



Parramatta Park Conservation and Management Plan

Final



VOLUME ONE

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COMPANION VOLUMES

Vol 2 - Parramatta Park Landscape Master Plan

Vol 3 - Capital Works Strategy

Vol 4 – Archaeological Zoning Plan

Cover illustration: Old Government House and its Domain, Parramatta Park showing public art installation *Lines in the Landscape* which interpreted the former use and settlement pattern of the Government Domain.

Photograph: Skyshots

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1 Executive summary

Significance

Parramatta Park (the Park) is of exceptional cultural significance to Australia, NSW and the City of Parramatta because:

It contains evidence of remnant vegetation of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.

It is the core of the territory of the Burramatta clan of the Darug.

It is an enduring symbol of early European settlement in Australia.

It is evidence of 18th Century Parramatta.

It is a place of early Government enterprise.

It is the domain of the oldest surviving Government House in Australia.

It is Governor and Mrs Macquarie's landscaped park and estate.

It is the site of 19th Century and 20th Century recreation and public sporting activities.

It is a major green space landmark and public recreation area for the people of Parramatta.

Of its substantial surviving fabric (extant and archaeological) and the substantial body of historical material documenting its historical development.

Of its association with various individuals and organisations.

Key policies

The primary responsibility of Parramatta Park Trust is the conservation and interpretation of the Park's heritage, improvement of amenities and the provision of visitor services.

The Park landscape will be managed to recognise all periods of its use and to enhance and interpret its cultural significance.

A major use of the Park will continue to be as a place for recreation, sport and entertainment.

The Park's natural systems will be protected, restored and regenerated.

The Park boundaries will be protected from encroachments and developments which compromise its significance.

There will be no further excisions from the Park including land for easements (except where such easements relate specifically to PPT functions).

Opportunities for return of lands previously excised from the Park will be sought.

Purpose of this plan

This Management Plan is a combined management and conservation plan and thus deals with specific conservation as well as operational planning issues. Over the past twenty years a large number of reports have been prepared on the conservation and management of the Park and these reports still provide a significant resource base for work within the Park. The information in

these reports has not been unnecessarily replicated in this document and the relevant reports should be consulted for more detail about specific sites or issues within the park.

This management plan is a companion document to the Parramatta Park Landscape Master plan.¹

Key actions

- Prepare and implement conservation planning documents for Mays Hill and Queens Road Gatehouses
- Prepare and implement maintenance plans for Dairy Precinct, gatehouses and monuments
- Prepare and implement adaptive reuse strategies for Rangers Cottage, and gatehouses
- Conserve critical views through active vegetation management and removal of intrusive signage
- Complete the tree management plan for the Park
- Investigate planting schemes along ridge line
- Develop planting programs and detailed plans for Riverine areas including Domain Creek, Murray Gardens Creek and the Parramatta River, Ridgeline and Crescent, George Street gatehouse, Café/Event Centre and Dairy Precinct
- Undertake interpretative landscaping works at the Macquarie Street Entrance including interpretation and conservation of carriageways, roads, paths, the Redoubt, Pitt Street Bridge, Government Farm
- Establish expert committee to meet up to four times per year comprising experts in conservation, history, archaeology, landscape, interpretation or other relevant skills to assist in developing annual conservation program for Park, to lend expert skills to implementation of program and to promote program outside of the Park.

¹ DPWS 2002

2 Introduction

Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape representing a “palimpsest of different cultures”², landscape layers and developments. The significance of the Park lies in the extant evidence of its historical evolution, its natural heritage and its recreational values.

This plan establishes ways to manage the Park landscape in a sensitive manner and is a companion document to the Parramatta Park Landscape Master plan (DPWS: landscape design group 2002; hereafter referred to as LMP). The plan meets Parramatta Park Trust’s requirements under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001* to prepare a Plan of Management. It also meets the requirements of the Heritage Council of NSW which has requested that a Conservation Management Plan be prepared for the Park.

3 Where is Parramatta Park?

Parramatta Park is located on the western edge of the Parramatta Central Business District. The Park is in Darug territory and was once occupied by the Burramatta clan. In the Vice Regal period (1810 to 1847) the perimeter of the park was fenced to encompass largely the area gazetted as public park today with the exception of 13 hectares of excisions.³

The boundaries of the Park have been altered on ten occasions since the original dedication in 1857 resulting in a loss of 13 hectares over 140 years. Excisions have occurred for the Wistaria Gardens (excised between 1858-1887), Parramatta Stadium (1981: 8 hectares), Children’s home (1958: 0.3 hectares), Old Government House dedications (1967: 0.9 hectares), War Memorial RSL Club (1952; 1.1 hectares), the railway and public roads (1.8 hectares) and Parramatta High School (0.9 hectares).⁴

Parramatta LGA is now the geographical heart of Sydney and encompasses 61 square kilometres and a population of 155,000 people⁵. Parramatta Park is the largest area of open space in the Parramatta Local Government Area comprising 86 hectares. (Figure 1).

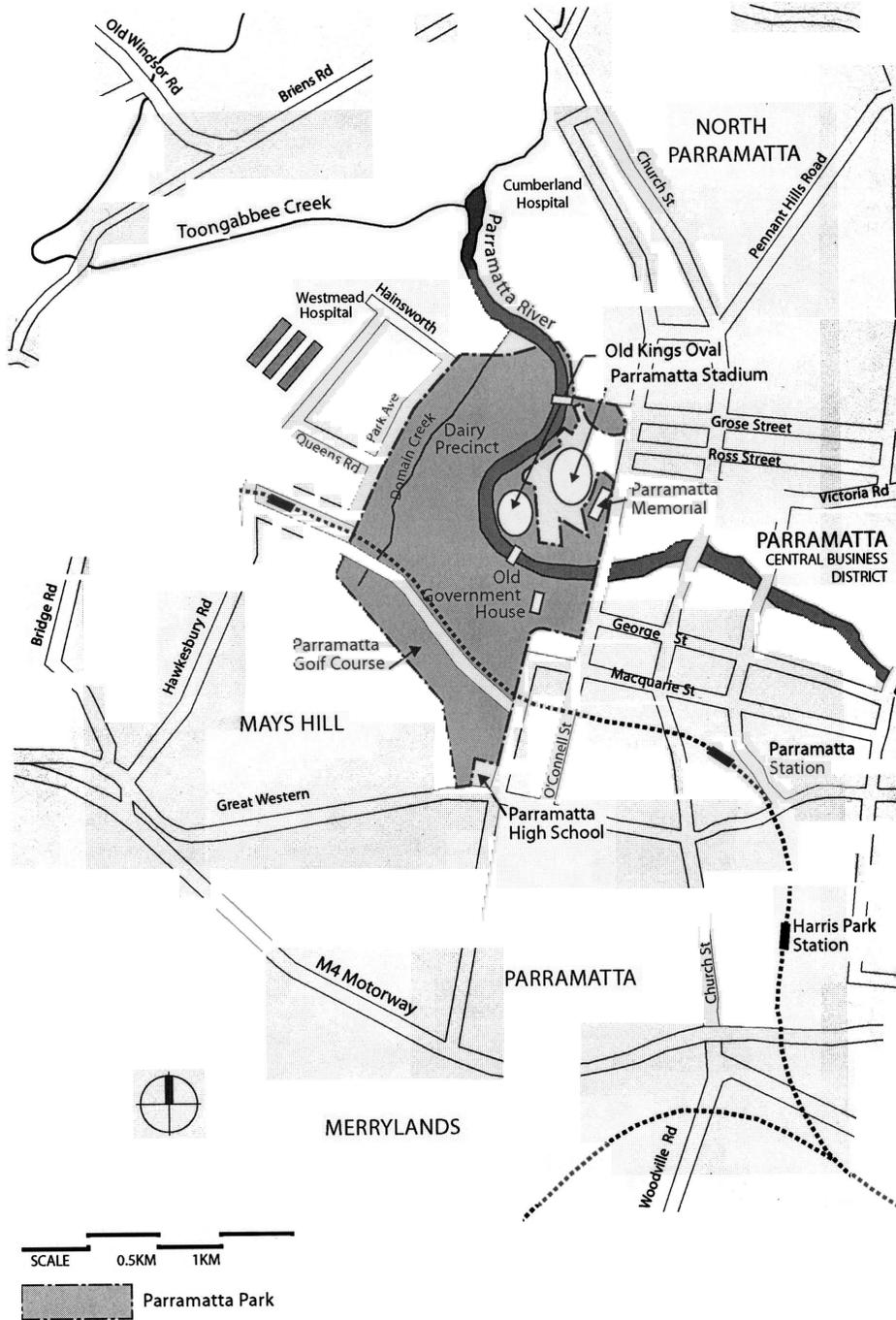
2 LMP 2002

3 LMP p14

4 Parramatta Park Draft Plan of Management 1996-2000, : 4.

5 Parramatta City Council : www.parracity.nsw.gov.au

Figure 1 Location map of Parramatta Park⁶



⁶ From Manidis Roberts et al 1996: 2

4 Why is Parramatta Park important?

The following statement of significance for the Park from the LMP was endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council in April 2002.

Parramatta Park is of exceptional cultural significance to Australia, NSW and the City of Parramatta because:

- a *It contains evidence of remnant vegetation of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.*
- b *It is the core of the territory of the Burramatta clan of the Darug.*

It is still of high cultural value to the Darug people, who continue to participate in the cultural and physical management of the place.
- c *It is an enduring symbol of early European settlement in Australia.*

Its siting relates to the identification of 'The Crescent' by Governor Phillip and the establishment of an agricultural settlement in 1788, vital towards the survival of the early colony.
- d *It is evidence of 18th Century Parramatta.*

The overall place is highly regarded by the community for its significant historical role in Australian history and providing a sense of identity for the City of Parramatta.
- e *It is a place of early Government enterprise.*

This includes farming, agricultural experimentation, gardens and botanical collection and propagation, and public transport.
- f *It is the domain of the oldest surviving Government House in Australia.*
- g *It is Governor and Mrs Macquarie's landscaped park and estate.*

Its establishment, layout and design is directly associated with the creation of the Government Domain under Governor and Mrs Macquarie. It is a rare example of a public park reflecting the structure and character of the former Government Domain of the late 18th Century in Australia.
- h *It is the site of 19th Century and 20th Century recreation and public sporting activities.*

As one of the earliest public parks in Australia and the third national park it continues to be a major place for public recreation, since its dedication as a public park in 1858.
- i *It is a major green space landmark and public recreation area for the people of Parramatta.*

Of its landmark quality, it is a prominent feature along the Parramatta River and a focal point in the local townscape.

-
-
- j *Of its substantial surviving fabric (extant and archaeological) and the substantial body of historical material documenting its historical development.*

It provides a major research, educational and interpretative resource, providing an understanding of the original landscape, the impact of Aboriginal and European cultural activities, and the planning and development of the City of Parramatta.

- k *Of its association with various individuals and organisations.*

including the Burramatta clan of the Darug and Aboriginal identities such as Pemulway, Baluderry and Arabanoo, Governor Phillip, Governor and Mrs Macquarie, Governor Brisbane, other governors who resided at Old Government House, aviator William Hart, the Parramatta Park Trust and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, explorers, Sydney Botanic Gardens Directors and staff, landscape designers.

5 Who manages Parramatta Park?

Parramatta Park is Crown Land, reserved for the purpose of public recreation. The Park is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust (the Trust) which is constituted under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No. 17*.

The objects of the Trust are:

- a) To maintain and improve the Trust lands, and
- b) To encourage the use and enjoyment of the trust lands by the public by promoting the recreational, historical, scientific, educational and cultural heritage values of those lands, and
- c) To ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the trust lands and the protection of the environment within those lands, and
- d) Such other objects, consistent with the functions of the trust in relation to the trust lands, as the trust considers appropriate.⁷

The Trust functions are also outlined in the Act and they include:

- a) To permit use of the Park for recreational, historical, scientific, educational and cultural heritage activities.
- b) To provide or permit the provision of food and other refreshments.
- c) To promote and provide exhibits, lectures, films etc relating to trust lands.
- d) In accordance with the trust's objectives to procure specimens, services or materials or scientific or other data.
- e) To disseminate information to the public.
- f) To maintain Trust property.
- g) To charge and receive fees for services.⁸

⁷ Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 no 17 Part 3 (6).

⁸ Ibid Part 3 (7)

The Trust maintains a small core staff including a Director, rangers, field staff and a cultural heritage specialist. Seven Parramatta Park Trustees are appointed for four year terms. The Trustees meet on a monthly basis.

6 What is the purpose of this plan?

This plan identifies ways to manage the Park landscape in a cohesive and sensitive manner and is a companion document to the LMP. Together these plans aim to provide guidance to achieve greater community recognition for the exceptional cultural values of Parramatta Park and to ensure that the Park's values are conserved and maintained for future generations. The vision for the Park established in this plan has been developed for a twenty year time frame. Many actions are to be undertaken in the next five years and present a first step in achieving our vision.

The plan meets the Park Trust's requirements under the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001* to prepare a Plan of Management. This plan must contain a "detailed written scheme of the operations proposed to be undertaken in or in relation to the trust lands." ⁹ This scheme is presented in section 16 "Implementation Schedule". This plan also meets the requirements of the Heritage Council of NSW which has requested that a Conservation Management Plan be prepared for the Park.

This plan was prepared by staff of Parramatta Park Trust. The basis for this plan was a 2003/04 draft prepared Cath Snelgrove with assistance from Karen Howes, Verena Mauldon, Jacob Messer and Christopher Levins. This plan was the subject of peer reviews and consultation with members of the Parramatta Park Trust, The National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the NSW Heritage Office.

In 2007 this plan was reviewed within the context of proposed nomination of Old Government House and its Domain, Parramatta (Parramatta Park) for World Heritage Listing as part of the Australian Convict sites serial nomination. It was subsequently placed on public exhibition and subject to a further peer review.

7 Structure of the plan

This plan is presented in three volumes.

Volume 1 contains the main body of the plan: the aims and vision for management, the policies and actions. A brief outline of the history of the Park is also included. The bibliography should be consulted for more detailed historical information.

Volume 2 of the plan contains a copy of the LMP for Parramatta Park which was endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council of NSW. The LMP contains a history and assessment of the Park, design guidelines for new development and activities in the Park and a series of recommendations for managing and improving the Park landscape.

⁹ Ibid Part 5 (15)

Volume 3 contains the Park Capital Works Strategy. The strategy contains detailed information and a scope of works for individual projects within the Park identified in the LMP and has been approved by Parramatta Park Trust.

Volume 4 is the Parramatta Park Archaeological Zoning Plan. This is an archaeological assessment to review and identify archaeological potential of the Park as a whole.

8 What is the vision for Parramatta Park?

A Park conserved as a cultural and historical icon to all Australians and others, integrated with the surrounding environment and the community, harmoniously co-existent with recreational and sporting facilities.¹⁰

Parramatta Park will become one of the premier cultural heritage attractions in NSW through the implementation of innovative conservation and interpretative programs, active promotion and marketing of the Park as a major tourist destination and the development of school-based education programs. Cultural and Nature Tourism visitor numbers will increase over the next five years and visitor facilities will be improved and developed to meet new demands.

The Park will continue to be highly valued for its sporting and recreational facilities. Facilities will be maintained in accordance with the significance of the park and to meet the demands of the growing community on the Park borders.

Implementation of this plan will achieve the following long term outcomes for the Park:

The area around Old Government House will serve as a central welcome point to the Park inviting visitors to explore and understand the historical development of the Park, particularly the Governor's Domain and the People's Park. The Macquaries' legacy, particularly as seen by the layout of the roads and paths, the formal and informal plantings and the fence lines and perimeter fencing, will be a key interpretative theme in this area. The enhancement of significant views in this area will be a key priority.

The entrance ways to the Park will provide a feeling of welcome and arrival. The grandeur of the George Street entrance will be enhanced through landscaping and access improvements. The main Macquarie Street entrance way will be reconfigured to separate car and pedestrian access and to provide a greater feeling of excitement and anticipation on arrival. Visitors will be welcomed by views to Old Government House and clear indications of how to access the Park's main features by foot or by car.

The river areas, ridgelines and Park boundaries will be showcases for native vegetation, Aboriginal heritage interpretation and passive recreation. They will promote an understanding of the importance of our waterways, of conserving native vegetation and of community involvement in natural and cultural heritage conservation initiatives.

¹⁰ PPT Corporate Plan 2005

The Park boundaries will form a sharp contrast with the surrounding urban environment to emphasise the sense of arrival at a special place quite distinct from the surrounding urban area.

Mays Hill will be promoted as a place where visitors can view the expanse of Parramatta Park and can imagine the growth and development of the Parramatta City and in that context, the growth of Sydney and NSW itself. It will also be promoted as an alternative event space to the Crescent.

The Government Farm site will be managed so as to encourage visitors to reflect on the difficulties of sustaining convict and soldier communities without traditional knowledge of the landscape and its resources.

The Crescent will be a focal place for understanding the evolution of the Park, from the earliest painted views of the river, to the construction of the amphitheatre, swimming pool and stadium. In the long term the Crescent will be returned to its earlier form to enable deeper understanding of the pre-contact environment, to provide an improved landscape context for understanding the location of Aboriginal artefacts along the ridgeline, and to interpret the early agricultural Park landscape.

Little Coogee will be experienced as a changed place. A place where in living memory lifesavers watched over swimmers on the weekends as they swam in the clean waters of the Parramatta River. It will be promoted as place to reflect on the rapidity of environmental change as well as on our ability to halt the course of degradation and improve the quality of our natural heritage. In the long term water quality improvements to the river may enable the recreation of Little Coogee as a sandy Parramatta River beach.

9 What is our mission?

To enhance Parramatta Park as a rich resource through excellence in leadership, conservation and Park management for all to experience and appreciate. ¹¹

10 How do we achieve this?

Our vision and mission will be achieved through the development of five key areas:

Research

Thorough and detailed research into all periods of the Park's evolution and development will underpin interpretation, conservation, and maintenance and landscape programs.

Interpretation

On and off site interpretation will include updated material in the Visitor Centre, regular heritage events and activities to coincide with Heritage and Foundation Weeks, school holidays, school term visits and adult educational activities. Park programs will be promoted and marketed on a state wide basis.

Conservation

¹¹ PPT Corporate Plan 2005

A conservation program incorporating conservation works, adaptive reuse, maintenance and implementation of the Landscape Master plan will be conducted over a five year period. An expert Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee will be established.

Linkages

Strong relationships will be forged with the National Trust, Historic Houses Trust, Tourism NSW, Parramatta and Holroyd City Councils, the local Aboriginal community, sporting organisations and other relevant groups.

Resource allocation

Parramatta Park will maintain and increase its resource base to implement its programs. The Park will retain a highly skilled staff including expertise in cultural and natural heritage management, promotion, marketing and interpretation.

11 Previous work

There have been a large number of reports prepared for Parramatta Park over the last fifteen years. These reports contain a wealth of valuable information including descriptions and measured drawings of the monuments and buildings and detailed studies of the archaeology. These studies have not been re-produced here. A brief description of the main report types and how the Park will continue to use these reports is included below.

An index of reports and their contents relevant to this plan is in the section 16. Further references can be found in the Parramatta Park bibliography¹². Relevant policies, procedures and actions from previous reports have been included in the relevant sections of this report. In addition previously prepared reports have been used to compile the site's inventory in Volume 2.

11.1 Plans of Management

Previous plans of management for Parramatta Park were prepared in 1980 (Planning Workshop) 1983 (Crown Lands Office), 1989 (Department of Lands), and 1997 (Manidis Roberts et al). A landscape master plan was produced in 2002 (see below). All of these plans have been used in the preparation of this Management Plan and will be superseded by this Plan.

