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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Strathfield Park Plan of Management.

This plan of management (PoM) has been prepared by Strathfield Council and provides direction as to the use and management of Council owned community land and Council managed Crown reserves classified as 'community land' in the Strathfield Council area. The PoM is required in accordance with Section 3.23 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

This PoM specifically addresses the management of Strathfield Park. The PoM outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and licences on the land.

This land is primarily owned by the Crown and managed by Strathfield Council as Crown Land Manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Information and assessment of Strathfield Park's environmental features was prepared by Anne Carey and Meredith Brainwood of Applied Ecology Pty Ltd in January 2021. This includes Section 5 – Environmental Features and Appendix A – Flora and Fauna Surveys.

This PoM was placed on public exhibition from 9 March 2023 to 28 April 2023, in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. A total of 71 submissions were received. Council considered these submissions before adopting the PoM. The PoM was adopted by the Council meeting of 4 July 2022.

In accordance with section 39 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft PoM was referred to the Department of Planning & Environment – Crown Lands, as representative of the state of NSW, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning & Environment – Crown Lands.

Figure 1 - Strathfield Park Location Map



1.2 Land Description

This plan of management applies to land at Strathfield Park. This plan replaces the Strathfield Park Plan of Management 2008.

This plan of management covers all land in Strathfield Park. The reserve information is detailed in Table 1. The land is owned by the Crown and is managed by Council as the Crown Land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Strathfield Park is located between Homebush Road and Chalmers Road Strathfield. Strathfield Park is one of the largest parks in the Strathfield Local Government Area with a total land area of 7.2 hectares. The surrounding areas are zoned low-rise residential.

Table 1 - Information about the Reserve covered by this plan of management.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Reserve Number | Strathfield Park Reserve Trust (500465) |
| Reserve purpose | Public Park |
| Land parcel/s | Lots 1-2 DP 127825 (Crown) Lot 1 DP 937941 (Crown) Lots 1-2 DP 937942 (Crown) Lot 1 DP 907040 (Strathfield Council) |
| Area (ha) | 7.2 hectares |
| LEP zoning | RE1 – Public Recreation |
| Classification | Community |
| Assigned categories | Park and Sportsground |
| Proposed categories | Park, Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland), General Community Use |

Figure 2 - Strathfield Park Land Ownership Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'Community' land is managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Background to this Plan of Management

There are four parks in the Strathfield LGA which are Crown Land Reserves. This includes Hudson Park, Strathfield Park, Bressington Park and Mason Park. These are also among the largest parks in the LGA (more than five hectares) and are important to the local area in providing significant open space and recreation facilities.

With the adoption of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, all Crown Land Reserves are required to be managed similar to Council owned land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This requires land to be classified as community or operational land and categorised based on its primary use, consistent with the purpose of the land.

1.4 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

| Section | What does it include? |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Introduction | Title, land covered by plan, land description, purpose of the plan, background, legislative framework, review of plan |
| 2. About the Strathfield LGA | Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision and strategic directions, community engagement, references |
| 3. Basis of Management | Management principles, categories and classifications of community land, land categorisations (including map), Council's strategic objectives and priorities, land use/history, description and condition of land and structures, heritage, native title review, condition of assets, maintenance of park, future development, minor development, scale and intensity of land use |
| 4. Development and Uses | Permissible uses and development, authorisation of leases and licences, short term uses, current leases, licences etc. |
| 5. Environmental Features | Soil landscapes, detailed description of park flora and fauna, ecological values |
| 6. Management of the land | Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance |
| Appendix A | Flora and Fauna Surveys |
| Appendix B | Community engagement documents |

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) provides the legislative framework for Council's management of community land. The LG Act requires all community lands to be covered by a Plan of Management that must identify:

- the category of the land
- objectives and outcomes for the land
- how Council proposes to achieve objectives and outcomes
- the way by which Council proposes to assess its performance
- expressly authorise any leases, licences or other estates

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) assigns certain functions to Council managers. As a Crown Land manager, Council is authorised to classify and manage its dedicated or reserved Crown Land as if it were public land within the meaning of the LG Act. Dedicate or reserved Crown Land may only be used for the following purposes:

- the purposes for which is dedicated or reserved, or
- any purpose incidental or ancillary to a purpose for which it is dedicated or reserved, or
- any purpose specified in a plan of management for the land, or
- any other purposes authorised by the Act

Council, as Crown Land Manager, may issue leases and licences over Crown Land in line with the LG Act, as per the assigned category and with consideration of the reserve purpose.

Generally, when managing dedicated or reserved Crown Land, and for the purposes of this Plan of Management, Council:

- must manage the land as if it were community land under the LG Act, and
- has for that purpose all the functions that a local council has under that Act in relation to community land (including in relation to the leasing and licencing of community land)

Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993 (NT Act) concerns the legal recognition of the individual or communal rights and interests which Aboriginal people have in land and water, where Aboriginal people have continued to exercise their rights and interests in accordance with traditional law and custom. On Crown Land, native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- Native title has been extinguished, or
- Native title has been surrendered, or
- Determined by a court to no longer exist.

Council must manage Crown Land in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act in relation to native title and ensure the requirements of the NT Act for the management of Crown Land are addressed.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates

referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)*
- *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

1.5 Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the park and sportsground use of land and buildings are well maintained and provide a safe environment for public enjoyment.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation or at five (5) year intervals.

Council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community and as such, land may also come into Council's ownership by dedication of land for open space. As such, the Plan of Management may be updated from time to time, reflecting significant changes to the condition of the community land, or to reflect new acquisitions or dedications of land. The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this PoM.

2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council would like to show respect and acknowledge the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km²) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

The estimated residential LGA population is about 46,000 residents (2022 ABS ERP) and by 2036, the resident population is estimated to reach about 56,000 people (Department of Planning & Environment 2023). The growing population and accompanying building density will continue to increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Engagement

Prior to developing the Strathfield Park Plan of Management, Strathfield Council undertook community engagement and encouraged local residents and park users to be involved in the future planning for the park. Council also resolved that consultation should also seek community feedback on proposals for a café and indoor gym. A survey was prepared to seek community views on the park, café and gym proposal. An information sheet issued with a survey that asked for responses on the following questions as well as identifying personal data:

- importance of Strathfield Park features
- priorities for Strathfield Park
- comments about future proposals to the park (eg café, gym)
- improvements to the park
- activities that should or should not be permitted
- additional comments

The survey was open from 27 August 2020 to 2 October 2020 (refer to Appendix B for consultation documentation). All households living within 1 km of the park received a letter and information sheet. Emails issued to clubs and park users regarding the consultative process. The survey was notified on Council's website and the Council e-News each week while the survey was open.

A total of 280 survey responses and 3 submissions were received during the consultation period.

Community Engagement Outcomes

The feedback received showed a high and varied degree of community interest in Strathfield Park. 86% of respondents were residents of the Strathfield LGA. Of the persons surveyed, 21% identified they played sport, 12% identified as a member of an organisation that uses the park and 6% were students at a local school. 6% of survey respondents were visitors.

Over 70% of those surveyed visited Strathfield Park at least once a week, 18% at least once a month and 8% a couple of times per year. The frequency of visit table shows there is high levels of visitation across all age groups.

Table 3 - Frequency of visit (by age group)

| Frequency | <29 years | 30-39 years | 40-49 years | 50-59 years | 60+ years |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Weekly | 91% | 66% | 71% | 73% | 71% |
| At least monthly | 5% | 24% | 19% | 14% | 20% |

The most popular activity in the park, across all age groups, was walking (including dog walking) and jogging. 96% of survey respondents rated this as an activity they undertake at the park. The next most popular activity at 53% was visiting children’s playgrounds. This was particularly supported by age groups, which are likely to be parents and grandparents (age groups 30-39 years, 60 years+ and 18-29 years). The recent upgrade of the park’s playgrounds is likely to have increased interest and usage of playgrounds.

The next popular activity was relaxing in open space for 43% of respondents. This activity was particularly supported by persons aged over 30 years. The use of the park for passive recreation was important to large groups of residents and parks users. Other activities included social gatherings (27%), attending events (25%) and personal exercise/leisure (18%).

This table provides data on participant activities based on age group.

Table 4 - Survey results participant activities in Strathfield Park (by age group)

| Feature/Activity | < 29 years | 30-39 years | 40-49 years | 50-59 years | 60+ years |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Walking, jogging or running | 73% | 72% | 75% | 83% | 90% |
| Open space relaxing | 56% | 56% | 38% | 41% | 44% |
| Gatherings eg picnic, BBQs | 42% | 42% | 32% | 24% | 12% |
| Personal exercise/leisure | 11% | 11% | 23% | 22% | 19% |
| Children’s playgrounds | 80% | 81% | 61% | 29% | 47% |
| Formal sports | 24% | 24% | 46% | 29% | 0% |
| Events | 26% | 25% | 21% | 31% | 22% |
| Dog walking | 18% | 17% | 17% | 17% | 20% |
| Self-organised ball games | 16% | 16% | 18% | 12% | 2% |
| Use of Courts | 11% | 11% | 11% | 7% | 0% |

Strathfield Park has historically provided multi-purpose sports facilities for training and playing formal sports, particularly by sporting clubs and schools. In the last few years, two of the three sportsfields were upgraded with synthetic surfaces with new amenities constructed. While the use of the park for active recreation such as sports was lower rated by the total population, sports facilities such as sportsgrounds and courts were important particularly to persons in the 18-29 years category. 27% of total respondents rated use of sportsfields for formal sport and 9% use of courts at the park.

Future proposals

Over 62% of respondents responded favourably to proposals to build a café at Strathfield Park. Proposals concerning a construction of an indoor gym in the park attracted 69% opposition. There was over 60% favourable support for outdoor fitness equipment, which has proven to be popular in other parks in Strathfield. There was less than 30% support for additional basketball or netball courts in the park.

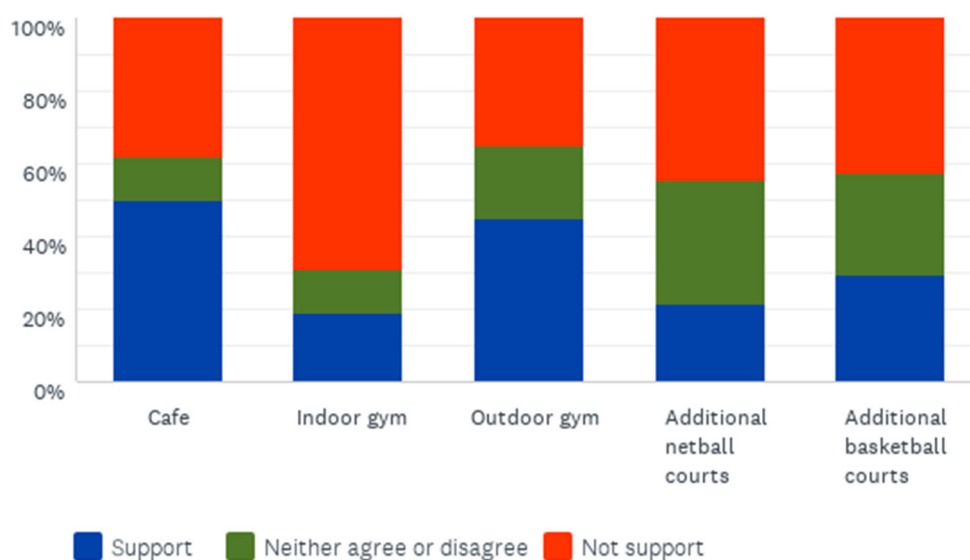


Figure 3 Strathfield Park responses to park future proposals

Priorities and activities in the park

The survey requested respondents rate important features of the park. At least one response was required, but multiple responses were permitted. The survey asked for respondents to identify the 3 highest priorities for the park. The highest responses were Trees, Gardens and Landscaping (90%), Amenities eg toilets (42%), Playgrounds (41%) and Sportsfields (41%).

