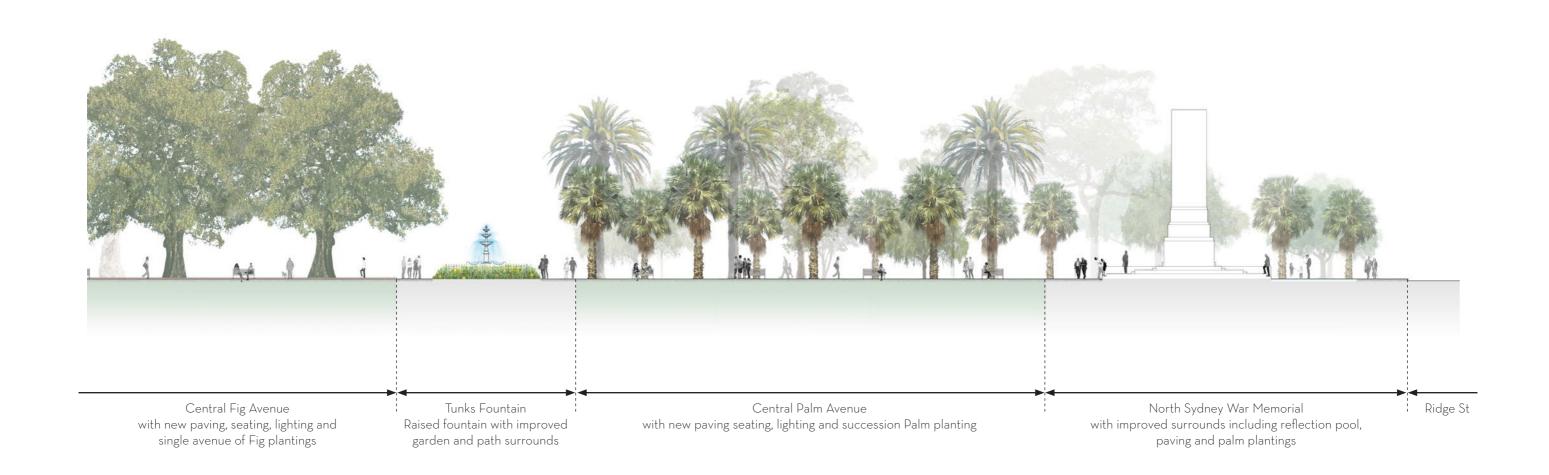
# PARK SPACES: SOUTH SECTION: TUNKS FOUNTAIN





## PARK SPACES: SOUTH ELEVATION: TUNKS FOUNTAIN TO NORTH SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL





1:300 @ A3

## PARK SPACES: SOUTH DETAILED ELEVATION: TUNKS FOUNTAIN TO NORTH SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL





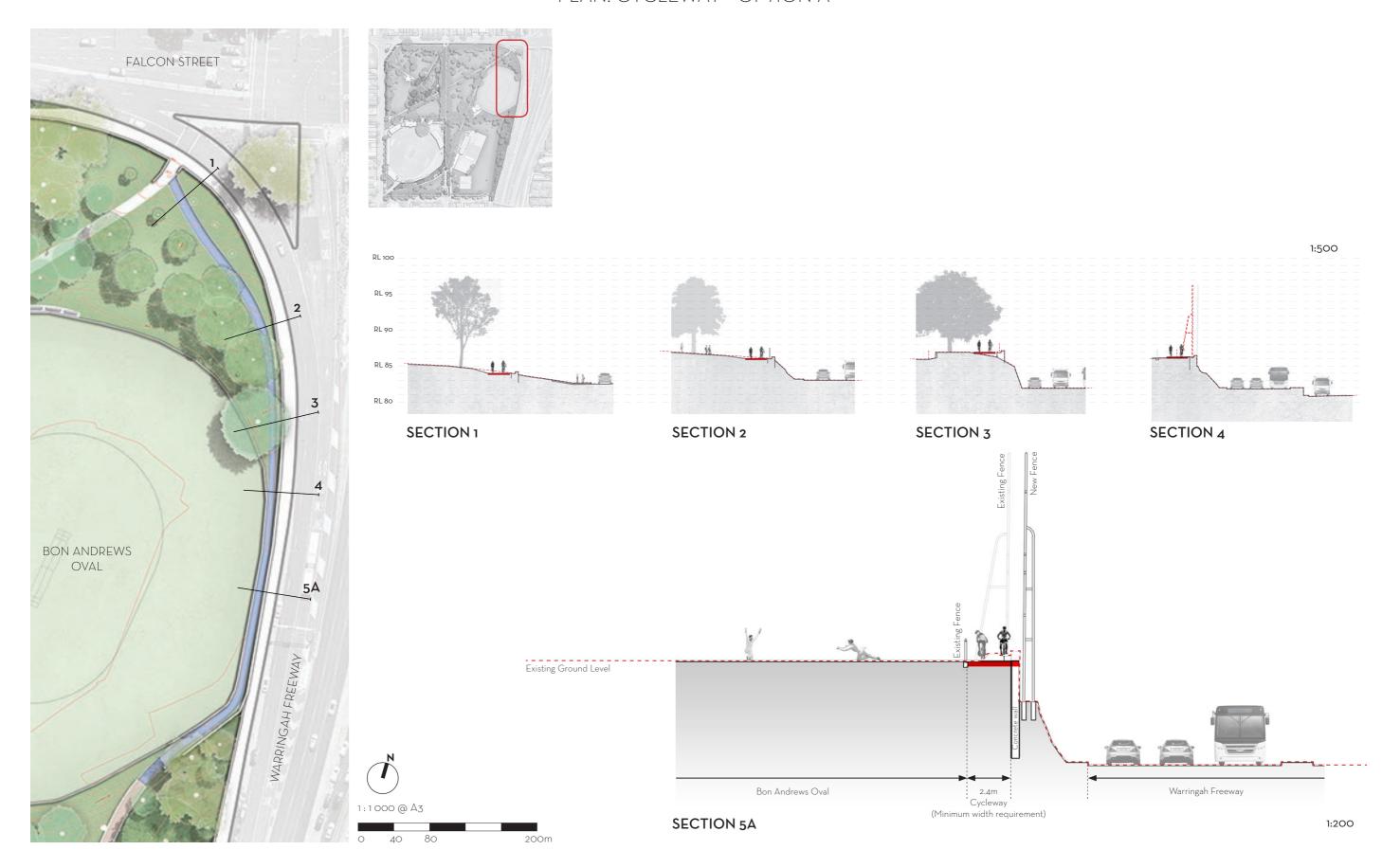


## PARK SPACES: SOUTH TUNKS FOUNTAIN: DETAILED SECTION





# PARK SPACES: EAST PLAN: CYCLEWAY - OPTION A

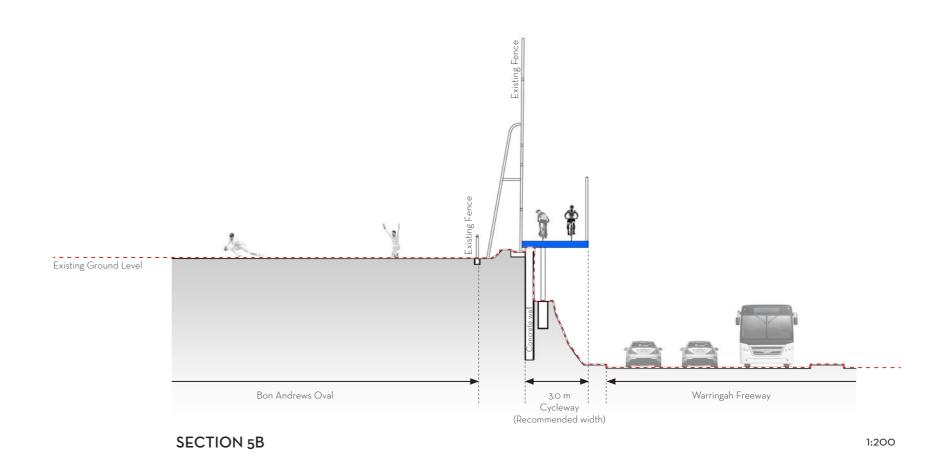




# PARK SPACES: EAST PLAN: CYCLEWAY - OPTION B





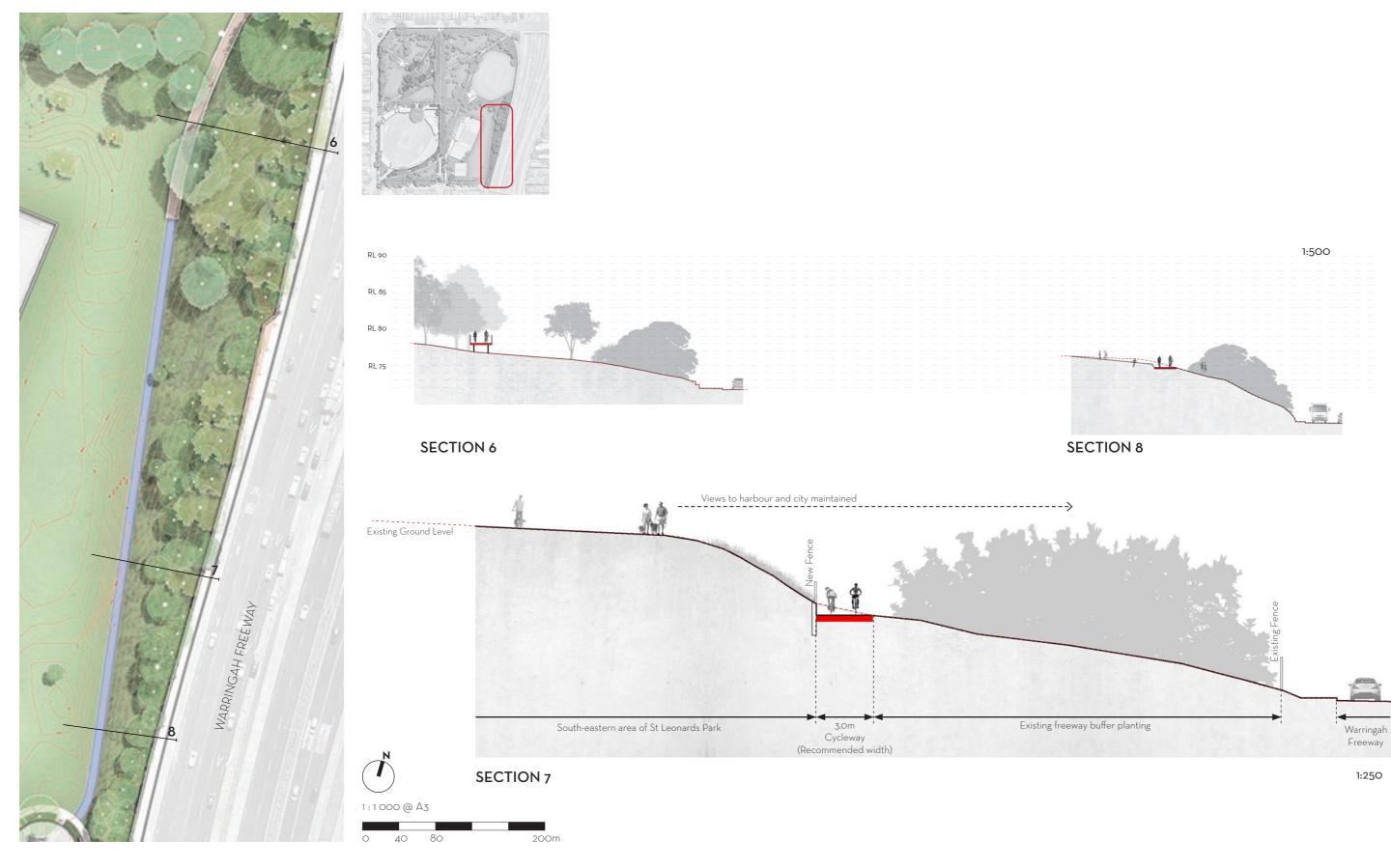






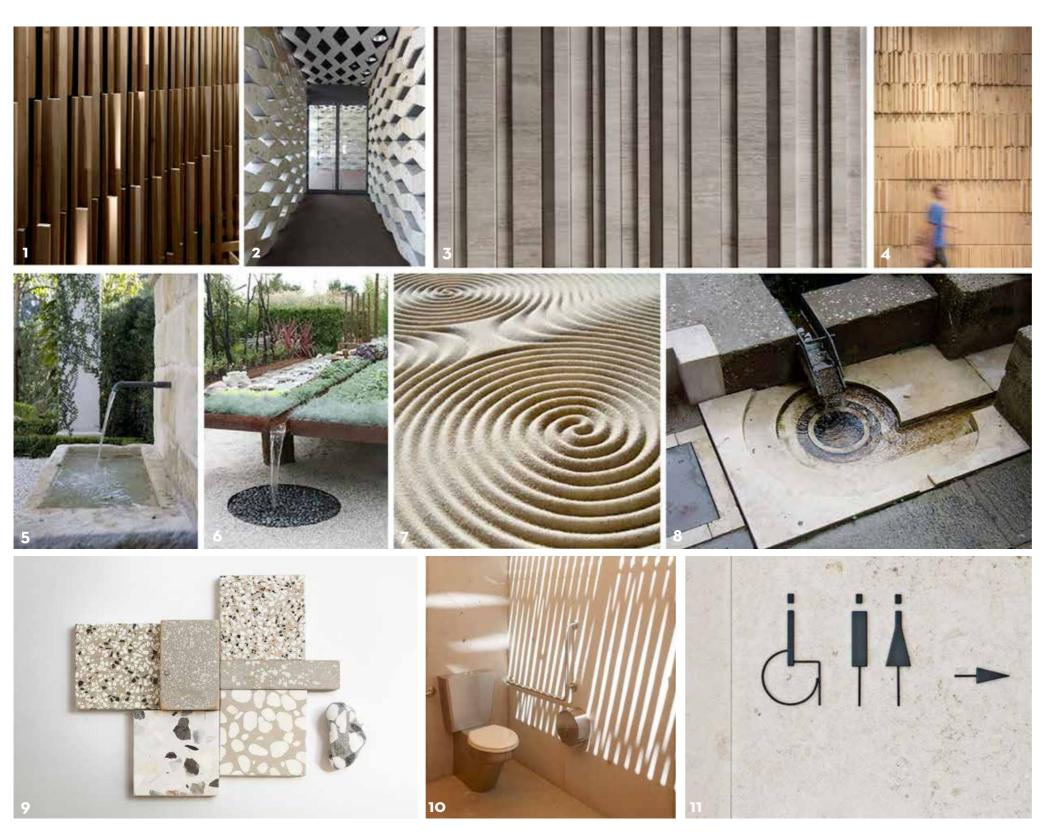
# PARK SPACES: EAST

PLAN: CYCLEWAY - OPTION A & B





### PARK ELEMENTS: PUBLIC AMENITIES INFLUENCES



### Inspiration, Texture, and Materials

The new structure will compliment both the heritage and contemporay building forms, as well as rich landscape setting at St Leonards Park.