11.2 Archaeological studies

There have been several archaeological management plans prepared which have included Parramatta Park. In 1996 as part of the preparation of the 1997 Parramatta Park Plan of Management, Val Attenbrow undertook archaeological research into the Aboriginal archaeological significance of the Park. This survey found Aboriginal stone artefacts in widely distributed parts of the Park as well as a single scar tree. The report found that "the area now known as Parramatta Park was widely used by Aboriginal people in the times before Governor Phillip and his party first visited there in April 1788". The report found that the significance of the Aboriginal archaeological

¹² Smith 1997

evidence within the Park related to its survival in a highly built up area, its ability to demonstrate past land-use patterns, and its importance to contemporary local Aboriginal communities.¹³

The first historical archaeological zoning plan which included the Park was prepared by Edward Higginbotham in the late 1980s and dealt with the 1788 to 1844 archaeological resources in Parramatta¹⁴. Following on from Higginbotham's work, Godden Mackay prepared another zoning plan (1995) which was followed by a detailed archaeological analysis of the Park by Robert Varman in 1997 and most recently The Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study was completed by Godden Mackay Logan for the Parramatta City Council and NSW Heritage Council (2000).

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology has undertaken a range of project-based archaeological excavations and studies relating to specific works (see bibliography).

All of these reports have demonstrated the richness and intactness of the archaeological resource within the Park. Indeed, "there is a substantial body of data which demonstrates that the landscape itself is a cultural artefact of exceptional scientific research value within which there are many known rare contact periods and later historical archaeological sites, dating from the earliest phases of European activity".¹⁵

Given that there have been four archaeological zoning plans prepared for the Park, it is not considered necessary to include additional plans in this report. PPT will continue to use the detailed historical information contained in the Varman (1997) work which has been one of the primary references used in the preparation of the site inventory. That report will be used in conjunction with the policies, themes and research suggestions in the Godden Mackay Logan (2000) report. The local research themes in the latter report have been used and expanded upon in the interpretation table in section 13.9 below.

11.3 Built heritage

There have been a large number of reports written on the built heritage of Parramatta Park. Perhaps the most enduring study was that conducted by Brian McDonald and Associates in 1987. This study saw the preparation of descriptions, significance assessments, measured drawings and works schedules for the following buildings and monuments: Macquarie Street Gatehouse, Western Domain (Queens Road) Gatehouse, Rangers Cottage, Governor's Dairy, Southern Domain (Mays Hill) Gatehouse, Fences and Gates, Observatory Remnants and Memorial, Boer War Memorial and cannons, Bath House Pavilion, Bandstand, Boundary Stone, WE Hart Memorial, Lady Fitzroy Memorial, Obelisk, and the Old Government House Commemoration Stone.

A companion document to the volume on built heritage was the Historic Landscape Study by Brian McDonald with Craig Burton (1987). Both of these documents are still primary documents for understanding the built and landscape heritage of the Park and have been major sources along with the Varman reports, for the preparation of a separate sites inventory.

¹³ Attenbrow 1996: 39

¹⁴ Higginbotham

¹⁵ Godden Mackay Logan 2000: vol. 1: 40

Since the preparation of the McDonald reports there have been a number of conservation management plans and assessments prepared for individual buildings and monuments. Most notably these include a Conservation Management Plan, Landscape Plan and Interpretation Plan for the Dairy Precinct and Visitors Centre,¹⁶ conservation plans for the Park Parade Gatehouse¹⁷ and the George Street Gatehouse¹⁸, a roads study,¹⁹ a stone work assessment of the stone monuments on the ridgeline and the boundary stone,²⁰ an adaptive reuse study of the George Street Gatehouse and Visitors Centre²¹, and the updated LMP.

These documents together with this Plan will continue to form the basis for managing individual buildings, monuments and features within the Park, until such time as they require updating. Where relevant, recommendations and policies from these documents have been included in this plan, however the individual documents should be consulted for further information when required.

11.4 Vegetation management

There are three major vegetation plans for the Park in addition to the LMP. These plans cover works which are in progress or have been completed in the following locations:

- Domain Creek restoration and planting.
- Ridgeline erosion control and vegetation management.
- Murray Gardens Creek restoration and replanting.

11.5 The Parramatta Park Landscape Master plan

The LMP provides a broad base for management of the Park. The plan was produced by the Department of Public Works and Services for the PPT in 2001 and endorsed in principle by the NSW Heritage Council in April 2002. The Plan is attached in Volume 3. The statement of significance and history from the LMP have been reproduced in this Management Plan. The LMP should also be consulted for a more detailed physical description of the Park including the geology, natural systems, edges spatial structure, archaeology and built forms. Many of the policies and actions identified in the LMP have been included here and the LMP detailed design guidelines are to be read in conjunction with any actions proposed in this Management Plan.

Due to the broad nature of the conservation policies in the LMP the Heritage Council required that PPT continue to apply for approvals under the *Heritage Act 1977* for specific works. Several of the recommendations from the LMP have been included in this volume and where possible additional detail has been given. It is intended however that detailed proposals will be forwarded to the Heritage Council for approval as they are developed and that additional Heritage Council delegations will be sought once this plan has been endorsed.

¹⁶ Design 5 Architects 1988; Bannyan Wood 1998, Musecape et al 1998

¹⁷ Design 5 Architects 2002

¹⁸ Architectural Projects 1996

¹⁹ Snelgrove 1998

²⁰ Young 2002

²¹ Davies 2002

12 History of Parramatta Park

PART I: History and Cultural Significance

12.1 Background

Source: Brian McDonald and Craig Burton, Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study, 1987, p. 3 – 46.

Parramatta is a place of hope. It was hoped to establish a significant settlement at Rose Hill based on the perceived agricultural potential of the local soils. It was a European perception. It was hoped that the site would provide a river setting so familiar to English settlements. It was hoped to lay out a grand town based on the Vitruvian ideal of geometric formality with a spatial succession of square and grand avenue leading from river landing place to the Governors 'seat' on the Rose Hill surrounded by a Domain.

These hopes soon faded yet elements of the structure of the hoped for cultural landscape were implemented and still remain. The largest of these was that area of land known as the Government Domain. This land was named Cumberland Park in honour of the Prince and Duke of Cumberland by Governor Phillip on the King's Accession Day in 1791. It was on this occasion that the name of the settlement at Rose Hill was changed to Parramatta.²²

Cumberland Park, as it was then known, was in effect the estate setting for the Governors' residence situated on Rose Hill and a place for grazing the Government cattle. The alluvial soils along the line of the river were most suitable for the growing of grain crops and other useful plants. The catchment of the river was more extensive than that at Sydney Cove yet the Parramatta River was not rated very highly by comparison with the known rivers of the northern hemisphere;

*"Nothing like those tributary streams which feed rivers in other countries are here seen: for when I speak of the stream at Sydney, I mean only the drain of a morass; and the river at Rose Hill is a creek of the harbour, which above high water mark would not in England be called even a brook."*²³

The meeting place of the freshwater stream and the tidal waters of the drowned river valley (Sydney Harbour) occurred within the Park at its eastern boundary. The Surgeon General of the First Fleet, John White wrote of this place as part of the first European expedition to this part of the harbour in 1788,²⁴

"... we proceeded to trace the river or small arm of the sea. The banks of it were now pleasant, the trees immensely large, and at considerable distance from each other; and the land around us flat and rather low, but well covered with the kind of grass just mentioned. Here the tide ceased to flow; and all further progress for boats was stopped by a flat space of large broad stones, over which

²² M Kelson (comp): Parramatta, The Early Years, with extracts from the Jubilee History of Parramatta, 1984, Sydney, p.10.

²³ W. Tench: Sydney's First Four Years, reprint. Library of Australian History 1979, Sydney, p.10

²⁴ J. White: Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales, London, 1790, reprinted Sydney, 1962, pp 148-49.

a fresh-water stream ran."

The 'stones' referred to by White are the expansive Sydney Sandstone deposits underlying the clay deposits (good soils) and exposed by river action. Several outcrops of sandstone can still be found along the river. It is assumed that the "stones" referred to by White were encountered at some point west of the present location of Charles Street, Parramatta.

Nearby to the junction of the waters a small redoubt was constructed towards the end of 1788 with the intention of establishing a productive settlement in the vicinity.

The river or fresh water stream proved to be a vital ingredient in the establishment of food crops of which maize appeared to be the dominant one by as 1790 Tench reported on the progress at Rose Hill:²⁵

"He [Dod] estimates the quantity of cleaned and cultivated land at 200 acres. Of these 55 are in wheat, barley and a little oats, 30 in maize and the remainder is either just cleared of wood, or is occupied by buildings, gardens, etc. Four inclosures of 20 acres each are planned for the reception of cattle, which may arrive in the colony and two of these are already fenced in. In the centre of them is to be a house, for a person who will be fixed upon to take care of the cattle. All these inclosures are supplied with water, and only a part of the trees which grew on them being cut down, gives to them a very park-like and beautiful appearance."

The Government Domain consisted of 2000 acres stretching from the redoubt (approximately the line of the present O'Connell Street) in the east to Toongabbie in the north-west.

The progress of agriculture in and about Rose Hill appeared to be satisfactory in Governor Phillip's time in New South Wales however the repeated croppings soon led to a loss of soil fertility²⁶ and the taking of new ground thus creating extensive clearings and depleting the soil over a wide area. This meant that the depleted areas could be used for grazing rather than for intensive agriculture which required adequate sources of manure and water. These ingredients were in short supply in 1789-90.

The Domain of 1790 was perceived as consisting of definite areas; a Governor's House and garden on the Rose Hill site; and enclosure known as the Government Farm, lying across the river and to the north of the Governor's House situated on the relatively rich alluvial soils of the river; the Crescent which is adjacent to and north-west of the Governors House. The northern aspect provided by this natural landform provided an ideal site for horticultural experimentation, particularly vines and fruit trees; to the west of the Crescent and the Governor's House were the cattle enclosures, complete with a

²⁵ Tench, op.cit., p. 193

²⁶ J.F. Campbell J.R.H.S. XII, 4, 1927, P. 357

²⁷ Tench. op. cit.

²⁸ Tench. op. cit. p.75

Superintendent's House, outbuildings and fenced yards (Figure 3.); the remainder of the Domain comprised of indigenous vegetation in part with a thinned tree cover for grazing purposes and isolated cleared areas under cultivation and was commonly referred to as Cumberland Park. Cattle and sheep belonging to different people could graze here and it dominated the Domain in terms of land area.

The access to Rose Hill from Sydney was most easily obtained by water and the grand avenue linking the landing place (Queen's Wharf) and the Governor's House was the generating straight line that influenced the subsequent layout of the Parramatta township.

The area to the east of the Governor's House and referred to by Tench²⁷ as "the old field" underwent many changes as a front garden and entry to the house. Cottages built along Phillip's grand avenue (George Street) were built up to the original entrance way to Government House off Bridge Street (later Pitt Street).

"The great road from near the landing place to the Governor's House is finished and a very noble one it is, being of great breadth, and a mile long, in a strait line in many places it is carried over gullies of considerable depth, which have been filled up with trunks of trees, covered with earth. It contains as present 32 houses completed of 24 feet by 12 each, on a ground floor only, built of wattles plastered with clay and thatched.

... In passing through the main street I was pleased to observe the gardens of the convicts look better than I had expected to find them."²⁸

FIGURE 3: ROSE HILL c.1790

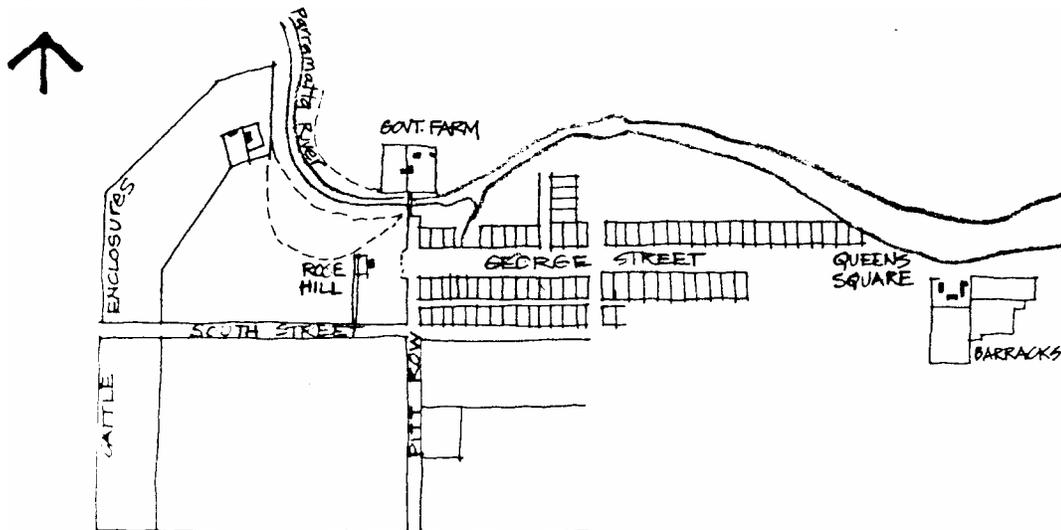
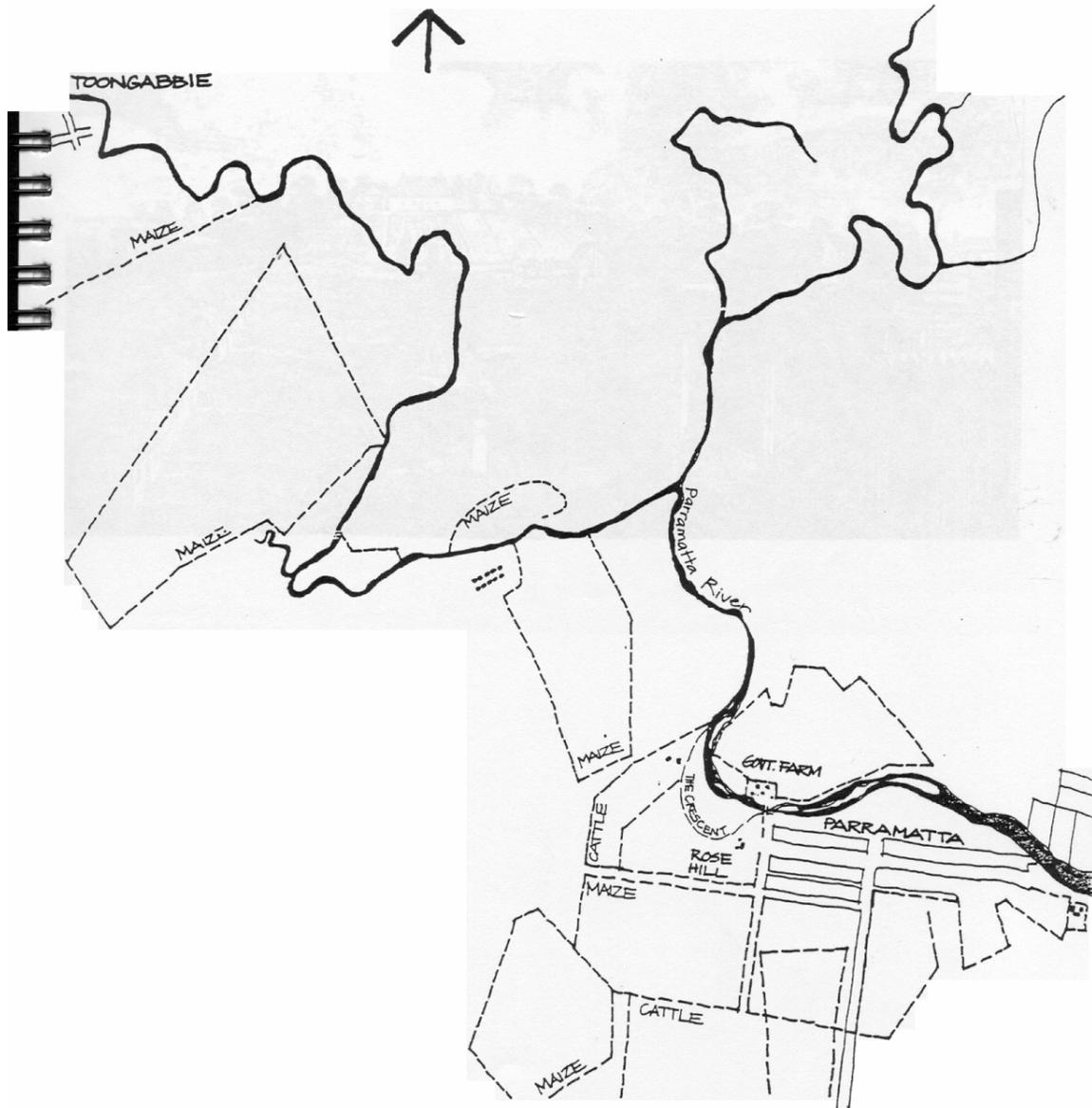


FIGURE 6: PARRAMATTA C1790



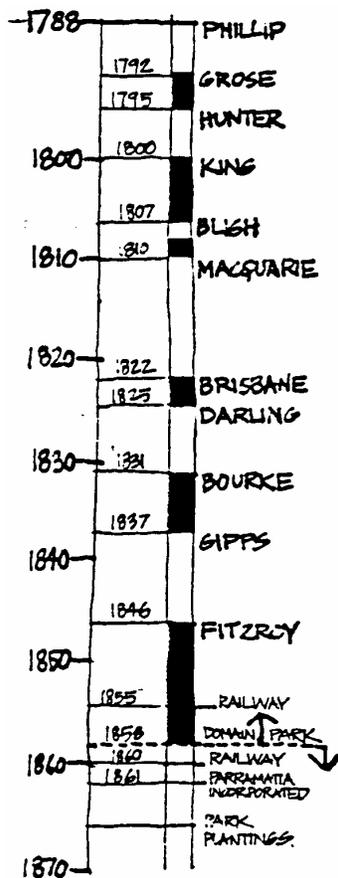


FIGURE 4:
CHRONOLOGY OF
GOVERNORS

Some of these houses were later removed when Governor Macquarie extended the Domain eastwards to what is now O'Connell Street to form a more picturesque entry to Government House. It appears²⁹ that the natural creek line adjacent to the present O'Connell Street was left unfilled and unbuilt upon.

The Government Farm had diminished in importance by 1810 due to Governor King's policy for the settlement to be self sufficient. Private farms assumed the role of cultivation. Governor King had established a Botanic Garden with the Government Farm and this was strengthened by the presence of George Caley (King's Botanist) and George Suttor (Nurseryman) at Parramatta. Prior to this a botanical nursery was nominally kept by Colonel Paterson and was established in 1790. Paterson was a keen amateur botanist and collected indigenous plants for shipment to Sir Joseph Banks, as well as for a garden of native plants at his Sydney residence.

During King's period as Governor horticulture was promoted in the hope of establishing a source of plants suitable for the colonists' use in gaining a sense of self sufficiency. The horticultural interest, in a more ornamental sense was taken up by Governor Bligh and extended into the realm of landscape design by Governor and Mrs Macquarie. It was from the era of the Macquaries that the Parramatta Domain first took on the semblance of a designed park-like environment complete with carriage drives, cultural plantations, rustic out buildings and objects, expanses of grass surfaces and identified viewing points and vistas.

The Victorian era and a growing colonial population brought pressure on the Vice-regal domains in Sydney and Parramatta for increasing public use, particularly for recreation. In Parramatta, this was initiated by opening up of the northern side of the river as a racecourse in 1847 and since the establishment of a peoples' park, the landscape treatment and alienation of parcels of parkland have caused many changes.

The issue of alienation of public land is a central issue in the development of all Parks in New South Wales.

Parramatta Park was one of the first to suffer loss of open space in favour of use by special interest groups. A precedent was set in Sydney's Hyde Park with the establishment of a racecourse and informal cricket ground for the entertainment of the members of the NSW Corps.