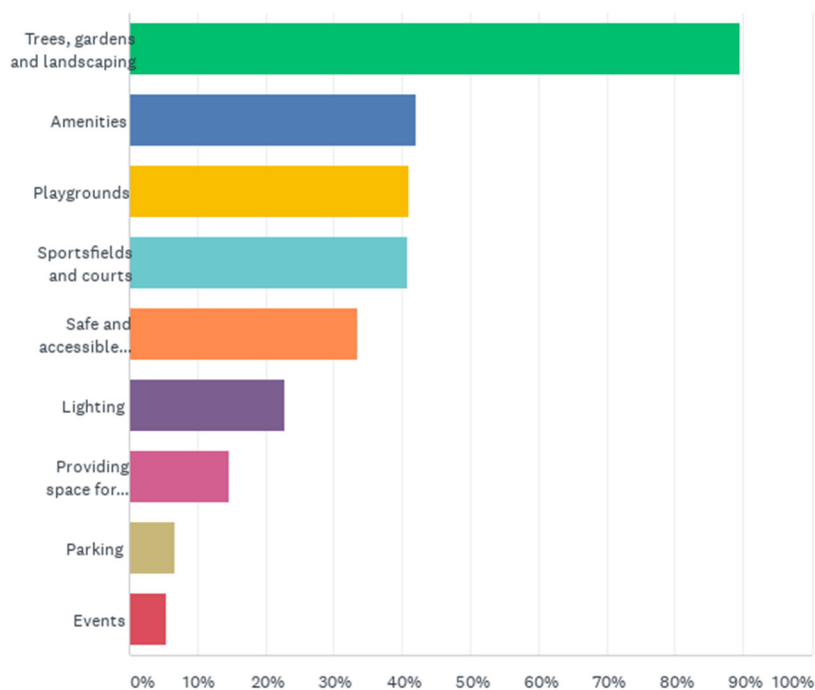


Figure 4 Strathfield Park respondent rating of importance of park features

Issues identified

While Strathfield Park provides a wide range of facilities, many survey respondents were concerned about conflicts arising between the use of the park for active and passive recreation activities. There were also concerns about the encroachment of built facilities (including the sportsfields and playgrounds) on open and green space and natural environment.

Many local residents complained about overcrowding by large sporting and leisure activities including social gatherings. There were many comments about the use of park by non-residents, especially from littering and rubbish dumping and overuse of facilities such as picnic areas, BBQs, amenities and shelters.

Residents living close to Strathfield Park expressed concerns about the impact of park activity on neighbouring properties amenity such as noise especially from basketball courts, traffic congestion and increasing demand for parking in streets close to the park. There were a range of comments about anti-social behaviours including smoking (especially near playgrounds), littering (including failure to clean up dog droppings) and behaviours late at night in the park. Concerns were raised regarding use of drones and motorised bikes on pathways throughout the park.

Respondents who identified as being associated with a club using the park raised issues relating to hirers use of the park and facilities such as storage, use of the kiosk/canteen etc. There was higher than average opposition to proposals such as a new café in the park.

Table 5 provides a summary of the interests, participation and concerns based on age groups as there is a wide spread of age groups that frequent the park and preferences for parks facilities reflect age groups and personal interests.

Table 5 - Key areas of interest, participation and concerns – age groups

| Age groups | < 29 years | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60+ |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Key area of interest | Access & quality of sports facilities; Interest in environment, biodiversity | Café; improved amenities eg toilets, shade areas, upgraded playgrounds all ages | Improved amenities eg toilets, outdoor gyms, maintain green space, lighting | Outdoor exercise equipment, toilets, lighting, seating, maintain green space, pathways | Café, maintain open spaces, shaded seating, pathway improvements |
| Key areas of participation | Playgrounds; walking & jogging; open space relaxing; gatherings | Playgrounds; relaxing in open space; walking | Walking, jogging; playgrounds; formal sports | Walking, jogging; relaxing in open space; events | Walking; playgrounds; relaxing in open space |
| Concerns | Overcrowding of park; large gatherings and litter impacts | Oppose indoor gym, dogs w/o leash; cycling on pathways; smoking; large groups taking over spaces; litter | Oppose indoor gym, dogs w/o leash; cycling on pathways; smoking; large groups taking up space; litter | Dangerous sports eg golf, motorised bikes; not enough open space; smoking; off-leash dogs | Noise; dogs w/o leashes & droppings; bikes; smoking; large groups and litter |

Overall the community engagement process highlighted the importance of the park to the local community.

Discussion of issues relating to future park management

Café facilities are available in many large parks in Sydney, which provide access to food and drink onsite but also provide opportunities for social interactions. The community consultation indicated that a proposal to build a café was generally supported by the community. Though there were some objections particularly from sporting clubs using the park's sportsfields, the provision of a café is not considered to conflict with the operations of a kiosk. A kiosk provides access to kitchen facilities for players when the field is in use for sport, it is not intended to operate as a food/drink outlet for general park users.

Council requested that consultation included seeking views on building an indoor gym in the park. This received little support in community consultation and therefore, this proposal is not supported.

Many residents have complained about noise and late night behaviours around the basketball courts in Strathfield Park, which are located in close proximity to the rear of neighbouring properties. This plan proposes converting the basketball court closest to neighbouring properties to a netball court and removal of back boards, which will cause less noise. It should be noted that Council is planning to build

new courts at Hudson Park, which would be located at a distance from residential properties and less likely to cause conflict.

Overcrowding of park and conflict between multiple uses of the park was raised by many respondents. The park does cater to a wide variety of activities and is a popular destination, therefore, organised activities including social gatherings and access to facilities in peak times such as BBQ's should be managed and monitored to avoid further conflicts. It is proposed that booking systems and monitoring processes are implemented especially for organised activities including social gatherings.

The consultation and review of facilities indicated that additional toilet facilities are required and should be located closer to Homebush Road, in order that facilities are within reasonable distance across the park. Sporting clubs have requested storage space for their equipment in the park. Consultation and options for storage will be considered.

Residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviours occurring within the park. It is recommended that signage will be reviewed and Council's Ranger service is activated to address issues such as illegal dumping, motorised bikes, smoking, off-leash dogs and failure to owners to manage dog droppings in the park.

The importance of Strathfield Park's open and green spaces, trees, vegetation and environmental walks was highlighted by the community consultation. Section 5 of this report provides a detailed assessment of the park's environmental features. These are addressed in the Action Plans included in Section 6.

2.5 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

ID Profile, June 2023, Strathfield Community Profile, viewed at <https://profile.id.com.au/strathfield/population-estimate>

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Jones, Cathy, 2021, Strathfield Park history, Strathfield Heritage website viewed at <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves/strathfield-park>

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en>

Strathfield Council, 2022, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2035* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (*GIS*) Data

3. Basis of Management

3.1 Management principles

Strathfield Council intends to manage its community land to meet:

- assigned categorisation of community land
- the Local Government (LG) Act guidelines and core objectives for community land
- the council's strategic objectives and priorities
- development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LG Act.

All community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following categories. Where the land is owned by the Crown, the category assigned should align with the purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved.

The LG Act defines five categories of community land:

- 'Park' – for areas primarily used for passive recreation.
- 'Sportsground' – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
- 'General Community Use' – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.
- 'Cultural significance' – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance.
- 'Natural area' – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further categorised into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse and wetland categories.

Strathfield Park has multiple categorisations which are identified and mapped in Section 3.3.

3.2 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land.

Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the *LG (General) Reg*. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act*. The guidelines and core objectives for the Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this plan of management.

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Strathfield Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Strathfield Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land and facilities, where appropriate.

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 6.

Table 6 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

| Category | Guidelines ¹ | Core objectives ² |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Park | <i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others. | <i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. |
| Sportsground | <i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as ‘sportsground’ if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games. | <i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences. |
| General Community Use | <i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public | <i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current |

¹ *Local Government General Regulation 2021*

² *Local Government Act 1993*

| Category | Guidelines ¹ | Core objectives ² |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public. - in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities). |
| <p>Natural Area – bushland</p> | <p><i>Regulation cl.107</i> Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p> | <p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36j)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface. |

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 6 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area (Bushland) and Sportsground. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 5.

3.3 Strathfield Park – land categorisations

Strathfield Park was gazetted on 11 February 1914 for Public Recreation as the Strathfield Public Park (R500465) Reserve Trust. The Department of Planning & Environment notified that approval was granted for the initial classification of Strathfield Park as ‘community land’ and the categorisations of park and sportsground in February 2020. In the course of preparation of the draft Plan of Management, the following categorisations are proposed:

- Sportsgrounds. These are the areas of Strathfield Park which contains sportsfields, which are used primarily for sporting purposes.
- General Community Use. These areas contain or are proposed to contain built structures that contain potential commercial uses such as cafes. This includes the Pavilion with Café/Amenities (close to Chalmers Road) and the Café/Amenities building (near Homebush Road).
- Natural Area (Bushland). The park contains biodiversity connectivity areas, which are primarily located on the north and south perimeters of the park.
- Park. The majority of land in Strathfield Park is categorised as park. This land is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes.

Figure 5 – Map of Strathfield Park land categorisations



3.4 Material Harm Considerations

The land at Strathfield Park was dedicated in 1914 for the reserve purpose of Public Park. The land is 72,562m² in size. This Plan of Management proposes four land categorisations for Strathfield Park. The categories of Park and Sportsground are already assigned, with the additional categories of Natural Area and General Community Use are proposed. All proposed land categorisations support the reserve purpose of Public Park. Material harm considerations are set out under each land categorisation and address the considerations set out in Section 2.14(3) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Current categorisations

Park

The majority of land at Strathfield Park is categorised as 'Park' and has a land area of about 36,363 m², which is about 50% of the total land area. The land categorised as 'Park' contains mainly open space, open space, landscaping, pathways and amenities. The land is open and accessible to the public for a range of recreational and leisure activities, generally informal and for short and intermittent periods. There is minimal likelihood of harm to the land by these activities or fixtures. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

Sportsground

The Sportsground categorisation contains three sportsfields including two synthetic and one turf sportsfields. This area measures about 19,186.96 m² which is about 26% of the total land area. The three sportsfields are used for summer and winter sports. All sportsfields have lighting which supports night use of the facility. The sportsfields are open to the public at all times except when hired for formal sports. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

The turf sportsfield has minimal impact on the condition of the land. The synthetic sportsfields are a replacement surface which provides benefits such as increased hours of usage to meet increasing demands for facilities, though synthetic field are known to increase heat and may have adverse impacts on the local environment.

Proposed additional categorisations

Natural Area - Bushland

Areas within Strathfield Park have been identified as biodiversity connectivity areas, which are primarily located on the north and south perimeters of the park, and are categorised as Natural Area (bushland). This land measures about 15,999m² or about 22% of the total land area. This categorisation will cause no material harm to the land and will provide protection for trees, vegetation and biodiversity. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

General Community Use

The area categorised as General Community Use is about 1,014m² square metres or about 1.3% of the total land area. Facilities such as toilets and storage sheds are included as ancillary in the Park or Sportsground land categories. However, the General Community Use land category includes built structures which include cafes which can be licenced or leased. These include:

- Strathfield Park Pavilion building which contains amenities and a café/kiosk (located between Field 1 & 2 near Chalmers Road).
- The Park Pavilion is located near Homebush Road and contains toilets and a café.

These buildings provide refreshments which support the use of the land as a park. All buildings are permanent structures. The buildings facilitate activities which are generally intermittent and infrequent such as change rooms and toilets. The café or kiosks are accessible and open in accordance with agreements. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

3.5 Councils strategic objectives and priorities

Strathfield Council, in consultation with the community, has developed the following strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by PoMs.

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2035:

“Located in the heart of Greater Sydney, Strathfield is highly connected to transport, education and employment. It’s culturally diverse and socially cohesive community is proud of its heritage and residential character, safe neighbourhoods, leafy environments and parklands. Strathfield is a place that embraces learning, culture, productivity and opportunity.”

Strathfield 2035 is the community strategic plan (CSP) for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2035. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. The following themes, goals and strategies are relevant to this Plan of Management.

| CSP Theme | Goal | Strategies |
|------------------|---|---|
| Connectivity | 1.1 Sustainable growth supported by well-planned and accessible | 1.1.1 Collaborate with NSW Government and agencies to plan and deliver high quality and accessible infrastructure to support population growth and increasing density |

| CSP Theme | Goal | Strategies |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| | infrastructure and services | 1.1.2 Plan and deliver high quality and strategically located local infrastructure to support current and future population needs |
| Community Wellbeing | 2.2 Healthy & Active Communities | 2.2.1 Manage open space, recreation and community facilities and programs to provide fair access and meet community, leisure and recreational needs |
| | | 2.2.2 Promote healthy and active living programs |
| Liveable Neighbourhoods | 4.3 Healthy, thriving, sustainable and resilient environments | 4.3.1 Conserve, restore and enhance Strathfield's biodiversity, ecological health, tree canopies and resilience |
| | | 4.3.2 Implement sustainable practices and efficiencies in resource use to support a healthy built environment |
| Responsible Leadership | 5.1 Council's leadership and decision making reflects community priorities and values | 5.1.1 Strathfield community is well informed, engaged and represented in Council policy making and advocacy |
| | 5.2 Council is effectively and responsibly managed and responds to community needs | 5.2.1 Prepare and implement plans and strategies to deliver and resource efficient and accountable services, programs and infrastructure |

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the priorities and actions set out in the LSPS.

- Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and
- Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA'
- Action A93 'review and prepare new plans of management'.

3.6 Strathfield Park - prior use and history³

Strathfield Park was the first public park in the Strathfield Local Government Area. By the late nineteenth century, Strathfield was known for its vast country-style mansions and gardens, however the Council area was without a public park. Due to rising land prices, Council approached the NSW Government for financial assistance to acquire a large site for a public park. In selecting the site, the Council held a poll of residents. With the financial assistance of the NSW Government, the site was purchased and dedicated as a public park on 11 February 1914.

