

Photograph of central concrete pathway and dense canopy trees; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024



Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Local Government Area is situated. We celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage, beliefs and their relationship with the land and water. We acknowledge the continuing importance of this relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living today, despite the devastating impacts of European invasion. We express our sorrow for past injustices and support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to self-determination.

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1.00 Introduction

1.01	Executive Summary	05
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Photograph of existing playground and shade structures. Tennis courts to left; Source: Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects

Photograph of existing concrete pathway and dense canopy trees; Source: Taylor Brammer 31.01.2025

1.0

1.01 Executive Summary

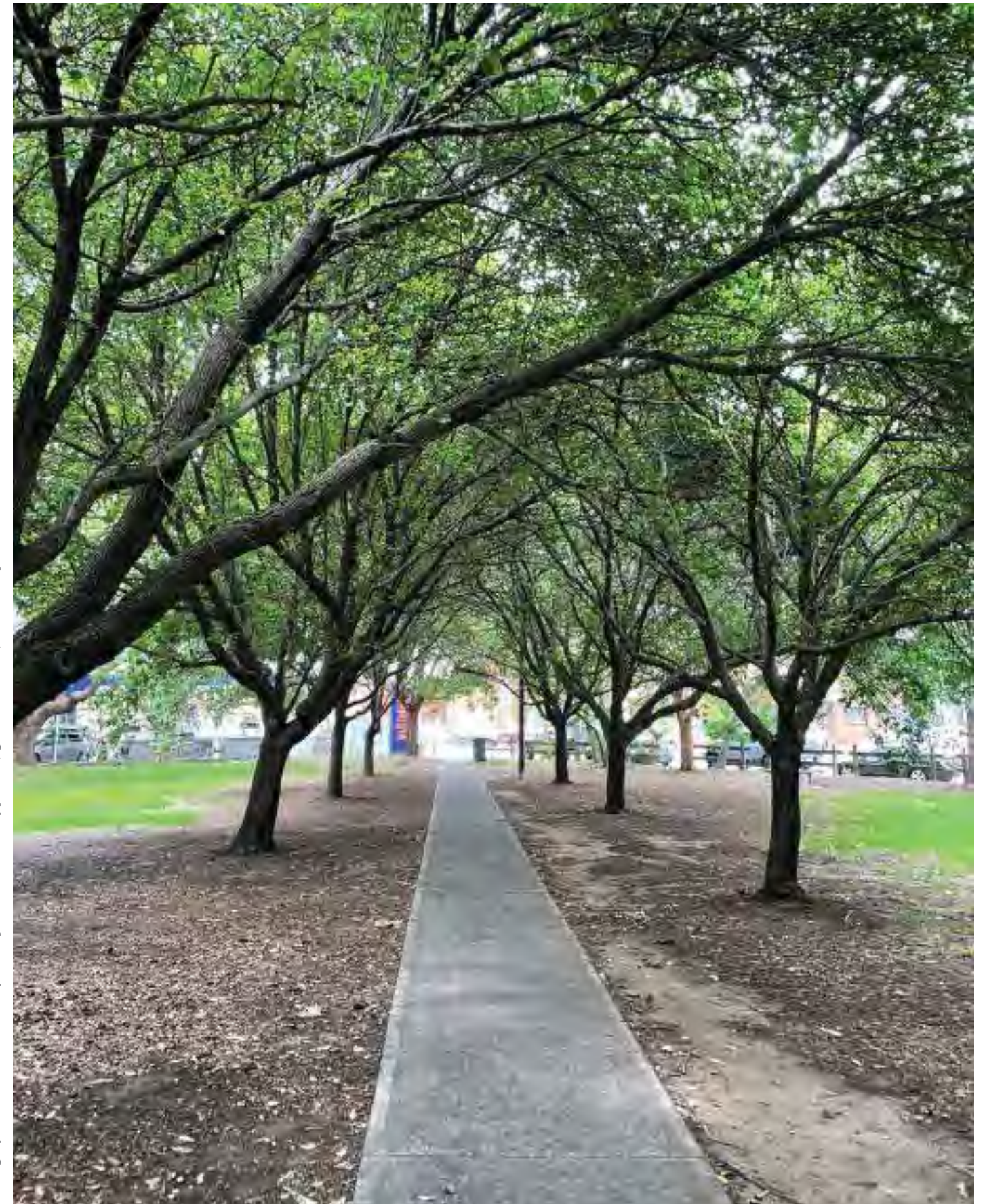
Background

Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects Pty Ltd have been engaged by Inner West Council to prepare a Masterplan and Plan of Management for Wicks Park, Marrickville. The brief included extensive community consultation to inform the design outcome for the users and community.

By way of background, a previous Plan of Management and Masterplan was prepared in 2003. Since this time there has been a Council amalgamation, resulting in amended Council policies, and new future directions and managements for the now Inner West Council Local Government area and community. As a result, an updated Masterplan for the Park is required, which outlines the framework for managing the Park and identifying appropriate uses for the Park.

This Masterplan provides a long term vision for the parkland that will be appropriate for the site and provides a place of recreation and contemplation that fulfills the community's aspirations and needs.

Photograph of central concrete pathway and dense canopy trees, grass die-back; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024



1.02 Review of Background Documentation

State Government

NSW Public Spaces Charter 2021
NSW Greener Places Design Guide 2020
Sydney Green Grid 2023
NSW Connecting with Country 2023

Local Government

Inner West Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025
Our Inner West 2036 Strategic Plan
Our Place Inner West - Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020
Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West 2018
Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2032
Inner West Blue Green Grid Strategy 2023
Inner West Land and Property Asset Plan 2018
Inner West Climate and Renewable Strategy 2019
Wicks Park Plan of Management 2003
Inner West Council Homelessness Policy
Inner West Biodiversity Strategy 2036

1.02 State Government



NSW Public Spaces Charter 2021

Key Considerations

Inclusive and Accessible Design:

- Prioritise inclusivity, ensuring public spaces are accessible to everyone regardless of demographics or abilities.
- Design spaces with clear entrances, visible wayfinding, and integration with surroundings for easy navigation.

Community-Centric Approach:

- Focus on building strong, connected communities through public spaces.
- Engage diverse community groups in planning and design, fostering inclusiveness and community-led initiatives.

Cultural Enrichment and Environmental Sustainability:

- Recognise public spaces as platforms for cultural expression and creativity.
- Integrate green infrastructure to enhance biodiversity, promote climate resilience, and ensure equitable access to nature.



NSW Greener Places Design Guide 2020

Key Considerations

Integration of Green Infrastructure:

- Combine green infrastructure with urban development and infrastructure.
- Understand physical and functional relationships between urban green space and other infrastructure.
- Implement wider environmental, social, and economic benefits from green infrastructure.

Connectivity of Open Spaces:

- Create a network of high-quality open spaces connected to town centers, transport hubs, rivers, and residential areas.
- Enhance physical and functional connections between different green spaces.
- Increase planting along stormwater, gas, and power easements, roads, and rail corridors.

Multi-functionality of Green Spaces:

- Design landscapes that offer ecological, socio-cultural, and economic benefits simultaneously.
- Balance multi-functionality with the need to protect and enhance local habitat.
- Recognise the value of existing landscape performance via improved connectivity, storm water management, and environmental quality.



Sydney Green Grid 2023

Key Considerations

Regional Emphasis:

- Sydney's Green Grid tailors its approach to the distinct characteristics of Western Sydney, Parramatta, and Sydney, recognising and enhancing the unique ecological features and recreational opportunities within each region.

Strategic Connectivity:

- The initiative prioritises the creation of a comprehensive and connected green infrastructure network. By integrating various green spaces, it seeks to bridge fragmented areas, preserving biodiversity, and providing residents with enhanced recreational and environmental experiences.

Holistic Urban Integration:

- Sydney's Green Grid proposes an integrated urban planning strategy that harmonises green spaces with transportation and utilities. This holistic approach aims to create sustainable, liveable, and inclusive urban environments, ensuring resilience in the face of ongoing urban development and expansion.



NSW Connecting with Country 2023

Key Considerations

Understanding Country:

- Begin by understanding the specific Country on which the project is located, respecting the diverse cultural landscapes and connections that exist. Consider Aboriginal language, placenames, and the broader context beyond site boundaries.
- Engage dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives whenever possible.

Cultural Integration in Design:

- Integrate cultural elements into the design process where appropriate, incorporating traditional language, placenames, and design principles. Recognise the importance of in-between spaces, indirect connections, and storytelling in creating meaningful and culturally rich designs.

Sustainability and Connection to Living Systems:

- Embrace a wide approach to sustainability, acknowledging the interconnectedness of living systems. Consider biodiversity, water management, and circular economy principles. Learn from traditional Indigenous architecture and explore ways to connect with Earth, Water, and Sky Country in designs.