In Parramatta a hard fought campaign by local citizens in the late 1840s for the right to gain access to the Governor's Domain for open ground and pure air eventually resulted in the establishment of Parramatta Park. However, part of the history of that "open ground" is one of gradual diminishment of accessible land area initially made available for all the people.

A summary of the chronological order of alienation is as follows (refer to

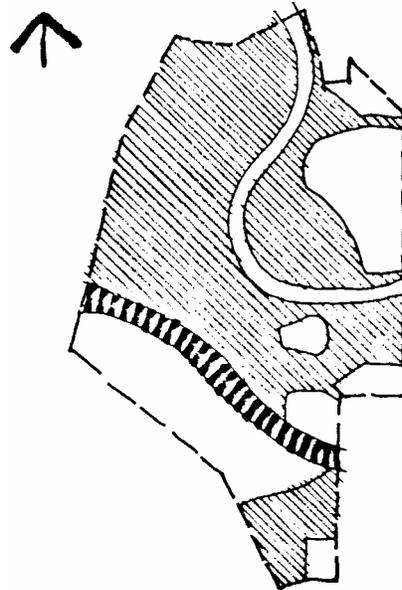
²⁹ See Plan of Town of Parramatta about 1790 copied from the Bonwick Transcripts Box 36 ML (Fig.5)

Figure 5 for the extent of unalienated land):

Racecourse
Western Railway extension
Cumberland Oval
Girls Industrial School
Bowling Green, Tennis Courts and Club House
Old Kings Oval
Parramatta High School
War Memorial Swimming Pool
Golf Course and Club House
RSL Club and Bowling Greens (former Deer Park)
Old Government House and designated grounds
Parramatta Leagues Club and Car Park
Parramatta Stadium
Western Railway Line expansion.

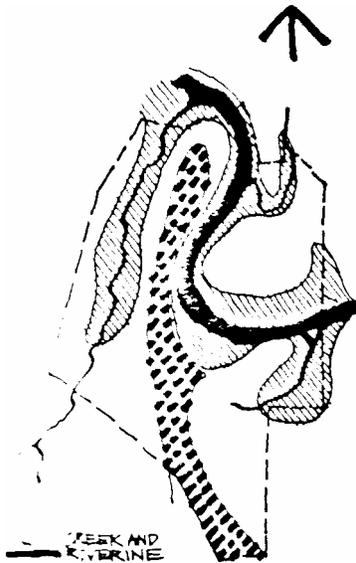
The extent of alienated or part alienated land is dominated by the various forms of active recreation competing against the original Parramatta citizens' movement requirement for passive recreation space.

**FIGURE 5
PARRAMATTA PARK
1980S
UNALIENATED LAND
AREAS SHADED**



12.2 Historic Analysis - Main Stages of Evolution

Six major historical periods are identified as having significant influence on the landscape character and development of the Park area. These are:



**FIGURE 7
PRE-1788 VEGETATION
COMMUNITIES**

I	PRE 1788	Pre-European occupation
II	1789-1858	Agricultural pursuits, Vice Regal Residence, Farm and Domain.
III	1858-1917	Public Park under Parramatta Park Trust
IV	1917-1975	Parramatta National Park under Parramatta Park Trust
V	1975-1997	Parramatta Park under Parramatta City Council as Trustee.
VI	1997-2001	Parramatta Regional Park under NPWS

Currently Parramatta Park is managed by the Parramatta Park Trust constituted under *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17*.

12.2.1 Period I: pre 1788

The pre-European landscape consisted of a rolling, shale derived, landform with some outcropping sandstone to the north of the river. The vegetation was that of a woodland and was described by Governor Phillip;³⁰

"... trees growing from twenty feet from each other and except in particular places where the soil was stony and very poor, no underwood. The country thro' which we past was mostly level, or only rising in small hills, which gave it a pleasing and picturesque appearance."

Based on studies of ecological systems in the Cumberland Plain it can be said that the predominant trees in this landscape would have been Forest Red Gum (***Eucalyptus tereticornis***) with Grey Box (***Eucalyptus moluccana***) and Ironbarks (***Eucalyptus fibrosa*** and ***Eucalyptus crebra***) occupying the more elevated ground. Boxthorn (***Bursaria spinosa***) and various pea flowers together with Acacias would have formed the shrub layer. Creeklines and poorly drained areas would be characterised by paperbarks (***Melaleuca sp.***) Forest

³⁰ Historical Records of N.S.W., 1,2, p.133 Despatch from Governor Phillip to Lord Sydney, May 15, 1788

Red Gums and (**Casuarina glauca**) together with sedges and rushes and other tufted grasses.

The riparian landscape was dominated by alluvial deposits at the junction of the freshwater stream and the tidal influence of the drowned river valley (Sydney Harbour). Mangroves and swamp-oak (**Casuarina cunninghamiana**) and Eucalyptus would have dominated the grassy banks of the freshwater river.

Then as now the predominant plant species were the grasses. Their presence at the PARRAMATTA DOMAIN c 1790 presence was most likely cultivated by the firing of these lands by the Aboriginal occupants. This led this type of natural landscape being compared by observers at the time with that of parks of the cultural works of the Western hemisphere, particularly those of the English Landscape School.

12.2.2: Period II 1789-1858

This period represents the most historically significant era with the first successful endeavours of cultivation of the ground for grain crops for European occupants. The subsequent establishment of a Government Farm and Botanic Gardens together with a residence and Domain for the Governor of the Colony. Decisions made and actions carried out by various Governors influenced the later periods in the development of the Park. This is especially true of the selection of plant species. With clearing to make way for cultivation the landscape was described as:³¹

..."very park like and beautiful"

Contrast of form was revealed to the colonists. The flowing line of the shale derived landform as against the rugged nature of the sandstone at Sydney Cove. Also contrast was afforded by the balance of open ground and wooded land. If Sydney was known as the 'Camp' then Parramatta (Rose Hill) could be termed the 'clearing'. A redoubt was constructed close to the river and opposite the site of the Government Farm.

Governor Philip established his country seat at Rose Hill situated in what became Cumberland Park, where by 1792 the Government cattle were put to graze. The Governor's house at Rose Hill was sited at the head of what was intended to be a grand avenue;

..."a mile long, and of such breadth as will make Pall Mall and Portland Place hide their diminished heads".³²

The intention was to line this avenue with plantings of English Oak trees (**Quercus robur**). The intention was similar to that proposed for the Government House at Sydney. A supply of oak trees was taken from Cape

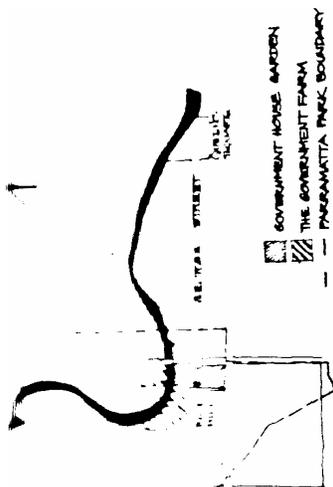


FIGURE 8
PARRAMATTA DOMAIN
c1790

³¹ Tench p.75

³² Tench, op. cit. p.195

Town and survivors grown in the Grounds of Government House Sydney. It appears that these intentions were not carried out.

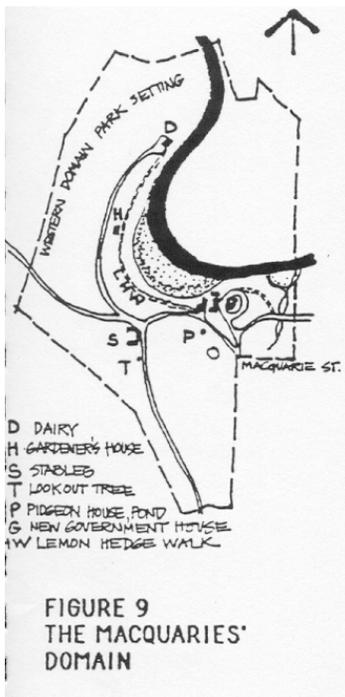
Oak trees were grown in the Botanic Gardens set up under Governor King's direction with the involvement of Colonel Paterson, and the King's botanist, George Caley in 1800. This garden was located to the north of the river and the site of the Government Farm and along to the site of the weir built to contain freshwater in Governor Macquarie's time.

A footbridge connected both sides of the river in the alignment of Bridge Street (later named Pitt Row and now known as Pitt Street). Before the creation of a weir a well was sunk for a reliable supply of freshwater.

A squared formal garden of mixed vegetables and flowers in the tradition of the English cottage garden lay between Bridge Street and the line of a drive running at right angles to South Street (later Macquarie Street) down to the Parramatta River. (See Figure 8).

Beyond this, and, the centrally located Governor's House, The Crescent was under cultivation with vines, fruit and nut trees. The ridge lands were partly cleared however sufficient indigenous vegetation was left as a backdrop to the Government House and as protection from the westerly winds.

The Parramatta Domain consisted, in this context, of an edge of cultivation in the Cumberland Park area and some grazing land within an area of some 2000 acres of partially cleared and natural woodland with the bare beginnings of new settlement to the east. Cumberland Park was another term for the Parramatta Domain and it was a term favoured by Governor Phillip to describe the Governor's Domain in relation to the County of Cumberland.



Tracks were made to Prospect by way of South Street and on to the Nepean River and the Emu Plains. Whilst other tracks led north to Castle Hill and the Hawkesbury River valley by way of Toongabbie skirting the Governor's Domain. Toongabbie was the north western limit of the Government Domain and a large Government Farm was established there. It was noted for its large hill and immense eucalypt trees. The farm clearing was received as a welcome relief for travellers on the road to Windsor from Parramatta owing to the monotonous character of the woodland which characterised the Cumberland Plain.

The formal situation of the Government House setting did not change in concept until the arrival of Governor and Mrs Macquarie in 1810.

Mrs Macquarie seized the opportunity to implement her interests in the art of landscaping as she had done elsewhere. Indeed she saw all New South Wales as her garden with buildings sites as objects in a vast garden conforming to contemporary British tastes.

Government House and garden at Sydney were reorganised and so was the Government House and garden at Parramatta.

The influence of Humphrey Repton (a prominent English Landscape Gardener 1752-1818) was to be seen in a more 'natural' approach to the creation of picturesque scenery.

In concept, the previous squared formal garden gave way to a recognition of the whole Domain as a natural landscaped garden. The townscape of Parramatta provided a middle distance pictorial ground when viewed from the superior location on Rose Hill. Nature lay beyond. Mrs Macquarie had a viewing point as a tree house structure erected on one of the tallest eucalypts on the ridge behind Government House (now the position of the railway lines). It is presumed that this tree was removed for the extension of the Western railway line in 1860.

This echoes her sandstone niche, Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Sydney Domain and underlines her interest in the picturesque viewpoint.

The Macquaries changed much.³³ Access to the Domain was restricted by the erection of iron rail estate fences, three-rail timber fences, picket fences and stone walls. The stone walls defined the new landscape setting between Government House and the newly laid out streets, O'Connell and Macquarie Streets (formerly South Street) and the river. Macquarie had expanded the Domain as far as the Great Western Road, where a Toll bar was erected (opposite to the present Southern Domain Gatehouse). He had Pitt Row terminated at the junction with Macquarie Street and created a new entry gateway at this junction presumably to serve the new stables built high on the ridge.

This allowed the retention of the formal access from George Street (formerly High Street) and the creation of a new entrance drive in the picturesque tradition. The entrance drive passed over a small stone bridge and lake and curved in an arc to reach the front portico of a remodelled Government House. The new drive may well have been planted out with oak trees thus fulfilling part of Governor Philip's intention even if on the other side of the fence. Macquarie had planted oak trees in the Sydney Domain and it is reasonable to think that he may have done the same in Parramatta Domain.

Oak seedlings would have been available from the adjacent Botanic Gardens, although by 1816 Macquarie had established the Sydney Botanic Garden in preference to Parramatta.

The first oaks were brought out by Governor Philip and later by George Suttor, amongst others. In the 1830s the Parramatta Domain was a source of oak seedlings for distribution throughout the colony whilst the Sydney Botanic garden concentrated on newly found sub-tropical rainforest plants.

The influence of George Suttor could have been seen in the use of citrus trees, particularly orange and lemon trees. These were an important component of the cultural landscape of the Cumberland Plain, and in

³³ J. Kerr and J. Broadbent

particular, the nearby Hills district where Suttor resided. In the Parramatta Domain a lemon tree hedge fringed the top slope edge of the Crescent and traced the pathway from the rear of Government House to a brick house (most probably that of the gardener and that previously occupied by the overseer of cattle) at the northern end of the Crescent. This also marked the halfway point to the Dairy complex constructed under Macquarie's direction on a site further upstream. The dairy was an adaption of an earlier farm building associated with cattle grazing.³⁴ A road linked the Dairy with the stables on the ridge, the out-offices of Government House, a small semi-circular planned dove and pigeon house and the Macquarie Street gateway.

In a report to the Colonial Secretary Macquarie summarised all the improvements made and it provides an image of the basic pattern and form of today's Parramatta Park that has survived subsequent occupying Governors and Park uses. At the end of Macquarie's occupation of the place:³⁵

"The Government Domain at Parramatta, consisting of about 500 acres of ground partially cleared of the old dead timber and stumps; the whole being surrounded either by the Parramatta river or a strong fence"...

The landscape context had changed from Philip's clearing in the woodland to a park like one in the tradition of the English Landscape School. The structure of geometry to attain a sense of order was replaced by the use of architectural features, to give character by association in a pseudo natural setting. These features, as objects, besides creating a picturesque composition induced movement from one to the other. Additional objects were created by the next vice-regal occupant of the Domain, Governor Brisbane. These included a Bath House and Observatory, both built on the ridge above the Crescent and adjacent to Macquarie's stables. The Bath House has been gutted and re-roofed surviving as a park pavilion. Of the Observatory, only the Transit Stones remain as a ruin.

Brisbane was interested in the Natural Sciences and was the first patron of the N.S.W. Agricultural Society. He had set four acres apart for gardens for the Society, in 1824. These were located on the north side of the river adjoining the Government Domain. Brisbane was responsible for introducing exotic grasses such as Dutch clover and rye grasses for pasture improvement in the Domain. Before the introduction of exotic grasses the dominant grass was Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) although much of it was grazed out by 1813. Governor Brisbane allowed the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of N.S.W. to use the old Government garden in the Crescent as a nursery and experimental plot in 1833.

Brisbane's interest in trees and science is expressed in his regular planting

³⁴ David Connell: The Governor's Diary, Report for Conservation and Restoration Programme, School of Architecture, Sydney University, unpubl. Circa 1978, copy held by Parramatta City Council.

³⁵ Helen Proudfoot: Old Government House, The Building and its Landscape, State Planning Authority, 1971, P37.

layout to reflect the North-South survey access between May's Hill and the Observatory by employing hoop pine and tortoise-shell pine in a geometric system similar to that of one in the set up in Scotland.

A description in 1823 indicates the condition of the Domain and serves to illustrate the continuity of the environment established by the Macquaries.³⁶

"This domain contains about 2000 acres of land, fenced partly with a stone and brick wall, part railing, and defined westward by the River. An excellent drive round the inside has been made, and the brush wood cleared away with great taste and judgment to give variety to the clumps and screens of trees that are interspersed, which have a very beautiful and pleasing effect.

... the Gardens are kept in good order, and every preparation made for cultivation of the vine, which is in a flourishing state. They are well supplied with water from the forcing pump that supplies the Bath..."

Despite the occupation of Governors Darling, Bourke, Gipps and Fitzroy little change was made to the Domain apart from extensions to drives, relocation of drives, a Guard House located at the Macquarie Street entrance and areas fenced and farmed.

In the early 1830s forest and ornamental trees were sent from the Sydney Botanic Garden to the Government Garden and the Agricultural Society's Garden at Parramatta.

In the 1840s there was public pressure to release some of the Domain for public recreation.

Governor Bourke and Gipps seemed to have allowed public access into the Domain, however Fitzroy wanted people excluded because of the destruction to the shrubberies and fruit trees and echoed Governor Macquarie's concern for the public trespassing on the Domain to cut wood for domestic use.

Fitzroy's actions apparently caused the Parramatta public to protest about lack of access;

"Hyde Park and Outer Domain [Sydney] are just as liable as the Domain at Parramatta to be reclaimed at the caprice of the Government. Let us hope that the Parramatta movement will be the means of inciting citizens, and the inhabitants of other towns to see that their means of exercise and recreation in open grounds and pure air are secured to them by a legal and indefeasible title."³⁷

As a result the Old Government Farm area to the north of the river was allocated in 1847 as the site of a racecourse for the Cumberland Turf Club. In

³⁶ S.L. Harris, Report & Estimate of the Value of the improvements which have take place in the Public Buildings of Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool & Campbelltown between 25 Dec. 1822 & 24 Dec. 1823, inclusive and an expose of the present state of the Public Building in N.S.W., 1824 Vols 2, 3.

³⁷ S.M.H. 2 Feb, 1847.

1857 a Bill was passed that provided for the disposal of the Domain lands with the exception of 200 acres to be set aside for the health and recreation of the citizens of Parramatta.

Fitzroy was the last Governor to occupy Government House. He left in 1855 and the Domain was rented. Sir William Denison, the Governor after Fitzroy also rented the property until 1858.

A railway from Sydney to Parramatta was constructed in 1855 and there was speculation among residents as to the location of an extension to the railway line to connect up both the Hawkesbury towns of Windsor and Penrith. One of the proposals put forward in 1857, was that the railway continue through the George Street gateway and skirt around the Government House following the meander line of the Crescent. This proposal did not go ahead in that location. The western railway line was extended in 1860 along the present alignment.

An 1857 plan of Parramatta³⁸ indicates extensive fencing to the of the Domain, Governor Brisbane's observatory, the Bath House and Crescent in a sweeping enclosure from Government House to the Dairy together with a fenced gatehouse an old guardhouse at the Macquarie Street entrance and an enclosed pond at the George Street entrance. There appeared to be a strong need to protect the Domain from the increasing public pressure to invade the grounds.

12.2.3: Period III 1858-1917

This period represents the establishment of part of the Old Government Domain as Parramatta Park under the care of five Trustees appointed by the State for a seven year term of office.

The determined Boundary line of the Park was decided on the basis that:

"...all the pleasantest and prettiest part of the Domain will be reserved for the public."³⁹

With the appointment of Trustees, the Park became the venue for picnics fetes, boxing exhibitions and military parades. Prior to the opening of the Park the only other venues in Sydney for such functions were Hyde Park and the Outer Domain.

Disruption to the Park was caused in 1860 with the extension of the Western Railway line. This not only severed the park but caused the demolition of the old Government House stables and generally diminished the Park landscape quality established in the vice-regal residential period. Once open to the public the former Domain and its structures were the subject of vandalism.

Perhaps as an act of compensation the Trustees undertook a planting

³⁸ AO 1057: boundary Town of Parramatta the Parish of St John County of Cumberland N.S.W. 1857. (Fig 9)

³⁹ Trustees Report March 1858. in F. Pollon, Parramatta, the Cradle City of Australia, Its History from 1788.

programme in the 1860s that was to create a new image for the place.

The plants were predominately tree species and were supplied from the Botanic Gardens Sydney. The selection suggests the influence of Charles Moore, the Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) in that the species reflect his passion for sub-tropical and temperate Rain Forest species. The plants chosen were; Moreton Bay Fig (**Ficus macrophylla**), Moreton Bay Chestnut (**Castanospermum australe**), Hoop Pine (**Araucaria cunmnghamii**), Bunya Pine (**Araucaria bidwillii**), Brush Box (**Lophostemon confertus**), Cook's Pine (**Araucaria cookii syn columnaris**) and Silky Oak (**Grevillea robusta**)⁴⁰. Some of these are still in evidence on the site, particularly the figs and Araucarias.