The land on which the park is situated is located on the 1867 Redmire Estate. There is evidence that the land was once used as a private golf course when owned by the Waller family in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Though the land was some distance from the Strathfield Town Centre and railway station, the land measured nearly nine hectares in size and had not been developed. Following the dedication of land for public recreation in 1914, the land was remained undeveloped for a few years. Activities such as shooting and cattle grazing were permitted in the park but by 1918, cricket pitches were laid out in the park. Newspaper records that the athletics events and cricket games were regularly played in the park. A caretaker cottage was located in the park near Homebush Road, but was demolished in the late 1950s

During World War II, Strathfield Park was requisitioned by the Australian Armed Forces as a military training area and the park's dressing sheds were used from storage areas for clothes and equipment. At the end of World War II in August 1945, a large thanksgiving service was held in Strathfield Park to celebrate Victory in the Pacific. Strathfield Park has been frequently used for many events and civic functions including Australia Day celebrations, annual Christmas Carols, Spring Festivals as well as large public meetings.

An audit of recreational facilities in 1961 recorded the following recreational facilities at Strathfield Park: three cricket concrete wickets, three hockey fields, eight basketball grass fields and two softball courts. The park contained a playground, dressing sheds and toilets. By the 1970s, Strathfield Park's facilities included three cricket wickets, children's playground, soccer field, toilets, change rooms and kiosk.

In 1985, renowned landscape architects Harry Howard & Associates were commissioned by Council to prepare a new landscape plan for Strathfield Park. The plan focused on creating a network of native plantings that created zones in which key features such as sportsfields, civic space and playgrounds could be located. The plan also included changing ground levels throughout the park to create different zones.

In 1985, Council's centenary celebrations were held in Strathfield Park and a plaque commemorating Council's first 100 years and redevelopment of its first park was dedicated in the park. During the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988, the Open Air Theatre (the rotunda) and flagpoles were erected in the Park. A plaque is dedicated near the rotunda.

³ Jones, C, 2021, Strathfield Park History, <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves/strathfield-park/>

In 2017, a large children's playground was installed at the Homebush Road end of the park. The playground at Chalmers Road was replaced and upgraded to include a children's bike track. Both sites have all abilities playground equipment with wheelchair access. In 2017 and 2019, two of the turf sportsfields were converted into synthetic sportsfields at Field 1 and 2 to increase the sustainable use of the sportsfields and all weather use.

In 2022, the Pavilion which is located between the two sportsfields was completed. This contains change rooms, toilets and a kiosk.

Figure 6 - Historic Photos of Strathfield Park



Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1930). Six Maps



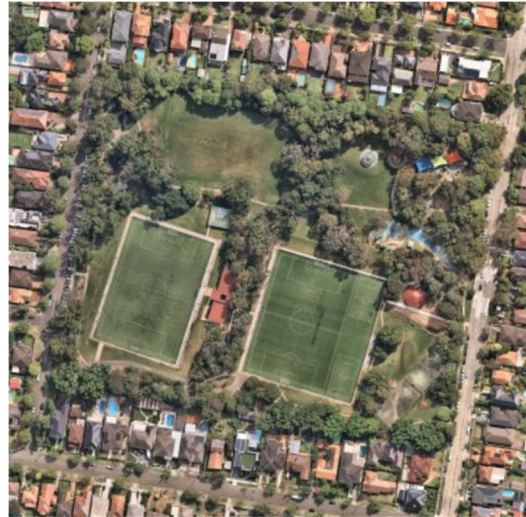
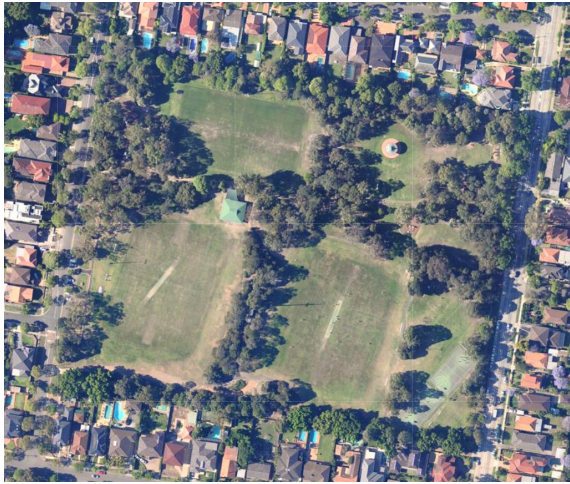
Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1947)



Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1980s)



Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1997)



Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (2009) © Near Maps *Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (2022) © Near Maps*

3.7 Strathfield Park – Description and condition of land and structures

Strathfield Park is Strathfield’s oldest public park as well as one of the Strathfield LGA’s largest parks, measuring 7.2 hectares in size. Strathfield Park attracts high levels of usage and visitors and is one of the most popular parks in the LGA.

The design of the park conforms largely to the landscape plan designed in 1985 which developed a series of zones, buffered by native trees and vegetation, throughout the park in which key park elements are located. The landscaping of the park is largely consistent with the 1985 plan and facilities such as sportsfields have been developed within the landscaped zones.

The park features three multi-purpose sportsfields, including two synthetic and one turf field, which are primarily used for sports such as cricket, rugby league and soccer. Field 1, a multi-purpose synthetic sportsfield, was completed in September 2017. The field is located in the south-west area of the park, closest to Chalmers Road.

Construction of Field 2, a multipurpose synthetic sportsfield, was completed in November 2019. The field is located in the south-east section of the park, closest to Homebush Road.

An amenities pavilion is located between Field 1 and 2 and provides toilets, change rooms and a kiosk. This was constructed in 2021. The older amenities building is located close to the new amenities pavilion and it is likely that this building will be demolished in the future to create an area for seating and shelters.

Figure 7 – map of Strathfield Park facilities

STRATHFIELD PARK- KEY FEATURES



Field 3 is a grass sportsfield located at the north-west area of the park.

There are two playgrounds in Strathfield Park, both are all abilities with wheelchair access. The largest playground is located near Homebush Road. The large children's playground was constructed in 2017 at the north-eastern area of the park. The smaller children's playground includes a children's bicycle track and is located near Chalmers Road at the north-western area of the park. This was upgraded in 2017-2018.

There are passive recreation spaces for leisure and picnics are located throughout the park with shelters, seating and BBQs.

A new café with public toilet amenities is completed near the large playground at the Homebush Road end of the park.

A civic space contains a rotunda and flagpoles. This area has been used for civic occasions and events such as Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies. The rotunda was constructed in 1988 and is in poor condition. Council is reviewing replacement of the rotunda.

The park's flora are primarily native plantings were planted in the late 1980s and early 1990s in accordance with the landscape plan. There are open grassed areas and revegetated parkland mostly indigenous vegetation on the northern and western edges of the park. While there are no identified threatened species in the park, the park is considered a 'gateway' reserve – one which allows visitors

the opportunity to 'meet' and enjoy Australian native species, encouraging local residents to become more familiar with native species and native bushland species so they then become more desirable in the urban landscape. There is an environmental walking trail on the northern side of the park and groves of plantings including the Rainforest Walk, the Fig Walk and the Grasslands Walk.

Pathways run through the park linking Homebush Road to Chalmers Road. There is street entry to the park from Homebush Road and Chalmers Road Strathfield with car parking at Chalmers Road. The park is accessible by public transport, mainly buses, on Homebush Road.

3.8 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.9 Native Title Review

Crown land has significant spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW. The CLM Act recognises and supports Aboriginal rights, interests and involvement in Crown land.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. Grants leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements

- b. Approves (or submits for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c). Accordingly, Native Title Manager advice must be obtained prior to the approval (or submittal for approval) of a PoM that allows a dealing in (a)–(c) and the execution of any lease, licence, permit, etc. that may be authorised under that plan.

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

3.10 Condition of assets in Strathfield Park

The condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of buildings/site conditions include:

Table 7 - Condition rating assessment criteria

| Rating | Descriptor | Guide | Residual Life as a % of Total Life | Mean % age residual life |
|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Excellent | Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work. | Normal maintenance required | >86 | 95 |
| 2 – Good | Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure. | Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset) | 65 to 85 | 80 |
| 3 – Satisfactory | Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely. | Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset) | 41 to 64 | 55 |
| 4 – Worn | Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety. | Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset) | 10 to 40 | 35 |
| 5 - Poor | Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety. | Over 50% of the asset requires renewal | <10 | 5 |

Table 8 – Photos and Condition of assets at Strathfield Park



Playground at Homebush Road is rated as Excellent



Playground at Chalmers Road is rated as Excellent.



Field 1 (Synthetic). This field condition is rated as Excellent.



Field 2 (Synthetic). This field condition is rated as Excellent.



Field 3 (Turf). This field condition is rated as Satisfactory



Sports floodlighting (synthetic fields) condition is rated as Excellent.



Sports Grandstand condition is rated as Excellent.



Ball protection fence is rated as Excellent.



Signage is rated as Good.



Amenities building (former) is rated as Good.



Benches and seats are rated as Excellent



Bollard Solar LED lights are rated as Good



Gardens are rated as Good



Pavilion was built in 2021 and is rated as Excellent.



Fences are rated as Excellent



Multipurpose courts are rated as Worn



The BBQs are rated as Good.



Shade structures are rated as Excellent.



Grass Netball Courts are rated as Good



Pathways are rated as Excellent



Flagpoles are rated as Good



Stone Pillar and Plaque are rated as Excellent



Rotunda is rated as Worn.



Amenities building (near Homebush Rd) built in 2022 and rated Excellent

3.11 Maintenance of Strathfield Park

Council's management of community and Crown Land integrates with strategies set out in the Community Strategic Plan, actions in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and resourcing and operational plans, especially resource and asset management plans and operations to meet community needs and priorities. Major parks such as Strathfield Park provide significant recreational and community facilities and are highly valued by the community. To ensure the park is well and safely maintained, there are weekly visual inspections of the grounds and equipment. The park operates on a two weekly maintenance cycle. Inspections and condition assessment of equipment and playgrounds are conducted regularly to ensure all equipment is fit for purpose and risks are minimised.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

3.12 Future development process

Substantial work has been undertaken in Strathfield Park since 2017 including construction of sportsfields, playgrounds and amenities buildings including a kiosk and café.

The Rotunda has reached the end of its usable life and is likely to be demolished. Council are also planning to undertake the following works (conditional on receiving grants), these may include:

- Demolition of the existing old amenities building. In replacement, the area will be landscaped with the addition of seating, shelters and BBQs. A small storage facility will be built and located near the southern boundary of the park.
- The basketball court near Homebush Road is at the end of its serviceable life. A new basketball court is planned but located closer to the middle of the park to minimise noise impact on nearby homes. The site of the old basketball court will be grassed and may be used for grass netball or volleyball.
- A terraced seating area may be built near the Homebush Road amenities block to provide additional seating in the park.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements - zoning tables in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

3.13 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- reports to Council regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users
- reports to Council from adjoining neighbours

4. Development and Use

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Strathfield Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Strathfield Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate. Within buildings, recreational and sporting facilities in particular, Strathfield Council intends to permit and encourage a broad range of appropriate activities.

The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment or amenities buildings.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area (Bushland), and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in the tables below in relevant categories of this plan of management.

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in the categories below are intended to provide an overview or general guide.

4.1.1 *Park*

Parks are defined in clause 104 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land which is improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The core objectives for parks, as outlined in Section 36G of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities
- provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games
- improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

Table 9 - Permissible uses of land categories – Park

| Purpose/Use | Development to facilitate uses |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and passive recreation including children’s play • Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations • Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets • Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings • Low intensity commercial activities • Filming and photographic projects • Public address (speeches) • Easement, utilities and estate • Community gardening <p>Note: Some of the uses above require a permit from Council</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc • Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children’s playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc • Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ’s & sheltered eating areas • Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas including external seating • Storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment • Hard and soft landscaped areas • Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks) • Community gardens • Off-leash areas • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc • Locational, directional and regulatory signage • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives including bio-detention basin (lake) • Bio-banking and carbon sequestration initiatives |

4.1.2 Sportsgrounds

Sportsgrounds are defined in clause 103 of the *LG (General) Reg* as land used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or playing outdoor games.

The core objectives for sportsgrounds, as outlined in Section 36F of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games
- ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Strathfield Park contains three sportsfields which are categorised as Sportsgrounds, which are used for playing of sports such as Football and Cricket.

Table 10 - Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds

| Purpose/Use | Development to facilitate uses |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities • Organised and unstructured recreation activities • Community events or gatherings, and public meetings • Commercial uses associated with sports facilities • Easement, utilities and estate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional) • Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc • Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) • Facilities for sport training eg batting cages, tennis rebound walls • Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating • Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval • Car parking and loading areas • Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas • Shade structures • Seating and scoreboards • Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities • Equipment sales/hire areas • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives • Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers) • Locational, directional and regularly signage |

4.1.3 General Community Use

General community use land is defined in clause 106 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, and does not satisfy the definition of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance. The core objectives for community land categorised as general community use, as outlined in Section 361 of the *Local Government Act*, are to:

- promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land
- provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
 - (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
 - (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Strathfield Park contains a number of buildings which are categorised as General Community Use. This includes the Pavilion building containing amenities and a café/kiosk (near Chalmers Road) and the Café/Amenities building near Homebush Road.