1.02 Local Government



Inner West Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025

Key Considerations

Recognition and Respect for Indigenous Peoples:

- A commitment to recognising and deeply respecting the cultural and spiritual significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, extending beyond acknowledgment.

Equal Opportunities and Community Development:

- Makes a pledge to ensure that Indigenous peoples have access to the same opportunities as the broader Australian community.
- This commitment can be tangible through the implementation of impactful programs actively promoting inclusive and supportive community development.

Two-Way Communication and Relationship Building:

- Highlights the importance of positive, respectful relationships, emphasising two-way communication between Indigenous peoples, organisations, and communities.
- The focus revolves around expanding networks, engaging in advocacy, and initiatives, all aimed at fostering understanding, collaboration, and the establishment of trust.



Our Inner West 2036 Strategic Plan

Key Considerations

Ecological Sustainability:

- Provide the community with tools for sustainability.
- Maintain and enhance green corridors and urban tree canopy.
- Implement water-sensitive policies and projects.

Liveable, Connected Neighbourhoods and Transport:

- Design development for sustainability and community well-being.
- Preserve the unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods.
- Ensure public spaces are welcoming, accessible, and safe.

Creative Communities and a Strong Economy:

- Value and celebrate creativity and culture.
- Promote the Inner West as a hub for creative industries.
- Support a thriving local economy with diverse and accessible employment.



Our Place Inner West - Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Key Considerations

Vision for the Inner West:

- Prioritises creating a high-quality living environment that embraces diversity and addresses future population needs. Sustainability, encompassing ecological and economic aspects, is at the core, fostering connected communities through spatial planning, social engagement, and efficient transport.

Strategic Themes and Priorities:

- Guided by six key themes, aligned with broader community and district plans. These themes shape planning priorities, spanning ecological sustainability, liveable neighborhoods, sustainable transport, creative communities, a strong economy, and fostering happy, healthy communities.

Specific Planning Objectives:

- Outlines specific objectives to realise the vision, including adapting to climate change, achieving zero emissions, and cultivating a diverse urban forest. Priorities extend to sustainable housing growth, accessible urban spaces, robust transport infrastructure, a thriving local economy, and the recognition and support of cultural diversity.



Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West 2018

Key Considerations

Addressing Current and Future Gaps in Open Space:

- Increase the supply of open space in suburbs with low metrics and plan for future demand by establishing benchmarks for open space provision in new developments.
- Collaborate with developers to create multipurpose recreation spaces to meet future demand.

Increasing Capacity of Existing Facilities:

- Improve the quality and function of existing open space and recreation facilities.
- Enhance amenities, invest in upgrades to lighting and safety, and consider alternative improvements for sporting fields.

Creating Inclusive and Nature-Connected Recreation Spaces:

- Re-imagine streets and laneways as recreation spaces to increase accessibility.
- Promote inclusion by reflecting local history, encouraging diverse usage, and addressing health needs.
- Provide nature-based spaces, and address climate impacts in recreation planning.



Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2032

Key Considerations

An Active Inner West

- Enhance open spaces in the Inner West by creating new parks, pocket parks, and neighborhood parks through partnerships, rooftop spaces, and other innovative solutions. The strategy aims to address deficiencies, ensure child-safe facilities, and promote inclusive and well-maintained open spaces for the community.

Active Lives

- Ensure inclusive and diverse community participation in recreation by promoting accessibility, cultural sensitivity, and social inclusion through the development of parks, facilities, and programs.

Active Communities

- Prioritise community well-being and inclusivity by developing and upgrading indoor sporting facilities, enhancing sports grounds, creating inclusive playgrounds, and promoting diverse recreational opportunities.



Inner West Blue Green Grid Strategy 2023

Key Considerations

Urban Challenges and Innovative Solution:

- The Inner West faces population growth and funding limitations, hindering new open space development. The Blue-Green Grid emerges as an innovative solution to provide additional facilities and areas, catering to community needs while navigating existing constraints.

Interconnected Open Spaces Vision:

- The Blue-Green Grid Strategy outlines a vision for 85 interconnected routes, improving access to recreational spaces, enhancing urban design with water-sensitive strategies, and promoting cultural connections. It not only addresses immediate challenges but aligns with regional plans, contributing to the Greater Sydney Green Grid.

Long-Term Cultural-Environmental Fusion:

- Beyond local benefits, the Blue-Green Grid Strategy contributes to the Greater Sydney Region Plan. Moreover, it recognises the potential of Blue-Green Infrastructure to blend cultural and environmental values, encouraging shared ownership and custodianship.



Inner West Land and Property Strategy 2019

Key Considerations

Optimised Property Management:

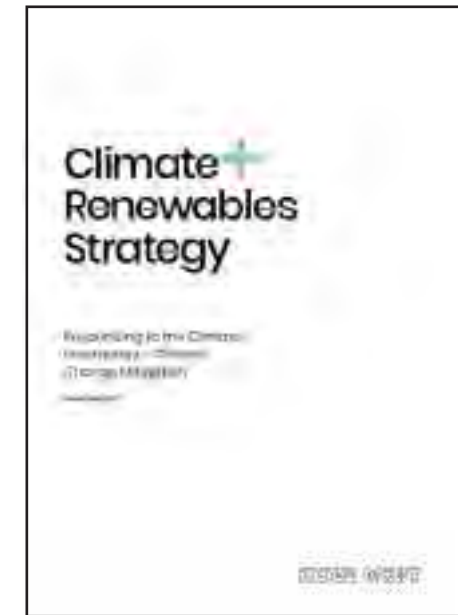
- Analyse life cycle costs and revenue for each property.
- Apply consistent criteria for cost-benefit optimisation.
- Regularly review opportunities for reuse and disposal.

Transparent Governance:

- Develop and implement clear Land & Property Policy and Guidelines.
- Document and enforce property agreements, maintaining a comprehensive register.
- Report regularly, ensuring transparency and adherence to key performance indicators.

Future-Focused Community Planning:

- Analyse community needs for services and spaces.
- Develop a 10-year strategic property program.
- Prioritise property decisions based on evolving community needs.



Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy 2019

Key Considerations

Promoting Renewable Energy Adoption:

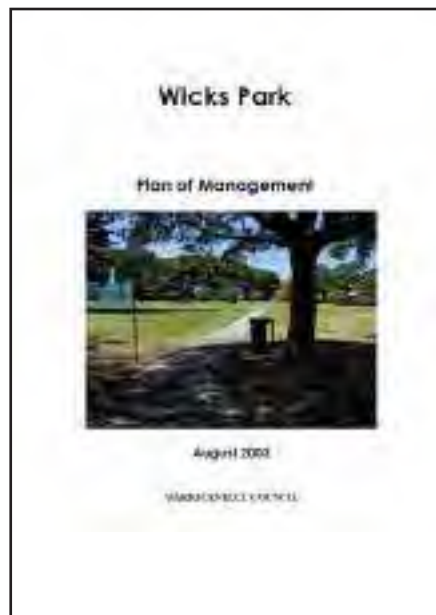
- Establish an Office of Renewable Energy Innovation for initiatives like Solar My School and Inner West Solar Garden.
- Support solar installations on various scales, emphasising inclusivity for residents and businesses with limited access.

Zero-Carbon Buildings and Precincts:

- Strengthen environmental standards through enhanced planning controls.
- Innovate planning for low-carbon precincts, encouraging decentralisation and sustainable transportation.

Integrated Transport and Emission Reduction:

- Implement an Integrated Transport Strategy prioritising active transport and shared vehicle modes.
- Foster a transport hierarchy favoring walking, cycling, and public transit to reduce carbon footprint and enhance community well-being.



Wicks Park Plan of Management 2003

Key Considerations

Recreation:

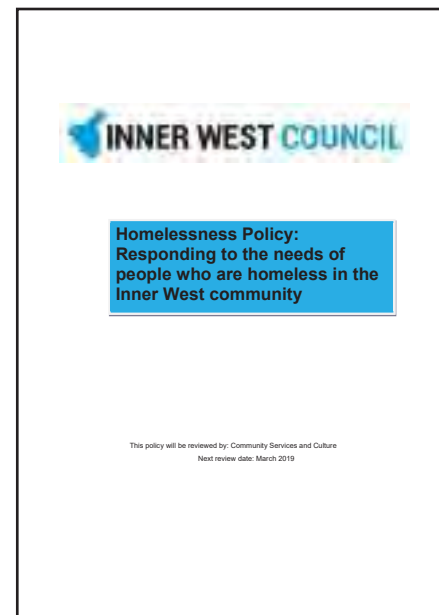
- Balancing structured and non-structured recreational facilities to meet community needs.
- Increase passive recreation through provision of seating

Sense of Community:

- Actively involving the community in park planning and development.
- Increase community awareness of park facilities
- Encouraging community maintenance of the park to enhance a sense of ownership.
- Facilitating community participation, community arts and other initiatives to encourage public ownership of park

Safety, Access, and Maintenance:

- Improved links within park to open spaces
- Improved safety considerations regarding the adjacent major road corridors
- Improved safety to children's playground and night use
- Implementing measures to deter vandalism and ensure non-discriminatory access.



