

05

Values, roles and objectives

5.1 Introduction

The values, roles and objectives for Sydney Park are based on community values and the City of Sydney’s management directions. They reflect the needs of the City of Sydney, local residents, current and future visitors to the park, leaseholders and other government agencies.

5.2 Community open space and recreational values

The City of Sydney community and park users value various aspects of Sydney Park for different reasons. The community’s values associated with open space were identified in the 2007 Open Space and Recreational Needs Study and include the values below:

Table 5.1 Values of Sydney Park

Value	Open space values	Roles of Sydney Park
Accessibility and connectivity	<p>The community places a high value on the ease of access to community land, regardless of age or physical ability.</p> <p>The community also value equal access to recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>The park is accessible for recreation activities, being close to homes and public transport.</p> <p>The park provides for visitors arriving by car.</p> <p>With the development of the park, the site has become more accessible by people with physical disabilities.</p> <p>Improved facilities such as public toilets, food and beverage retail, barbecues and picnic areas, enable longer stays and increase the catchment for the park.</p> <p>The park is also valued as an access route between the St Peters railway station and the southern employment lands of Alexandria.</p>

Value	Open space values	Roles of Sydney Park
Aesthetics	The community values community land as attractive places to visit and view, providing a sense of place, and character for nearby neighbourhoods.	<p>Sydney Park pleasantly contrasts with the dwellings, other buildings and traffic associated with the urban environment.</p> <p>Sydney Park is valued for its broad scale landscape character, which is distinctive from the more structured and intimate character of many of the parks in the City's open space network. It includes large sweeps of woodland, shrub land, and grassed areas, together with a chain of freshwater wetlands, creating a visually pleasing and setting.</p> <p>Remnants of the brick kilns within this scenic landscape create an iconic image for the park.</p>
Recreation	<p>The community values the wide range of quality recreation and leisure experiences offered on community land.</p> <p>However, there is a desire for more park facilities, new and/or upgraded facilities, more walking tracks and bike tracks.</p>	<p>Sydney Park can be enjoyed for informal activities such as walking the dog, jogging, children's play, kicking balls, playing games and cycling.</p> <p>Recreational settings vary from natural areas such as wooded areas and wetlands to picnic areas kiosk and children's playground.</p> <p>The park caters for formal field games at the Alan Davidson Oval and is the setting for a range of other organised activities, such as group fitness training, school cross-country carnivals and the start line for the annual Sydney to Wollongong bike ride.</p>
Culture and wellbeing	The community values community land as places to promote good health, and as venues for cultural activities, events and festivals.	<p>Large, green open areas in the park provide a sense of spaciousness, openness and freedom of movement to walk, run and exercise, leading to a sense of wellbeing.</p> <p>Sydney Park provides relief from the hustle and bustle of inner-city living.</p> <p>Sydney Park is valued as a supplement to private space at home, especially to adjoining residents, many of whom live in apartments or small terraces.</p> <p>Sydney Park is also appreciated as a venue for community events, including concerts, fairs and festivals, planting days and public art installations.</p>

Value	Open space values	Roles of Sydney Park
Ecology and Sustainability	<p>The community places a particularly high value on ecologically sensitive areas.</p> <p>The community values the natural environment, and there is a strong desire to rehabilitate natural areas.</p> <p>Trees are highly valued, and there is a general view that more trees be planted, but not at the expense of local views.</p>	<p>Sydney Park provides wildlife habitat in its terrestrial and aquatic landscapes, although diversity and canopy cover have been constrained, in part by the soil profile of this remediated industrial site.</p> <p>The City's stormwater harvesting project, currently under construction, will provide a sustainable water supply for the park and improve the wetland habitat areas. It will also harness the wetland system of Sydney Park to treat stormwater for potential offsite distribution and reuse, thus reducing the City's reliance on mains water supply.</p>
Education	<p>Some parks are valued as places for learning about the ecology and history of the area.</p>	<p>Sydney Park offers the opportunity for learning about land remediation, water treatment and reconstructed ecologies.</p> <p>The Sydney Park Cycling Centre provides a range of training to encourage more people to ride more often.</p>
Heritage	<p>Some parks are valued as places containing visual and social links to earlier times.</p>	<p>There is a community desire to identify, conserve and interpret the Park's heritage significance in relation to clay extraction and brick manufacturing, which is linked to the broader history of the local area and which contributed to the development of Sydney.</p>
Social	<p>Parks are valued as places for people to meet. Well maintained and safe parks are appreciated as venues for family gatherings.</p>	<p>Residents like to share time with their family and friends outdoors in a pleasant and non-threatening environment. Picnic facilities and barbecues provided in Sydney Park facilitate social gatherings and interaction.</p> <p>The park is used after dark, with some areas lit to extend recreation times and to cater for movement through the park by workers to and from the rail station.</p>
Maintenance and management	<p>The community values community land that is well-maintained and managed.</p>	<p>Traditional aspects of maintenance that are most important to users of Sydney Park are mowing, clean and operational barbecues, playgrounds and clean amenities.</p> <p>As the park has developed, a greater focus on the management of the wetlands and other habitat areas and the fauna within them has become increasingly important to users.</p>