Table 11 - Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use

| Purpose/Use | Development to facilitate uses |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes • Council facility to support and deliver Council services • Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. leisure centre, aquatic centre, indoor courts, sports, community halls etc. Uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • casual or informal sporting and recreational use • meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) • functions • leisure or training classes including fitness • concerts • performances (including film and stage) • exhibitions | <p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community • provision of building to support delivery of Council services • development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing the needs of a particular group (for example, a stage) • landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area • water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens • energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels • car parking and loading areas • advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ relate to approved uses/activities ○ are discreet and temporary ○ are approved by the council |

| Purpose/Use | Development to facilitate uses |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairs and parades • workshops • designated group use • entertainment facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locational, directional and regulatory signage. |

4.1.4 Natural Area (Bushland)

Bushland is defined in clause 107 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land containing primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

The core objectives for bushland, as outlined in Section 36J of the LG Act, are to:

- ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna of the land and other ecological values
- protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land
- manage the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures to minimise or mitigate disturbance caused by human intrusion
- restore degraded bushland
- protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Strathfield Park was identified in Council's Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy 2020 (p41) as a Connectivity Priority Area. Established vegetation within the park can be considered a wildlife corridor and categorised as a natural area within the meaning of the *LG (General) Regulation*. Section 5 of this plan contains descriptions and analysis of Strathfield Park's environment with survey data results outlined in Attachment A.

Table 12 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

| Purpose/Use | Development to facilitate uses |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling • Guided bushwalks and bird watching • Environmental programs and scientific study • Preservation of biodiversity and habitat • Bush regeneration and revegetation works • Relaxation and passive informal recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretative and directional signage • Seating • Lighting • Low impact carparks • Low impact walking trails • Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens |

4.2 Authorisation of Leases, Licences or other Estates over community land

Under section 46(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act*, leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the reserve purpose(s), the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and enable, wherever possible, shared use of community land.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the community land itself and the local area to support the activity.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. In all other instances a licence or short-term licence or hire agreement will be issued.

When planning to grant a lease or licence on Crown reserves, Council must comply with the requirements of the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act)* and have regard for any existing claims made on the land under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. Council's Native Title Manager will provide written advice in certain circumstances to advise if the proposed activities and dealings are valid under the *Native Title Act*.

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *LG (General) Reg*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *LG (General) Reg*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Under Section 46 of the LG Act, a lease or licence may only be granted for a maximum term of 21 years including options, or for 30 years with consent of the Minister. A lease or licence for a term exceeding five (5) years may be granted only by tender unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation. All leases and licences must be publicly notified for a minimum period of 28 days.

Agreements for a short-term, casual purpose may be issued in accordance with Section 46 of the LG Act where that purpose is prescribed by the Regulations.

The tables set out below in the relevant categorisations of this plan of management further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management.

Table 13 - Leases, Licences and other estates

| Type of Arrangement Authorised | Land and Facilities covered | Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Lease | Park | <p>A lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables • Management of court, driving range or similar facilities • Hire or sale of recreational equipment |
| Licence | Park | <p>A licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • Outdoor kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables • Management of court, driving range or similar facilities • Hire or sale of recreational equipment |
| Lease | Sportsground | <p>A lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> |

| Type of Arrangement Authorised | Land and Facilities covered | Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables • Management of court, driving range or similar facilities • Hire or sale of recreational equipment |
| Licence | Sportsground | <p>A licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • Outdoor kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables • Management of court, driving range or similar facilities • Hire or sale of recreational equipment |
| Lease | General Community Use | <p>Any lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural purposes, including concerts, dramatic productions and galleries • Recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes and games • Sporting uses developed/operated by a private operator • Kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • Commercial retail uses associated with the facility (e.g. sale or hire of sports goods) |
| Licence | General Community Use | <p>Any licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes • Café/kiosk areas |

| Type of Arrangement Authorised | Land and Facilities covered | Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of goods or services that are ancillary to community land use and reserve purpose |
| Licence & Lease | Natural Area (Bushland) | <p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • Walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • Signs, observation platforms • Information kiosk • Small kiosk (not restaurant) selling light refreshments • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land • Temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out |
| Other Estates | Park; Sportsground; General Community Use; Natural Area (Bushland) | <p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p> |

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.3 Short Term Uses

Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow the council to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use. Short-term licences are authorised for the purpose of:

Table 14 - Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

| Community land category | Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval | Requirements |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events and festivals • Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward • Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings • Filming, including for cinema/television • Conducting a commercial photography session • Public performances • Engaging in an appropriate trade or business • Delivering a public address • Community events • Fairs, markets, auctions and similar activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. • The use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area • The use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents |
| Sportsgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events and festivals • Sporting fixtures and events • Sports and fitness training and classes • Filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events • Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur |
| Natural Area (Bushland) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • Temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out | |
| General Community Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speeches, meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs • Functions (including commemorative functions, and similar activities) • Displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades and shows • Events (including weddings, corporate functions, and community gatherings) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use • The use should not result in physical damage to the facility • Organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up |

| Community land category | Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval | Requirements |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV) • Broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech • Engaging in an appropriate trade or business delivering a public address, community events; auctions, markets and similar activities | the site and repairing any damage that may occur. |

In assessing community land categorised as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area (Bushland) or Sportsground as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

4.4 Current leases, licences and uses of Strathfield Park

There is a licence to C Major Café & Desserts Pty Ltd for a period of 5 years from 13 October 2022 to 12 October 2027 with an option for a further five years to operate a café for Monday – Friday 7am – 8pm and Saturdays & Sundays 7.30am – 8pm.

5. Environmental Features

5.1 Soil Landscapes

Strathfield Park is underlain by two soil landscapes (Figure 8). Soil landscapes inform the types of vegetation that were very likely present pre European occupation and can assist in making sound ecological decisions when choosing plants for landscaping and revegetation works. The Birrong soil landscape is associated with floodplains of watercourses draining Wianamatta Group shales, on the Cumberland Lowlands and is dominated by silt and clay sized alluvial materials derived from this group. The landscape is extensively cleared with remnants of ironbark *Eucalyptus paniculata*, turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera*, and Sydney blue gum *E. saligna* forest and woodland.

The landscape was historically filled to reduce its limitations that include flood hazards, seasonal waterlogging and water erosion hazards. The Blacktown soil landscape occurs extensively on the Cumberland Lowlands between the Georges and Parramatta Rivers in the south-west and is part of the Wianamatta Group-Ashfield Shale consisting of laminite and dark grey siltstone and Bringelly Shale which consists of shale, with occasional calcareous claystone, laminite and coal. This landscape has been almost completely cleared with only very small remnants of the original wet sclerophyll forest containing Sydney blue gum *E. saligna* and blackbutt *E. pilularis*.

The original woodland and open-forest in drier areas to the west were dominated by forest red gum *E. tereticornis*, narrow leaved ironbark *E. crebra* and grey box *E. moluccana* (Bannerman SM and Hazelton PA 1990).

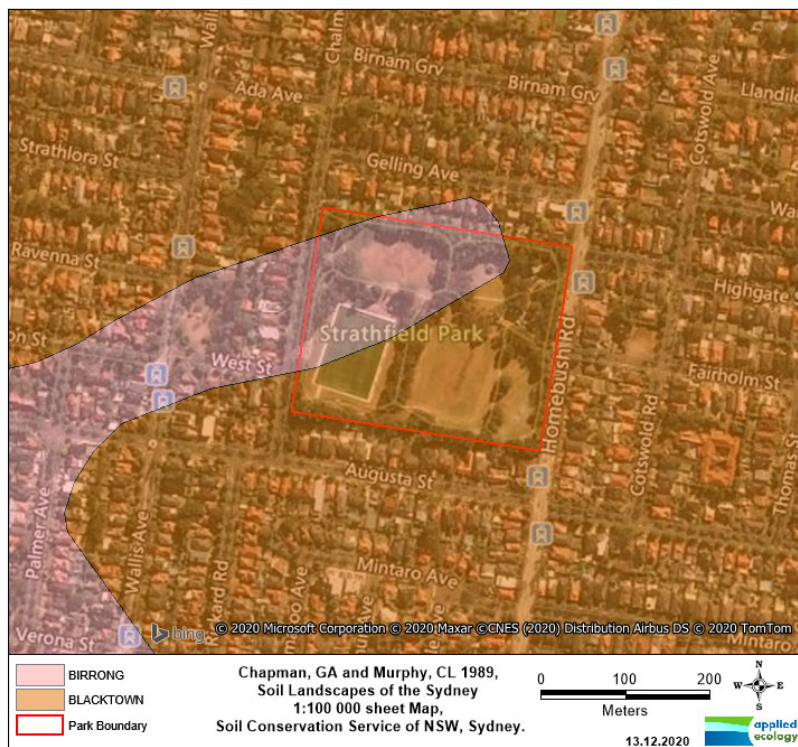


Figure 8 Soil landscapes underlying Strathfield Park

Vegetation was mapped in 2016 by OEH for the Sydney metropolitan area. While parts of the park have good canopy cover and can be considered as natural areas, there is no remnant native vegetation remaining in the park and this is reflected in the mapping (Figure 9).

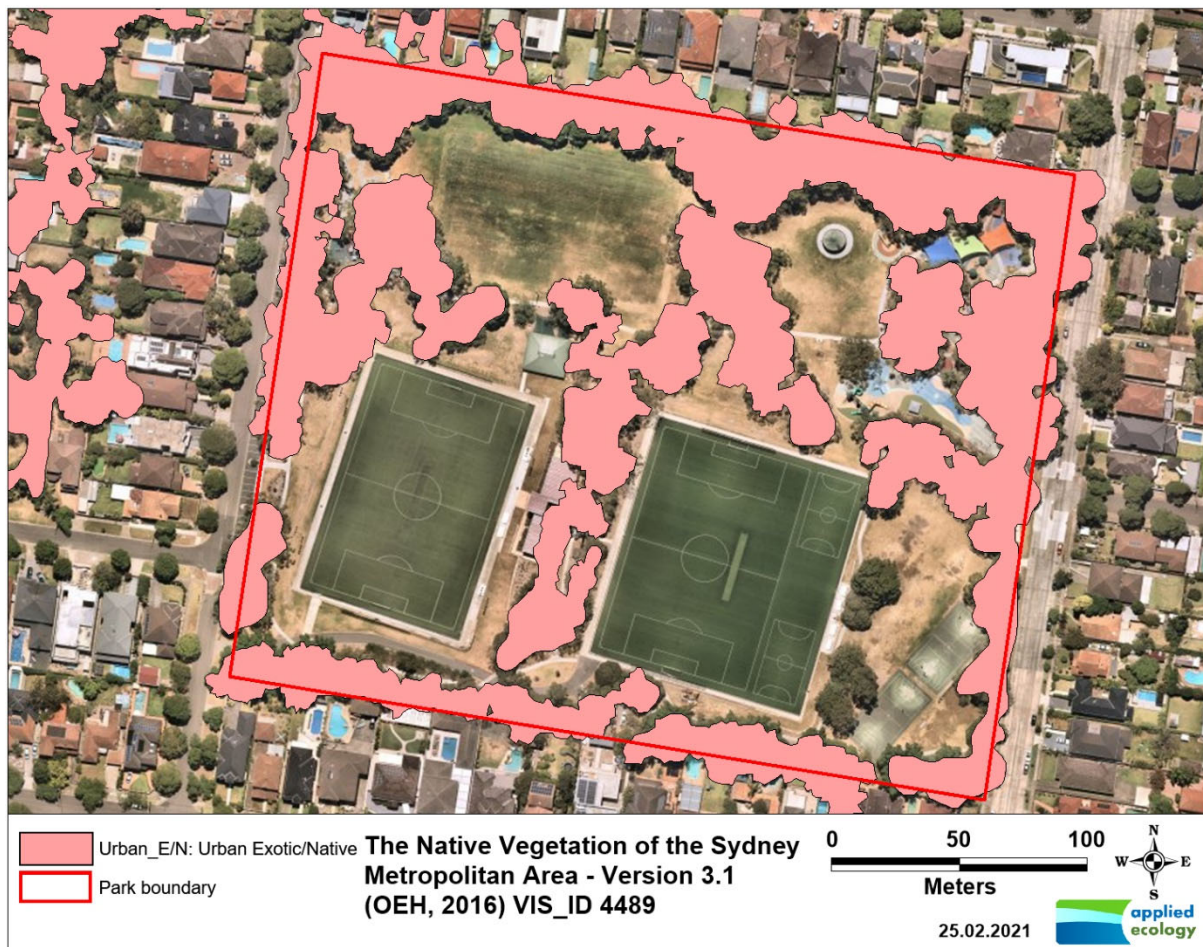


Figure 9 Mapped vegetation communities, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2016

5.2 Detailed descriptions of park flora and fauna

Vegetation provides a visual buffer from the street for the park's playing fields, which occupy approximately half the park (Figure 9). The park is surrounded by planted, mostly native, flora that has created a pleasant shady atmosphere (Figure 10).