The proposed spiral screened form can be built using a range of material options to suit budget and construction needs.

Options for the periemeter screen include reclaimed hardwood or natural sandstone, with interiors constructed in off-form concrete, terrazzo, and bronzed toned metal.

The images on this page show some of the textures, materials and details that have inspired our proposal.

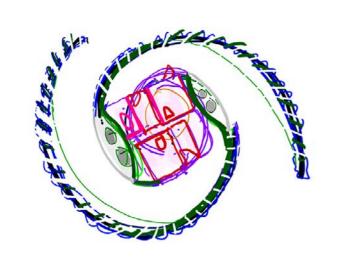
### KEY:

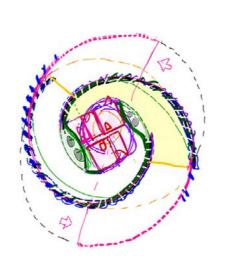
- 1. Facade screen wall: timber slatted option in reclaimed hardwood
- 2. Facade screen wall: natural stone screen
- **3**. Internal wall: textured stone or timber with ribbed relief pattern
- 4. Internal wall: textured stone or timber with ribbed relief pattern
- 5. Handwash: tradiational solid carved stone trough with bronze tap
- 6. Roof drainage and pebble water catchment
- **7**. Inspiration: spiral form
- 8. Inspiration: Carlo Scarpa scupltural water feature
- 9. Partitions: terrazzo
- 10. Cubicle daylight
- 11. Bronze pictograms