Mr Byrnes, a trustee, appears to have taken responsibility for planting an avenue of oak trees from George Street gate house around the Old Government House drive and along a riverside drive for the extent of the length of the Crescent In fact the avenue started to the north of the old Government House because oaks were existing at the gate house and as remnant planting to the old drive. The wife of Governor Fitzroy was accidentally killed against one of these earlier planted oaks when a carriage overturned in 1846. The new oak drive was located on an area of alluvial soil and was well suited for the survival of English oaks as had been evidenced elsewhere in the Colony. It appears that the planting done at this time by the Trustees did much to reinforce the drives as much stronger landscape elements.

The Park landscape expressed new found Victorian tastes in emphasising a particular item or place at the expense of the unity of the whole place. Some of the existing plants today may well be those remnants of the early 1860s, particularly the figs, hoop pines, Cooks pines and oaks. The well known and much respected Japanese avenue trees, **Cryptomeria japonica** was also tried in this period however as elsewhere in Australia it failed because of an inappropriate environment.

A second wave of planting occurred in the late 1860s with the extensive avenue planting of stone pines (**Pinus pinea**). These avenues and plantations encircling the sporting areas to the north of the river and to the western drives contributed to the Park's landscape image well into the twentieth century. Some of these plantations still survive more particularly on the northern side of the river.

The stone pine plantations are attributed to a Mr Giles⁴¹ who was the Park Ranger in the 1860s. Under Giles direction Prince Alfred planted a stone pine in the Park on 10 Feb. 1868. Again these plantations strongly defined circulation routes within the Park. The choice of this plant species may have had some bearing on the historical association with Governor Phillip and Colonel Paterson. Stone pines were, introduced into Australia by the First Fleet and were purchased at the Cape of Good Hope in Cape Town where oaks and pines formed the important avenues of that town in the late 18th Century.

Stone pines were subsequently planted as a row of trees marking the

⁴⁰ R.B.G.S. Plant Despatch Books, Aug. 1861, Sept. 1861, July 1862, Dec. 1866.

⁴¹ Frances Pollon, Parramatta, the Cradle City of Australia, Its History from 1788, 1938, Parramatta City Council, p.116.

⁴² ???

entrance to Old Government House Sydney along what later became the alignment of Bridge Street Sydney. Like Phillip, Macquarie also had an interest in planting English oaks and stone pines. The discovery of different pine species throughout the world in the early 19th Century held a particular fascination with the Victorian Society. This expressed itself in Australia with the plantation of various pines and conifers throughout the 1870s and 1880s. Public Parks were one of the best vehicles for expression of new planting fashions; Parramatta Park is described here in 1886.⁴²

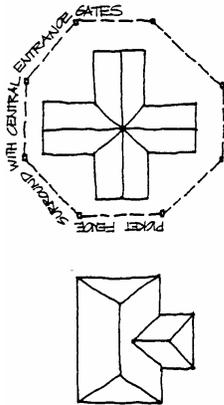


FIGURE 11
PLAN FORM OF PARK
PAVILIONS IN THE 1880s

"To all visitors of cultural, artistic, aesthetic, or even historic tastes, the chief glory of Parramatta is the park - the old Domain, admittance to which is by an archway built in the Tudor Style. Within the enclosure oaks tower aloft and shake their leaves in the light summer breeze with a cool and pleasant rustle, and willows in the damp flats bend their boughs mighty in the gift of perfect shade. Pines from Norfolk Island, only less beautiful and grand than those in Sydney Gardens; pines from southern Italy, pines from the Californian slopes, and pines from Scottish and Norwegian hills, stand tall, strong and shady, contrasting with the trees of native birth still lingering beside the shallow and generally torrid water of the characteristic Australian creek."

The list of plants sent from the Sydney Botanic Gardens⁴³ to the Parramatta Park Trustees in the 1860s did not include stone pines. It is possible that they were supplied by the prominent Parramatta nurserymen, the Purchase family. John Purchase was one of the original Park Trustees and was followed by Samuel Purchase c 1865.

By 1887 the Park character was established and the image of the vice-regal domain suppressed. Gatehouses were constructed first to the south, erected soon after the Toll Keeper's House was demolished in 1860. To the west in 1873, to the east (George Street entrance) in 1885 and the Macquarie Street Gate House in 1887, adjacent to the Bowling Greens. The Bowling Club was introduced into the Park in 1880 and a fenced bowling green constructed parallel to Pitt Row. Park pavilions had been erected adjacent and upslope from the Bowling Greens, adjacent to King's Oval, near to the river on the south side in what had been the Government Garden and one located facing the Long Avenue to west of the Crescent in a position close to that of the former Gardener's house erected in Governor Macquarie's time.

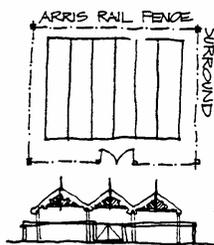


FIGURE 12
PARK PAVILION, c1911

The use of gatehouses, usually expressed in architecturally eclectic styles, was a Victorian device initiated in the design of peoples' parks in Britain in the mid nineteenth century. It reinforced the desire for romantic and exotic imagery- an escape from reality for the working class.

A Deer Park was established in the area now taken over by the R.S.L. Club. This was in the tradition of the nineteenth century pleasure grounds such as was established at Hyde Park, Watson's Bay, the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany Bay, the Sydney Botanic Gardens and the Zoological Gardens established in Moore Park in 1879. In 1885 seven fallow deer were presented to the Trustees of the National Park by the Trustees of Parramatta Park for the

⁴³ Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney: "Plants sent away 1852-69."

establishment of a Deer park on the southern shores of Port Hacking. The Parramatta Deer Park enclosure also contained emus.

A sandstone dwarf wall and iron railing fence was constructed along the O'Connell Street boundary following tenders called for in 1885. The extension of this fence to Macquarie Street and Pitt Row (later Pitt Street) probably was carried out at the time of the construction of the Macquarie Street gate house and gates.

In 1886 the former Bath House structure of Governor Brisbane was altered to its present form as a Park pavilion. The remnants of the old Observatory were fenced as was a pond located on the slope between the Observatory site and the Macquarie Street gate house. An obelisk memorial was placed on the site of the former curator's cottage, mistakenly believed to be the site of the Observatory. A footbridge was also constructed over the river to link both sides of the Park in the vicinity of the existing Noller Bridge.

Apart from avenue planting, fenced plantation areas were created notably at road junctions (below Old Government House) and at corners of the Park boundaries (see Figure 17). The plantation was made up of a mixture of species both native and exotic. The one below Old Government House contained twelve commemorative trees and was surrounded by a painted timber picket fence.

The remainder of the Park was of an open grassed nature with a few areas of remaining indigenous trees. Creeks and water bodies were fenced off with a simple Park railing.

In 1889 tennis and croquet courts were constructed adjacent to the bowling green.

In 1889 a Park Improvement Association was formed and in August of that year on Arbor Day a function was held in the Park. Seventy one trees were planted along the road from the Macquarie Street gate to the George Street entrance. Money for this was raised by public subscription, everyone who paid ten shillings was allowed to plant a tree. One of the roads planted out was called Federal Avenue and most probably consisted of the planting of camphor laurels (**Cinnamomom camphora**)⁴⁴. This road ran from the Macquarie Street gatehouse to Old Government House. These trees were taken out in 1924 and replaced with Pin-oaks (**Quercus palustris**).

The improvement Association also built a retaining wall along the riverbank and some fencing to the Pitt Row alignment. Also Agathis species appear to have been planted along the boundary of the Bowling Greens with the entrance to the Club distinguished by a lone Norfolk Island Pine (**Araucaria heterophylla**).

By the end of the nineteenth century the old Government House was vacant and derelict. The King's School took over the house in 1909. This resulted in

⁴⁴ Jervis, Jubilee of Parramatta, 1911.

⁴⁵ Trustees Minute Books. 1913 land resumed 15 Oct. 1913.

⁴⁶ Trustees Minutes, Oct. 1911.

⁴⁷ Trustees Minutes, 3rd Jan 1912.

the area being fenced off and that area of the Park became somewhat alienated in the sense of a people's park. A triangular shaped area of two roads 16.5 perches was resumed at the Northern boundary of the Park (between Fleet Street and Grose Street) for use by the Parramatta Industrial School for Females.

In 1913⁴⁵ land at the corner of Pitt Street and the Great Western Road was resumed for the purposes of constructing a Public School (now Parramatta High School).

Apart from lease areas in the Park the greatest source of income, managed by the Trustees, came from agistment of stock and sporting events.

By 1902 the fenced cricket ground on the northern side of the River was removed and replaced by two entrance avenues to Cumberland Oval. One avenue was formed by the plantation of kurrajongs (**Brachychiton populneum**) in the line of Victoria Road and the other more informal plantation composed of Eucalyptus spp. and kurrajongs led from the direction of the Kings School. Both avenues led to the ticket box. The Cumberland Oval consisted of an outer seven foot (2.1 metres) galvanised iron fence and two inner picket and board fences with a weatherboard pavilion situated between them to the west. With these improvements the encircling ornamental trees of the Cumberland Oval were removed. However, the Kings Oval retained its encircling trees and gained a picket fence to both enclose and protect the turfed oval. Elsewhere in the Park concrete wickets and areas for football games were marked out (only to those parts of the Park north of the Main Western Railway line).

In 1911 the Bowling Club was granted⁴⁶ approval to extend its grounds to the west. In doing so it consumed the old croquet green and tennis courts. Active recreation pursuits began to have an impact on the park;

*"As bathing in the river was now being indulged in by young and old and at all times of the day and night ... a changing shed is required."*⁴⁷

A picnic ground was formed on the riverbank below the Ranger's Cottage with a dressing shed and weatherboard shelter sheds constructed as well as the provision of swings.

The taste for flower gardens, that was prevalent in the Federation period up to the First World War years, was expressed in the creation of garden plots of salvia and roses. These were located near the Ranger's Cottage and in the Deer Park. A management problem with these flower gardens was the nuisance of rabbit attacks.

In 1914 Weeping Willows (**Salix babylonica**) were introduced along the water courses in the Western Domain south of the Railway bridge. Trees were obtained from the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Yates and a Dr Williamson. Two former Trustees, the Hon. Jas. Byrnes and his son Mr C.J. Byrnes were

honoured by the renaming of Oak Avenue to Byrnes Avenue in 1915.

Tree planting was carried out in an enclosure above the Bowling Green in 1917 when the Trustees resolved to apply to have the Park gazetted as a National Park. This had the promised effect of attracting Federal funds at a time when finance was critical to maintain the growing active recreational use of the Park and it was evident that a programme of replanting and replacement of trees was necessary. This did not happen and the avenues on the northern side of the river deteriorated.

Also the gatekeeper's Lodges were considered to be in poor condition. It was hoped that National Park funds could be used to repair the Lodges.

Another source of much needed funds for Park maintenance came from the excavation of topsoil and sand deposits along the flood zone of the river. Large sand islands existed in the main water body of the River.

12.2.4 Period IV 1917-1975

This represents the period of the Park's history from the time when it was recognised as a National park until a change in management from Trustees to the Parramatta City Council in 1975. Large areas of the Park were taken over by different groups in the community with specialised interest. Further alienation between major areas of the Park was created with the dedication of Park Parade in 1923. This road ran parallel to the railway line on the southern side.

In 1925, a footbridge was constructed across the river to replace an earlier structure which had been washed away. This was named the Noller Bridge after a Park Trustee and former Mayor of Parramatta.

It was Mr Noller who was responsible for much of the tree planting, provision of fencing and building facilities during the War years up until his death in 1937.

He had supervised the re-building of the gatehouses, the causeway, extensive new fencing and prepared plans for a combined refreshment kiosk and dressing pavilion at the picnic ground and swimming area between the causeway and below the Ranger's Cottage. This area was known as "Little Coogee". He was also responsible for submitting designs for the band rotunda (not constructed until 1932) and supplying second-hand bricks for road edging and retaining walls.

Noller also donated four emus to the Deer Park (the deer had been removed long ago) and the construction of a monkey house near the George Street entrance. Swans were introduced to the Deer park and eventually in 1934, deer were supplied by Taronga Zoo and a high fence erected in order for the area to be classified as a zoological park.

Mr Noller's attempts at planting programmes appear as impressive as his contribution to the built elements in the Park. In 1932 Mr Noller arranged with

the Mayor of Parramatta to call a public meeting in August to inaugurate a tree planting scheme for the park. Consultations were held with a Mr Ward, the curator of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, who supplied information as to "suitable" trees for different locations in the park. The suggestions included groups of plants and further avenue plantings.

These included: the northern side of the main drive continuing the oak avenue (Byrnes Avenue) to immediately inside the George Street entrance, a Little Coogee" avenue continuing to the Asylum grounds and thence south, the amphitheatre and from the Bathhouse pavilion to the Black Bridge (Railway).

The first planting decided was a line of trees along the avenue running north south (The Long Avenue) on the western side of the Ranger's Cottage. The remnant Jacarandas in this position may well be the survivors of that first instalment of the new programme. The Jacarandas adjacent to the kiosk at "Little Coogee" would appear to date from this period also.

It was decided to "beautify the island" in September of 1932. The plants were supplied by Hazelwood Bros Ltd.

Mr Rex Hazelwood, nurseryman of the firm Hazelwood Bros. Ltd of Epping was appointed by Parramatta Council to lay out a design for St Johns Park. It may have been this commission that prompted "A Report and Suggestions for Improving Parramatta Park" written in December 1932. His report makes reference to the need for more colour in the Park by introducing flowering and autumn foliage plants and a recommendation to remove the stone pine avenues planted in the late 1860s.

Mention is made of a number of High School pupils planting trees in the Park, presumably in that area of ground known as the Deer Park. This was apparently called the "High School Avenue" and consisted of a mixture of plant species. Hazelwood also recommended the removal of this avenue. The remnants of these species can be found in the existing "Murray Garden". Among the general remarks Hazelwood said,⁴⁸

"The only outstanding feature in the park at present as far as the plants are concerned are the avenues of stone pines, but as they have reached the stage of being dowdy and unsightly they are an outstanding feature of the wrong kind."

The flowering plants that he recommended were oleander - particularly for placement against the Southern Boundary Gatehouse. Today oleanders (**Nerium oleander**) exist at both the Macquarie Street gatehouse and the Southern Domain Gatehouse. These plants may be the legacy of his recommendation.

Unfortunately many of the new tree plantings died.

Rex Hazelwood's "Park Improvement" plan was considered "too costly" for the

⁴⁸ Hazelwood p.7 Report.

Trustees to implement however some of his ideas were carried out after the death of Mr Noller. These included the trimming of trees and the plantings of bougainvilleas to provide colourful cover to steep embankments.

In April of 1937, following the death of Mr Noller the Trust decided to arrange for the planting of native trees near the site of the Old Observatory, and later to call the spot Coronation Hill to commemorate the Coronation of HM King George VI. The tree planting took place on the 12th May and Mrs Noller planted an English Oak (**Quercus robur**) in the centre of the Coronation Hill plot. Unfortunately many of these trees did not survive. Later that year the Park Ranger planted out poplar trees (**Populus nigra "Italica"**) however he reported in November that most of the trees were stolen immediately after planting. These trees were donated by the Parramatta Asylum.

In December Sir Kelso King proposed an avenue of trees to be named "The Governor's Avenue" to extend from the Western Road entrance gates along the south side of the railway and extending to Pitt Street. The planting was carried out on 24th April, 1938. The Local historical society provided the trees and guards and the Avenue opened by the Governor Lord Wakehurst. No trees appear to have survived to the present day.

The Australian Forest League suggested that the Trust appoint Junior Tree Wardens to help check vandalism.

In June 1938 the Park Ranger planted out 50 gum trees obtained from the State Forest Nursery at Gosford. These trees may be the Lemon scented gums (**Eucalyptus citriodora**) found throughout the Park.

The Cumberland Oval was upgraded and work completed in 1938 in time for the 150th celebrations of European settlement which included motor cycle racing at Cumberland Oval, and the Western Domain roads were used as a speedway. During 1938 all of the roads in the Park were tarred to reduce dust nuisance caused by the increasing usage by motor transport. The "Little Coogee" area became a preferred point and by November 1938 "No Parking" signs had to be erected. The Ranger reported that people were caught driving on the open grassed areas, particularly those people teaching friends to drive motor cars.

One of the main problems of the Park Trustees in this period was the number of dead or dying trees and the need for a replanting scheme. In October of 1938, the Trust requested the Department of Lands for the services of a "landscape gardener" to provide a plan for the planting of trees.

In February 1939⁴⁹ a report by "two Government experts" dealt with the

⁴⁹ Trust Minutes, 7th Feb. 1939.

⁵⁰ Trust Minutes, 18th Feb. 1940.

⁵¹ Trustees Annual Report, 30th June, 1945.

⁵² Trust Minutes, 30th June, 1947.

⁵³ Jervis, Jubilee History of Parramatta.

⁵⁴ Planted by the local Historical Society, completed on 24 April, 1938.

⁵⁵ J. Jervis: Historic Spots in Parramatta. 1938. p114 and undated map, The Historic Parramatta Park, Item 14.

condition of the trees in the park and recommendations for replanting at a cost of £2,500. The report was sent to Rex Hazelwood for comment. In the meantime a number of Stone Pines (**Pinus pinea**) were grubbed out. This work was carried out under a work relief scheme and other works included the digging out of ponds and creeks together with the renewal of boundary fences and reconditioning of roads.

Rex Hazelwood commented on the need to get on with the tree planting scheme. However, the scheme was dropped because of lack of funds and staff. At this time the Park of 250 acres was maintained by four men and the situation became worse with the advent of World War II.

The Annual Report of 1959 states:

"Experience has proved that it is a mistake to plant at a time many trees of the one variety because when their useful period is complete the task of replacing is very great and expensive. However, as the replanting will cost approximately £2,000 it is still awaiting an extra grant which because of great expenditure on armament caused by the uncertain international situation, cannot be provided."

Despite the shortage of funds Willow Trees were planted along the river and some other trees on May's Hill. A Park inspection by the Trustees in early 1940⁵⁰ revealed that most of the Willows no longer existed and that the Coronation Hill trees were dead within their ornamental enclosure.

In November of 1939, the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club decided to make Parramatta their headquarters instead of Ashfield. A request to play two or three matches at the Cumberland Oval was granted by the Trustees for the next season and the association of Rugby League and Cumberland Oval has continued to the present day.

By 1945, and with a staff of two, the Park Trust ceased to accept agisted livestock. This action gave impetus to another wave of tree planting. Tree guards were no longer necessary due to the removal of grazing animals.

The Botanic Gardens provided the expertise and recommended using a horse and plough to contour the ground and to plant with native species. More than 200 gums were successfully planted. The trees were a gift from Parramatta Council.

"Before long the bare appearance of so much of the Park lands will have gone and the unused surfaces will be beautified by good specimens of the Australian Eucalypti which grow so well in this locality"⁵¹

Later, in 1947, some attempt at the reconstruction of the 19th century avenues was made.

"Many portions of the Park were some years ago almost denuded of trees by the removal of some 200 Stone Pines which were dying

from old age. In their place about 100 were planted over the last two years in the coming year preparations are in train to plant at least 200 more.”⁵²

In 1949 the Park came within the new enlarged municipality of Parramatta and a swimming pool was contemplated by the Trustees as a memorial to the war.

The Canary Island Palms (**Phoenix canariensis**) running along the Pitt Street alignment have replaced the earlier **Agathis sp.** and they may date from the mid 1930s. The Agathis may have provided too much shade on the bowling green. In 1935 an avenue of trees was planted on the Mays Hill side of the Park to commemorate the Jubilee of King George V⁵³. These appear to be lemon-scented gums (**Eucalyptus citriodora**) and were planted by representative citizens of Parramatta. Also in 1935 Bottle Trees (**Brachychiton rupestre**) were donated to the Trust for planting within the Park. 1935 was also the year that a miniature train track was installed in the Park.