On the western side of the park, there is a children's playground that includes footpaths and cycle paths for use by young children. These are nestled amongst the native gardens (Figure 12). Several large Brush Box trees have been retained between the new all-weather sports oval and one of the smaller turfed ovals (Figure 11), where they provide good shade and a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the park's amenities.



Figure 10 Strathfield Park is a formal park with well established native flora planted around the perimeter



Figure 11 At least half of the park's area has been allocated to sporting fields, including a new all weather playing field



Figure 12 On the western side there is a children's play area among footpaths and garden style planted beds with native species



Figure 13 Several large Brush Box (an introduced species for the area) have been retained and provide good shade

The northern boundary of the reserves interfaces with urban residential dwellings, most of which are fully detached houses. This area has been planted with native rainforest species from Sydney and further north. Information signs provide an opportunity for park users to become familiar with some of these species and learn a little bit about them (Figure 11). The rainforest walk is a concrete footpath that is accessible by most park users, and provides a cool sheltered walk through this vegetation (Figure 15).



Figure 14 The northern boundary has been planted with local rainforest species, and signage installed to inform locals



Figure 15 The rainforest walk provides a sheltered and cool path through vegetation and take a step away from the city life

There are areas adjoining the rainforest walk that could be vegetated to extend the resources in this part of the park (Figure 12). One of the important features of the rainforest walk is the vegetation structure which provides a range of habitat niches for a variety of local native fauna. This area of rainforest planting extends along the whole northern boundary of the park.



Figure 16 Opportunities exist nearby to expand the rainforest walk, or supplement with local woodland species



Figure 17 - Another children's play area and picnic area with barbecues is located on the north-eastern corner of the reserve



Figure 18 Parts of the Rainforest walk have native flora species arranged so that there is complexity in the structure, creating a range of habitat opportunities for native fauna



Figure 19 Flying fox rope swings and more children's play equipment is located in open space on the eastern side of the park

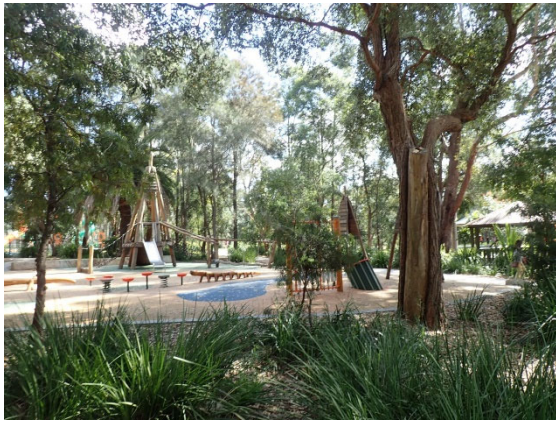


Figure 20 An adventure playground is located among trees on the eastern side of the park



Figure 21 Grassed open space beside the all weather sports oval is used for games by older children

Towards the north-eastern corner of the park is a second children's playground and a picnic area with barbecues (Figure 17). Shelters over picnic tables and shade sails over the playground equipment compensate for the lack of mature trees in this area. Shrubs provide some separation between different sections of the park, particularly in this corner.

Heading south along the eastern boundary, there is an adventure playground located among mature trees in native garden beds (Figure 20). The retained vegetation helps to add to the adventure feel of this part of the park. South of this is a series of flying fox rope swings, and another small children's playground area with climbing walls and switchback slides, and more picnic facilities and shelters (Figure 16).

Smaller areas of grassed open space are located away from the road but in the south-eastern corner of the reserve. These grassed areas are alternately used for passive and active recreation (Figure 21). Again, semi mature trees and mature shrubs create good shade in many areas. This grassed area adjoins a pair

of hardstand basketball courts that are separated from the roadway by a densely planted native species boundary (Figure 22).

Stands of maturing eucalypt specimens provide shade and shelter over sparse garden shrubs (Figure 23). These semi-formal gardens provide good shade around the park and help to divide the space into separated areas without compromising public safety.



Figure 22 Basketball courts adjoin the grassed open space near the eastern boundary of the park



Figure 23 Several stands of maturing eucalypts provide good shade at intervals through the park

Along the southern boundary is the area known as the Fig Walk (Figure 24). This includes a road of mature fig trees that have been planted sometime in the distant past. While not a local native species, the Hills Weeping Figs are beautiful trees that provide food for Grey-headed Flying Foxes and other native birds and mammals in the area.

Dense but patchy stands of lomandras help to create the vegetative buffer for adjoining neighbours south of the park. Very mature stands of large trees have considerable importance in an urban landscape (Figure 25), providing good shade and cooling to combat global warming, creating oxygen and reducing carbon dioxide levels, helping to filter fine particulates from the atmosphere, and providing fauna habitat resources including food, nesting opportunities and roosting or perching opportunities.



Figure 24 The Fig Walk celebrates the beautiful old Hills Weeping Figs from Queensland, located along the southern boundary



Figure 25 The Hills Weeping Figs provide good shade along the Fig Walk and privacy to adjoining landholders

The southwestern corner of the park has been dedicated to the flora most likely to be found in grasslands (Figure 23), but also common in woodlands that were typical of the vegetation across the Sydney basin before the arrival and settlement of Europeans in Australia. This area also has an accessible footpath that meanders through areas with planted canopy species, shrubs and groundcover species that are likely to have been found in the Strathfield area before ongoing urbanization forced them towards local extirpation (Figure 26). Like the Rainforest Walk, this area is largely confined to a narrow strip along the edge of the park, and again like the Rainforest Walk, there are areas for expansion of the existing garden plantings which can be used to consolidate the local ecology in the reserve.

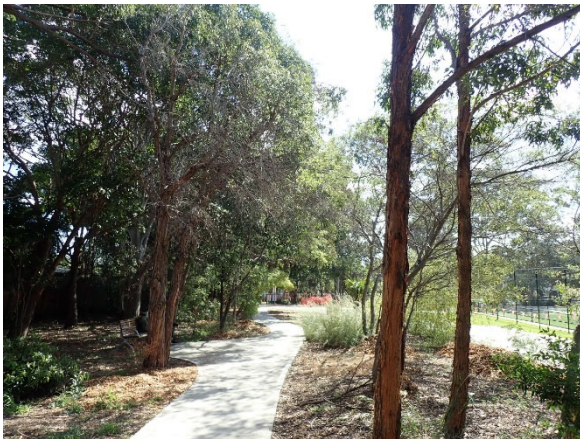


Figure 26 An accessible footpath meanders through plantings that commemorate the grassy woodlands of the Sydney basin



Figure 27 The south-western corner of the park has been dedicated to the grassland flora that would have been characteristic for the area

4.3 Ecological Values

No vegetation communities have been mapped for the vicinity of Strathfield Park (Figure 9), and nor were there any threatened species recorded during surveys in 2020. The native flora on site appears to be predominantly in the 20 – 25 years age class, many of which were planted early in that time period. Considering the native flora species more holistically, there is no recognizable local vegetation community on site. This is despite the reasonably large numbers of species recorded in the area including 48 native species and 25 introduced species recorded during a snapshot survey of the park in 2020 to assist in preparing this Plan of Management. Survey results for both flora and fauna are provided in Appendix A.

The reserve is best considered a ‘gateway’ reserve – one which allows visitors the opportunity to ‘meet’ and enjoy Australian native species, encouraging local residents to become more familiar with native species and native bushland species so they then become more desirable in the urban landscape. This is reflected in the configuration of existing landscaping and planting strategies in the park (Figure 28). Areas with good ecological values for fauna and climate are the Rainforest Walk, the Fig Walk and the Grasslands Walk.



Figure 28 Landscaping/vegetation zones within Strathfield Park

The extant bird fauna of the site consists largely of species that have successfully adapted to living in the urban environment including Pied Currawongs, Rainbow Lorikeets and Noisy Miners. These species have been able to exploit the resources found in urban parks and surrounding gardens of lower density housing. These resources include heavily flowering natives, fruiting exotics and the simplification of vegetation structure. These species can aggressively exclude other species reducing the value of the park to a variety of species. However, Wallis Park and Strathfield Golf Course to the west provide additional local habitat forming a stepping stone corridor between Strathfield Park, the upper Cooks River and Rookwood cemetery.

The vegetated areas of the park (as mapped by OEH 2016; Figure 3) can be considered a wildlife corridor and categorised as a natural area within the meaning of the LG (General) Reg. Mature trees provide nesting, foraging and roosting opportunities for birds and mammals and grassed open space provides foraging opportunities for species such as Masked Lapwings, Australian Magpies and species that feed on grass seeds, including Crested Pigeons (Figure 30) and many of the parrot species typically found around open space parks in Sydney. Areas of artificial turf have no ecological value.

The park offers areas of deep shade which is vital during summer, for birds in particular, if wildlife is to persist through increasingly hot summers. A variety of native mammals use the park and surrounding areas including Common Brushtail Possums, Grey-headed Flying-foxes, and microbats could be seen at dusk and heard (using specialized equipment) hunting over the open space and along the vegetation patches. Lighting in the park at night attracts insects that certain species of microbat, that are adapted to foraging along edges and in open space, can exploit. Some areas of the park have minimal light spill which most nocturnal species prefer, including Tawny Frogmouths (Figure 29). The park does not have a source of open water and frogs were only heard calling from nearby properties, likely to have backyard water features.



Figure 29 Tawny Frogmouth hunting in the native sensory garden in Strathfield Park 2020



Figure 30 Crested pigeons courtship ritual – Strathfield Park 2020

Seventeen species were observed during the survey and a further twenty species have been recorded in and around the park. It is likely that a variety of terrestrial migratory species visit the park on seasonal migrations on a temporary basis. Species lists from the current survey and public databases are provided in Appendix A.

6. Management of the land

6.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 15 – Objectives, means and performance measures for parks, sportsfields and general community use facilities