5.3 Future roles of Sydney Park

As a regional park in an expanding residential area, the future roles of Sydney Park are defined below.

Table 5.2 Future roles of Sydney Park

Value	Roles of Sydney Park
Access	<p>Linkages to other parks.</p> <p>Accessible by local residents and visitors from outside the area.</p> <p>Accessible for all physical abilities.</p> <p>Accessible by public transport (bus and rail).</p>
Aesthetics	<p>Green 'refuge' in an increasingly urbanised area.</p> <p>Substantial tree canopy maintained by active tree management and plantings.</p> <p>Natural and planted settings ranging from remnant trees, shrubs and grasses to annual flower beds.</p> <p>Minimal encroachment by built structures.</p>
Recreation	<p>Regional and local informal and active recreation facilities and settings catering for a broad range of user groups.</p> <p>Park settings are flexible to accommodate changing and appropriate recreation needs and demands.</p> <p>Focus for children's play facilities with a variety of equipment that caters for all ages.</p> <p>Children's play is catered for by equipment, as well as grassed and treed areas for informal games and exploring.</p>
Culture and wellbeing	<p>Settings and spaces are available for contemplation, solitude and enjoyment of peace and quiet as well as social activities.</p> <p>Venue for community social events, community cultural events and musical events, and corporate and school events.</p> <p>Noisy activities such as playing amplified music are discouraged, except for community events.</p>
Ecology	<p>Wetland regeneration.</p> <p>Preservation of natural flora and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Site for regeneration of native species.</p>
Education	<p>Outdoor classroom for natural and historical settings.</p> <p>Lifelong learning around ecology and sustainability.</p>
Heritage	<p>Significant cultural heritage.</p> <p>Conservation of heritage items in the park.</p> <p>Interpretation of the varied history of the park as a whole.</p>
Social	<p>Provision of open and sheltered facilities and spaces for large and small social, community and cultural activities.</p> <p>Provision of formal (kiosk, café) and informal (picnic shelters and tables, barbecues) facilities for eating.</p> <p>A safe environment for visitors both day and night.</p>

5.4 A vision for Sydney Park

Sydney Park will become the premier parkland in the City's south and a significant place within the lives of its community. Reflecting the community's values, the park will celebrate its cultural heritage, expand the quality and diversity of recreation and lifelong learning opportunities, and be a setting for a range of cultural and community activities.

Above all, the park will be a vital green asset for Sydney where its landscape is protected and harnessed by the City to support a strengthened urban ecology, secure a recycled water supply, and showcase models for sustainable living in the inner city.

5.5 Principal management objectives

City of Sydney intends to manage Sydney Park to:

- Protect the park's integrity;
 - Conserve its living heritage;
 - Ensure equity of access;
 - Promote cultural diversity and expression;
 - Work with residents, community organisations and government agencies; and
 - Maintain sound business practice planning and management directions.
- The park will continue to be used primarily for informal/passive recreation activities, sports and social and cultural activities and events.

Brick kilns area



In 2007 the City commissioned Tropman and Tropman Architects to prepare a conservation management plan. This includes a statement of cultural significance and management guidelines to retain this in future use and development.

Assessment of Aboriginal heritage values

As a result of the historic modification of the present study area associated with various industrial processes, it is predicted that there is a low potential for the discovery of Aboriginal relics that maintain their contextual integrity. This does not preclude the existence of relics within the study area, but any that are extant are likely to be highly disturbed and unlikely to retain a contextual integrity.

Interpretation of the Aboriginal values of the study area should be incorporated into the broader interpretation of the site.