Inner West Council Homelessness Policy

Key Considerations

Ensuring Inclusive and Safe Park Spaces:

- Respect the rights of homeless individuals to access and use public parks.
- Implement measures to ensure safety and peaceful enjoyment for all park users.
- Address complaints from nearby residents and park users regarding issues like rubbish, belongings, and antisocial behavior.

Providing Supportive Services and Information:

- Offer information about available homelessness services to homeless individuals using the park.
- Facilitate connections between homeless individuals and specialist homelessness services.

Promoting Community Understanding and Engagement:

- Educate the community about the complexities of homelessness and the Inner West Council's approach to addressing it.



Inner West Biodiversity Strategy

Key Considerations

- Protecting Urban Biodiversity: Preserve and restore native habitats to combat urban development impacts like habitat loss and pollution.
- Cultural and Community Engagement: Embed Aboriginal ecological knowledge and "Caring for Country" practices, alongside community partnerships, to enhance local biodiversity.
- Climate Resilience: Adapt habitats and infrastructure to counter climate impacts, using blue-green networks to manage flooding and rising temperatures.
- Waterway Health: Enhance wetland and riparian areas with water-sensitive design and naturalization to improve water quality.
- Community Involvement: Increase citizen science and education to foster biodiversity care and sustainability.
- Policy and Monitoring: Guide urban planning with biodiversity data, promoting green cover and ecosystem health through supportive policies and incentives.

2.00 Site Analysis

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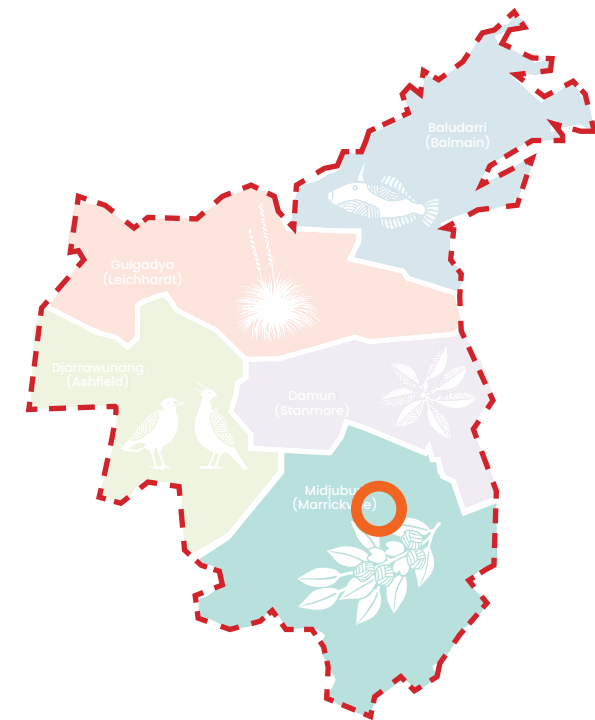
Photograph of existing tennis courts and underutilised building, Wicks Park development behind. Source: Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



2.01 Urban Context

Wicks Park is located in Marrickville, a suburb situated in Sydney’s Inner West. The site sits within the Midjuburi (Marrickville Ward) of the Inner West Council, which is the local indigenous word for lilly pilly.

The site is situated to the north of Cooks River, a tributary of Botany Bay.

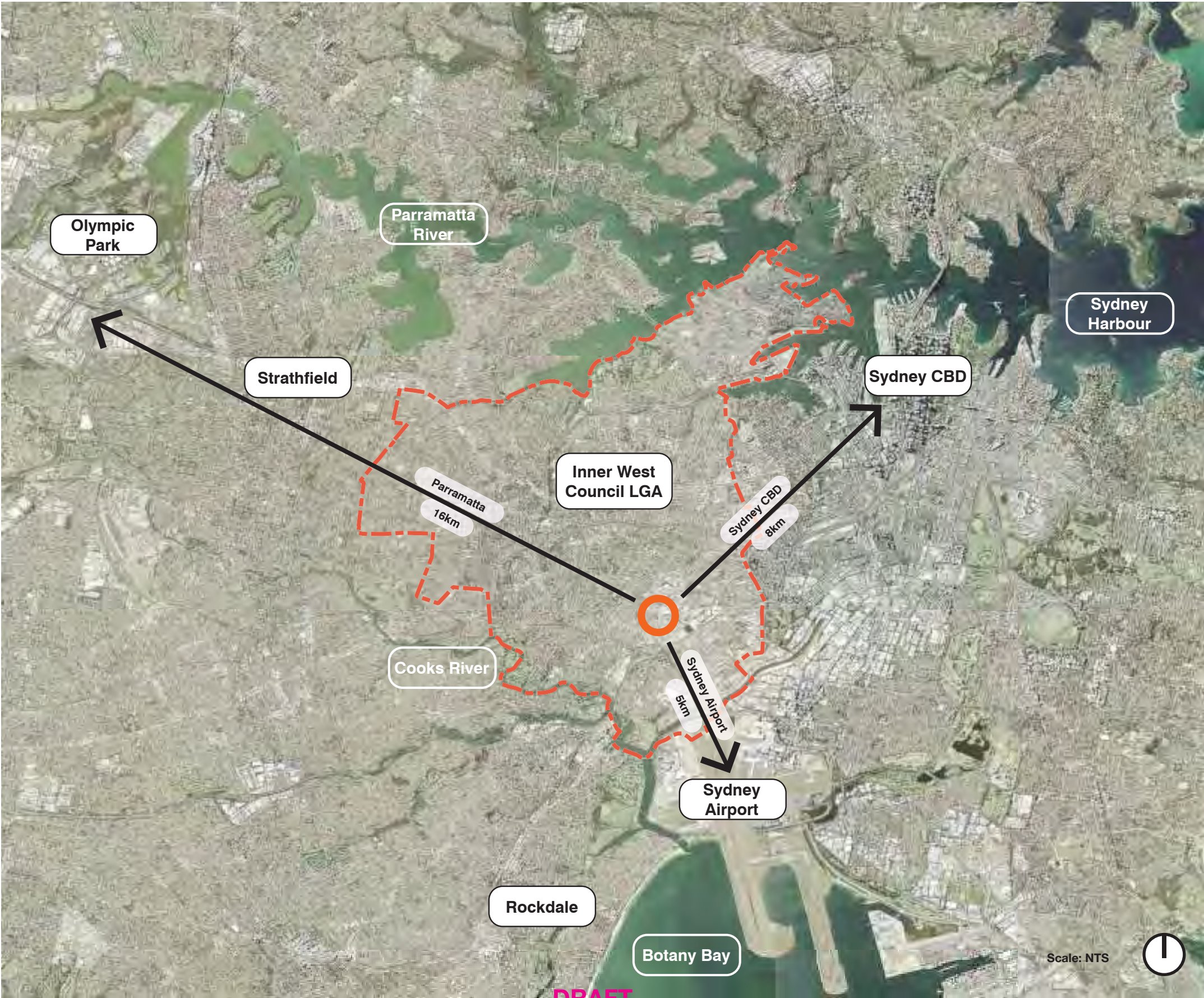


Inner West Council Wards and vegetation communities;
Source Inner West Council Blue-Green Grid Strategy 2023

LEGEND

- Inner West Council LGA
- Site
- Direction Arrow

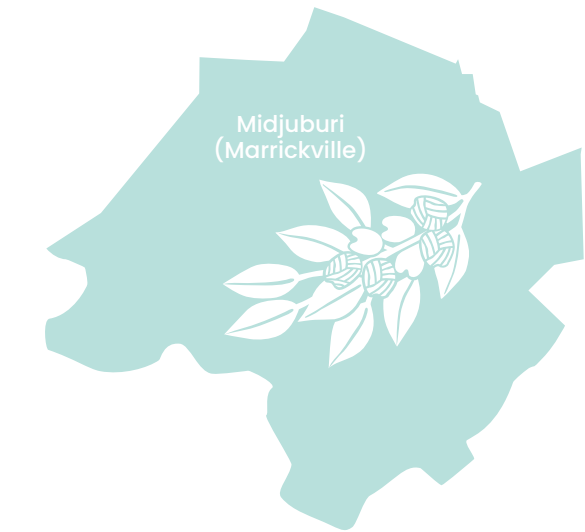
Satellite image; Source Near Map 22.01.2024



2.02 Local Context

Wicks Park is bounded by Victoria Road on the West and Sydenham Road on the South. The neighbourhood is known for its eclectic mix of breweries, cafes and commercial properties. An electricity substation is adjoining the park at the northwest corner, alongside a significant residential development called ‘Wicks Place’.