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|---|--|--|--|
| Improve availability of information on Strathfield Park | 1. Promote and provide information on Strathfield Park and facilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide information about Strathfield Park in Council publications including website and social media including location, park features, access, hire policies and booking information 2. Promote and educate community on Strathfield Park and features as a desirable local destination in Council's media and publications | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resident satisfaction survey 2. Production and distribution of information on park |
| Maintain a balance between 'active' and 'passive' park spaces and control overcrowding in park | 1. Minimise overcrowding of park facilities and achieve balance between organised and unstructured recreational use of the park and facilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor organised and informal/unstructured activities in Strathfield Park 2. Utilise and maintain plantings for clear definition between activity spaces throughout the park 3. Minimise impact of overcrowding through implementing booking systems for organised activities and large social gatherings in Strathfield Park. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation. 2. Provide ranger patrols in park |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Implement a time based booking for high demand facilities such as BBQs during peak times eg weekends, public holidays etc | |
| Management of dogs in Strathfield Park | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That dogs in Strathfield Park are exercised on-leash and the park is kept free of faecal matter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure owners of dogs are responsible for clean up faecal matter 2. Ensure and monitor dogs being kept on-leash within the park 3. That receptacles for dog waste disposal are available in the park 4. Rangers regularly patrol the park and take action on infringements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor behaviour of dogs in parks 2. Actions to address infringements |
| Managing and maintaining assets | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review condition of assets on a regular basis 2. Schedule regular inspections and condition/risk assessments 3. Include maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond to complaints and audits. 2. Monitor agreements and ensure maintenance actions are implemented 3. Review and update asset management plans periodically |
| Protect and promote aesthetic character, historic and Aboriginal history and heritage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That aesthetic character and visual quality of public open spaces is enhanced 2. Identify, commemorate and educate on the historical, heritage and environmental significance of Strathfield Park. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design buildings, structures and features that complement and enhance the park setting and character including consistency of selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing etc 2. Implement and maintain co-ordinated signage and public art strategy including providing information on key park features, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community consultation and satisfaction surveys. 2. Installation of signage and historical/educative information throughout the park |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | <p>natural environment (eg trees, plant species etc), Aboriginal heritage etc</p> <p>3. Incorporate historical and educational information on signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the park and its features</p> | |
| <p>Provide a safe environment and facilities for children and young people</p> | <p>1. Provision and safe maintenance of play equipment for children and youth</p> | <p>1. Provide adequate shade over and around children's play areas and where required, provide additional seating and shading for adults supervising children's play areas.</p> <p>2. Ensure all play equipment meets all relevant standards</p> <p>3. Ensure play items are kept free of rubbish and hazardous items, such as needles or broken glass</p> <p>4. Review need for fencing of play areas</p> | <p>1. Regular safety audits and maintenance schedules</p> <p>2. Review equipment and fencing requirements</p> |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Provide safe access, pathways and facilities for all community members including seniors and persons with disabilities</p> | <p>1. Provide safe access to and within the parks for persons of all abilities</p> | <p>1. Ensure upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections.</p> <p>2. Ensure buildings ramps, stairs and pathways are fully accessible and comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards.</p> <p>3. Provide and maintain all abilities children’s playgrounds in Strathfield Park</p> <p>4. Provide clear directional signage in the park to key facilities</p> <p>5. Ensure seating is provided within the park near primary pathways, playgrounds and sportsfields which are accessible for seniors and persons with disabilities</p> <p>6. Unless designated for cycles that all pathways in Strathfield Park are pedestrian only. All motorised vehicles and cycles and scooters are not permitted in Strathfield Park</p> | <p>1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards</p> <p>2. Comply with actions and measures in the Council Disability Inclusion Plan</p> |
| <p>Reasonable access to clean toilet facilities in Strathfield Park</p> | <p>1. Provide access and maintain park toilets to a high standard throughout the park</p> | <p>1. Ensure toilets are maintained and kept clean</p> <p>2. Install directional signage in the park to indicate location of toilets.</p> | <p>1. Cleanliness and access to toilets is monitored</p> <p>2. Directional signage is installed</p> |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Rubbish and waste | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide effective and efficient waste management of park and facilities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide waste and recycling bins throughout the park. 2. Ensure the regular collection of waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 3. Inclusion of litter management standards in licence, lease or hire agreements and inspection of conditions post-use. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with service standard for waste collection 2. Monitor and respond to complaints and audits. |
| Safety and risk Management | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide safe use and access to park and facilities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Respond to reports of condition damage, vandalism or graffiti as soon as practicable 5. Monitor and review use of mechanical devices such as drones in the park | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports. 3. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Take action to address noise complaints from neighbouring properties 7. Ensure that only BBQ's that are installed in the park be permitted for use | |
| Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies to minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities. 2. Promote waste reduction strategies 3. Increase tree canopies and vegetation to improve natural heating and cooling (island effect) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing. 2. Periodically monitor tree canopy and heat island effect in Strathfield Park |
| Traffic and Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control vehicle access to Strathfield Park 2. Do not impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties and adjacent streets 3. Promote public transport and community transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit vehicle access to the park except for Council authorised service and emergency vehicles 2. Install signage and barriers to prevent vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked areas for vehicle movement 4. Ensure on-street parking near Strathfield Park is patrolled by Council rangers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement. |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|--|---|---|---|
| Use agreements | 1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability. | 1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements. | 1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement. |
| Vegetation, landscaping and tree management | 1. Maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the natural environment in accordance with Council's tree management, biodiversity strategies and actions identified in this plan 2. Implement actions to improve tree canopies, walking trails and environmental zones in Strathfield Park 3. Maintain and improve vegetation and habitat corridors in Strathfield Park 4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds | 1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Performance Indicators |
|--|---|--|---|
| Visual amenity, history and character | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Strathfield Park contributes, maintains and improves the aesthetic character and visual quality of public open spaces 2. Identify, commemorate and educate on the historical and/or heritage significance of Strathfield Park and its natural/built features | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting 2. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy including information on key park features and natural features 3. Incorporate historical information on signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents 4. Upgrade outdated or worn information signage in the park | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views |

Table 16 – Fauna objectives, means and performance measures

Actions can be undertaken to improve habitat for local fauna species within the park. Key areas for fauna are located away from roads and primary access points for the main playing fields within the park. Best areas are, therefore, along each of the northern and southern boundaries, and to a lesser extent along the linking vegetation corridors within the centre of the park. Maintaining these as access corridors for fauna is an important outcome for the park.

Control of state and regional priority control weeds is strongly recommended, and could be part of a second education campaign. Liaising with adjoining landholders to encourage supplementary planting on their side of the fence is also an option for consideration, as is managing their gardens to exclude garden pest plants that escape to bushland and other environmental weeds. Expanding areas of vegetation does not need to be limited to simply planting more plants, but could include use of artificial habitat elements, harvested natural habitat elements such as hollow logs and tree mounted hollows that provide habitat. Targeting areas of feed trees, shrubs and groundcovers is also an option. Selection of flora species to plant to add to the food resources on site should be managed based on the results of the recent fauna surveys.

The Rainforest Walk and the Grasslands Walk could be expanded to consolidate the themed plantings, and with additional signs could be an educational opportunity within the park.

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|---|---|---|-----------------|---|
| Improve habitat for local fauna species | Improve ground level refugia for reptiles. Currently many beds are heavily chipped with scattered Lomandras (Figures 25 & 26). Species that would benefit include Eastern Blue-tongue Lizards and garden and Grass Skinks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Import larger woody debris into the wide beds on the northern and southern boundaries of the Park. 2. Create complex piles of woody debris and rocks for basking. Increase diversity of ground cover plantings whilst retaining basking areas | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of (harmless) reptiles in the park. • Increased complexity in landscape beds. |

| Management Issues | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|-------------------|--|---|----------|--|
| | Improve access for fauna to clean drinking water every day within the park. Accessing water outside the park would increase the risk of vehicular strike and predation of native fauna | Construct several small water features in the park, or a centrally located larger water feature | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds visiting water feature. Frogs detected within the park. |
| | Provide and maintain existing nest boxes ⁴ | Monitor and treat or remove exotic species | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nest boxes occupied by native species. |
| | Provide hollows and pipes in mature trees for refugia and breeding as many native species are reliant upon them. | Install nest boxes noting that nest boxes are not appropriate in many locations (see Table 2) | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nest boxes occupied by native species. |



⁴ Note nest boxes refers to harvested hollows, artificial nest boxes and bat boxes

Figure 31 Northern boundary beds are wide but lack complexity in the ground layer

Table 17 Specific actions recommended for landscaping/vegetation zones in Strathfield Park

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|------------------------------------|--|---|----------|---|
| Rainforest Walk (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Diversify species planting 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. 4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Provide supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity, increase species diversity and use rainforest species found in the Sydney area. 3. Add habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge and water feature and artificial hollows and nest boxes 4. Add cultural elements including animal sculptures and information signage | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Habitat elements installed. • Increased diversity of fauna. |
| Bushtucker Trail (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Diversify species planting 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. 4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Liaise with local indigenous community to increase capacity for cultural involvement and expansion 3. Supplementary planting to Increase species diversity, increase fauna habitat resources to link with the rainforest walk, use bush tucker species found in the Sydney area. 4. Addition of cultural elements including animal sculptures, Aboriginal artworks, Aboriginal cultural events and Information signage | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Cultural elements installed. • Established relationship with local indigenous community. |

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------|---|
| Paperbark Grove (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Diversify species planting 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. 4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis. 2. Retain open understorey for public safety. 3. Install nest boxes away from the road to add to habitat resources in the reserve | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Nest boxes installed.⁵ |
| Jurassic Walk (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Diversify species planting 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. 4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Retain open understorey for public safety 3. Replace plantings as they reach senescence | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants healthy. |
| Flowering Gum Walk (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Retain open understorey 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Retain open understorey for public safety 3. Install nest boxes away from the road to add to habitat resources in the reserve and small signs to identify different eucalypt species | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Nest boxes installed.⁶ • Signs installed. |

⁵ In many locations nest boxes are not appropriate as overly abundant species tend to monopolise them. In this location nest boxes for possums and microbats are appropriate. Boxes should be monitored and removed if outcomes are poor.

⁶ In this location nest boxes for microbats, possums, kookaburras and small parrots are appropriate.

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|----------|--|
| | 4. Include interpretative signage to improve community understanding of different species | | | |
| Casuarina Grove (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Retain open understorey | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis and retain open understorey for public safety | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. |
| Indigenous Species Walk (2 areas) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve vegetated corridor connections with key fauna habitat areas 2. Expand plantings to create safe core area for fauna 3. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 4. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting consistent with plants in other walks in the park 5. Introduce elements to improve habitat. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage these areas as a vegetated connectivity corridor between key fauna habitat areas on the northern and southern boundaries. 2. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 3. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity 4. Use similar plants to those in the rainforest walk, grasslands walk or flowering gum walk 5. Addition of habitat elements including Habitat resources including logs and rocks, nest boxes etc 6. Expand the planted area to create a safe core area in the corridor for fauna and target this to suit small birds and arboreal mammals, including microbats | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Habitat elements installed. • Increased diversity of fauna. |

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|---|--|---|----------|--|
| Native Sensory Garden (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting 3. Include plants that stimulate the senses | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity 3. Use plants that stimulate the senses, including aromatics such as Prostanthera, Westringia, Zieria species | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Habitat elements installed. |
| Grasslands Walk (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting 3. Introduce elements to improve habitat. 4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of Aboriginal local habitat including plant species and information signage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity 3. Increase species diversity, use grasslands species found in the Sydney area 4. Addition of habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge, artificial hollows and nest boxes. 5. Addition of cultural elements including animal sculptures. Include plant species that were used by local Aborigines for daily living, such as medicinal plants, plants for making tools or carry bags, etc. Include information signage. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Habitat elements installed. • Increased diversity of fauna. |
| Fig Walk (vegetation zone) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis. 2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. |

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|------------------------|--|---|----------|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting Provide food sources for fauna groups. Introduce elements to improve habitat. | <p>layer complexity, increase species diversity, use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge, water feature and artificial hollows and nest boxes | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants installed and maintained. Habitat elements installed. Increased diversity of fauna. |
| Remnant Turpentine | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and reduce impact on remnant trees | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect remnant trees from high usage areas adjoining – consider fencing to prevent compaction of soils in the structural root zone | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees in good health, regular monitoring undertaken. |
| Screening plantings #1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Connect this area with adjoining walks, gardens and plantings Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting Provide food sources for fauna groups. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extend this area to meet with Native sensory garden and Rainforest walk; consolidate with additional planting along the western edge of playing field #3 Supplementary planting to Increase availability of deep shade, increase groundlayer complexity Increase species diversity, use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed free. Plants in good health and providing connectivity cover. |
| Screening plantings #2 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement weed controls and reduce weeds | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake weed control on a regular basis | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed free. |

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting 3. Provide food sources for fauna groups. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity. 3. Use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants in good health and providing comprehensive cover. |
| Indigenous Species Walk (2 areas) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve vegetated connectivity corridors 2. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 3. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting 4. Introduce elements to improve habitat. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage these areas as a vegetated connectivity corridor between key fauna habitat areas on the northern and southern boundaries. 2. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 3. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity, increase species diversity, use similar plants to those in the rainforest walk, grasslands walk or flowering gum walk 4. Addition of habitat elements including habitat resources including logs and rocks, nest boxes etc, expand the planted area to create a safe core area in the corridor for fauna and target this to suit small birds and arboreal mammals, including microbats. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. • Habitat elements installed. • Increased diversity of fauna. |
| Native Sensory Garden | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed free. • Plants installed and maintained. |

| Vegetation zones | Objectives | Actions | Priority | Performance measures |
|------------------|---|---|----------|---|
| | planting and add supplementary planting | layer complexity and increase species diversity. 3. Use plants that stimulate the senses, including aromatics such as Prostanthera, Westringia, Zieria species | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat elements installed. |

Plant Species for Supplementary Planting

Some general considerations for selecting plant species for different parts of the reserve include:

- Maintaining sight lines near roads and access points, especially to larger sporting facilities
- Maintaining good vegetation cover within fauna habitat areas
- Ensure that short lived species are regularly replaced if they do not establish local self-sustaining populations
- Liaising with adjoining landholders
- Control of weeds, including priority control species, environmental weeds and garden escape species

Plantings should be organised to create areas with structural diversity as well as species diversity. Include habitat elements except in areas where there are high levels of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or high levels of light spill from playing fields. The following sketch provides an example of a diverse habitat created in association with a water feature.

Be sure to include as many of the following elements as possible:

- Old growth trees with hollows, or maturing trees that may form hollows in the future
- Nest boxes – target these for species appropriate to the reserve and likely to be present, and be sure to allow for regular maintenance
- Rocks and hollow logs for refuges for ground dwelling animals
- Grasses for food and cover as animals approach the water

- Several connected ponds or a single pond – either configuration with a recirculating pump system to reduce mosquito breeding. Position the ponds under trees to provide good shade and reduce evaporation in summer
- Dense shrubs around one side of the pond for small bird refuge habitat near the water
- At least one small patch of reeds in the water to allow for frog calling and breeding – choose target species and ensure their specific habitat requirements are present

Appendix A – Environmental Site Surveys

1.1 Desktop Surveys

Searches of several databases were made to identify threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) that may potentially be found on the subject site. Databases were accessed on 10th September 2020. These included:

- NSW Wildlife Atlas (www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/),
- EPBC Act database (www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html).

The park has a long history of land modification. In 1943 the area was almost entirely cleared and/or modified for uses other than native vegetation retention (Figure 32).