Statement of heritage significance

The former Bedford-Austral brickworks and surviving contextual setting have high historical, social, aesthetic and technical significance.

It is a rare example of an early brickworks site that is still reasonably intact. Its industrial architectural quality, its setting and its connection with the St Peters community and important brickmaking companies of Australia make it a site of great importance.

With its extant chimneys, kilns and machinery, the former brickworks continues to be a landmark and a focus in the St Peters/Alexandria skyline and as part of the cultural landscape of Sydney Park.

Immediate curtilage

A proposed minimum curtilage and its boundaries are those necessary to retain the cultural significance of the former Bedford-Austral brickworks and its associated setting in St Peters.

The immediate curtilage of the former brickworks extends from the car park next to the Hoffman Patent Kiln, north along the Princes Highway and west along Sydney Park Road, then follows south along the first ridgeline (east of the brickworks complex) to join up again at the car park.

Key elements

- Implementation CMP2007;
- Essential repairs and stabilisation;
- Adaptive re-use concepts to be further developed;
- Opportunities for city farm concepts, urban ecology, heritage and cultural uses compatible with the retention of the character and heritage values of the site; and
- The curtilage to the brickworks complex should be respected and conserved.

Conservation policy

Section 8.0 of the 2007 conservation management plan contains detailed policies on the site and its buildings. These include:

- The character of the former brickworks complex should be conserved;
- Significant fabric should be conserved;
- The site should ideally be able to be used by the community/public;
- Any future development and/or use of the subject site should support and fund the conservation and on-going maintenance of the significant structures and elements;
- All sub-surface areas below and adjacent to the site should be considered to have archaeological potential. Generally, any new works should be carefully designed to avoid disturbance of any archaeological items located on the site and adjacent areas;
- An interpretation plan and interpretation strategy should be prepared for the former brickworks complex and implemented;
- An oral history – from ex-employees, for example – should be obtained to further aid in the understanding of the site and to provide further interpretive material;
- The landscaping to Sydney Park and the former brickworks complex should be coordinated;
- Any buildings added to the site should be sympathetic to the buildings and elements and not intrude on their significance and interpretation; and
- Reinstate roof structures, including awnings, to Hoffman Patent Kiln and Down Draft Kilns to prevent further deterioration of brickwork and minimise ongoing maintenance. Current waterproof membrane to these structures has failed and renewing this membrane is not considered appropriate for long-term protection.

Sydney Park cycling centre and car park



Key elements

- Concept plan development for integrated learning facility;
- Including cycling facility, existing children's cycling path, child care and multipurpose space; and
- Opportunities for a city farm, urban ecology and stormwater harvesting and water re-use.

Former Council Depot Euston Road



Key elements

- Staging area for leachate management action plan implementation;
- Potential for a new recreational space and childcare; and
- Future location of the leachate management plan.

Southern grasslands



Key elements

- Opportunities to improve amenity and integration between wetlands and south-western park boundary;
- Concept development for city farm opportunities such as an orchard to improve relationship between the park and City's depot and nursery activities; and
- Potential for a garden nursery to play a lifelong learning role.

The wetlands



Key elements

- Major project due for completion in 2015;
- Largest stormwater harvesting and water re-use facility in Sydney;
- On completion will supply all the park's current and future water needs;
- Potential park maintenance revenue generated through realisation of surplus;
- Heart of the City's urban ecology action plan;
- Landscaping upgrades including:
 - links to the village green and café precinct;
 - new planting to the western facing banks;
 - extended woodland area; and
- Specialised features include 'the cascades' – an enclosed forest area with new water cascades.

Park – village green and hills



Key elements

The Green

- Central plateau area to the surrounding three hills;
- Interfaces to the wetlands highest point;
- Links with café precinct and all-abilities playground; and
- Starting point for the wetlands experience.



Western Hill

- Secluded by woodland area; and
- Ridgeline walk to the Wetlands.



Northern and Eastern Hill

- Important north and south vistas;
- Overlooking the Sydney Park cycling facility and car park (future redevelopment of lifelong learning concept facilities); and
- Overlooking the brick kilns precinct to the north-west.

Alan Davidson Oval



Sportsground

- Major sportsground facility hosting seasonal sports including cricket and Australian Rules football;
- Strengthened through outdoor fitness area completed in 2011; and
- Continued specialised maintenance to preserve its high reputation.