As part of the Sesqui-Centenary 1938 celebrations an avenue of gum trees was planted⁵⁴ along the line of a footpath from the George Street entrance, at the junction with Riverside drive and up to the Old Government House. No physical evidence of this avenue survives today.

In 1952 an area of land at the corner of O'Connell and Macquarie Streets was dedicated for a War Memorial and has subsequently become the Returned Ex-servicemen's Club and Bowling Green. The more colourful plants, such as the Jacaranda (**Jacaranda mimosifolia**) and Pin-oaks (**Quercus palustris**) may date from the post Second World War period and into the 1950s when colour was an important landscape element.

A wide area of the river, to the north of the old Dairy, had a large expanse of sand deposited on the western side of the river. This area was a favourite swimming hole and was termed "Little Coogee". From the 1900s the river was the scene for boating parties and rowers. Today the poor water quality is a deterrent to bathing and other uses of the river. The transformation of the water catchment into suburban development and the increase in paved roads has caused a greater level of toxic run-off into the natural waterway.

Of interest was the discovery in 1930 of what appeared to be the site of the first reservoir for the conservation of water in Australia – in the hollow between the causeway and Ross Street Lodge. Now buried by the Parramatta Stadium development. The site of the reservoir is close to the nominated site of Howell's Mill which was reported to have been pulled down by Governor and Mrs Macquarie in an effort to improve the landscape.⁵⁵

In the 1960s the parkland was further reduced by the expansion of public roads and the railway and the dedication of the Old Government House in 1967 to the National Trust of Australia. The cultural planting of the mid-nineteenth century and of the 1930s, by the 1960s, was by then in a remnant form and it has remained so.

The RSL War Memorial grounds took over much of the Old Deer Park and necessitated the cutting down of rows of large gum trees on the Macquarie and O'Connell Street boundaries. The Trust decided to employ a landscape architect to design a rest park and garden area in the remaining Deer Park land. A former Trustee, Mr W.R.Murray had bequeathed a major portion of his estate to the Park and it was decided to commemorate his memory in the establishment of the Murray Gardens. The work was carried out in 1958 and opened by the Minister for Lands on the 8th March, 1959.

Further tree planting was carried out in the Park by the Rotary Club in the 1960s in the form of groves of trees. These were located on the northern side of the river.

In 1966 a grove of scented shrubs was planted for the Soroptimist Club whilst others bore plaques in memory of particular families.

As from the 50th June 1967 the Kings School handed over the oval which bears its name.

In 1969 the word "National" was deleted from the Park's name and once again it officially became known as Parramatta Park.

The Trust felt that by the mid 1970s, the level of financial assistance was inadequate to meet the expenses of running the Park and tendered its resignation as from the date of its 116th Annual Meeting, 4th September, 1975.

12.2.5 Period V 1975-1987

This period is characterised by the problems of management with increasing demands made on the environment for recreational use. Care control and management passed from the appointed Trustees to the Parramatta City Council. The [Parramatta] Council has had involvement with the Park to some degree since 1962 when new roads and structures were added to the Park to cater for a more mobile community.

Two major impacts on the Park were the alteration of the Crescent and the decision to build the Parramatta Stadium. The Crescent was converted into an amphitheatre, grassed and planted, with the focus on a stage and some partially earth covered facilities.

An emphasis, until recently, was placed on the planting of native plants to perform shading and visual screening function. These plants are made up of a combination of Tallowoods (**Eucalyptus microcorys**), Swamp Mahogany (**Eucalyptus robusta**), Paperbark (**Melaleuca quinquinervia**), New England Peppermint (**Eucalyptus nicholli**) and Lemon-scented gums (**Eucalyptus citriodora**).

Areas of steeply sloping land were left to allow natural regeneration of the indigenous plants, principally the tree species, Forest Red Gum (**Eucalyptus tereticornis**), Argyle Apple (**Angophora subvelutina**) and Broad Leafed

Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*).

A Plan of Management incorporating landscape proposals was prepared between 1980 and 1983 by the NSW Department of Lands. The recommendations included in the Plan [were] progressively being implemented by Parramatta Council. It is important to note that the historic background of the Park's evolution was not fully researched for the purposes of the Plan of Management and it [did] not contain a Statement of Cultural Significance for the Park and its constituent elements.

Source: Brian McDonald and Craig Burton, Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study, 1987, p. 3 – 46.

12.2.6 Period VI 1987 - Present

This period was characterised by a period of change in management and saw the management of the park transfer from Parramatta City Council as trustee to NPWS and the Parramatta Regional Park Trust and then to a new Parramatta Park Trust established pursuant to the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17.

This was also a period when comprehensive assessment of the Park's history, landscape and archaeological potential was assessed and recorded. Major reports prepared during this time include Parramatta Park Historic Landscape Study (McDonald and Burton), Parramatta Park Historic Buildings Study (McDonald and Burton), Parramatta Park Archaeological Zoning Plan (Godden Mackay), Archaeological Zoning Plan for Parramatta Park Parts 1 & 2 (Varman), Assessment of Roads in Parramatta Park (Snelgrove), Dairy Precinct Conservation Plan 1998 (Design 5 Architects). While the park was managed as a regional park within NPWS, extensive landscaping and other works were completed:

1994-99: conservation of the Governor's Dairy and the Ranger's Cottage.
1999: Tourist steam train track removed from along Crescent ridgeline. Conservation and revegetation of Cumberland Plain woodlands along the ridgeline of the Crescent.
2000: Bath house repainted
2001: Conservation and adaptive re-use of the Macquarie Street Gatehouse.
2001-2002: Conservation of the Park Parade Gatehouse.
2005: Avenue plantings on Long Avenue and West Domain
2007: interpretative path of Governor Phillip's carriageway

There have been a number of important archaeological excavation projects undertaken since the mid-1980s at The Governor's Dairy, the Observatory, The Crescent ridgeline, Rose Hill environs, convict hut sites, convict lumberyard site and the alignment of Governor Phillip's carriageway.

See also Appendix – Vol. 2: Parramatta Park Landscape Master Plan for overview of history and use

13 Context for policy development: obligations, opportunities and issues

Statutory considerations

13.1 *The Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 (PTA)*

The PTA allows for the promotion and use of the Park where consistent with the objectives and the charging of fees where appropriate. It also allows for the granting of leases, easements and licences under certain conditions (see section 4 above).

The PTA specifies that a Plan of Management must be prepared for Trust Lands. This document fulfils that requirement.

13.2 *Heritage Act 1977 (HA)*

Parramatta Park is listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register in the same listing as Old Government House as a place of state environmental heritage significance. Listing on the State Heritage Register has the following implications:

- Under section 57 of the HA, permits are required from the NSW Heritage Council prior to altering, developing, demolishing, moving or excavating a place, vegetation or relic within the Park and prior to displaying any notice or advertisement.
- Under section 118 of the HA, Minimum Standards for Maintenance and Repair in relation to fire and weather proofing, security and essential maintenance, must be met.

Under the HA the Minister may give certain exemptions or delegations for approvals under the Heritage Act. Parramatta Park Trust currently has exemptions for the following:

- The maintenance of any building, structure, monument or work on the site , where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing material;
- Horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, cultivation, pruning and remedial tree surgery;
- Weed control by methods not affecting historic plantings or remnant native vegetation;
- Control of noxious animals by methods not affecting native fauna;
- Removal or pruning of trees considered by a qualified tree surgeon to be dead or dangerous;
- Erection and dismantling of temporary structures , signs, crowd control barriers, banners, stages, lighting and sound and public address equipment associated with special events and functions held in the Park;
- Suppression of domestic and other fires in cases of active threat by fire to life or property;

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- Maintenance of safety clearances around power lines in accordance with current guidelines published by the Energy Authority of N.S.W;
 - Maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, fences, gates, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities;
 - Maintenance of safety clearances around railway lines.

The Trust has sought further exemptions to cover:

- Minor works to improve public access and to eliminate or reduce risks to public safety.
- Provision of facilities for access for people with disabilities consistent with the obligations of public authorities under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Maintenance, repair and upgrade of services and public utilities including communications, gas, electricity, water supply, waste disposal, sewerage, irrigation and drainage where such actions will not materially affect the significance of the Parklands as a whole.
- Installation, alteration and maintenance of interpretive, instructional and directional signage and labels.
- Alteration of sports fields and other facilities for organised sports within the areas currently used for such activities to meet changing needs and demands.
- Repair of damage caused by erosion and implementation of erosion control methods.
- Removal and replacement of existing plantings

On approval of this plan by the Heritage Council the Trust will seek delegated authority to:

- Approve applications made under section 60 of the Act where the proposal will not materially affect the significance of the place and which are not likely to be of a controversial nature (for example fit outs not requiring major internal modifications; archaeological monitoring and test excavations etc).
- Approve conservation management plans or other planning documents for individual places in the Park.

Under section 170 of the Heritage Act, Parramatta Park Trust is required to prepare and maintain a Heritage and Conservation Register. The Trust Inventory is available on the Heritage Office database. Alternatively a copy is available from the PPT office.

13.3 Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan (SREP No. 28 - Parramatta)

Parramatta Park is included in the Government Precinct in the Parramatta REP. Opportunities for the enhancement and improvement of the natural setting and heritage values of the River and Park are recognised in the REP. The key strategies for the Park in the REP are to:

- Conserve, restore, interpret and promote the Parks, landscape, sites, monuments, archaeological resources, buildings, important views and vistas.

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- Protect the Park's boundaries from further excisions, encroachments and inappropriate development.
 - Enhance and promote the Park's passive recreational assets and capitalise on potential links to the North Parramatta Government Site.⁵⁶

In 2007 Parramatta City Council and the NSW Department of Planning exhibited a draft Parramatta City Centre Plan, incorporating a Local Environment Plan, Development Control Plan and Civic Improvement Plan. The LEP was gazetted in December 2007 and included Parramatta Park in the Parramatta City Centre Plan, replacing the SREP No. 28 as the principle planning document and retained its status as an item of local heritage significance. Parts of Parramatta Park however remain subject to SREP No. 28, such as the Ross Street gatehouse.

13.4 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPWA)

The National Parks and Wildlife Act provides for the protection of Aboriginal relics and places across all tenures. Aboriginal relics cannot be disturbed or destroyed except with a permit under section 90 of this act. Permission of the NPWS is required to do any of the following:

- disturb or move an Aboriginal object
- excavate land for the purpose of discovering an Aboriginal object
- destroy, damage or deface an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place
- cause or permit the destruction, damage or defacement of, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place.

Permits under section 87 of the NPW Act are required to disturb or excavate land which contains Aboriginal relics.

13.5 The Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSCA)

The NSW Scientific Committee has listed Cumberland Plain Woodland as an Endangered Ecological Community on Part 3, Schedule 1 of the TSCA. Ecological communities are listed as endangered when it is considered likely that those communities will become extinct in New South Wales unless circumstances and factors threatening their survival cease to operate.⁵⁷

Mapping of Parramatta Park's vegetation has shown shale/sandstone transition forest (low sandstone influence), in pockets along the ridgeline; shale sandstone transition forest (high sandstone influence) along the east river bank and the north west river bank; Cumberland Plain woodland shale plains woodland along the ridgeline, next to the rail line and to the south of Old

⁵⁶ Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 2001: 36

⁵⁷ TSA s12.

Government House; and Alluvial woodland in the northern part of the park, along sections of the ridgeline and along Domain Creek.⁵⁸

Key Cumberland Plain species are found in the Park including: grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Red Ironbark (*E.fibrosa*) Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*), Parramatta Wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*) Hickory Wattle (*A. implexa*), Swamp She-oak (*Casuarina glauca*), White Feather Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca decora*), Kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*), Weeping Meadow Grass (*Mircolena stipoides var stipoides*), Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia sp.*).

General threats to the survival of Cumberland Plain vegetation include clearance for agriculture, grazing, hobby and poultry farms, housing and other developments, invasion by exotic plants and increased nutrient loads due to fertiliser run off from gardens and farmland, dumped refuse or sewer discharge.⁵⁹ Of these identified threats, the primary one of relevance to the Park is likely to be invasion by exotics.

Under the TSCA, if a development proposal is likely to affect a threatened species, PPT must assess the significance of the impact. If the development is assessed to have significant impact, PPT may be required to prepare a Species Impact Statement (SIS) to provide Parramatta City Council and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) with the information they need to make a decision about the development proposal. A species impact statement must include a full description of the action proposed, including its nature, extent, location, timing and layout in accordance with section 110 of the TSCA. If a development proposal is likely to have a significant impact on threatened species, populations or ecological communities or their habitats, a licence for that activity will be required from DECC.

Under the TSCA a recovery plan must be prepared for endangered ecological communities and one is currently being prepared for Cumberland Plain by DECC. This plan aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and achieve a “net gain in the extent and condition of bush on the Cumberland Plain”. It will investigate a range of conservation options including development control processes, management planning and environmental protection zoning.

13.6 The statement of significance

Parramatta Park requires cohesive landscape management and interpretation. The cultural landscape incorporates native and introduced plant and animal species, built and archaeological heritage, Aboriginal places and sites, social and recreational values. Decisions about individual places and items need to be made in reference to the broader landscape picture. This has implications for all management programs within the Park.

The landscape masterplan identified a number of considerations arising from the significance of the Park. These related to the need to:

⁵⁸ NSW NPWS 2000 and 2002. These NPWS maps and the Cumberland Plain interpretation plan should be consulted for more detailed information.

⁵⁹ NSW NPWS 2003

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- conserve ecological and cultural systems within the Park;
 - consult with the Darug community and encourage general community attachment to the Park
 - interpret the cultural heritage of the Park related to significant themes and occupation periods;
 - maintain views to and from the Park;
 - maintain and enhance the role of the Park in providing local public space and access to facilities;
 - recover parts of the Park which have been alienated;
 - keep records of management decisions and works;
 - use historic names for places and features within the Park⁶⁰.

In addition the Parramatta Park landscape masterplan has developed design guidelines for the whole of Parramatta Park. These guidelines cover landform, waterform, vegetation edges, spatial structure, built form, materials, fences and gates and bridges. The design guidelines should be consulted and followed during any new works, repairs or maintenance activities and provide opportunities for sensitive and innovative design of new Park elements.

13.7 Vegetation management

Vegetation management is a key issue in the Park particularly in relation to the following:

- The replacement and/or interpretation of historic plantings including grasses, avenues and scar trees.
- The management of Cumberland Plain vegetation and the opportunities this provides for conservation as well as education about threatening processes.
- The management of notable trees such as the Lady Fitzroy tree, Observatory marker trees and the Aboriginal scar tree.
- View and vistas into and from the Park.
- Erosion control on the ridgeline and along the river and creek edges.
- The provision of shade in key recreational areas.

A key issue in vegetation management is understanding the cultural landscape values of the park. Vegetation management must give careful consideration to cultural plantings, views, previous uses and landforms. A balance between natural and cultural heritage conservation needs to be achieved and every project and initiative from planting programs to building conservation works, needs to be informed by a thorough understanding of cultural values and context.

⁶⁰ Mauldon, V, Assessment of Historic Place Names of Parramatta Park, unpub. Report, 2006.

Vegetation management provides opportunities to improve the current Park landscape and in particular to interpret the change of this landscape over time. Further tree management, bushland management and grass management planning is required in the short term to deal with these issues.

13.8 The Macquarie Legacy

Much of the extant Park landscape is a remnant of the Macquarie period. This includes the current road network layout, the curvilinear carriage drives and paths linking built forms, the formal avenue plantings, native tree copses and views and glimpses to and from Old Government House and other vantage points within the Park. These strong landscape elements provide a structural framework for the Park around which there are opportunities for other stories and interpretations to be told including those relating to Aboriginal heritage, early agriculture and pastoralism, the Governor's Domain, and the changing perceptions of the public Park.

13.9 Interpretation

Parramatta Park has the most extensive remains of the first decades of European settlement in Australia and its themes are central to understanding the development of the colony and the nation. Places and sites within the Park include a remarkable range of events, activities and themes. The history of the Park encompasses subjects that bear on important issues facing Australia today including reconciliation, environmental change and the impact of settlement, landscape and urban design, and cultural diversity.

The Park is also associated with an extraordinary range of people and personalities: convicts, governors, farmers, explorers, astronomers, commentators such as Tench and Collins, other travellers, spies, Aboriginal people, women of all classes and of course generations of Parramatta families. With its wealth of historical resources the Park offers a remarkably democratic and inclusive view of history, taking us beyond the names of a few well known and privileged people.⁶¹

The park is also rich with opportunities to interpret the development of recreational pursuits such as horse racing, cricket and cycling as well as events recalled at sites such as the Billy Hart Memorial celebrating one of Australia's pioneer aviators.

It is critical that interpretation in the Park is cogniscent of this temporal and contextual richness and diversity. Whilst it would be easy to concentrate on presenting the master narratives of Australian history so well represented in the Park, to portray the complexities of the Park landscape would provide greater opportunities for wider engagement in understanding the Park's history and development. The objectives of interpretation in the Park were identified in the 1995 Interpretation Strategy prepared by Kylie Winkworth. These objectives are:

- To assist in the conservation of the significance of Parramatta Park;

⁶¹ Winkworth 1995: 1& 7

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- To establish Parramatta Park as one of Australia's most important and rewarding heritage sites, a touch stone for all Australians in understanding their country;
 - To enhance the visitor experience of the Park through a variety of interpretive programs and by clear orientation and directional information;
 - To stimulate appreciation, pride and care for the Park among all visitors and in the wider community;
 - To protect the fabric of the Park and the amenity of other users through various strategies;
 - To conjure the people who have shaped the Park's landscape and lived, worked and played within its boundaries;
 - To develop skills in visitors to read in the landscape, the signs of environmental change and human activity over thousands of years;
 - To generate an understanding of the spatial and historic relationships between different sites and places within the Park;
 - To provide enjoyable experiences for all visitors and to position the Park as a major recreation space for the people of Western Sydney.⁶²

The Interpretation Strategy identified four major Park phases:

- Aboriginal: pre 1788 to the present
- Colonisation: 1788-1810
- Macquarie and the Governor's Domain 1810-1857
- The Park: 1857 to the present.⁶³

Table 1 shows the main themes and interpretive strategies identified in the 1995 Strategy and updated and modified for this Plan. ⁶⁴ The table covers all four major phases of the Park's history and development. The themes are based on those in Godden Mackay Logan 2000⁶⁵ with substantial expansion to suit the specific Park context.

⁶² Winkworth 1995: 9

⁶³ Ibid 1995: 15

⁶⁴ This table taken from Winkworth 1995.