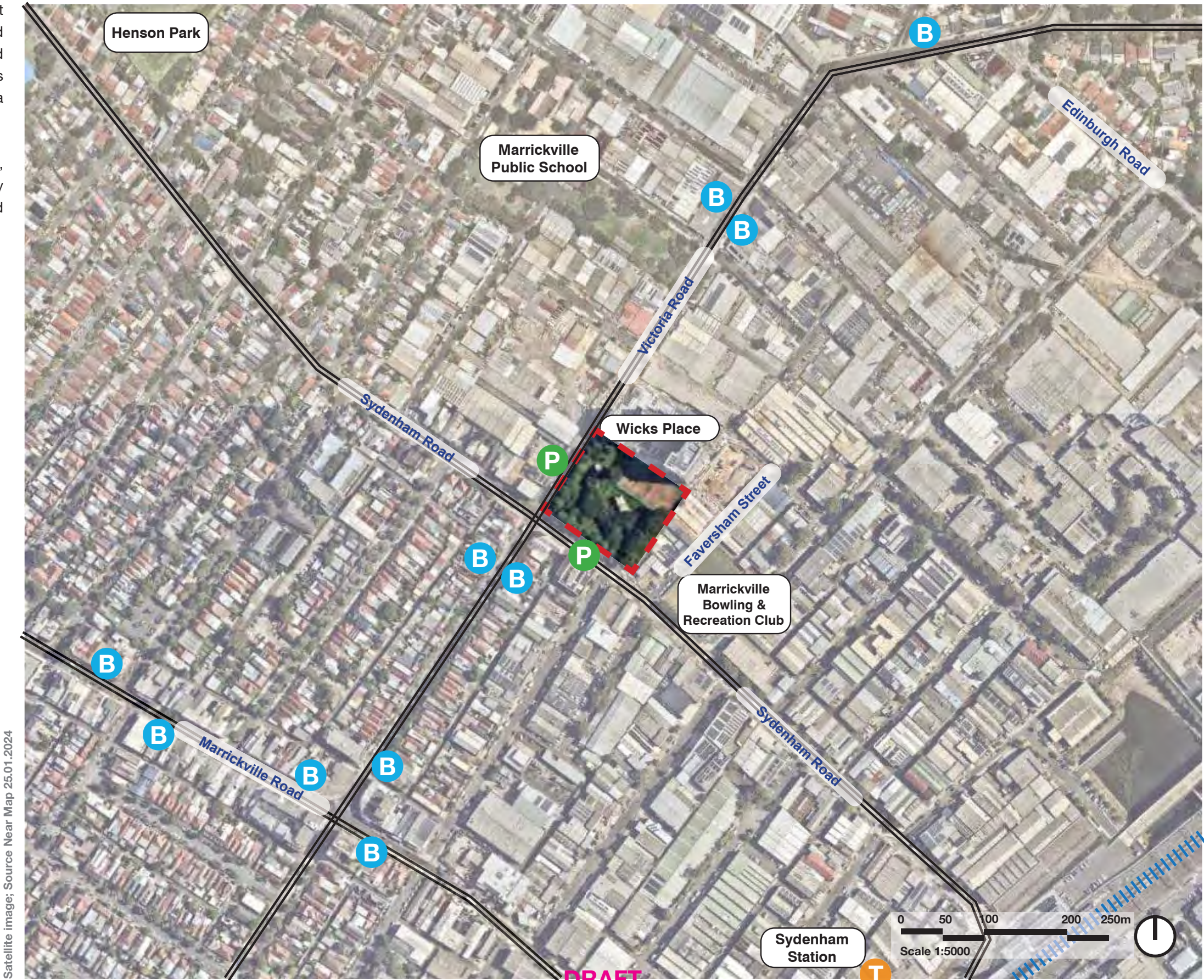
Key features of the Park include a children’s playground, tennis courts with coaching, a diagonal footpath highly trafficked between Victoria Road and Sydenham Road and open lawn areas.



Inner West Council Wards and vegetation communities;
Source Inner West Council Blue-Green Grid Strategy 2023

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- == Major Road
- ||||| Train Line
- B T P Existing Bus/ Light Rail/Train/
Parking



Satellite image; Source Near Map 25.01.2024

2.03 Site Evolution and Heritage

Today, most of the heavy industry of Marrickville has been replaced by hundreds of light industries and homes.

Source: <https://marrickvilleheritage.org.au/2021/11/14/dibble-avenues-waterhole/>
<https://marrickvilleheritage.org.au/2021/07/07/building-blocks-of-empire/>

Aboriginal History

The area of land now known as Marrickville is home to the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation, part of the Darug language group.

A tributary to the Cooks River, the Gumbramorra Creek fed into the Gumbramorra Swamp, which is now hidden under the concrete of Sydenham, St Peters, Marrickville and Tempe. The Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the area tapped into this large wetland as a rich source of wildlife, vegetation and shellfish.

Source: An Old Swamp in the City, Dictionary of Sydney, 2020
https://dictionaryofsydney.org/blog/an_old_swamp_in_the_city

Colonial History

Post European colonisation, in the late 1800s, the local context of the area was dominated by industry which was built upon the Gumbramorra Swamp. The lowest point of the swamp is on the corner of Sydenham Road and Victoria Road, of which Wicks park is now situated.

Draining of the swamp commenced in the 1890s to combat continual flooding of the area, culminating with The Sydenham Pit & Drainage Pumping Station built in the early 1930’s. The pumping station aided with flooding but unfortunately did not fix the issue. The Gumbamorra swamp was subsequently entirely drained.

As Sydney expanded westwards the drained swamp became an important source of building materials such as timber for construction, shell deposits to make mortar and especially clay for brick making.

Park Evolution

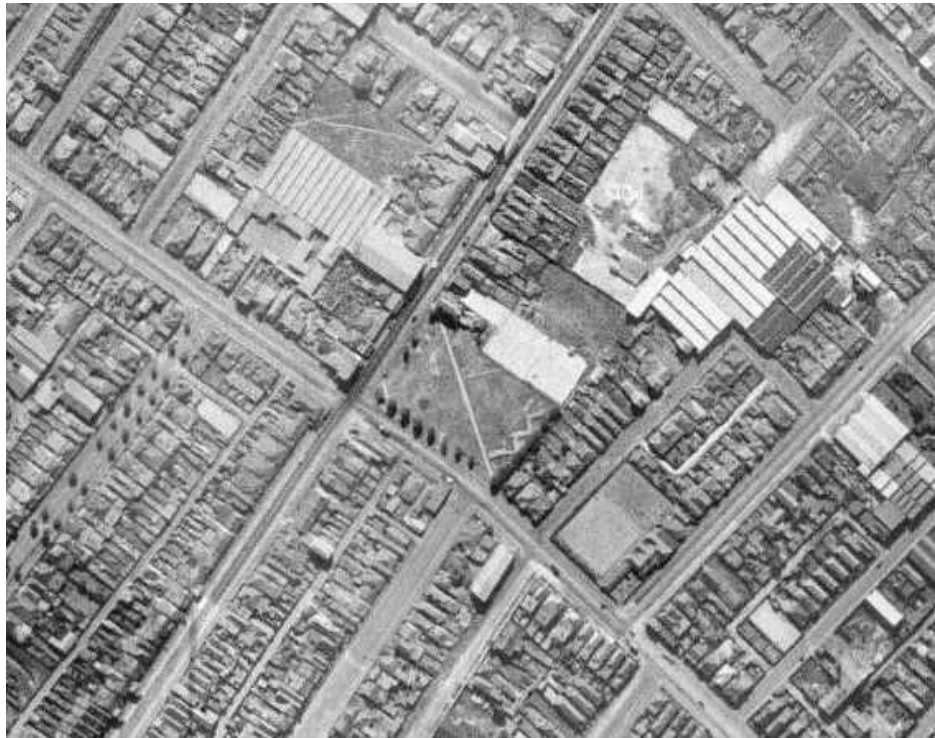
The former Marrickville Council acquired Wicks Park when it was transferred from the Sydney City Council in 1936. Initially the park was established in 1922. It was subsequently named after William Henry Wicks, a Marrickville Council Alderman between 1917 and 1935.

Today is park provides locals and visitors with various amenities and facilities, in particular it’s tennis courts making the park a destination for competitive and recreational tennis players in Inner West.