Figure 32 1943 aerial imagery for Strathfield Park and surrounds ([SIX Maps \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://SIX Maps (nsw.gov.au)))

1.2 Flora Field Surveys

1.2.1 Methods

Strathfield Park was traversed using the Random Meander method for flora surveys (Cropper, 1993). Typically this involves inspecting each area of different vegetation, including around waterways, rocky areas, dense vegetation and sparse patches to compile a flora inventory for the site. For Strathfield Park this method was adapted to include investigating all of the vegetation patches in each section of the

park and recording flora species. Species identification and nomenclature were generally in line with PlantNet (<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/search/simple.htm>). Data on this site are derived from the printed Flora of New South Wales series, published by the UNSW Press, augmented with data from electronic sources maintained by the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

The website owners note that data have not been fully checked for consistency, and are not fully up-to-date. State and federal weed control requirements were obtained from NSW WeedWise (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=3>), maintained by DPE. Regional weed control requirements are additional, and have been developed for each region by Local Land Services in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

1.2.2 Results

Field surveys were conducted within the subject site on 16th and 19th September 2020. Weather was warm and sunny during surveys following recent heavy rain. A total of 48 species of native flora were recorded on the subject site (Table 3). No threatened species or populations were recorded during the current study.

Table 18 Native flora species recorded in Strathfield Park in September 2020

| Species Name | Common Name | Plant Form |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Acacia fimbriata</i> | Fringed Wattle | shrub |
| <i>Acmena smithii</i> | Lilly Pilly | tree |
| <i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i> | Cunjevoi | groundcover |
| <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> | Red Ash | tree |
| <i>Angophora floribunda</i> | Rough-barked Apple | tree |
| <i>Austrostipa ramosissima</i> | Stout Bamboo Grass | grass |
| <i>Austrostipa verticillata</i> | Slender Bamboo Grass | grass |
| <i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i> | Grey Myrtle | large shrub |
| <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> | Illawarra Flame Tree | tree |
| <i>Callistemon citrinus</i> | Crimson Bottlebrush | shrub |
| <i>Casuarina glauca</i> | Swamp Oak | tree |
| <i>Cayratia clematidea</i> | Native Grape | vine |
| <i>Cissus antarctica</i> | Kangaroo Vine | vine |
| <i>Cordyline petiolaris</i> | Broad-leaved Palm Lily | shrub |
| <i>Cordyline stricta</i> | Narrow-leaved Palm Lily | shrub |
| <i>Corymbia maculata</i> | Spotted Gum | tree |
| <i>Dianella caerulea var. producta</i> | Blue Flax Lily | forb |
| <i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> | Large-leaf Hop-bush | shrub |
| <i>Doryanthes excelsa</i> | Gymea Lily | shrub |
| <i>Einadia nutans</i> | Climbing Saltbush | groundcover |
| <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> | Blueberry Ash | large shrub |
| <i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i> | Cabbage Gum | tree |
| <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> | Narrow-leaved Ironbark | tree |
| <i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i> | Thin-leaved Stringybark | tree |

| Species Name | Common Name | Plant Form |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> | Grey Gum | tree |
| <i>Eucalyptus resinifera subsp. resinifera</i> | Red Mahogany | tree |
| <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> | Sydney Blue Gum | tree |
| <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> | Forest Red Gum | tree |
| <i>Ficus coronata</i> | Sandpaper Fig | large shrub |
| <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> | Cheese Tree | tree |
| <i>Grevillea speciosa</i> | Red Spider Flower | shrub |
| <i>Kunzea ambigua</i> | Tick Bush | shrub |
| <i>Leptospermum polyanthum</i> | Slender Tea-tree | shrub |
| <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> | Spiny Mat-rush | groundcover |
| <i>Lomandra multiflora</i> | Many-flowered Mat-rush | groundcover |
| <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> | Broad-leaved Paperbark | tree |
| <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> | Prickly Paperbark | large shrub |
| <i>Melia azedarach</i> | White Cedar | tree |
| <i>Oplismenus aemulus</i> | Basket Grass | grass |
| <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> | Sweet Pittosporum | large shrub |
| <i>Poa labillardieri</i> | Poa Tussock Grass | grass |
| <i>Podocarpus elatus</i> | Plum Pine | large shrub |
| <i>Pomaderris ferruginea subsp. ferruginea</i> | Rusty Pomaderris | shrub |
| <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> | Turpentine | tree |
| <i>Syzygium australe</i> | Brush Cherry | large shrub |
| <i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> | Water Gum | tree |
| <i>Xylomelum pyriforme</i> | Woody Pear | large shrub |
| <i>Xanthorrhoea glauca</i> | Grass Tree | shrub |

A total of 25 species of introduced flora were recorded on the subject site in September 2020 (Table 2). The Biosecurity Act 2015 lists priority control weeds for the Greater Sydney LLS region. All weeds listed under this Act have a General Biosecurity Duty as follows:

*All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.*

Table 19 Introduced flora species recorded in Strathfield Park in September 2020

| Species Name | Common Name | Priority |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> | Madeira Vine | Prohibition on dealings |
| <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> | Hoop Pine (FN NSW) | |
| <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> | Asparagus Fern | Prohibition on dealings |
| <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> | Camphor Laurel | environment, human health, agriculture |
| <i>Dietes bicolor</i> | Butterfly Iris | |
| <i>Ehrharta erecta</i> | Ehrharta, Panic Veldt Grass | |

| Species Name | Common Name | Priority |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> | Loquat | |
| <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> | Petty Spurge | |
| <i>Ficus microcarpa hillii</i> | Hills Weeping Fig (SQld) | |
| <i>Grevillea robusta</i> | Silky Oak | |
| <i>Grevillea sp (cultivar)</i> | Spider Flower | |
| <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> | Ginger Lily | |
| <i>Lavandula sp</i> | Lavender | |
| <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> | Small-leaved Privet | environment, human health |
| <i>Liriope sp</i> | Monkey Grass | |
| <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> | Brush Box | |
| <i>Nandina domestica</i> | Heavenly Bamboo | |
| <i>Ochna serrulata</i> | Mickey Mouse Bush | environment |
| <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> | Canary Island Date Palm | environment |
| <i>Schinus areira</i> | Peppercorn Tree | |
| <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | Blackberry Nightshade | |
| <i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i> | Firewheel Tree (FNC/QLD) | |
| <i>Strelitzia Nicolai</i> | Bird of Paradise Tree | |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> | Dandelion | |
| <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> | Chinese Elm | environment |

There were two national or state level priority control weeds recorded on the subject site. Their control requirements are as follows:

- Asparagus Fern/Ground Asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*): **Prohibition on dealings** - Must not be imported into the State or sold.
- Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*): **Prohibition on dealings** - Must not be imported into the State or sold

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides powers to Local Control Authorities to take action in relation to regional priority control weeds in particular circumstances, for example where a weed threatens a high value asset and prevention, elimination or reduction of the risk is feasible and reasonable.

Regional priority control weeds on this site are known to affect environmental assets and human health, and would be expected to be controlled within the subject site during any works that affect vegetation. The following five species of weeds are listed in the Greater Sydney region as weeds of regional concern:

- Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
- Small-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- Mickey Mouse Bush (*Ochna serrulata*)
- Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)
- Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

2.1 Fauna Survey

2.1.1 Methods

The site was visited four times in the Spring of 2020 with the Park traversed and fauna species present noted. Spotlighting was undertaken on two nights. Opportunities to deploy remote equipment discreetly were limited so bat detectors were left overnight or used during spotlighting transects (4 sampling nights in total).

2.1.2 Results

The following table provides data from the 2020 survey and other sources. BioNet records were obtained for the 1995-2020 period however all records in BioNet are from 2014-2020 and drawn from WIRES records of rescued injured fauna. Ambrose Ecological Services Pty Ltd conducted a vertebrate fauna study in 2008-9 for Council and these results were not in BioNet so are tabled separately below. There were no ebird records for the site.

Table 20 Fauna records- various sources

| Common name | Species name | Applied Ecology 2020 | Birdlife data | BioNet | Ambrose surveys 2008 |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------|----------------------|
| Birds | | | | | |
| Australasian Figbird | <i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i> | | | | x |
| Australian Magpie | <i>Cracticus tibicen</i> | x | x | | x |
| Australian Raven | <i>Corvus coronoides</i> | x | x | | |
| Australian White Ibis | <i>Threskiornis molucca</i> | | | | x |
| Australian Wood Duck | <i>Chenonetta jubata</i> | | | x | |
| Channel-billed Cuckoo | <i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i> | x | | | |
| Common Myna | <i>Sturnus tristis</i> | x | x | | |
| Crested Pigeon | <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i> | x | | | x |
| Eastern Koel | <i>Eudynamys orientalis</i> | | x | | x |
| Eastern Rosella | <i>Platycercus eximius</i> | | | | x |
| Galah | <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i> | x | x | | |
| Grey Butcherbird | <i>Cracticus torquatus</i> | | x | | x |
| Laughing Kookaburra | <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i> | | x | | x |
| Little Corella | <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i> | x | | | |
| Little Wattlebird | <i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i> | | x | | |
| Magpie-lark | <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i> | | x | | |
| Pacific Black Duck | <i>Anas superciliosa</i> | | | x | |
| Pied Currawong | <i>Strepera graculina</i> | x | x | | |
| Rainbow Lorikeet | <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i> | x | x | | x |

| Common name | Species name | Applied Ecology 2020 | Birdlife data | BioNet | Ambrose surveys 2008 |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------|----------------------|
| Red-rumped Parrot | <i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> | | | | x |
| Red Wattlebird | <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i> | | | | x |
| Noisy Miner | <i>Manorina melanocephala</i> | x | x | x | |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | <i>Cacatua galerita</i> | x | x | | |
| Tawny Frogmouth | <i>Podargus strigoides</i> | x | | x | |
| Willie Wagtail | <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> | | x | | |
| Mammals | | | | | |
| Common Brushtail Possum | <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i> | x | | | x |
| Common Ringtail Possum | <i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i> | | | x | x |
| Gould's Wattled Bat | <i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i> | x | | | x |
| Grey-headed Flying Fox | <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> | x | | x | |
| White-striped Freetail Bat | <i>Tadarida australis</i> | | | | |
| House Mouse | <i>Mus musculus</i> | | | | x |
| Black Rat | <i>Rattus rattus</i> | | | | x |
| Herpetofauna | | | | | |
| Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard | <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i> | | | x | |
| Elegant Snake-eyed Skink | <i>Cryptoblepharus pulcher</i> | | | | x |
| Dark-flecked garden sun skink (Garden skink) | <i>Lampropholis delicata</i> | x | | | |
| Pale-flecked garden sun skink (Grass skink) | <i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i> | | | | x |
| Peron's Tree Frog | <i>Litoria peronii</i> | x | | | |

3.1 Threatened Species and Protected Matters

3.1.1 Threatened Species Searches

A search of Bionet - NSW Wildlife Atlas was undertaken for records within a 10km² cell centred on the subject site. A total of 48 threatened species including 37 threatened fauna species and 11 threatened flora species have been recorded in this area (Table 21).