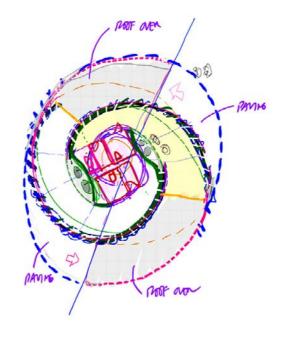


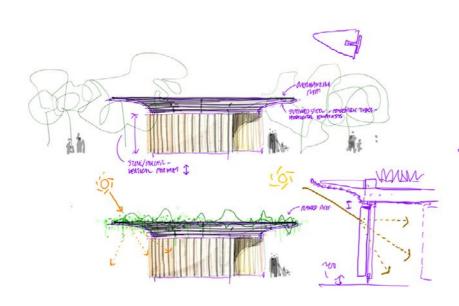


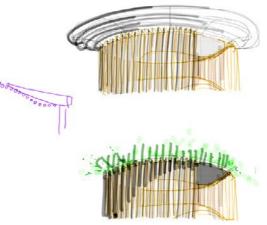
### PARK ELEMENTS: PUBLIC AMENITIES SKETCHES



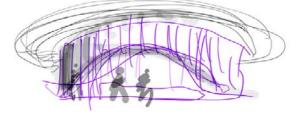












### Inspiration, Texture, and Materials

Our proposal envisages that the existing amenities block is demolished to make way for a contemporary replacement.

Our concept for the new building takes inspiration from the existing structure - a unique curved form is achieved by interlocking two spiral spaces, screened by a sculptural semitransparent perimeter wall.

The density of the screen-wall varies gradually to provide privacy adjacent to the cubicles, whilst allowing views in, closer to the male and female entries.

The building will incorprate sustainable initiatives including rooftop water capture, ample daylighting, and the use of recycled and recyclable materials. Options and opportunities for a close and holistic integration with the landscape will be explored during the development of the design.

### **Design Aims and Ambitions**

- A simple timless form
- A good fit with it's histgoric neighbour
- A high quality finish long lasting, low maintetance materials
- A structure that ages gracefully
- Opportunity for a 100 year plus lifespan
- Sustainable
- High visibility, controlled transparency
- Beutiful internal daylighting
- Economic to build
- Green roof opportunity
- Opportunity for integrated seating