Construction of the stormwater pit in Garden Street Sydenham, 1935. Source: State Library NSW



1943



Paths and desire lines from Victoria Road through park to Sydenham Road. Tennis courts hardstand visible.

1998



Perimeter trees matured. Playground constructed.

2005



New trees planted along main diagonal footpath.

2019



Completion of new amenities building by Sam Crawford Architects.

2020



Addition of shade sails over playground.

2024



Neighbouring Wicks Place high rise apartments completed.

2.04 Site Character

Location and Description

Wicks Park is a Local Park between the suburbs of Marrickville and Sydenham. The Park is bounded by Sydenham Road to the south and Victoria Road to the west. The area of the park is approximately 8,902 m².

The Park provides a range of public amenities and multiple uses including tennis courts, a playground, an amenities block, a BBQ and picnic areas. There is a straight pathway the cuts diagonally through the park from the north-west corner to the south east corner.

The Park is an important destination for local residents and also attracts a number of residents from adjoining suburbs in the Inner West due to its much loved tennis courts. As the population of Marrickville and the surrounding areas densifies, Wicks Park will become increasingly important as public space for local residents.

Photograph of newly built amenities building and associated planting; Source: Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



2.05 Site Photos



New amenities building; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



Tennis courts with accompanying building and large tree; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



Playground with shade structure; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



Central path with dense canopy trees; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



East view toward industrial area; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



South view toward Sydenham Road, grass die-back; Source Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects

2.06 Future Development

Wicks Park is located within the Victoria Road Precinct identified for urban renewal in the 2011 Marrickville Development Control Plan (DCP).

In the DCP, an increase in the allowable development height and multi-storey mixed use developments along the Victoria Road corridor are proposed within and the precinct is identified as a high growth zone.

As The Victoria Road Precinct is developed in accordance with the DCP, Wicks Park will play a vital role in the area's access to public open space for recreation and leisure.



Section A-A from DCP 2011



Section B-B from DCP 2011



2.07 Site Elements

DESIGN NOTES

- 1 Amenities building
- 2 Tennis center with four synthetic grass tennis courts
- 3 Playground, BBQ and picnic table
- 4 Park benches
- 5 1200mm wide concrete pathway
- 6 Desire line in lawn

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Fencing
-  Maintenance gate
-  Existing drainage channel
-  Bus shelter
-  Existing tennis court and park lighting
-  Existing park signage by Council



2.08 Connectivity and Access

The main pedestrian entries into Wicks Park exist from the northwest corner at Victoria Road, and at the southeast corner at Sydenham Road. The entries link to pathways through the park which provide pedestrian access and is a common thru-link for people in the area. There is also an entrance from the southwest corner and the junction of Victoria and Sydenham Road, however this leads to an unsealed pathway.

There is on-street parking available along Sydenham and Victoria Road which are subject to clearways and other parking restrictions. Vehicle access for maintenance and emergency vehicles to the site is via Sydenham Road, and has a lockable gate.

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Pedestrian and cycle circulation
- - - Desire line in grass
- P On street car parking
- Public transport circulation
- Existing drainage channel



2.09 Planning, Zoning and Ownership

Wicks Park is currently classified as a Local Park and is in zone RE1 Public Recreation, as per the Inner West LEP.

Zoning Details of the Park are as follows:

Lot / DP	Ownership	Land Classification
Lot 1 DP 802618	Inner West Council	Community Land
Lot 2 DP 802618	Inner West Council	Community Land

LEGEND

Site boundary

Lot Boundary

RE1 Public recreation

R2 Low density residential

R4 High density residential

RE2 Private recreation

E3 Productivity support

E4 General industrial

SP2 Classified Road / Future Road Corridor

E1 Local centre

MU1 Mixed use



2.10 Facility Conditions and Maintenance

Wicks Park has several facilities, of which are of varying age and condition. The current facilities include:

- 4 tennis courts
- 1 tennis building
- Various seating areas
- Playground with shade sail
- 1 amenities building
- Walking paths
- Open lawn areas
- BBQ and Picnic tables

LEGEND

- - - Site boundary
- Facility Condition Good
- Facility Condition Fair
- Facility Condition Poor



2.11 Topography and Soil

The soil profile of the site is characterised by:

- Sandy Alluvium
- Birrong Alluvial
- Disturbed Terrain soil landscapes

The fertility of the topsoil is inherently low, but it is often fertilised. Other soil materials have very low fertility.

The site is relatively level, with minimal to no elevation gain across the park.

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Existing contour
-  Elevation marker
-  Existing drainage channel



2.12 Vegetation and Biodiversity

Natural vegetation communities can often be correlated to various environmental habitat factors, such as soils, geology, topography, weather patterns including maritime influences, solar access and water supply. The pre-1750 vegetation community that existed within the site boundary of Wicks Park is Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest.

There are a number of established trees according to Wicks Park Plan of Management 2003 by Marrickville Council:

Tree species	Quantity
Lophostemom confertus	17
Pyrus ussuriensis	15
Cinnamomum camphora	8
Koelreuteria paniculata	6
Jacaranda mimosifolia	4
Ulmus parvifolia	3
Eucalyptus globulus	1
Araucaria heterophylla	1

Further detail can be found in the aboricultural report prepared by Bluegum Tree Care and Consultancy dated March 2024.

The existing tree cover is dense with multiple low handing branches creating a dark setting which impacts peoples movement and plant growth.
There is very little garden or biodiverse shrub planting within the Park.

Total canopy coverage = 4553m²
= 51% of total site area

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Existing trees



2.13 Hydrology and Flood

The mean total rainfall for Marrickville is 1091.8mm - lower than the mean at Sydney Observatory according to the Bureau of Meteorology, 2019-2023 (1447.3mm).

The entirety of the Park is situated within a flood area which is primarily caused by overland water flow, as a remnant of the Gumbramorra Swamp. The Park has issues with drainage and remaining water after rain events.

There is an existing open stormwater drain on the Eastern boundary of the site.

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Existing open stormwater drain
- Overland flooding
- Probable Maximum Flood



2.14 Climate

The park is sheltered from sun and wind in most areas due to the significant collection mature trees, producing a cool and sometimes dark and damp microclimate. The construction of surrounding buildings also contributes to extended shade.

During summer, the main wind direction is from the south, and in the afternoons, there are breezes from the northeast. In winter, the wind is more variable but usually westerly.

LEGEND

- - - Site boundary
- Orange arrow Dominant summer winds
- Blue arrow Dominant winter winds
- Green wavy line Existing tree canopy
- Grey arrow Building Shade



3.00 Opportunities and Constraints

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Photograph of 1200mm wide central concrete pathway; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024

3.01 Constraints and Conditions Summary

DESIGN NOTES

- 1 Playground in need of upgrade
- 2 Limited play features for space available
- 3 Mature, low-canopy trees obstruct light and views into park
- 4 Lack of biodiversity and understorey planting. Turf die-back from shade and poor drainage
- 5 Lack of seating in quiet areas
- 6 Opportunity to connect Wicks Place Development to Wicks Park
- 7 Tennis courts in need of upgrade, lighting issues with direction to Wicks Place
- 8 Tennis building in need of upgrade

LEGEND

- - - Site boundary
- ← Pedestrian / cycle circulation
- ← Informal dirt pedestrian path
- ↔ Lack of formal connection
- P Existing car parking
- ◆ Existing tennis court and park lighting
- ◆ Existing park signage by outdated council

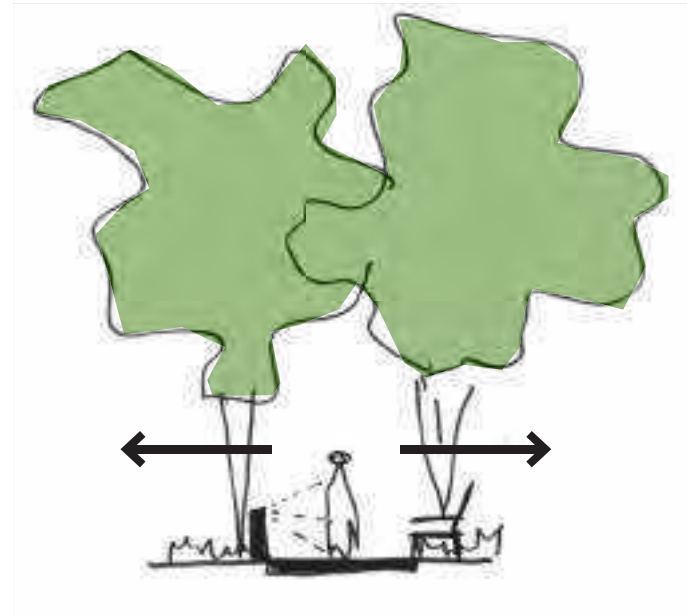


3.02 Opportunities Summary



Create Park core with upgraded playground and meeting places

- Create central 'Heart' for the Park with meeting areas, upgraded BBQ's and seating accommodating for future population growth
- Upgrade playground with softfall, new equipment and shade
- Incorporate multi-function areas for fitness, play and socialising