Table 21 Bionet threatened fauna and flora records within a 10km² cell centred on the subject site

| Class | Scientific Name | Common Name | NSW Status | Comm. Status | Records |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|------------|--------------|---------|
| Amphibia | <i>Litoria aurea</i> | Green and Golden Bell Frog | EI,P | V | 12907 |
| Aves | <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | White-throated Needle-tail | P | V,C,J,K | 18 |
| Aves | <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> | Australasian Bittern | EI,P | E | 6 |
| Aves | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> | Black Bittern | V,P | | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Circus assimilis</i> | Spotted Harrier | V,P | | 4 |
| Aves | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> | White-bellied Sea-Eagle | V,P | | 274 |
| Aves | <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> | Little Eagle | V,P | | 5 |
| Aves | <i>Pandion cristatus</i> | Eastern Osprey | V,P,3 | | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Rostratula australis</i> | Australian Painted Snipe | EI,P | E | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Red Knot | P | E,C,J,K | 13 |
| Aves | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Curlew Sandpiper | EI,P | CE,C,J,K | 243 |
| Aves | <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> | Great Knot | V,P | CE,C,J,K | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> | Broad-billed Sandpiper | V,P | C,J,K | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | Black-tailed Godwit | V,P | C,J,K | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | Eastern Curlew | P | CE,C,J,K | 10 |
| Aves | <i>Xenus cinereus</i> | Terek Sandpiper | V,P | C,J,K | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | Little Tern | EI,P | C,J,K | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i> | Little Lorikeet | V,P | | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Lathamus discolor</i> | Swift Parrot | EI,P,3 | CE | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Neophema pulchella</i> | Turquoise Parrot | V,P,3 | | 2 |
| Aves | <i>Ninox strenua</i> | Powerful Owl | V,P,3 | | 28 |
| Aves | <i>Tyto longimembris</i> | Eastern Grass Owl | V,P,3 | | 1 |
| Aves | <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> | Regent Honeyeater | E4A,P | CE | 2 |
| Aves | <i>Epthianura albifrons</i> | White-fronted Chat | V,P | | 208 |
| Aves | <i>Epthianura albifrons</i> | White-fronted Chat population in the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Area | E2,V,P | | 208 |

| Class | Scientific Name | Common Name | NSW Status | Comm. Status | Records |
|----------|---|--|------------|--------------|---------|
| Aves | <i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i> | Dusky Woodswallow | V,P | | 8 |
| Aves | <i>Petroica boodang</i> | Scarlet Robin | V,P | | 3 |
| Aves | <i>Petroica phoenicea</i> | Flame Robin | V,P | | 1 |
| Mammalia | <i>Perameles nasuta</i> | Long-nosed Bandicoot population in inner western Sydney | E2,P | | 1 |
| Mammalia | <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> | Koala | V,P | V | 2 |
| Mammalia | <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> | Grey-headed Flying-fox | V,P | V | 494 |
| Mammalia | <i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i> | Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat | V,P | | 5 |
| Mammalia | <i>Micronomus norfolkensis</i> | Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat | V,P | | 4 |
| Mammalia | <i>Myotis macropus</i> | Southern Myotis | V,P | | 29 |
| Mammalia | <i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i> | Greater Broad-nosed Bat | V,P | | 1 |
| Mammalia | <i>Miniopterus australis</i> | Little Bent-winged Bat | V,P | | 1 |
| Mammalia | <i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i> | Large Bent-winged Bat | V,P | | 71 |
| Flora | <i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i> | Tadgell's Bluebell in the local government areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Canterbury, Hornsby, Parramatta and Strathfield | E2 | | 104 |
| Flora | <i>Wilsonia backhousei</i> | Narrow-leafed Wilsonia | V | | 97 |
| Flora | <i>Epacris purpurascens var. purpurascens</i> | | V | | 18 |
| Flora | <i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i> | | V | | 1 |
| Flora | <i>Acacia pubescens</i> | Downy Wattle | V | V | 516 |
| Flora | <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i> | Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint | V | V | 1 |
| Flora | <i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i> | Wallangarra White Gum | E1 | V | 1 |
| Flora | <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> | Magenta Lilly Pilly | E1 | V | 3 |
| Flora | <i>Grevillea beadleana</i> | Beadle's Grevillea | E1,3 | E | 1 |
| Flora | <i>Pomaderris prunifolia</i> | P. prunifolia in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas | E2 | | 13 |
| Flora | <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> | | E1 | | 5 |

In reality, there were very few threatened species records in the vicinity of Strathfield Park (Figure 33) and there is little opportunity for non-volant species to navigate the urban matrix to the park from other areas. Records within 500 metres of the park consisted of 8 records of Grey-headed Flying Foxes, recorded between 2000 and 5/1/2021.

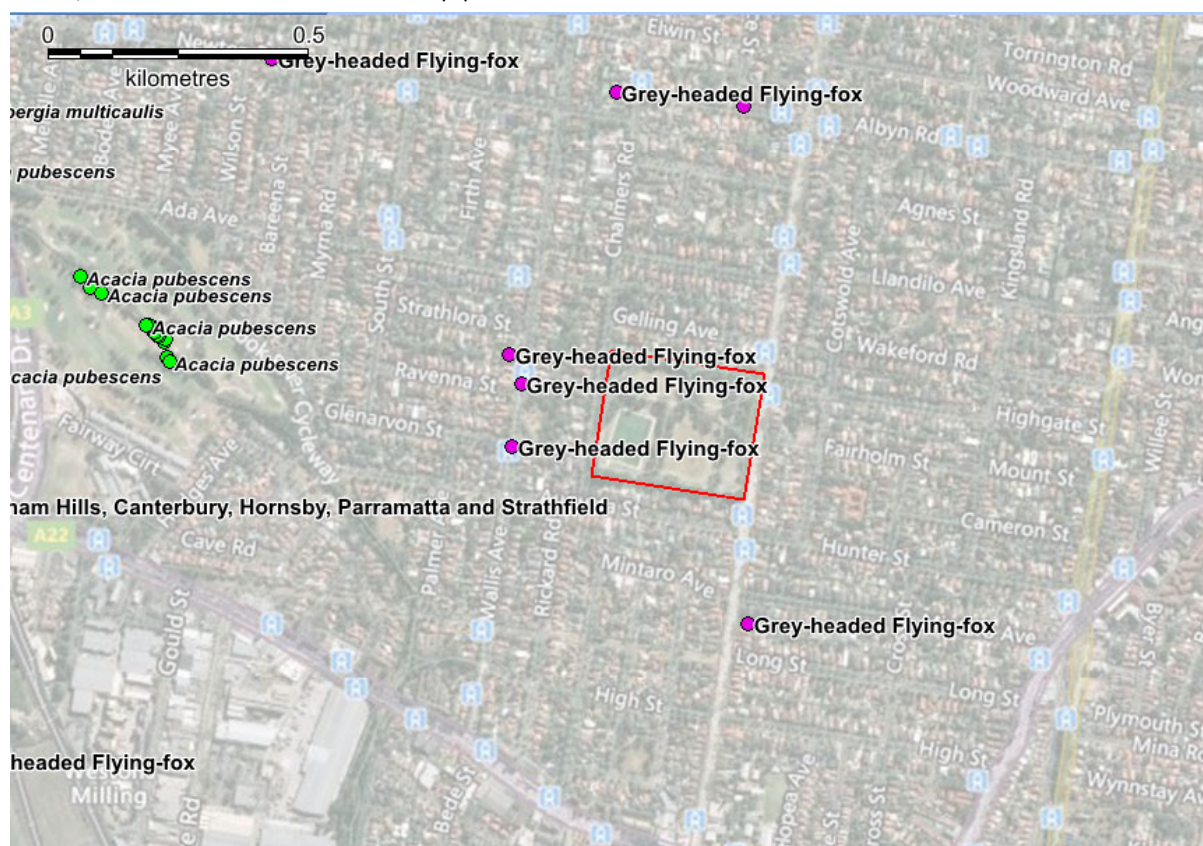


Figure 33 Threatened species sightings recorded within 500 metres of Strathfield Park on any date (BioNet)

3.1.2 Protected Matters Searches

The EPBC Act lists environmental assets that are protected at a federal level. The Protected Matters databases summarise the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area nominated.

Summary of Protected Matters databases

The following Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 22).

Table 22. Summary of Protected Matters searches

| Protected Matters | Present at or near the Study Site |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| World Heritage Properties | None |
| National Heritage Places | None |
| Wetlands of International Significance (RAMSAR Sites) | None |
| Great Barrier Reef Marine Park | None |
| Commonwealth Marine Areas | None |

| Protected Matters | Present at or near the Study Site |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Threatened Ecological Communities | 6 |
| Threatened Species | 38 |
| Migratory Species | 17 |

Threatened Ecological Communities

The following Threatened Ecological Communities were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 23).

Table 23 Threatened Ecological Communities listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site

| Threatened Ecological Communities | Status | Type of Presence | Present on site? |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Castlereagh Scribbly Gum and Agnes Banks Woodlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion | Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |
| Coastal Swamp Oak (<i>Casuarina glauca</i>) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community | Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |
| Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin Bioregion | Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |
| Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion | Critically Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |
| Shale Sandstone Transition Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion | Critically Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |
| Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale | Critically Endangered | Community may occur within area | no |

Threatened fauna species

The following threatened fauna species were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area between 1995 and 2020 (Table 24).

Table 24 Threatened fauna species listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Federal Status | Type of Presence | Bionet Records |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Birds | | | | |
| <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> | Regent Honeyeater | Critically Endangered | Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> | Australasian Bittern | Endangered | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Red Knot | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Curlew Sandpiper | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Federal Status | Type of Presence | Bionet Records |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> | Grey Falcon | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | White-throated Needletail | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Lathamus discolor</i> | Swift Parrot | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | Eastern Curlew | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Rostratula australis</i> | Australian Painted Snipe | Endangered | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Sternula nereis nereis</i> | Australian Fairy Tern | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus</i> | Hooded Plover (eastern), Eastern Hooded Plover | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| Fish | | | | |
| <i>Macquaria australasica</i> | Macquarie Perch | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| Frogs | | | | |
| <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> | Giant Burrowing Frog | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Litoria aurea</i> | Green and Golden Bell Frog | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 8 |
| Mammals | | | | |
| <i>Chalinobius dwyeri</i> | Large-eared Pied Bat | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> | Spotted-tailed Quoll | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i> | Southern Brown Bandicoot | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Petauroides volans</i> | Greater Glider | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Qld, NSW and ACT) | Koala (combined populations) | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> | Grey-headed Flying-fox | Vulnerable | Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area | 31 |

3.1.4 Threatened flora species

The following threatened flora species were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 25).

Table 25 Threatened flora species listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Federal Status | Type of Presence | Bionet Records |
|---|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| <i>Acacia bynoeana</i> | Bynoe's Wattle, Tiny Wattle | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Acacia pubescens</i> | Downy Wattle, Hairy Stemmed Wattle | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 55 |
| <i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i> | | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Caladenia tessellata</i> | Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i> | Leafless Tongue-orchid | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Darwinia biflora</i> | | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i> | Camfield's Stringybark | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Genoplesium baueri</i> | Yellow Gnat- orchid | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Melaleuca deanei</i> | Deane's Paperbark | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Persicaria elatior</i> | Tall Knotweed | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Persoonia hirsuta</i> | Hairy geebung | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Pimelea curviflora var. curviflora</i> | | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Pimelea spicata</i> | Spiked Rice- flower | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Pterostylis Saxicola</i> | Sydney Plains Greenhood | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> | Magenta Lilly Pilly | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Thesium australe</i> | Austral Toadflax | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |

3.1.5 Migratory species

A number of faunal groups, including migratory terrestrial birds, are identified as having potential presence within a 2km radius of the study site. These were assessed for likely presence (Table 26).

Table 26 Terrestrial migratory species protected under EP&BC Act within 2km of Strathfield Park

| Species Name | Common Name | Type of Presence | Bionet Records |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| <i>Cuculus optatus</i> | Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | White-throated Needletail | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> | Black-faced Monarch | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i> | Spectacled Monarch | Species or species habitat may occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Motacilla flava</i> | Yellow Wagtail | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i> | Satin Flycatcher | Species or species habitat known to occur within area | 0 |
| <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> | Rufous Fantail | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area | 0 |

Appendix B – Community Consultation

Strathfield Park Plan of Management and Master Plan Community Consultation September 2020

Strathfield Council is preparing new plans for managing Strathfield Park and is interested in your views and ideas. This consultation will take less than 5 minutes to complete. All personal data collected will be kept confidential. Reporting on results from this consultation will not identify individuals.

1. How often do you visit Strathfield Park?

- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Couple of times each year
- Once a year
- Every couple of years
- Never

2. What is your connection to Strathfield Park? Please choose all that apply

- I am a local resident living in the Strathfield Council area
- I am a local business owner
- I am a visitor from outside the local area
- I am a student at a school in the Strathfield area
- I play sport at the park
- I am a member of an organisation that uses the park
- I work in the Strathfield area

Other (please specify)

3. What activities do you undertake at Strathfield Park?

- Walking, jogging or running
- Personal exercise/leisure eg yoga, tai chi
- Visiting children's playgrounds
- Playing formal sport eg soccer, cricket etc
- Playing self-organised ball games
- Use netball/basketball courts
- Gatherings in open spaces for picnics, BBQs
- Attending events
- Walking the dog
- Relaxing in open spaces

Other activities?

4. What aspects or features of Strathfield Park are important to you?

5. In your opinion, what are the top 3 priorities for Strathfield Park (mark no more than 3 boxes)

- Providing sportsfields and courts
- Trees, gardens and landscaping
- Providing safe and accessible pathways
- Lighting throughout the park
- Preservation of open green space
- Amenities such as public toilets, drinking water fountains, BBQs, tables and seating
- Providing space for non-sport activities
- Children's playgrounds
- Parking
- Holding community events

6. What is your view about adding these facilities into Strathfield Park?

| | Highly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree or disagree | Somewhat disagree | Highly disagree |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Café | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional netball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify)

7. Can you suggest any improvements that should be made to the park?

8. What activities should be allowed in the park?

9. In your view, are there activities that should not be allowed in the park, and why?

10. Are there any other issues that Council should address in developing new plans for the park?

11. What is your age group?

- Under 18
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- Don't want to say

12. Please provide your contact details

Name

Email address

Phone number

Home address

13. Do you wish to enter the draw to win one of three \$50 shopping vouchers?

- Yes
- No

Please return completed surveys to:

Strathfield Park Consultation, Strathfield Council, PO Box 120, Strathfield NSW 2135

Should you have questions regarding this project, please contact Cathy Jones, Executive Manager, Corporate Strategy and Performance, email: cathy.jones@strathfield.nsw.gov.au or 9748 9937