⁶⁵ Godden Mackay Logan 2000: 91f

Physical evidence	National Themes	State Themes	Local Themes	Interpretive strategies	Priorities/Actions
Open grasslands Cumberland Plain Vegetation	Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments	Environment Agriculture	Natural heritage Remnant landscapes	Provide information on strategies for maintaining and improving grasslands and mixed pasture lands and on Cumberland Plain vegetation and recovery initiatives.	Provide information at Visitor Centre.
Open grasslands: large trees- maintained by Aboriginal fire regimes, scarred trees and artefacts	Peopling the continent	Environment Land tenure Aboriginal contact	The Burrumattagal Aboriginal culture and way of life	To be determined in conjunction with Local Aboriginal representatives. Options may include the following: A walking trail exploring how people lived in the landscape; on –site interpretation of the Aboriginal scar tree.	Aboriginal representation on PPT. Liaise with other Parks with Aboriginal interpretation strategies including Bicentennial Park to provide cross Park linkages and programs.
Sites along the ridgeline river and creek meeting at OGH.	Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments	Environment Aboriginal contact	Contact history and resistance.		Activities, functions and events exploring Aboriginal culture.
Other Parramatta sites and people: native institutions, market place, feasts, blanket returns	Governing	Aboriginal contact	Resistance, The Native Institution, the Native Feasts	Links to other sites and heritage programs in Parramatta and Region.	Prepare themed publications for visitors to the Park.
	Peopling the continent	Aboriginal contact	Continuity of Aboriginal families and culture in Western Sydney.		Provide information at Visitor Centre on current natural heritage initiatives.
	Peopling the continent	Aboriginal contact Persons	The Burrumattagal. People: Benelong, Baludarris, Mosquito, Yarramundi, Maria Lock, Mowattine.		Provide signage or other interpretative media (eg postcards) showing historic and contemporary views

Dairy Precinct, Salter's Farm	Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment Convict Agriculture Cultural Sites Land tenure	Private assignment, orchards, market gardening, gardens, clearing land, dairying, the birth of private farming, early land grants.	Extension of current walking trail, demonstration gardens, and brochure. Maintenance of existing interpretative signage. Demonstrations and public programs at Dairy Precinct including extension of existing tour program and joint ticketing ventures with Old Government House. Provide physical links to OGH for example a figure of the Dairy women walking to OGH along ridgeline.	Joint ticketing and interpretation with Old Government House and other tourism and interpretation programs in local and region context.
The Government Farm, The Crescent	Developing local, regional and national economies	Convict Agriculture	Building in the colony, dairying, nurseries, orchards and viticulture, officials and the military settlement.	Consider extending the demonstration gardens at The Dairy Precinct on a temporary or permanent basis to the Crescent and in front of convict huts. Provide information on the billabong.	
Convict huts and George Street, the Lumberyard	Building settlements, towns and cities Developing local, regional and national economies	Convict Industry Labour Townships	Government servants, convict labour building in the colony	Develop education program linking sites of convict labour Consider ways of marking out convict hut sites to give indication of size and layout.	Development of schools program with links to other local attractions.

<p>Old Government House and gardens</p>	<p>Building settlements, towns and cities Developing local, regional and national economies Governing</p>	<p>Government and administration</p>	<p>Town planning, imperial government, colonial government.</p>	<p>Interpret vistas to and from OGH. Reinstate key landscape elements as per landscape masterplan (for example path ways and plantings) Consider the use of reconstructed fence lines at the edge of the road system to interpret previous land subdivisions.</p>	<p>Open and/or maintain sight lines as identified in views study Prepare themed publications for visitors to the Park</p>
<p>The Governor's Domain: fences, avenues, vistas and buildings</p>	<p>Building settlements, towns and cities Governing</p>	<p>Persons Cultural sites Environment</p>	<p>Phillip's town layout, Macquarie's town layout, subdivision of rural estates, landscape design</p>	<p>Reinstate avenues and garden elements. Walking tour of the Macquaries' work in the Park. Publications on Macquarie and working life in the Domain Maintain key views Provide links to other Macquarie buildings in Parramatta.</p>	<p>Open and/or maintain sight lines as identified in views study Prepare themed publications for visitors to the Park Reintroduce fence lines at road edges indicating Salter's grant, previous paths and roadways. Prepare themed publications for visitors to the Park</p>
<p>Governor's Bath House, The Observatory</p>	<p>Building settlements, towns and cities Governing</p>	<p>Persons Cultural sites Leisure</p>	<p>Science as innovation, monuments, places to remember, ways of life 1788-1850.</p>	<p>Provide information on Governor Brisbane and his impact on the Park and contemporary science. Develop schools program on maps and astronomy. Mark out original shape/size of observatory. Develop temporary exhibition on science in the Park including exhibiting original instruments from Powerhouse Museum.</p>	<p>Prepare themed publications for visitors to the Park</p>

Parkland, avenues, pavilions	Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Environment Leisure	Park landscape, agriculture	Interpretation through plantings as per CMP/LMP. New works to take into account earlier forms and locations.	Implementation of works in section 16 of this plan
Gatehouses: Mays Hill, Macquarie Street, George Street, Queens Road and Ross Street.	Building settlements, towns and cities	Leisure	The Public Park	Maintain where possible people living and/or working in gatehouses Provide changing programs or interpretation and demonstrations at gatehouses and surrounds	Conservation plans for gatehouses. Adaptive reuse of gatehouses
Little Coogee, Racecourse, Bowling Club	Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure	Recreation, sport	Changing programs on recreation and sport in the Park Continuing program of Oral history collection	Oral history collection
Monuments: Boer War, Billy Hart, Bathhouse, Observatory, Lady Fitzroy, Boundary Stone	Developing cultural institutions and ways of life Marking the phases of life	Events	Public commemoration, places to remember, ways of life 1788-present.		Conservation studies for monuments
Exclusions	Developing local, regional and national economies	Land tenure	Community values and activism	Mark historic boundaries and provide information on key views	



Parramatta River and creeks	Tracing the evolution of a continent's special environments	Environment	Environmental degradation and repair. Changes in ideas about the importance of waterways. River transport, roads and bridges.	Maintain access to creeks and river	Erosion control and vegetation management on river banks
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13.10 Linkages

As Parramatta Park Trust is a small organisation it is critical that strategic linkages are formed with external organisations and individuals. Linkages will provide opportunities for integrated management of the Park with the surrounding environment, skills and knowledge sharing among staff, staff development and learning opportunities and financial and strategic support.

Key linkages which should be maintained or developed are with:

- The Parramatta Heritage Centre and Parramatta and Holroyd City Councils.
- Parramatta Stadium Trust
- Individuals with expert knowledge of the Park, its environment and its cultural resources
- The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority
- The National Trust of Australia (NSW) and Old Government House.
- The Historic Houses Trust especially those associated with its Parramatta properties.
- Local, regional and national tourism organisations.
- Other parks or park groups such as the Sydney Parks Group and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Local Aboriginal organisations
- NSW Heritage Office
- Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts

Individual staff should be encouraged to develop their own links with organisations including those above and:

- Professional organisations such as the Museums and Galleries Foundation, Interpretation Australia, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (Australia), Festivals and Events Association, Parks and Leisure Australia.

13.11 The local context

It is anticipated that there will be a 34 percent increase in the number of Parramatta residents between 1996 and 2021 and a 59% increase in the worker population.⁶⁶ The emerging demographic profile for the Parramatta community is characterised by an increase in the number of younger working age people (20-49) and older people (over 70 years), a significant number of young children (0-9) and families, and a culturally diverse population with over 31 percent of the population born overseas and speaking a language other than English at home in 1996.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ Parramatta City Council 2002:3-5; 6-2

⁶⁷ Parramatta City Council 2002: 4-5

These emerging trends are evidenced in the visitor figures for Parramatta Park. The 2002 Visitor Survey indicated that there had been a 10% increase in the number of visitors with children to the Park. For most of the visitors surveyed (52%) the Park was convenient and close to home although the majority (57%) travelled to the Park by car. The largest number of visits was on the weekends.⁶⁸

Clearly the local demographic context will have a large influence on future management of the Park. It is likely that the majority of users will continue to be from the local area and that the number of local visitors will increase over the next 5-20 years. Managing the Park to meet the needs of these visitors whilst still conserving the significance of the place will be critical issue over the life of this plan and into the future. It has been identified that the increased local population will generate the need for an enhanced pedestrian environment; new and augmented public parks and recreational facilities (playgrounds, swimming pools, ovals etc), improved bushland quality and an expanding role for existing services and the development of new facilities.⁶⁹

Key opportunities which present themselves as a result of the growth in the local population include:

- Interpretation and educational opportunities targeted at school and young adult age groups;
- Funding, promotion and sponsorship opportunities for family focussed businesses and organisations (such as retail groups);
- Park improvement plans for the provision of upgraded facilities.

The critical constraints arising from the projected increase in Park visitation include:

- Parking: there are limited opportunities for the provision of increased parking to match the expectations related to vehicle travel to the Park.
- Facility provision: there has been a history of inappropriate development of sporting and community facilities within the Park. Demands for such facilities may be renewed in the future as open space becomes scarcer and demands for its use more complex.
- Adjacent development impacting on views from inside the Park to its boundary especially on the Westmead side.
- Poor water quality management from upper river catchments.

13.12 Funding

PPT recognises that maintaining the Park, its infrastructure and eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings and structures and the provision of physical and interpretation services is costly. It also recognises that not all outcomes of this plan can be achieved on a cost recovery basis or from

⁶⁸ Parramatta Park Trust 2001-2: 12

⁶⁹ Parramatta City Council 2002: 6-2; 7-4

current recurrent funds. Therefore, PPT's responsibilities must be met through a variety of funding arrangements. Additional financial resources will be sought from federal, state and local government. The cost of implementing the plan however, does not have to be met entirely from public sources and there is the potential to offset some of the ongoing costs through sympathetic commercial activities, corporate sector support, and cost recovery programs.

14 Policies

Many of the following policies are taken from previous work undertaken in the Park. In particular Attenbrow, V., 1996; Crown Lands Office, 1983; Department of Lands 1989; Department of Public Works and Services. Landscape design group, 2002; Manidis Roberts Consultants et al 1996; McDonald 1987; McDonald et al 1987; Planning Workshop et al 1980; Urban Systems Corporation, 1975; Winkworth 1995; Walker, M and Pike, P, 1997.

14.1 Guiding policies

Policy intent: To provide a framework for all activities within the Park.

1. The primary responsibility of PPT is the conservation and interpretation of the Park's heritage, improvement of amenities and the provision of visitor services.
2. Parramatta Park will be conserved as a cultural and historical icon to all Australians and others, integrated with the surrounding environment and the community and harmoniously existing with the recreational and sporting facilities.
3. The Park landscape will be managed to recognise all periods of its use and to enhance and interpret its cultural significance.
4. The principle Park use will be as a place for appreciating and understanding the Park's cultural landscape.
5. A major use of the Park will continue to be as a place for recreation, sport and entertainment.
6. The Park will maintain funding adequate for its operations and will encourage and achieve ongoing community support.
7. PPT will continue to acquire knowledge about the Park and its history, natural systems, uses, visitors, and external impacts through ongoing research and investigation.
8. The Park's natural systems will be protected, restored and regenerated.
9. The Park boundaries will be protected from encroachments and developments which compromise its significance.
10. There will be no further excisions from the Park including land for easements (except where such easements relate specifically to PPT functions).
11. Opportunities for return of lands previously excised from the Park will be sought.

14.2 Environment and landscape

Policy intent: To guide the management of the natural and cultural landscape and to provide for appropriate conservation, reconstruction and development within the Park.

General

12. The overriding criterion for all future landscape works in the Park is to retain or reinstate the landscape character as recorded in the historic records including restoration and enhancement of natural systems and landforms.
13. The landscape masterplan (LMP) will be implemented subject to detailed research and design development.
14. Appropriate conservation planning recognised by external authorities will underpin the management of cultural and natural heritage.

Retention of evidence of significant periods in the Park's evolution

15. Recognising that the Park is a cultural landscape, remnant Cumberland Plain vegetation will be conserved and interpreted without prejudicing the primary significance of the whole park.
16. Pre-1788 landscape remnants will be protected and conserved.
17. PPT will conserve and interpret significant land forms including Rose Hill, The Crescent, Mays Hill, the river and its tributaries.
18. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the Park will be conserved and interpreted in conjunction with local Aboriginal groups. The evidence will be interpreted in the following areas: river and creek environments, grasslands, ridgeline, scar trees, Old Government House.
19. Continuing and contemporary Aboriginal attachments to the Park will be recognised and fostered through management and interpretation and representation on the Trust Board.
20. The history and evidence of the Park as a colonial contact site shall be conserved and interpreted with particular reference to archaeological and historical evidence.
21. Macquarie's landscape legacy in the Park will be enhanced and reinstated where appropriate and in conjunction with research and detailed landscape design.
22. The recreational history of the Park is recognised as integral to understanding and interpreting the Park and its phases of history.
23. Physical and documentary evidence of past uses (grazing, car racing, agriculture, flying and the use of fire) will be retained and interpreted within the Park but may not be reintroduced unless there is a compelling interpretative or conservation reason for doing so.

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24. The Park will use and promote historically appropriate nomenclature for existing roads, paths and other features in its signage, publicity and event bookings system.

Parramatta River, Domain Creek and Murray Gardens creek

25. Access to and over the river banks and the grassed terraces at the water's edge will be maintained and improved throughout the Park in accordance with the LMP.
26. PPT will work with other authorities to improve water quality in what is the shared heritage of Parramatta River with the ultimate aim of providing access to the waterways for recreational activities.
27. The Parramatta River and tributary streams will be utilised to provide a regional attraction without compromising heritage values. Facilities such as boat hire may be developed and interpretative and educational activities will occur around the riverine environment.
28. The natural character of the edges of the river, creek lines and ponds will be protected and retained except for the area adjacent to Byrnes Avenue where the Oak Avenue is to be conserved as a cultural landscape feature.
29. Conservation of the river will require active intervention by PPT to reduce erosion, improve stability of the river banks and reduce pollution.

New and replacement plantings

30. Mass planting is to be confined to screen plantings at the following critical locations: Mays Hill along the residential boundary fence, Bowling club edge, adjacent to the railway, Westmead boundary fence, Ross Street Avenue to screen stadium.
31. Avenue plantings may be re-constructed, interpreted or enhanced in accordance with the LMP in the following locations: stone pines along Long Avenue and Ross Street, 1847 racecourse plantation of stone pines, Eucalyptus citriodora along Jubilee Avenue, Prince Alfred's fenced commemorative Stone Pine plantation, Mrs Macquarie's Lemon hedge along ridge line, Governors Avenue from Great Western Highway.
32. Significant trees may where appropriate, be interpreted by replacement with a different tree species in accordance with a Tree Management Plan endorsed by the Trustees.
33. Detailed planting schemes will be developed and/or revised for the following areas: George Street gatehouse, Visitor Centre, Dairy Precinct, Ridgeline, Queens Road gatehouse and entrance way, Mays Hill gatehouse and precinct, Riverine areas, Ross Street gatehouse, and the triangular plantations within the road network.
34. Amenity planting should be researched and action undertaken by PPT to ensure that areas of the Park utilised for contemporary recreation have suitable shade.

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35. A Tree Management Plan will be developed to ensure that significant trees are identified, managed and replaced to enable continuity in the existing landscape significance of the Park. The plan will identify native bushland, memorial trees, Aboriginal scar trees, significant individual specimen plantings and will develop specific responses for each tree type.
 36. The three Observatory Marker trees will be identified in the Tree Management Plan as notable specimen plantings and planning for their replacement when they reach the end of their life will be undertaken.
 37. Detailed precinct planning will address issues of tree propagation and historic and amenity plantings.
 38. All changes to the landscape, including tree removal will be recorded in a centralised system.

Significant views and vistas

39. The following critical views and vistas will be actively maintained within the Park:
 - Mays Hill to Hunter Street,
 - Old Government House and grounds of Parramatta Park- views to east (George Street, O'Connell Street and the river),
 - Parramatta River from the west in Parramatta Park,
 - Parramatta Park to Kings School and Lennox Bridge,
 - the Ridge of the Crescent to Parramatta,
 - the visual relationship between the monuments and their siting on the ridge line,
 - from the ridge line to the Macquarie Street gates and the centre of Parramatta
 - from the Dairy to Westmead and Wistaria Gardens,
 - out of the Park from the Domain to Westmead, the west and north-west.
40. Vegetation will be managed to ensure the retention of significant views through regular pruning and careful planting programs.
41. The views from Old Government House to George Street will be opened up through vegetation management and tree removal.
42. New structures, either permanent or temporary will not be constructed where they will have a detrimental affect on significant views.
43. PPT will work with Parramatta and Holroyd Council's and other authorities to ensure that developments along the Park boundaries do not detract from significant views from within the Park.
44. The number of directional and traffic signs in the Park will be reduced and replaced with signs painted on the roads where possible to reduce visual clutter.

Infrastructure and assets

45. An assets register will be prepared and maintained by the PPT.
46. A cyclical maintenance program will be developed for all Park infrastructure and assets including heritage items.
47. Adequate funding will be provided to cover the costs of infrastructure and asset improvement, replacement and maintenance.

Built Heritage

48. An active program of maintenance and conservation will be implemented and reviewed annually for all built, archaeological, natural and landscape elements within the Park.
49. Annual funding will be made available for implementation of the program.
50. Significant form, layout and materials of roads, paths, built and landscape elements will be retained.
51. Adaptive reuse of the gatehouses and Rangers Cottage and use of the Visitor Centre will ensure that significant fabric is conserved and that inappropriate intervention will not occur.
52. Residential and other occupancies of historic buildings will be subject to special lease conditions to ensure proper care of the building fabric, to prevent unauthorised work, and to ensure ongoing public access.
53. Monuments in their original position will not be moved, replaced, altered or re-oriented.
54. New monuments, plaques and memorials will not be permitted within the Park except where they are related to the history, significance and development of the Park and do not compromise its heritage significance. Form, materials and location of new monuments shall be in accordance with the LMP.

Aboriginal heritage

55. The Park will assist local indigenous communities in achieving appropriate levels of access to places and items of Aboriginal significance within the Park.
56. Management of Aboriginal heritage items and interpretation programs will be undertaken in consultation with the local Aboriginal communities.
57. Implementation of these policies will require extensive and ongoing Aboriginal community consultation and involvement.

Archaeology

58. Erosion and grass loss in areas of archaeological sensitivity will be controlled to maximise the protection of archaeological relics.
59. Archaeological relics as identified in the Archaeological Zoning Plans will be managed according to the relevant management categories identified in those plans
60. Archaeological assessments will be prepared prior to any work which may disturb archaeological relics being undertaken
61. New works will be designed to avoid as far as possible potentially significant archaeological relics.
62. New works in areas which have not had previous building activity will need to be subject to a test excavation or monitoring program for Aboriginal and historic archaeological relics.
63. Any archaeological excavations will be developed with a public participation component which may include site visits, talks, participation in the excavation or post excavation work and/or displays in the Visitor Centre.
64. Archaeological sites and relics will be interpreted on a permanent or temporary basis through a variety of means including on-site interpretation of sub-surface remains, recreation of pathways, roads, fences or other features and interpretation in the Visitor Centre, Dairy Precinct and other locations where appropriate.

Movable Heritage

65. The Park's existing significant movable heritage collection (archaeological artefacts, library records and photos) will be recognised and stored, displayed and managed in accordance with appropriate professional advice.
66. The Park will remain the archaeological repository for material excavated from within the Park boundaries but will not accept archaeological material from other sites.
67. New movable heritage items will only be accepted or purchased where they have been clearly identified in an interpretation proposal and where the conservation of the items can be achieved.

New works

68. New works will follow the design guidelines outlined in the LMP.
69. Generally only those permanent new structures associated with PPT administrative functions will be permitted within the Park. A permanent office building will not be constructed until all options for relocation to existing buildings (including those currently off-Park) have been exhausted.

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70. New works should not adversely impact upon the significant landscape qualities of the place. They should be recognisable as being of their own period and be subject to detailed site specific design.
 71. New works which do not have historical precedent in the evolution of the Park or which would lead to the loss of the Park's cultural or natural significance should not occur.
 72. Reviews of Environmental Factors will be prepared for all proposed activities in the Park at the discretion of a meeting of Trustees. External proponents may be asked to prepare and fund the preparation of REFs.

Park boundaries

73. PPT will seek to acquire land which was once part of the Governor's Domain where conservation of the land can be achieved and where it will enhance the significance of the Park.
74. Additions to the PPT lands should only occur where the lands are contiguous with, and have an historical connection to the existing Park lands except where they are required for operational purposes.
75. A financial impact statement (FIS) will be prepared prior to any new lands being transferred to PPT. The FIS will take into account additional costs and staffing needs which are likely to occur as a result of the transfer. The FIS should form the basis of a fund and staff allocation from NSW Treasury or the relevant transferring government department.