Crown lift, underprune and understory planting

- Undertake a crown lift to all trees on the site to allow light to pass through them to the ground
- Under prune trees (particularly to central walk) to lift canopies and allow a strengthened sight line through the park
- Biodiversity planting to create separation between spaces
- New low height lighting and seating to pathways throughout



Formalise central picnic lawn

- Formalise central triangle of grass into designated picnic area
- Create a passive recreation meeting place for people in the area
- Additional picnic tables and benches
- Improve drainage and grass health



Refurbish tennis courts and building

- Resurface existing tennis courts
- Engage new lighting that minimises light spill to surrounding properties
- Opportunity to incorporate pickle ball line markings on tennis court to make them multipurpose and encourage various uses
- Move and update tennis building to mitigate hidden corner adjacent to Wicks Place development

3.03 Opportunities Plan

DESIGN NOTES

- 1 Create village 'Heart' with upgraded playground, BBQ' and seating areas
- 2 Integrate additional activities such as gym equipment
- 3 Crown lift and under prune trees to allow light
- 4 Extended gardens for biodiversity and amenity and to create area distinction
- 5 Create central picnic lawn, reinvigorate grass
- 6 Relocate and upgrade tennis storage and club room
- 7 Resurface tennis courts and include multi-purpose line markings and investigate orientation
- 8 Facilitate connection to adjoining development

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Pedestrian cycle circulation
- New / upgraded pedestrian circulation
- Areas for upgrade and enhancement
- Existing car parking
- Replenished garden areas
- Upgraded tennis court and park lighting
- Refreshed park signage at all entrances



4.00 Community Consultation

4.01	Online Engagement	32
4.02	On-site Engagement	33
4.03	Community Engagement Summary	34

Photograph of 1200mm wide central concrete pathway; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024



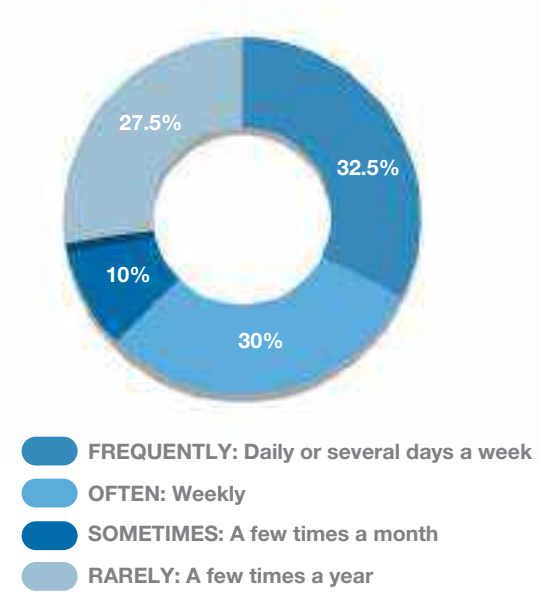
4.01 Online Engagement

Summary

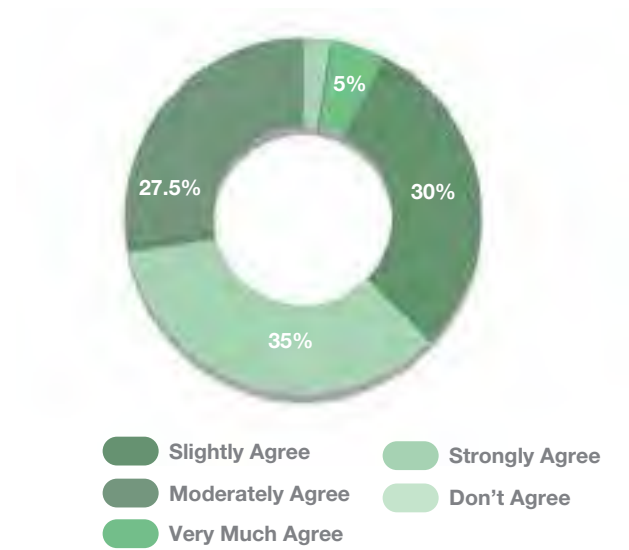
Between 29th of July and 25th of August 2024, the community was invited to provide feedback on Wicks Park through an online survey, and interactive digital map, email, phone and letters.

A total of 40 surveys were completed, 8 emails were received, and 69 pins were received on the digital map (52 highlighted things that were not liked and 17 were liked). An overview of the qualitative data from the online survey is sen to the right and key outcomes from the consultation is on page 34.

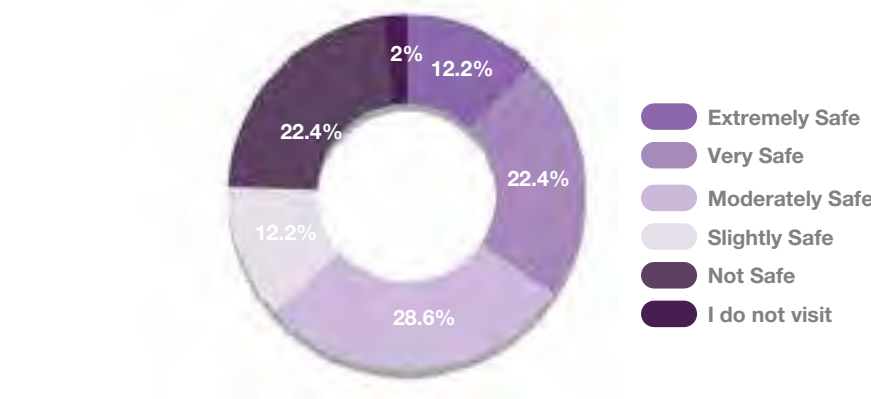
How often do you visit Wicks Park?



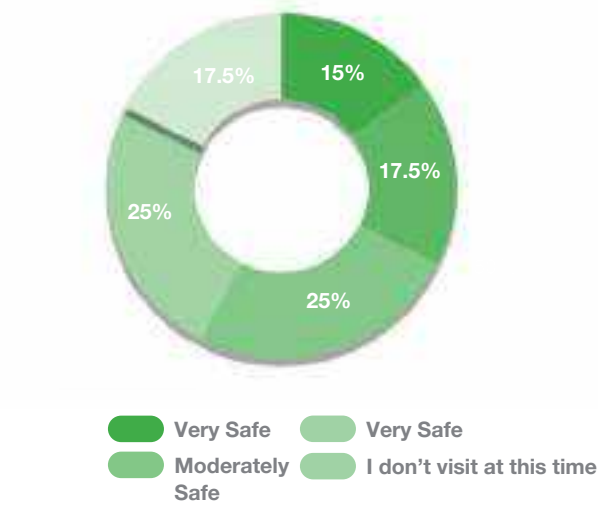
Wicks meets the needs of the community



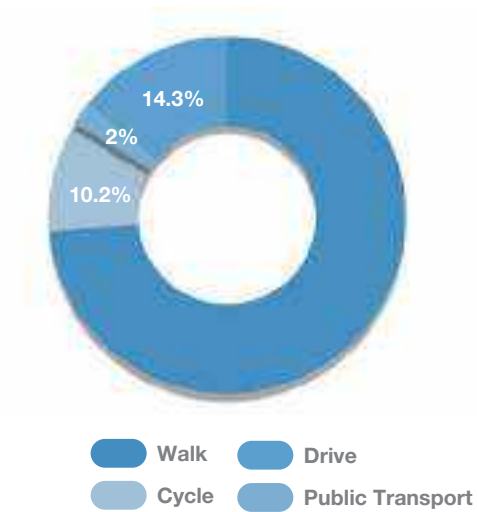
How safe do you feel when visiting during the day?



How safe do you feel when visiting at night?



How do you get to Wicks Park?



4.02 On-site Engagement

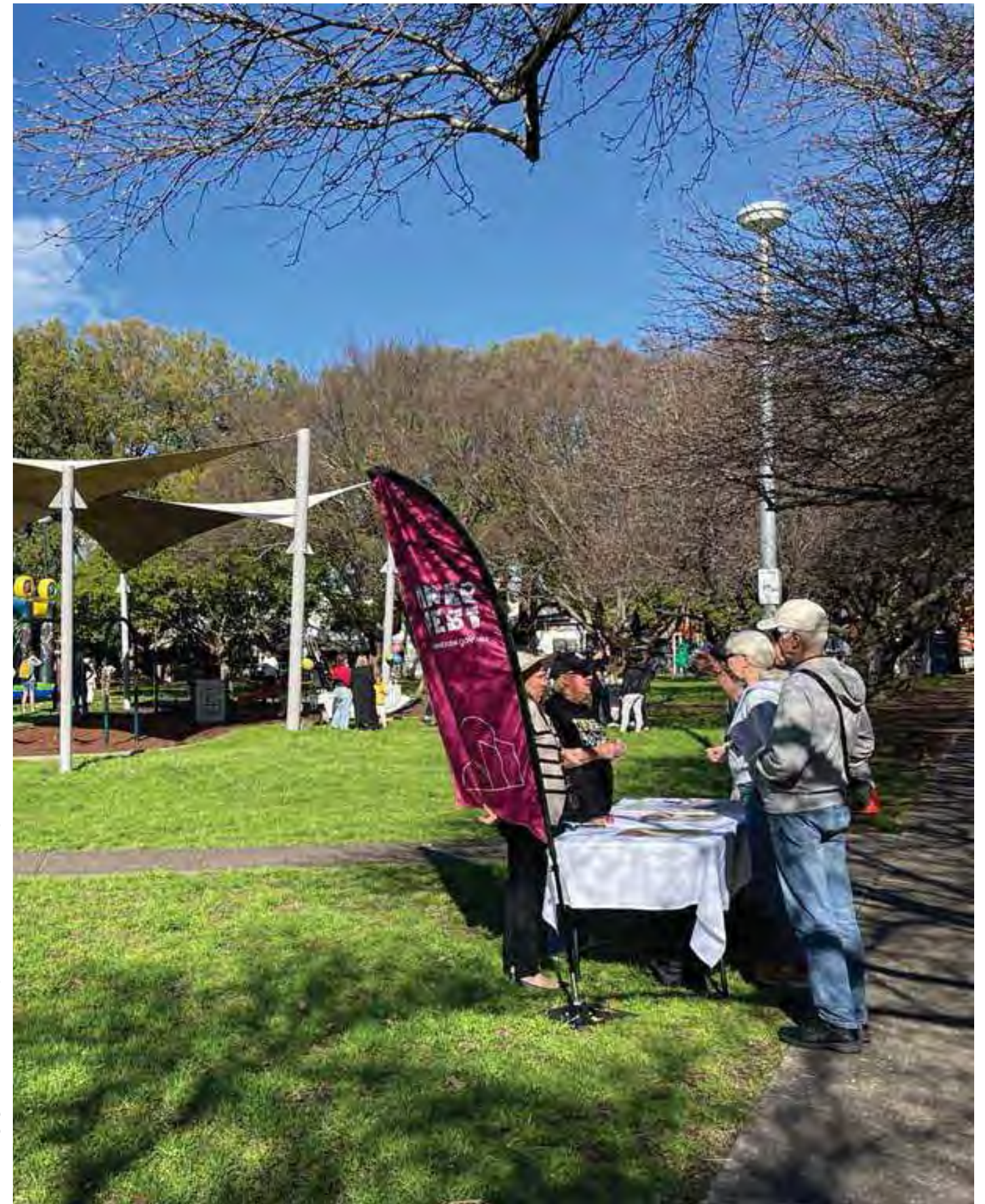
Summary

Representatives from Inner West Council and Taylor Brammer attended an on-site engagement day at Wicks Park on the 17th of August 2024.

Attendees from the community were invited to write on notes or draw directly on a printed satellite image. The total number of attendees on the day was 40.

A diverse range of comments and feedback from Park users were received with outcomes summary on the following page.

On-site engagement. Source: Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects



4.03 Community Engagement Summary

Key Outcomes

Ten key outcomes act as a summation of responses received through both online and on-site engagement channels.

1. Enhance safety and security through upgraded lighting and improved buffer to road

2. Upgrade playground and install soft-fall to minimise mud

3. Improve pathways and connection by increasing paved areas and links to surrounding development

4. Enhance cleanliness and maintenance such as frequency of rubbish bin collection and amenities building cleaning

5. Expand social amenities through additional BBQ's and picnic pavilions for the community to gather

6. Introduce multi-use recreational spaces such as fitness areas

7. Enhance environmental features through additional gardens and biodiversity planting

8. Engage the community with potential for community notice boards and community events within the Park

9. Tennis court improvements through resurfacing, new building and re-orientating lighting to reduce glare

10. Increase natural light through tree pruning and maintenance

These ten identified engagement outcomes acted to form the foundation for preparing this draft masterplan and accompanying Plan of Management. As a response, all ten have been included within the draft masterplan and Plan of Management for the Park.

5.00 Masterplan

5.01	Key Moves	36
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Photograph of 1200mm wide central concrete pathway; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024

5.01 Key Moves



Turruwul Fitness- Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture



Civic Park 'Heart'

- Create a centralised community hub within the Park
- Integrate new undercover picnic areas and BBQ's
- Add additional park seating
- Install community noticeboard and allow for the organisation of community events within the Park
- Create new garden and bio-diversity areas
- Incorporate multi-use recreational spaces such as outdoor gyms and bicycle learn to ride
- A significant upgrade to Wicks Park is vital to ensuring this important open green space can provide for the inhabitants of this rapidly densifying Victoria Road Precinct.

Upgrade and extend playground

- Install updated playground equipment and shade structures
- Incorporate softfall to allow usability after rain and to minimise mud
- Design for increased inclusivity of ages and abilities

Improve connection and amenity

- Resurface pathways and create better connection between elements within the Park and also its surroundings
- Improve lighting throughout the Park through low-height bollard lighting under trees
- Improve buffer to road edges through planting and fence improvements
- Incorporate urban biodiversity measures
- Facilitate continued tree management and underpruning to allow more sunlight into the Park
- Address drainage to ensure robust grass growth

Upgrade active recreation offerings

- Resurface tennis courts and explore the use of multi-purpose linemarking
- Re-orientate the tennis lighting to reduce glare and impact to neighbouring properties
- Incorporate new and relocated tennis storage and team building

5.02 Masterplan Option Functional Diagrams

For the purposes of this draft masterplan, two options are being considered as outlined on the following pages for community consultation and discussion.

Below are how each option would be functionally arranged.