# PARK ELEMENTS: PUBLIC AMENITIES 3D VIEW

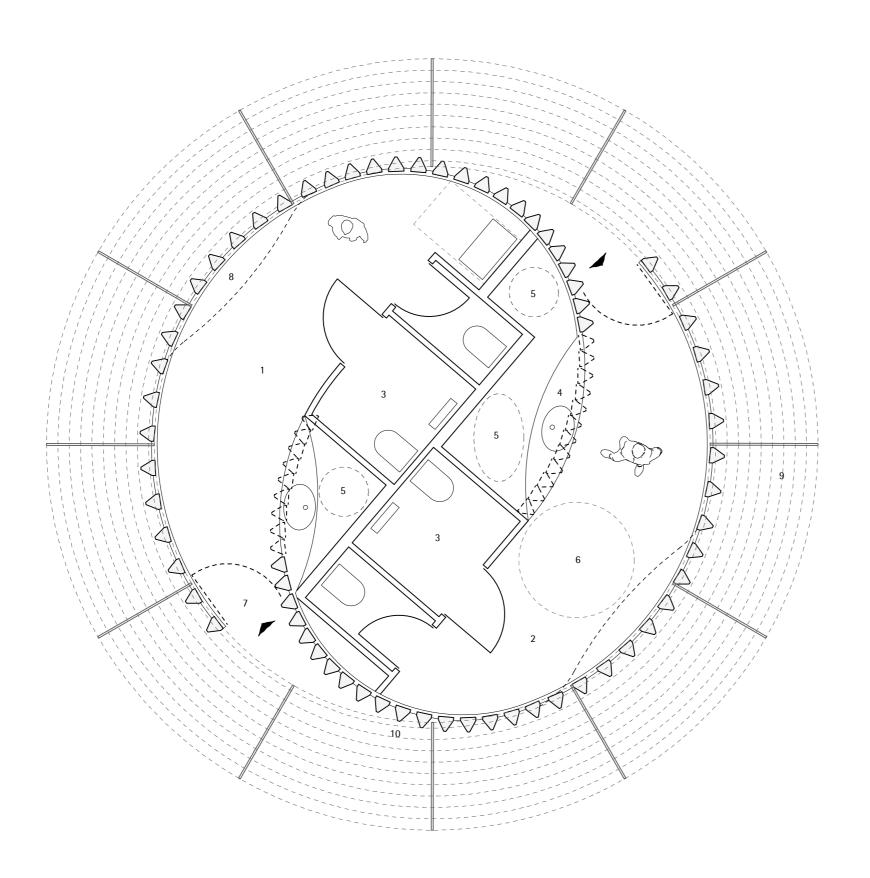


Form in Context Preliminary 3D studies





# PARK ELEMENTS: PUBLIC AMENITIES CONCEPT FLOOR PLAN

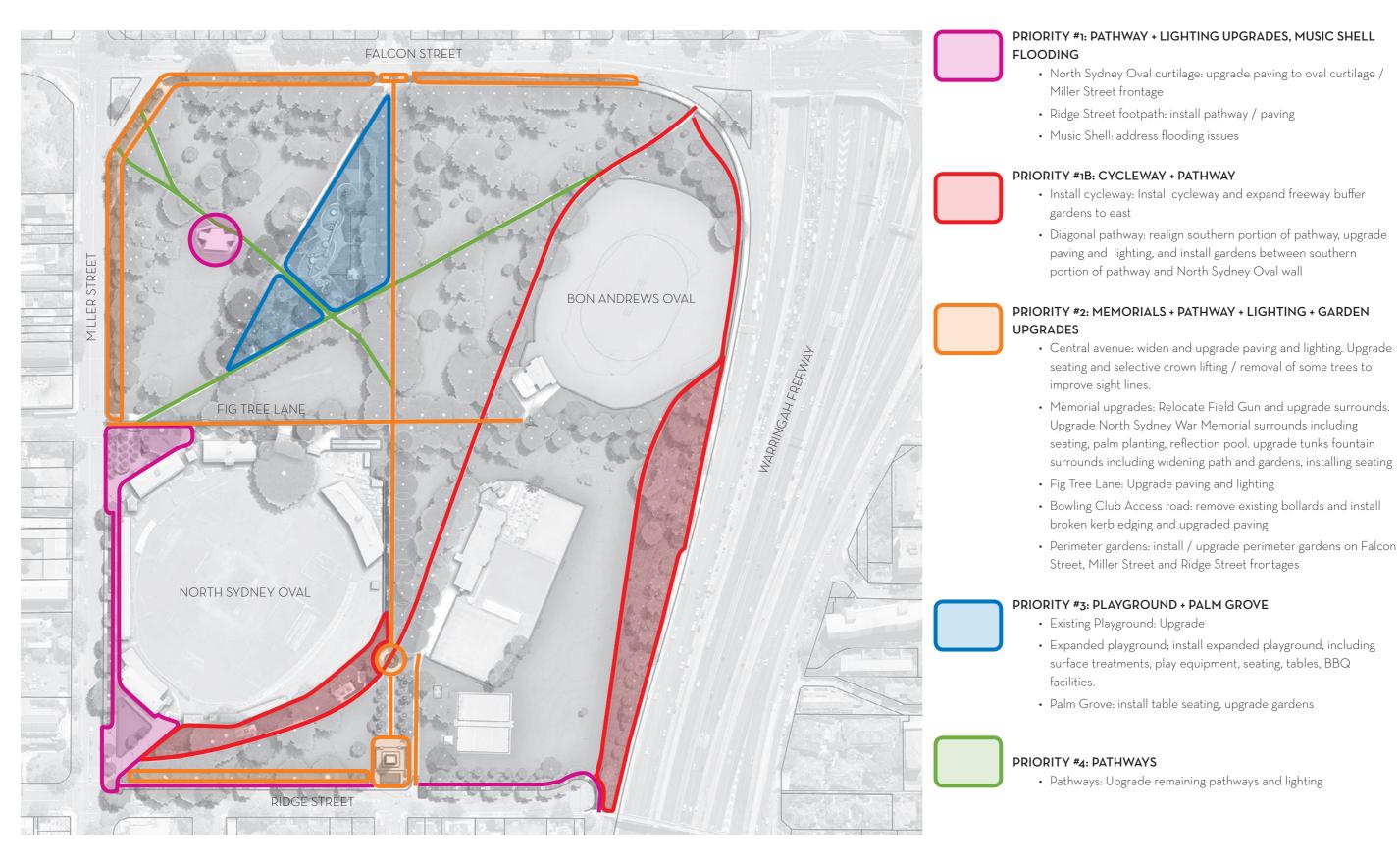


- 1. Male amenities
- 2. Female amenities
- 3. Disabled toilet + baby change
- 4. Handwash basin
- Deep soil areas for rooftop plants
- 6. Wheel chair turning circle
- 7. Lockable gates
- 8. Potential bench
- 9. Potential sun shading and plant support
- 10. Screen of varying densities for privacy control