14.3 Use of the Park

Policy intent: To provide a policy framework for use of the Park by organised and casual groups. To improve Park users' understanding of the Park's significance and to gain support for conservation of the park...

General

76. Recreational activities and entertainment will be managed to minimise impact on the heritage significance of the Park. This is to include noise management which may impact on Park visitors' experiences.
77. Amenities and facilities will be provided in accordance with the guiding policies, the objectives of the Parramatta Park Trust Act, and will be compatible with the identified significance of the Park.
78. Amenities and facilities will not be provided where they are more appropriately provided in other locations by other authorities.
79. Activities will be conducted in the Park so as to protect the Park's natural and cultural values.

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80. Organisers of events, functions and other activities are responsible for all costs associated with their participation in, and/or conduct of the event. PPT may where appropriate ameliorate these costs through formal sponsorship agreements.
 81. A fee set by the PPT will be charged for all event and use bookings including a refundable bond. A sliding fee scale will apply depending on the nature and size of the event. Fees will be in accordance with a Trustees endorsed policy to be reviewed annually.

Facilities and services

82. Upgrades to existing sporting facilities may only occur where there will be no detrimental impact on social, natural or cultural heritage values (including landscape values and views), where the upgrades are in accordance with the LMP design guidelines and where the appropriate approvals have been received.
83. Picnic shelters and barbeques will be provided in limited numbers and to a careful design as per the Landscape Masterplan. Existing shelters and seats will be phased out and replaced with items of a more appropriate design.
84. Where possible, shelters may be provided at or near the location of known earlier shelter structures.

Events and private functions⁷⁰

85. Public events which assist in interpreting the heritage significance of the Park will be encouraged.
86. The use of the Park for events and functions will be managed by a booking system that limits and controls participant numbers to achieve management objectives.
87. Restrictions may be placed on the nature and location of temporary structures to be used in special events in accordance with the conditions on the inventory sheets in Volume 2 or any other conditions imposed by the Trust.
88. PPT may refuse permission for a special event or function to be held in the Park on the basis of its impact on Park infrastructure or heritage, its function which may be at odds with the aims and objectives of the PPT, past conduct of an event, or any other reason.

Visitor monitoring and Park protection

89. Visitor impacts will be assessed by Park staff after major events to determine the condition of the Park and whether the use has been appropriate.

⁷⁰ An event here is taken to be an organised activity including a festival, fair or promotional activity which is open to the public. A private function is taken to be a privately organised and attended activity for which a booking has been made through PPT.

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90. Event organisers will be responsible for the costs of repairs and other works deemed necessary. All or part of the bond may be withheld to meet costs.
 91. Where required, physical protection in the form of barriers, padding, temporary fencing and patrols will be used to protect the Park's assets during events or other activities.
 92. The impacts of visitors on heritage buildings and monuments which are open to the public will be monitored on the following basis: six monthly for the Dairy Precinct, Bath House and Observatory, and 12 monthly for other buildings, monuments and other items.

Roads and Road Users

93. The road system will be recognised as being of considerable cultural significance for its association with the Vice Regal period.
94. The current alignment and narrow carriage width of all roads within the Park should be retained.
95. Disturbance to road surfaces will only occur under archaeological supervision.
96. Where brick edges exist, for example around Old Government House, they will be maintained and restored. Where there is no hard edging, rural swales will be maintained or introduced where appropriate to ensure a soft edge treatment to roads and paths.
97. All vehicular traffic is to travel at the posted speed within the Park and in the specified direction
98. Through vehicular traffic will continue to be discouraged by limiting the opening hours of the Queens Road gate.
99. Separation of pedestrian, bike and vehicular traffic will occur through the development of the path networks.
100. Pedestrians will have right of way within the Park on all roads.
101. The Park will be connected to the Parramatta open space network through footpaths and cycleways and PPT will continue its representation on committees such as the Parramatta Foreshores Access Group.
102. PPT will liaise with Parramatta City Council and other authorities over the provision of safe pedestrian access to the Park from George Street, Park Parade, Queens Road and O'Connell Street.
103. Restrictions may be placed on heavy vehicles (> 3 tonnes) entering and using the Park.
104. Heavy vehicle entry for PPT purposes will be by escorted approval by PPT.
105. Parking of vehicles is permitted in designated areas only.

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106. Roads may be used by pedestrians, cyclists, and motorised vehicles for the purposes of access to the Park and its facilities.
 107. Roads will be maintained in a manner which is sympathetic to the Park landscape with soft edges, historically appropriate widths, and suitable materials used in their upgrades and maintenance.
 108. Old fence lines may be interpreted at pinch points in the road to assist in both regulating traffic flow through road narrowing and in interpreting previous sub divisions within the Park, for example Salter's grant.

14.4 Leasing and licensing

Policy intent: To seek in the long term the return of previously excised and leased lands wherever possible and to use this principle to guide the leasing and licensing of Park facilities within the framework set by the PPT Act.

109. The purpose of a commercial lease should be to support the conservation aims of the PPT without prejudicing future opportunities to seek the return of alienated Park lands.
110. Where possible all occupancies should have a public benefit and should allow public access where there is no risk to the public or authorised tenant. Exceptions may be to the interior or parts of the interiors of commercially leased buildings. In addition access may be supervised, or subject to other conditions at the discretion of the Parramatta Park Trust.
111. The Park should regularly review existing leases to ascertain encroachments on existing boundaries.
112. No exclusive or preferential rights are to be created by the regular use of Park facilities.
113. The market value of commercial leases will be reviewed on a regular basis using a valuer recognised by the appropriate professional body.
114. Proposals or requests for grants of licences or easements will be assessed according the following:
 - The findings of a statement of heritage impact prepared according the NSW Heritage Office guidelines and submitted with the proposal.
 - Description of the proposed use(s) and how land will be used. Whether the proposed use is consistent with the objects and functions of the Trust Act.
 - The nature and extent of proposed alterations, additions, structures or site works proposed and its compatibility with the actions and policies in any current CMP or POM.
 - The economic viability of the proposal.
 - The Financial Capacity of the proponents to fund the project. Where a major capital investment is proposed financing sources should be indicated.

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- The level of experience/expertise of the proponent/s in relation to the proposed use.
 - The degree of public access that will be available under the proposed use.
 - The relationship of the proposed use to the Park operational requirements.
 - The length of lease/license required inclusive of any option period required.
 - Any other criteria as set by the PPT and published on the PPT web site.
115. All lessees shall be made aware of the heritage significance of the Park lands forming the leased area and the applicable statutory requirements for heritage conservation. Heritage significance will take precedence over business requirements for additional services or infrastructure.
116. Tangible public benefits will be maximised from any developers whose proposals may impact on the Park.
117. The existing use and future needs of Parramatta High School will be managed through the development of a licence agreement with the Department of Education.

The Parramatta Rail Link

118. Prior to work commencing on the, currently deferred, Parramatta to Chatswood Rail Link, a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the Trust and Rail Link. This Memorandum will cover issues related to:
- Park protection, particularly to ensure that all activities related to site access and the temporary depot are contained within an agreed area, and do not impinge on Park activities.
 - Retention of significant vegetation and cultural features.
 - Adequate monetary compensation to the PPT for the loss of revenue from the car Park.
 - Archaeological investigations required during any construction works.
 - Remediation works required after rail link vacate the site.
 - Any other relevant issues.

The Parramatta Golf Course

119. The Parramatta Golf Course will be maintained as a nine hole public golf course and managed under lease with the PPT.
120. There are to be no expansion to the boundaries of the current course.
121. The Parramatta Golf Course will be responsible for preparing and implementing a maintenance plan for the Park Parade Gatehouse and a landscape plan for the golf course and associated facilities.

122. The use of the land should be reviewed by PPT at the expiry of the lease.

The Parramatta Memorial Swimming Centre

123. The Parramatta Memorial Swimming Centre will be maintained as an outdoor public swimming centre and managed under lease from the PPT.

124. There are to be no expansions to the boundary of the current site.

125. The permitted activities should not compromise the heritage significance of the adjacent Park lands.

126. The Trust and the lessee will work cooperatively to achieve interpretation and public access to the adjacent Park lands.

The Parramatta Leagues Club Car Park

127. The Leagues Club car Park will be maintained as an outdoor car Park for Leagues Club patrons during the current term of the lease.

128. There are to be no expansions to the boundary of the current site.

129. The permitted activities should not compromise the heritage significance of the adjacent Park lands especially the Ross Street Gatehouse.

130. The Trust and the lessee will work cooperatively to achieve interpretation and public access to the adjacent Park lands.

14.5 Planning, delegations and exemptions

Policy intent: To provide for the updating of the CMP/POM and to reduce the approvals required for minor works within the Park.

131. This plan will be updated in five years time or as required.

132. This plan will be made publicly available on the PPT web site and from the PPT office for purchase.

133. The following delegations and exemptions are sought from the NSW Heritage Council as part of their endorsement of this planning document:

- Delegated authority to approve applications made under section 60 of the Act where the proposal will not materially affect the significance of the place and which are not likely to be of a controversial nature (for example fit outs not requiring major internal modifications; archaeological monitoring and test excavations etc).
- Delegated authority to approve conservation management plans or other planning documents for individual places in the Park.

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- Exemptions from seeking further approval for new and replacement plantings as per these policies.

14.6 Research, listing and recording

Policy intent: To improve and properly curate records relating the history and operation of the Park.

134. PPT recognises the physical landscape as a resource for research.
135. Records of the history of the Park including an archive of historic images will be kept in a designated library space within the PPT Offices and may be available for public inspection on request.
136. Management actions including conservation works, planting programs, plant and tree removals, and interpretation programs will be recorded in detail and archived in the PPT Offices to ensure that the history of Park management is preserved.
137. PPT will develop a research plan consistent with the statement of heritage significance.

14.7 Interpretation

Policy intent: to guide the future interpretation of the Park landscape. To allow for the integration of Parramatta Park into the regional tourism context.

138. The Park will be interpreted as a cultural landscape: its sites, buildings, monuments and other features are the Parks 'collection'.
139. The Park will be interpreted as the pre-eminent colonial landscape in Australia.
140. Thorough research will underpin all interpretation programs in the Park.
141. All phases of the Park's history will be interpreted, drawing out continuities and themes that enable us to understand the landscape. In some instances it may be appropriate to concentrate the interpretation on the most significance phase or form of the site's history.
142. PPT will enable visitors to read the landscape and respond to its historic, cultural, scientific and aesthetic values.
143. The Park will provide educational opportunities for people of all ages to learn about the Park through interactive and experiential programs.
144. Access and use will be compatible with the overall conservation of the Park and where appropriate continuities of use in the Park will be maintained.
145. Interpretive works or installations should be reversible and will not clutter the landscape of the Park or unnecessarily impact on the visual qualities of the landscape.

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146. Interpretation will be integrated with other precincts, programs and themes that run through Parramatta, particularly the river foreshores and Aboriginal themes. Links to the National Trust, Historic House Trust and the Heritage Resource Centre, and other educational and cultural organisations will be developed and promoted.
 147. Interpretation of Aboriginal history should be undertaken in consultation with, and where possible developed and delivered by Aboriginal people.
 148. An annual funding provision will be made for interpretation and education and maintenance of interpretative infrastructure.

14.8 Staffing and volunteers

Policy intent: To ensure that PPT retains a skilled professional staff and maintains a vibrant volunteer program.

149. PPT will ensure that the organisation has the resources and people as may be necessary to enable the Trust to exercise its functions.
150. PPT will use and develop expertise appropriate to the tasks of conserving the evidence, features and qualities that relate to significance, and the setting of the Park.
151. Regular heritage management training will be provided for staff, volunteers and contractors.
152. Access to experienced cultural heritage expertise will be provided when required and well trained expert cultural heritage staff will be retained on staff.
153. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to assist the Park in interpretation and other programs.
154. An annual funding provision will be made for the development and implementation of volunteer programs commensurate with the scale of operations.

14.9 Funding and sponsorship

Policy intent: To determine funding to assist in the implementation of this plan.

155. Commercial activities including leasing of Park buildings will assist the Park in meeting its funding requirements.
156. Funding the conservation of existing significant fabric will take precedence over funding the reconstruction or reinstatement of new fabric.
157. Funding allocations will be based on the implementation schedule attached to this plan.
158. PPT recognise that there is the potential to attract sponsorship and grants for specific projects and a sponsorship policy and benefits package will be developed to assist with this .
159. Support in kind will only be accepted if it supports the Park's objects and functions.

15 Statement of key Park programs for implementation.

The following section outlines the management objectives and outcomes for key components of the Park landscape. It is in effect a summary of the approach to be taken in managing each area.

The Crescent

The Crescent is one of the defining landscape features of the Park. Once a ridgeline above a natural billabong it is now a heavily modified amphitheatre and performance space. The Crescent provides a viewing place for some of the most enduring images of the changing landscape of Parramatta as a city. It frames the views from within the Park as well as to the river, Old Government House, along the ridgeline to the monuments and across the Domain.

The sites' significance relates to:

- Aboriginal use of the ridgeline including probable fire stick farming⁷¹.
- The significance of the Crescent and Government Farm in providing food on which the colony relied after the failure of crops in the Sydney Basin.⁷²
- early agricultural activities centred at the billabong,
- it's landscape prominence as a backdrop to Old Government House often featuring in early nineteenth century depictions of the Government Domain
- The physical connection it still provides between Old Government House and other Park features such as the Dairy, Domain Creek, the Bath house and views over Parramatta, despite the late twentieth century modifications.

The objectives of management of this area are to:

- Interpret the history and use of the Crescent
- Protect the access to, and connections between, the Crescent and other parts of the Park.
- Protect and enhance views by pruning and removing vegetation where necessary.
- Protect and interpret natural plantings.
- Protect and interpret Aboriginal sites and relics
- Provide public access to this area from Old Government House to the Dairy Precinct.
- Retain the area as an event space with uses not to compromise the above objectives
- A long term (15-20 years) management objective is to conserve the Crescent and interpret its original form through interpretive plantings of agricultural and Cumberland Plain species (LMP action 15) and landform modifications.

⁷¹ Kass et al 1996:7

⁷² Kass et al 1996:26f

Key management actions include:

- Removal of toilet block and replacement in more appropriate location.
- Retention of concrete stage for performances for the life of this plan.
- Review of vegetation management on the ridgeline to recognise importance of historic views,
- Provide educational programs to interpret the experience of walking from Old Government House to the Dairy.
- Relocation of stairs into Crescent.
- Relocate benches on ridgeline to take in significant views and provide interpretation of these views at these locations.

River and creeks: Parramatta River, Murray Gardens Creek, Domain Creek

The significance of the Park waterways relates to:

- The historical usage of the waterways by Aboriginal people and for agricultural, industrial and recreational activities.
- The central role of the river in the colonial exploration and settlement of Parramatta.
- The structural form of the river which bisects the Park and provides a focal point for recreational activities.
- The aesthetic significance of the waterways which have been represented in paintings and photographs of the Park.

The objectives of management of these areas are to:

- Protect the river banks from erosion.
- Improve water quality with a long term objective of introducing water based activities to the Park including swimming.
- Improve access to the river and creek banks.
- Interpret the use and changes to the waterways in the Park.

Key management actions include:

- Working with adjoining land owners and Parramatta River Catchment Management Task Force.
- Erosion control on banks of Parramatta River.
- Expansion of walking track network to take in both sides of the river, to allow safe access across Domain Creek and to link the southern shore of the river from the island to the weir downstream.

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- Restoration of island.
 - Continuation of Domain Creek restoration program

Remnant natural vegetation

The remnant natural vegetation's significance relates to:

- Small patches of Cumberland Plain remnant and regrowth in the following locations: Riparian strip, Murray Gardens Creek, Domain Creek, the Ridge Line, Coleman Oval.

The objectives of management of the remnant vegetation is to:

- Maintain and improve native vegetation in the Park in specific locations.
- Use the remnant vegetation in interpretation and education programs.

Key management actions include:

- Prepare Bush Management strategy to be informed by a detailed understanding of the cultural landscape values of the Park.
- Provide input to Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan.

Mixed pasture grasslands

The grasslands' significance relates to:

- The existence of unimproved turf species, or mixed pasture grasses at Mays Hill, in the East and West Domain, along the ridgeline, and around Old Government House which can assist in interpreting the rural character of the Park.

The objectives of management of the grasslands are to:

- Maintain the mixed pasture grass.
- Interpret rural character of the Park.

Key management actions include:

- Inclusion of grasslands in Landscape, Horticulture and Facilities Maintenance Contract.
- Preparation and implementation of turf management plan as part of this contract.

Mays Hill

Mays Hill is one of the distinctive topographic features of the Park. The Hill overlooks the Government Domain to the north-east and Parramatta City to the south and provides significant views in both these directions. Mays Hill contains Parramatta High School and grounds, the Mays

Hill Gatehouse, the Observatory marker pines and the Governor's Avenue from the Western Highway to Old Government House.

The sites' significance relates to:

- The views afforded across to the river basin, St Johns spire and St Johns Cemetery.
- The location of the Mays Hill Gatehouse on the Great Western Highway
- The connections with the Old Government House area through the Observatory marker pines, the Governors Avenue and the views to the Domain.

The objectives of management of this area are to:

- Protect and enhance significant views
- Conserve, interpret and find a suitable use for the Mays Hill Gatehouse
- Interpret this part of the Park as part of the Governor's Domain despite its physical separation caused by the railway and Park Parade.
- Conserve and enhance the Governor's Avenue.
- Achieve sympathetic integration of the high school with surrounding landscape.
- Establish Mays Hill playing field as an alternative event space.

Key management actions include:

- Stabilisation of gatehouse and investigation of adaptive reuse opportunities.
- Form a pedestrian pathway along original nineteenth century Park Drive.
- Reinstatement of missing elements of Governor's Avenue plantings.
- Promote use of the area as an alternative event space to the Crescent.
- Negotiate high school lease of park grounds

Old Government House

Old Government House, managed by the National Trust, is one of the major attractions within the Park. The House can be seen from two of the major Park entranceways, George Street and Macquarie Street. Most of the landscape features once associated with the House are now managed by PPT. The House defines much of the surrounding landscape, including the archaeological landscape related to the early colonial settlement.

The sites' significance relates to:

- The history of the Governor's Domain and the ability to interpret this from the physical form of the house and the Park.
- The prominence of the house within the Park landscape.

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- The relationship of the house to major surrounding features including monuments, plantings, the Dairy and landforms such as the River, Crescent, and town layout.

The objectives of management of this area are:

- Integration of the PPT's and National Trusts management and interpretation objectives including ensuring consistency between the conservation plans for both sites.
- To restore the landscape character of the setting of Old Government House so that it reflects the legacy of the Governor and Mrs Macquarie period whilst recognizing the need to interpret evidence relating to other periods.
- To re-establish Old Government House's connection with the Park and former driveways.
- To conserve and reinforce vistas to Parramatta townscape including the river.
- To create an identity to the major entranceways to the Park which reinforce our conservation objectives.

Key management actions include:

- Interpret and conserve the landscape setting to reveal the heritage significance of this part of the Park.
- Implement detailed plans for the redevelopment of the Macquarie Street entrance
- Management of events and functions to exclude activities which may inappropriately impact on Old Government House.
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between PPT and National Trust to cover access, use of Park, signage, co-operative ventures, parking associated with Old Government House.

Agricultural lands: Government Farm site, Salter's Grant and agricultural furrows

The significance of these sites relates to:

- Association with early agricultural practice and early Vice Regal Domain period 1788 – 1810
- Remnant evidence of agricultural activity including furrows.

The objective of management of these areas are to:

- Introduce new interpretative activities and recreated elements
- Manage and constrain the impact of events and nearby uses and development.
- Continue research into the agricultural activities within the Park and the people associated with them.
- Interpret the extent of Salter's grant, early colonial agricultural activities and land settlement patterns.

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- Interpret the first Government Farm site, the 1790 Nursery and the 1800 Botanic Garden, in the ground plane.

Key management actions include:

Salter's Grant

- Undertake tree planting and fencing, representing the former grant boundary and reinforcing the Park's rural character.
- Incorporate vertical elements representing the boundary as part of the existing children's playground.
- Provide simple descriptive signage as an aid in this interpretation.
- Control maintenance and use in this area to conserve furrows and other archaeological and landscape evidence.

Government Farm Site

- Interpret the 1790 horticultural experimental grounds through grid planting of grasses and interpretative signs
- Establish a path link along the former Pitt Row alignment terminating in a jetty structure on the riverbank to interpret the former river crossing (LMP).

Gatehouses and entranceways

These sites' significance relates to:

- Continuity as entrance points into the Park that controlled use and activities such as agistment and materials extraction (sand and timber).
- The variety of architectural styles and form that provides contrast to the resources and aspirations of the early Parramatta Park Trust at different periods.

The objectives of management of the gatehouses are to:

- Enhance the entry points into the Park through the conservation of the gatehouses.
- Find suitable small scale uses for the buildings including where appropriate residential uses.
- Conserve small residential scale of the gatehouses.

Key management actions include:

- Undertake critical repairs to May's Hill and Queens Road gatehouses and improve maintenance.
- Look for opportunities to fund complete conservation of Mays Hill and Queens Road.
- Complete Conservation plans for Ross Street, Queens Road and May's Hill gatehouses

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- Revise George Street Conservation Plan (1995)
 - Prepare landscape plans for all gatehouses

Dairy Precinct

The precincts' significance relates to:

- The continuity of occupation and evolution of the precinct from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, demonstrated by the physical remains of the cottages, gardens, depot and archaeological evidence.
- The association of the precinct with George Salter whose land grant is still contained in its entirety within the Park and Wistaria Gardens.
- The interpretative and educational opportunities offered by a significant enclosed precinct within walking distance from Old Government House and the Visitor Centre.

The objectives of management of this area are to:

- Promote the site as a key interpretation destination within the Park.
- Reinforce links between the precinct and Old Government House.
- Conserve and maintain existing fabric from all periods of the precinct's development
- Maintenance and enhancement of existing interpretative installations including garden beds.

Key management actions include:

- Develop partnership with old Government House for a joint education project.
- Prepare detailed cyclical management plan.
- Investigate cause of movement in brick floor in Dairy Cottage kitchen and undertake suitable repairs.
- Prepare and implement detailed schedule of repairs for Dairy Cottage.
- Remove Park furniture and other items stored in precinct.

Ovals: Old Kings and Coleman Oval

The sites' significance relates to:

- Early and continuing use as sporting facilities in the Park

The objectives of management of this area are to:

- Continue to use each oval as a sporting facility for cricket, AFL and athletics and as special event spaces.

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- Interpret the sporting heritage of each site.
 - Conserve the 19th century scale of built and natural elements at Old King's and reinforce the character established by tree planting
 - Provide suitable contemporary amenities for uses that are of a form and style consistent with the landscape setting and scale of built elements.
 - Improve access to Old King's Oval.

Key management actions include:

- Conserve peripheral plantings defining the space of each oval
- At Old King's, conserve and replace lost and senescent Stone Pine sp. relating to the old race course plantation with the same species
- At Old King's replace the picket fence to the oval
- At Old King's improve access from O'Connell Street via pool car Park and via Stadium car Park
- Upgrade toilet at Coleman Oval to include change rooms.
- Strengthen Park Parade edge plantings.

Monuments and memorials: Observatory stones, Bath House, Lady Fitzroy Memorial, Billy Hart Memorial, Boundary Stone, Boer war Memorial

The significance of the monument relates to:

- The high visibility of the Bathhouse, Observatory and Boer War Memorial on the ridge line and the Lady Fitzroy Memorial at the George Street entrance.
- Their historical associations with the layout of Parramatta Township (boundary stone), the Governor's Domain (Bath house, observatory, Lady Fitzroy Memorial) and subsequent events (Billy Hart Memorial, Boer War Memorial).

The objectives of management of the monuments are to:

- Interpret key events in the development of the Park and in NSW and Australian history.
- Ensure that any public use of, or around, the monuments has little or no impact.
- Continual development of interpretation in Visitor Centre relating to monuments.

Key management actions include:

- Implementation of recommendations for stone work conservation of Observatory marker stones, bathhouse floor, Boer War Memorial and boundary stone (Young 2003).
- Careful consideration of conservation options for Observatory Stones including construction of a protective canopy.

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- Reinststate the symbolic context of the Boer War Memorial by tree removal and management along the ridgeline.
 - Review on a five yearly basis all on-site, Visitor Centre and outside interpretation signage.

16 Implementation schedule

The following section provides detailed schedule of actions to be undertaken in the Park over the next five years. Some long term programs which would ideally be realised in the next 10-20 years are also included. The schedule has been organised under the headings developed in the policy section of this plan. It has been informed by the following:

- The current work programs at the Park.
- Recognition that cultural heritage values will underpin future works and planning programs.
- The estimated resources available over the next five years.
- Recommendations in previous reports and plans

Priority

- Priority 1= Must be done in next 12 months to enable immediate improvement in performance, Park presentation, and/or to prevent imminent loss of, or damage to, significance
- Priority 2= Should be done in next 12 to 36 months to enable mid to long term improvement in performance, Park presentation and/or to reduce risk of loss or damage to significance
- Priority 3 = Desirable to be completed in next 5-10 years to enable overall improvement in performance, Park presentation and/or as preventive measure.
- Priority 4= Long term goal (10-20 years). Actions should not be taken in the short term which might hinder the achievement of long term goals.
- Priority O = Ongoing
- Priority R= As required

Responsibility⁷³

D= Director

VSC= Visitor Services Coordinator

FSC= Field Services Coordinator

C= Curator

R= Rangers

A= Admin staff

T= Parramatta Park Trustees

S=specialist input required into assessment, design and/or construction

E= external agency input required (eg National Trust, Parramatta City Council)

⁷³ This column outlines the various people who will take responsibility for certain actions identified in the plan. It does not nominate a project manager.

Task	Priority	Responsibility	Reference	Review
1 Environment and landscape implementation outcomes:				
Cohesive Park landscape realised with reference to historical planting and built heritage precedents				
Significant periods of Park's history recognised , conserved and interpreted				
Overall improvement in look of Park.				
Retention of evidence of significant periods in the Park's evolution				
Document and use historically appropriate nomenclature	1	C, VSC		Yearly
Develop a detailed landscape design for the Crescent to include the removal of the current toilet block, provision of additional shade trees and subtle access to the ridge line	2	D, T	LMP 2002: 50	2009
Complete the tree management plan for the Park to identify and assess significant trees, identify management and conservation actions, to determine where significant trees will be replaced and how this will be done.	1	S, FSC, R, C		Dec 2009
Develop and implement a native vegetation strategy along ridge line to ensure that Cumberland Plain vegetation is conserved and enhanced, that Aboriginal sites in this area are protected from erosion and exposure as far as possible, that symbolic placement of Boer War Memorial is maintained, and that the setting for other monuments and for OGH is maintained and enhanced.	1	S, FSC, C	Attenbrow 1996: 43; LMP:48	2009
Liaise with DECC over the preparation of the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan and provide input into this plan	1	D, FSC		Half yearly
Parramatta River, Domain Creek and Murray Gardens Creek				
Monitor water quality and treat any unsightly accumulation of aquatic weed growth	O	FSC, R	CB 1987:80	Half yearly
Improve water quality in river and creeks	O	FSC, R, E		Yearly

Reconstruct the island relationship with the waterways	4	S, FSC, C	LMP 2002:50	Dec 2012
Reinforce the remnant indigenous vegetation of Cumberland woodland on and around the riverine edge of the island up to the George Street gatehouse.	4	S, FSC, C	LMP 2002: 50	Dec 2010
Clear weed infestations along river and creek banks and plant out with indigenous riverine vegetation.	0	FSC, R	LMP; 2002:50	Half yearly
Reconstruct chain of ponds at Domain Creek in accordance with detailed landscape plan	3	S, FSC, C	LMP 2002	Dec 2010
Commission and implement a study of river edges including a condition report and assessment to determine how to solve major erosion issues.	2	FSC, C		Dec 2009
Prepare design for Murray Gardens landscape works and implement	2	D, FSC, C		2009
New and replacement plantings				
Prepare detailed action plans for the scar trees within the Park to ensure that senescent trees are managed to prolong their life and in accordance with the communities' aspirations for their management.	2	S, C, FSC	Attenbrow 1996	Yearly
Liaise with groups working on the Park fringes to ensure that no damage occurs to significant trees	0	R, C		Yearly
Significant plants will be labelled and information about new planting schemes will be provided either at the Visitor Centre or at the administration office.	0	R	LMP 2002	2008
Develop weed control program with particular emphasis on riverine areas	0	FSC, R,		2008
Planting programs and detailed plans will be developed for the following areas in accordance with LMP:		S, FSC, R, C,		Yearly
Riverine areas including Domain Creek, Murray Gardens Creek and the Parramatta River	1		LMP: 54	2010

High School to Jubilee Avenue to define eastern boundary of Park (Pitt Street)	2			LMP: 55	2010
Ridgeline and Crescent	1				2010
Avenue plantings may be re-introduced or enhanced as follows: stone pines along Long Avenue and Ross Street	3		S, C, FSC, R, E	McDonald et al 1987: 80; LMP 52	2010
Eucalyptus citriodora along Jubilee Avenue	2			LMP: 48	2010
Prince Alfred's commemorative Stone Pine plantation	3				2010
Lemon hedge along ridge line	3			LMP	2010
Cyprus along George Street fence	2			LMP: 49	2010
Governors Avenue	3			LMP: 52	2010
Oak Avenue	2				2008
George Street gatehouse	1				2010
Café/Event Centre and Dairy Precinct	1				2010
Ridgeline	1				2010
Queens Road gatehouse and entrance way	2				2010
Mays Hill gatehouse and precinct	2				2010
Riverine areas	2				Annually
Ross Street gatehouse	2				Annually

Railway edge	3			Annually
Screen planting may be undertaken in the following locations:		FSC, R, C		
Mays Hill along the boundary fence	3		LMP: 36	Annually
Bowling club edge	3		LMP: 53	Annually
Section adjacent to the railway	3		Department of Lands Office 1989: 31	Annually
Westmead boundary fence	3			Annually
Old Kings Oval (to complete the stone pine screen plantation)	2			2010
Ross Street Avenue to screen stadium	3			2010
Develop and implement recording system for tree removal including before and after photos, location plan and reason for removal.	1	FSC		Yearly
Significant views and vistas				
The following critical views and vistas will be actively maintained within the Park: Mays Hill-Hunter Street Old Government House and grounds of Parramatta Park- views to east (George Street, O'Connell Street and the river) Parramatta River from the west in Parramatta Park Parramatta Park to institutions, Kings School and Lennox Bridge the Ridge of the Crescent to Parramatta	1		C, R, D, E	Walker and Pike 1997; McDonald et al 1987 Yearly

From Old Government House					
The visual relationship between the monuments on the ridge line					
The visual axis between the two marker pines on the north-south axis of the boundary stones					
The views from the ridge line to the Macquarie Street gates and the centre of Parramatta					
The vista from OGH along George Street					
From the Dairy to Westmead and Wistaria Gardens					
From the ridgeline across the Domain to the west and north-west.					
Improve the visual connection between George Street and Old Government House through periodic opening of the George Street Gates (pedestrian access only), and tree pruning to the front of Old Government House.				C, R	Yearly
Review traffic signs within Park and replace with painted road signs or symbols where possible	1			R, C	Dec 2008
Infrastructure and assets					
Retrofit existing toilets for water conservation	1			D, FSC, C	June 2008
Prepare assets register and develop maintenance plan for all non-heritage assets.	1			FSC, R	Yearly
Design and implement tree asset management system and database.	2			FSC, C	Dec 2009
Replace the pipe rail and mesh boundary fence at Old Kings Oval with timber picket fence	3			R, C	Dec 2008
Remove Old Kings Oval maintenance shed	2			R, C	Dec 2010
Consider removal of some of the nine concrete cricket pitches throughout the Park and provide a lesser number of maintained pitches for social cricket.	3			FSC, VSC	As required

Built heritage					
Prepare and implement conservation planning documents for Mays Hill and Queens Road Gatehouses	1	S, C, R			June 2009
Prepare and implement maintenance plans for Dairy Precinct, gatehouses and monuments	1	S, C, R			Yearly
Prepare and implement adaptive reuse strategies for Rangers Cottage and gatehouses	1	S, C, D			June 2009
Photographic condition monitoring will be undertaken for the following buildings and monuments: The Dairy Precinct (interior and exteriors of buildings) The Transit Stones The Boundary Stone	0	C, R			Yearly
Review Disaster plans for all buildings	1	S, C, FSC			Yearly
Undertake assessment of conservation needs for sandstone boundary fences and gates.	2	E, C			Yearly
Aboriginal heritage					
Control erosion and grass loss along ridgeline to protect Aboriginal archaeological sites	0	C, FSC		Attenbrow 1996	Yearly
Develop formal consultation mechanisms for ongoing Aboriginal community consultation	0	C, D			Yearly

Archaeology				
Engage archaeologist to monitor and advise on proposed works for projects	1	S, C, FSC		Yearly
Movable heritage				
Implement appropriate catalogue and filing system for Park records, library, archaeological and movable collections.	0	A, D		Yearly
New works				
Review temporary depot and administration block	1	S, FSC, C		2009
Develop plans to use the playing field landform created by the High School as a new outdoor performance space.	4	S, C, D, VSC	LMP	Dec 2009
Develop plans to interpret Crescent to its heritage significance as part of maintaining event space use	4	S, C, D, VSC	LMP	2009
Park boundaries				
Liaise with leaseholders over lease terms and conditions	0	D, T		Yearly
2 Use of the Park implementation outcomes: Increased knowledge in Park users about Park values Improved booking system Park uses appropriate to Park values				
Facilities and services				
Fee scales to be available to public and reviewed annually	0	VSC, T		Yearly

Remove and replace existing picnic facilities as required	O	S, R, C	Yearly
Implement new concessions for bike hire and other services within the park	O	D, VSC	2008
Events and private functions			
Ensure event booking sheets include appropriate information about cultural heritage values and outline any use constraints related to these values.	1	VSC, C	Yearly
Review booking system	O	VSC	Yearly
Visitor monitoring and Park protection			
Inform all staff of upcoming events so special requirements (for example asset protection) can be identified	O	VSC	All events
Prepare and maintain record of impacts on Park from events and functions	O	R, R, VSC	Yearly
Road and road users			
Repair brick edging where it exists around road ways	O	R	Half yearly
Limit opening hours of Queens Road gate to restrict through traffic		R	Yearly
Provide cycle racks at appropriate locations	2	R	Dec 2009
Maintain a cohesive pedestrian and bike path network within the Park linking in with major sites of interest, riverine and other plantings and improving urban links	2	D, R, FSC, C, S	Yearly
Provide appropriate visual screens between parking areas and the rest of the Park.	1, O	S, C, FSC	Yearly

Redesign the Macquarie Street traffic entry to emphasis pedestrian safety while also respecting the entrance and view of OGH.	1	S, C, FSC	2008
Liaise with Council over provision of scrambled crossing at George Street entrance to improve Park access in this location and ensure improved views to George Street Gatehouse	2	D, FSC	Dec 2009
Leases and licensing implementation outcomes: Park values protected in all leasing and licensing arrangements Return of previously excised lands			
Review existing tenancy agreements to ensure that they provide adequate protection for identified heritage values and provide the best possible outcomes for the Park.	R	D	As required
Review market value of leases	O	S, D	Yearly
Develop use agreement with Department of Education over use of Mays Hill area by High School	1	D	Yearly
The Parramatta Rail Link			
Develop MoU with Rail Link over use of Park	R	D	If required
The Parramatta Golf Course			
Liaise with Golf Course over preparation of business, maintenance and landscape plans	1	C, FSC	Yearly
The Parramatta Memorial Swimming Centre			
Liaise with Swimming Centre over use, access, interpretation and refurbishment	1	D	Yearly
The Parramatta Leagues Club Car Park			
Liaise with Leagues Club over use, access and interpretation issues	1	D	As required

The Parramatta Stadium Trust						
Liaise with Stadium Trust over Park access and interpretation issues	1	D				As required
Planning, delegation and exemptions implementation outcomes: Improved approvals process Recognition of limited life span of Management Plan						
An exemption for work as outlined in the policies will be sought from the NSW Heritage Council.	1	D, C				June 2009

Research, listing and recording implementation outcomes: Increased knowledge level for staff and contractors Deeper understanding of Park values					
Original oral history tapes, transcripts and associated material will be deposited with a suitable local studies repository and a list maintained by PPT.	O	C			Yearly
An image library related to the historical development of the Park will be developed and maintained.	O	A, C			As required
Retain a comprehensive collection of Park records in a manner that is readily accessible	O	C, A			As required
Maintain an up to date Park bibliography based on Smith 1997.	O	All staff			3 monthly
Make bibliography available in digital form	1	A,C			Dec 2008
Develop and maintain a suitable catalogue and storage system for books, articles and reports maintained at the Park	1	A, C			Yearly
Interpretation implementation outcomes: Improved community understanding of Park history and values Increased visitation related to Park values					
Establish regional links with Aboriginal interpretation programs.	O	R, C, D			Yearly
Establish partnerships with the National Trust to promote tours and manage education programs in the Park, to further develop interpretation of Old Government House within the Park, to improve access to Old Government House and to better integrate Dairy Precinct into Old Government House interpretation and education initiatives.	1	R, D			Yearly

Liaise with NSW Tourism and Parramatta City Council to ensure that their web sites contain information on Parramatta Park and provide linkages to other tourism opportunities in the region.	1	R, VSC		Yearly
Work with National Trust to implement Landscape Masterplan recommendations related to Old Government House	1	C, FSC, D		Yearly
Review interpretation recommendations in LMP, integrate with earlier interpretation plan and develop implementation strategy.	2	C, VSC		Dec 2008
Integrate the historic elements of the Park with surrounding historic areas through signage, linked heritage programs and tours and collaboration with other heritage organisations.	1	R	Crown Lands Office 1983: 11	As required
Develop an interpretative program related to Aboriginal land management in conjunction with Local Aboriginal community representatives	2	R, C	DPWS 2002:48	Dec 2008
Work with Parramatta City Council to interpret aspects of the Parks and Parramatta's history outside the boundaries of the Park such as Governor Philip's original town plan including the 205 foot wide High Street (now George Street).	1	R, D		Dec 2009
Staffing and volunteers implementation outcomes: Highly skilled staff retained in PPT Knowledgeable and vibrant volunteer program Appropriate skills used in development and implementation of Park programs				
Continue to develop volunteer program including ongoing recruitment and training, development of further programs including Discovery program.	1	R, VSC		Half yearly
Ensure staff have access to training particularly in Cultural heritage	1	D		As required
Recruit staff with appropriate cultural heritage experience	0	D		As required

Develop publicity, sponsorship and marketing plan	1	VSC, D	Yearly
Establish expert committee to meet up to four times per year comprising experts in conservation, history, archaeology, landscape, interpretation or other relevant skills to assist in developing annual conservation program for Park, to lend expert skills to implementation of program and to promote program outside of the Park.	1	D, C	December 2008
Funding and sponsorship implementation outcomes:			
Increased financial support for Park			
Higher Park profile in local, regional and state context			
Implement adaptive reuse options	1	D, C	Yearly
Implement sponsorship and marketing plan	1	D, VSC	Yearly

17 Select Bibliography⁷⁴

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⁷⁴ A bibliography was prepared for the Park in 1997 (Smith) and should be consulted for a full listing of sources including illustrations, photographs and newspaper articles .Updated 2007.

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