- LEGEND
- 

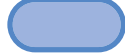
Main Circulation Path
- 

Secondary Circulation Path
- 

Passive Recreation Areas
- 

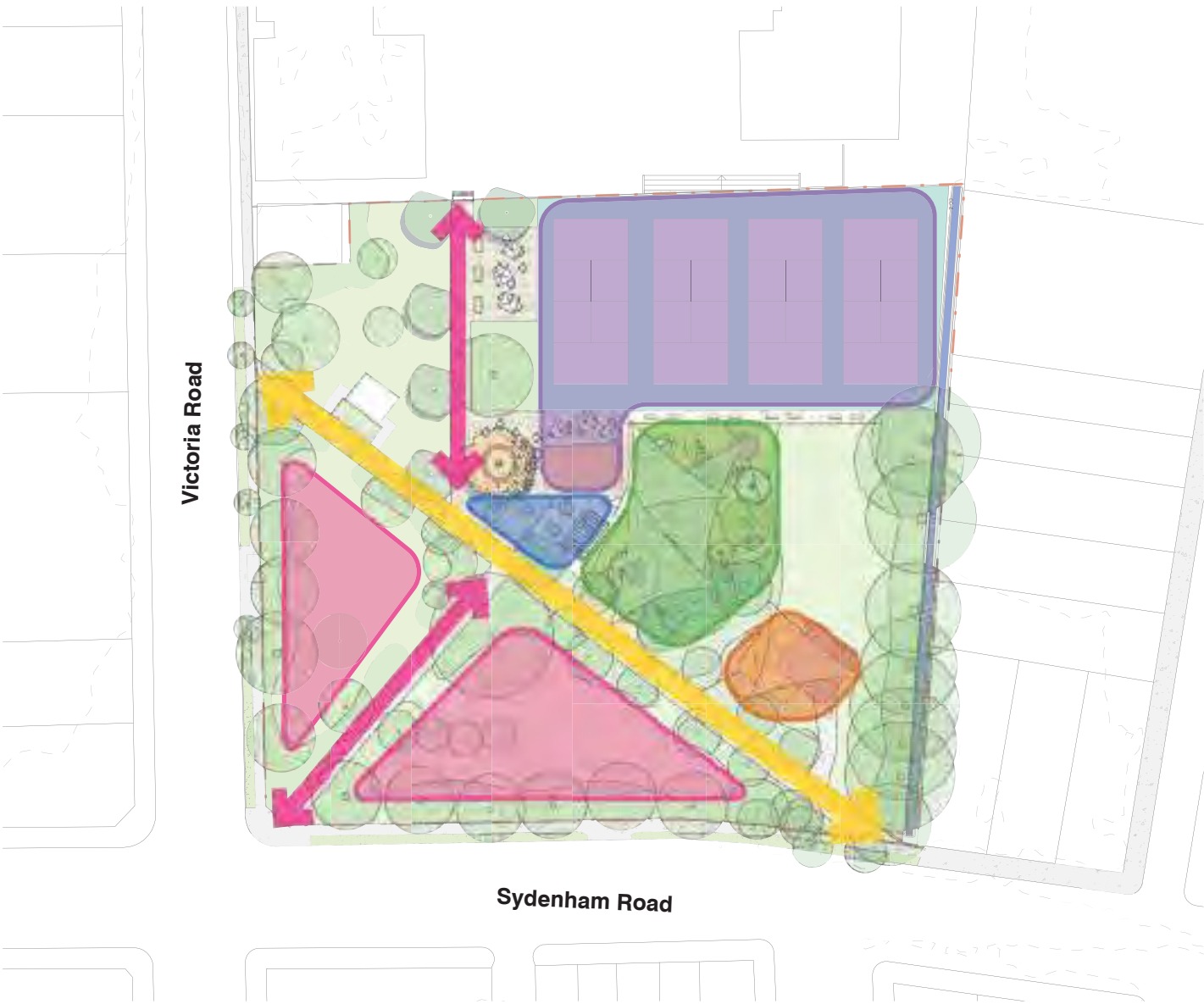
Sport
- 

Playground
- 

Fitness Area
- 

BBQ and Picnic Area

Option One



Option Two



5.03 Masterplan Option One

DESIGN NOTES

- 1 Resurfaced tennis courts with reorientated lighting
- 2 New tennis building and forecourt
- 3 Extended forecourt and seating areas to Wicks Place
- 4 New pathway connection to existing Wicks Place stairs
- 5 Park 'Heart' - community meeting place with picnic shelters, BBQ's and seating areas. Opportunities to gather and for events
- 6 New playground and shade, equipment for all ages and abilities
- 7 New fitness area
- 8 Main connective pathway with underpruned trees, and seating elements
- 9 Picnic lawns with grass improvements
- 10 Biodiversity planting buffers under trees
- 11 Existing amenities building retained
- 12 New tennis spectator seating

LEGEND

-  Existing tree retained
-  New canopy trees
-  Resurfaced courts
-  New softfall pavement
-  New concrete paths and plazas
-  Upgraded tennis and parkland lighting
-  Upgraded signage at all entrances
-  Bin locations with enclosures



5.04 Masterplan Option Two

DESIGN NOTES

- 1 Reorientated and resurfaced tennis courts with reorientated lighting
- 2 New tennis building and forecourt
- 3 Extended hardstand and seating areas to Wicks Place
- 4 New pathway connection to existing Wicks Place stairs
- 5 Park 'Heart' - community meeting place with picnic shelters, BBQ's and seating areas. Opportunities to gather and for events
- 6 New playground and shade, equipment for all ages and abilities
- 7 New fitness area
- 8 Main connective pathway with underpruned trees, and seating elements
- 9 Picnic lawns with grass improvements
- 10 Biodiversity planting buffers under trees
- 11 Existing amenities building retained
- 12 New tennis spectator areas
- 13 New tree buffer to drainage channel

LEGEND

-  Existing tree retained
-  New canopy trees
-  Resurfaced courts
-  New softfall pavement
-  New concrete paths and plazas
-  Upgraded tennis and parkland lighting
-  Upgraded signage at all entrances
-  Bin locations with enclosures



5.05 Masterplan Options Summary



Option One

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All existing trees retained.7 new canopy trees.Intensity of activity centralised within the parkland.New tennis store and forecourt relocated away from existing tree.Existing tennis courts and fencing are retained and resurfaced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interface to Wicks Place development limited.Existing extent buffer to the E3 productivity support on the Western edge of the parkland retained.Distance from amenities to 'Heart' is further than Arrangement 2.



Option Two

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">8 new canopy trees.Reorientation of the tennis courts allows a better interaction with the adjacent Wicks Park Development.Increased buffer to Eastern edge of the parkland.Central grass area for events allows increased flexibility of open space.Increased passive surveillance from building to street and main path.Reduced noise impact from tennis.Buildings aligned and orientated together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential for the removal of 6 trees.Intensity of activity not entirely located centrally but spread more linearly along the central spine.Playground is in closer proximity to residential development.

5.06 Priorities

Priority Breakdown and Costing - Option 1

Masterplan Objective	Priority	Description	Cost Estimate
Resurface tennis courts in their existing location and Re-orientate tennis lighting	High	Resurface existing tennis courts in their existing location, flatten areas impacted by tree roots and address any drainage problems. Explore options for multi-purpose line marking. Explore options to re-orientate tennis lighting as to minimise disruption to surrounding properties.	
Demolish existing tennis building and construct new	High	Remove existing tennis building and construct in new location as per masterplan. Ensure coordination with tennis company as per requirements.	
Install new tennis spectator area	Medium	Install new hardstand and seating to tennis spectator area.	
Install extended forecourt to Wicks Place	Low	Add additional seating and hardstand adjacent to Wicks Place.	
Construct new pathway connection to Wicks Place stairs	High	Connect existing Wicks Place stairs to main pathway network.	
Construct centralised park heart with shelter, picnic tables, BBQ and seating areas	High	Construct new central park area, with hardstand, feature tree, seating, picnic tables, pergola structure, and BBQ.	
Install new playground with shade, nature play, and equipment for all ages and abilities	High	Remove existing playground and install new. Include softfall surface to all and nature play elements. Play equipment to be age-mixed and ability-mixed. Include additional seating.	
Install new fitness area with equipment	Medium	Construct new fitness area with softfall ground treatment and new equipment.	
Widen main connective pathway and install seating elements and new bollard style lighting	High	Widen main pathways and install seats and new bollard style lighting as required.	
Underprune and crown-lift existing trees	High	Undertake extensive underpruning and crown lifting of trees within the Parkland, under arboricultural supervision to allow improved light to the ground.	

Masterplan Objective	Priority	Description	Cost Estimate
Facilitate grass remediation to picnic lawns	Low	Improve drainage and turf vigour throughout picnic lawns.	
Plant biodiversity planting buffers under existing trees	Low	New planting areas and buffers to periphery of parkland and surrounding picnic lawns to decrease mud and grass die-back.	

Estimated costs are current as of May 2025 and are exclusive of GST

5.06 Priorities

Priority Breakdown and Costing - Option 2

Masterplan Objective	Priority	Description	Cost Estimate
Re orientate and resurface tennis courts	High	Re orientate tennis courts to run along Western edge of parkland. Flatten areas impacted by tree roots and address any drainage problems arising. New perimeter fencing and gates. Explore options for multi-purpose line marking.	
Relocate existing tennis lighting	High	Move tennis lighting to new required locations. Re-orientate fixtures as to minimise disruptions to surrounding properties.	
Demolish existing tennis building and construct new	High	Remove existing tennis building and construct in new location as per masterplan. Ensure coordination with tennis company as per requirements.	
Install new tennis spectator areas	Medium	Install new hardstand and seating to tennis spectator area.	
Extend hardstand and seating area to Wicks Place	Low	Add additional seating and hardstand adjacent to Wicks Place to allow connection from existing bleacher stairs to the parkland.	
Construct new pathway connection to Wicks Place stairs	High	Connect existing Wicks Place stairs to main pathway network.	
Construct centralised park heart with shelter, picnic tables, BBQ and seating areas	High	Construct new central park area, with hardstand, feature tree, seating, picnic tables, pergola structures, and BBQs.	
Install new playground with shade, nature play, and equipment for all ages and abilities	High	Remove existing playground and install new. Include softfall surface to all and nature play elements. Play equipment to be age-mixed and ability-mixed. Include additional seating.	
Install new fitness area with equipment	Medium	Construct new fitness area with softfall ground treatment and new equipment.	

Masterplan Objective	Priority	Description	Cost Estimate
Main connective pathway with under pruned trees, and seating Elements	High	Widen main pathways and install seats and new bollard style lighting as required. Undertake extensive underpruing and crown lifting of trees within the Parkland, under arboricultural supervision to allow improved light to the ground.	
Facilitate grass remediation to picnic lawns	Medium	Improve drainage and turf vigour throughout picnic lawns.	
Plant biodiversity planting buffers under existing trees	Low	New planting areas and buffers to periphery of parkland and surrounding picnic lawns to decrease mud and grass die-back.	
Install new tree planting buffer to drainage channel	Medium	Plant new tree buffer to drainage channel in area vacated by tennis court relocation.	

Estimated costs are current as of May 2025 and are exclusive of GST

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Photograph of 1200mm wide central concrete pathway; Source Taylor Brammer 31.01.2024