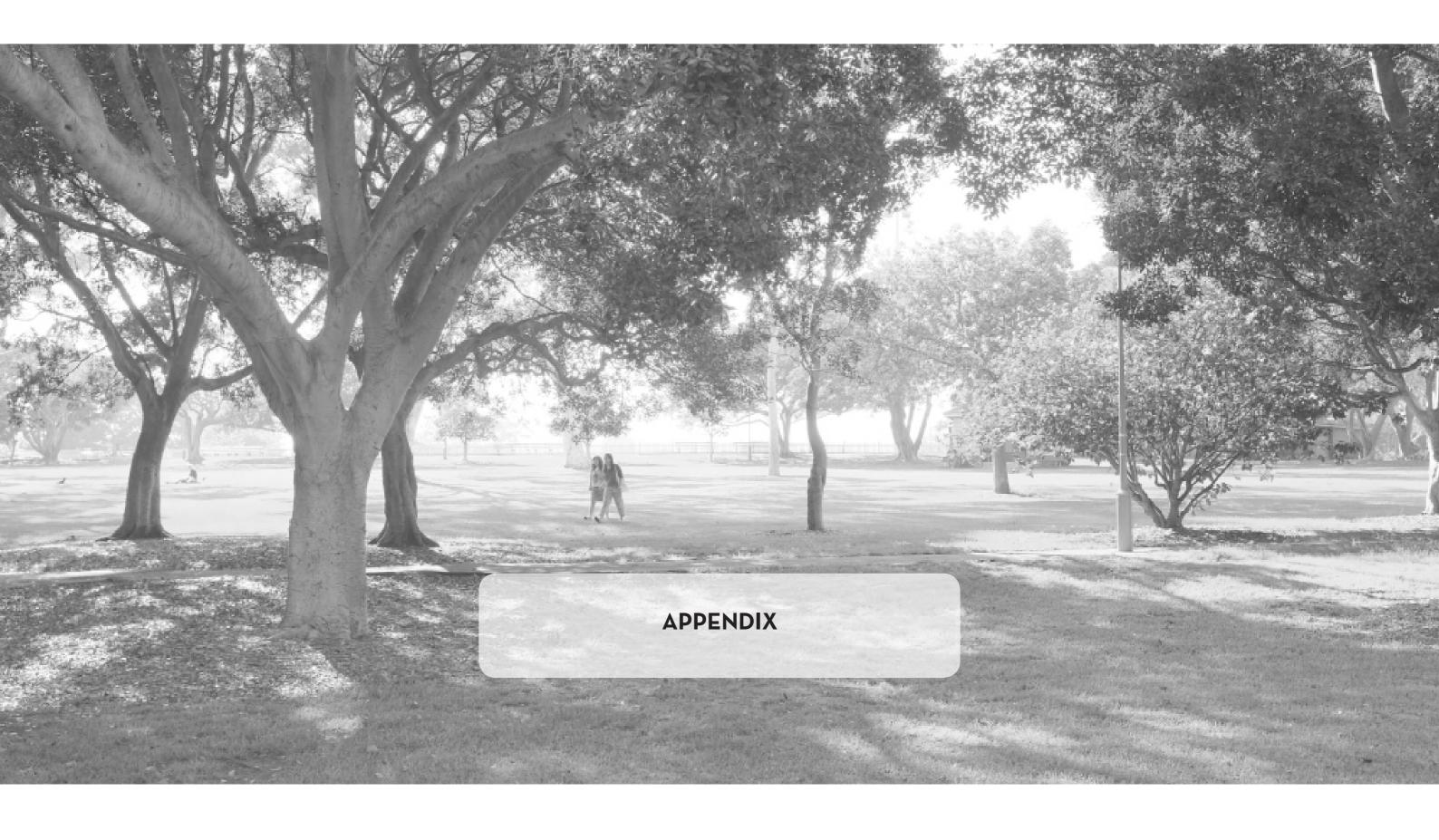


### **PARK STAGING**

STAGING PLAN











# **TUNKS FOUNTAIN**

BEFORE VIEW

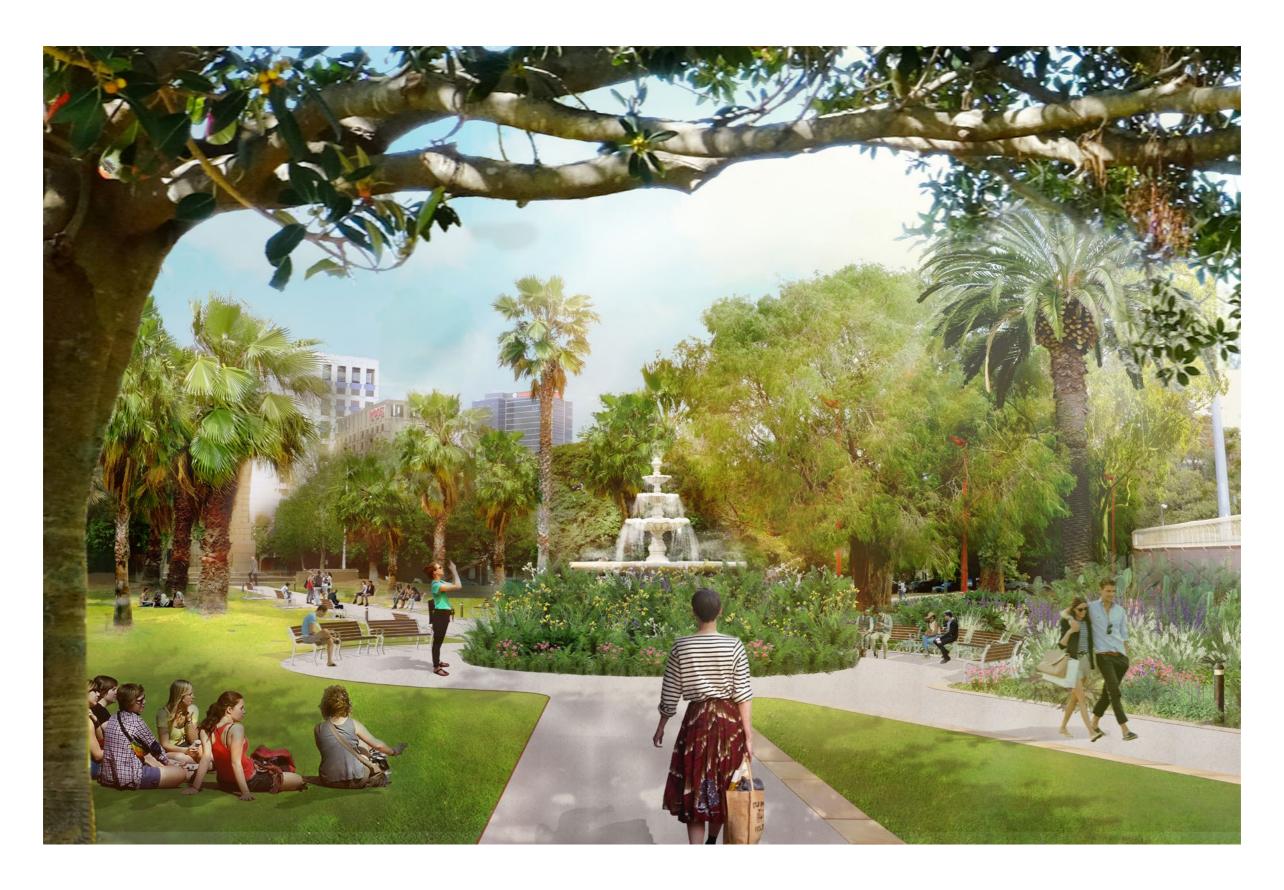






# **TUNKS FOUNTAIN**

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION







# MILLER STREET ENTRANCE

BEFORE VIEW







# MILLER STREET ENTRANCE

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION





