02 The Master Plan

Introduction

Founded 150 years ago, Moore Park is one of Australia’s most significant Parks and is widely loved as part of inner Sydney’s ‘green lungs.’ It includes magnificent landscapes, significant heritage features and 115 hectares of public open space. It offers a green escape from the urban density and complexity of our city. Moore Park has evolved and adapted to keep pace with a changing world, but while the city has grown around it, the Park has also retained its natural and cultural heritage.

In the lead-up to the 150th anniversary, the Master Plan defines the Park’s future.

Master Plan Summary

Sydney has a growing population and over the next 20 years we will see an increase of more than 70,000 new residents in the suburbs surrounding Moore Park. Significant areas of new green open space and recreation amenities have not been planned to support this growth. Parkland for both active and passive recreation will become increasingly valuable; placing greater importance on ensuring the integrity of Moore Park is strengthened with improved connectivity, increasingly accessibility and diversified with more sustainable revenue streams.

The development of a Master Plan for Moore Park moving towards 2040 is crucial. The plan will act as a framework to guide the future management and development of this valuable Park; allowing it to adapt and evolve to meet future needs and demands, while nurturing a new generation of visitors, supporters and advocates.

The rapidly growing population in neighbouring areas is going to increase pressure and demands on the use of the Park. Moore Park currently caters for more active, structured sport and recreation participation, however, there is an increasing trend of visitors who are choosing to participate in an array of unstructured activities. The challenge is to ensure Moore Park will once again adapt to the pressures placed on it from increased urban population and changing recreational trends.

The Entertainment Quarter and Fox Studios are governed by a complex planning framework and lease agreements resulting in a poorly connected precinct. This makes it difficult for the precinct to evolve into a vibrant and safe area that’s accessible to all. Transportation and access demands are also changing; with a new light rail network serving the Park, creating both challenges and new opportunities. Understanding the needs and demands of the users will increase visitation and participation and in turn drive more sustainable, robust revenue streams.

It is crucial to set up an appropriate framework that outlines strategies on how the Park can continue to balance and accommodate community needs, while remaining Sydney’s most popular and loved active green space. The Master Plan presents the CPMPT’s vision, objectives and purpose.

In summary, the objectives are aimed at developing a framework for the parkland’s long term sustainable use, management and renewal to meet capacity and usage challenges while ensuring its ongoing viability. We have summarised five key challenges and emerging opportunities the Park faces which need to be addressed to achieve a successful outcome:

- Improving access, connectivity and permeability
- Developing the right planning guidelines to match change in community use
- Seeking solutions for the management of complex leasehold boundaries
- Recovering green space, and finding sustainable solutions to car parking
- Mitigating impacts of climate change

The six key Master Plan moves include:

- One integrated parkland comprised of six precincts
- Green spaces greened, and built spaces revitalised
- Primary movement structure characterised by avenue tree planting and intersected by hubs of activity
- Moore Park’s multi-layered history celebrated through adaptive re-use and interpretation
- Greater integration between the precinct and surrounds for pedestrians and cyclists
- World-class entertainment precinct with dynamic indoor and outdoor event spaces that are interconnected with multiple entry points

And the six key themes are:

- Green; Heritage; Access; Sport; Leisure; and Entertainment

These strategies have been developed to ensure Moore Park has a plan that is compelling and ‘owned’ by everyone; the CPMPT and the community alike.

In the lead-up to the 150th anniversary, the Master Plan defines the Park’s future.
Summary of Key Challenges and Emerging Opportunities

Improving access, connectivity and permeability
- Major arterial roads dissect the site, creating separate precincts which are difficult to access.
- These roads are lined with magnificent mature figs, making them some of Sydney’s most identifiable urban boulevards. The opportunity exists to strengthen these as the main unifying elements, stitching the separate precincts together.
- Currently the site suffers from many physical barriers that prevent easy pedestrian movement through the Park, such as the heritage wall around Entertainment Quarter and Moore Park Golf.
- Limited pedestrian paths and cycle routes through the precinct discourage people from exploring, playing and interacting.
- Opportunities exist to break down these existing barriers and improve pedestrian and cycle connections across the Park.
- A growing population in neighbouring localities will demand better access and connection to the Park.
- Identifying and implementing opportunities to improve and strengthen pedestrian, cycle, car, bus and light rail connections to better serve the future is crucial.

Developing the right planning guidelines to match change in community use
- The current planning guidelines restrict the use of the Entertainment Quarter Precinct to film, family entertainment uses, and other related activities.
- The restricted use of this precinct limits the possibility for activation, therefore preventing it from being as inviting and safe as it could be.
- The Fox Studios film precinct is not accessible to the public and has limited engagement with the community.
- The opportunity exists for a review of current planning guidelines to allow for greater flexibility and the ability to create a broader range of uses that will improve engagement with the community.

Seeking solutions for the management of complex leasehold boundaries
- Complex lease boundaries between the Entertainment Quarter, Hordern Pavilion, Royal Hall of Industries and Fox Studios create conflict, making a symbiotic relationship difficult.
- The operational and maintenance practices of the current leaseholders make activation along Driver’s Avenue difficult to achieve. Currently there are back-of-house uses and drive-way entrances along Driver’s Avenue, limiting permeability into the Entertainment Quarter.
- A re-think of entrances and back-of-house locations opens the opportunity for new connections, activation and the creation of a better integrated precinct.

Recovering green space, and finding sustainable solutions to car parking
- Increasing visitation and growing traffic volumes present access and parking problems across the Park.
- Temporary event parking on the grassland at Moore Park East diminishes the Park’s quality and flexibility for sporting use. It also conflicts with pedestrian exit flow from the SCG and SFS after events.
- Distributed car parking facilities across the Park will cater to individual sporting venues and minimise concentration of traffic volumes in single areas to reduce congestion before and after events.
- Progressive re-location of on-grass car parking to distributed locations can recover valuable areas of green space and unlock new opportunities for increased passive and active recreation use across the parkland.

Mitigating impacts of climate change
- Greater unpredictability of climate is leading to increased average temperatures and extreme heat days, and increased frequency and severity of storms, droughts and floods. This is creating increasing challenges for the health and management of the Park, particularly for its ecological systems.
- Key strategies and opportunities for mitigation include:
  - Promoting sustainable, active transport options to limit reliance on the private car and help reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Adopting sustainable building practices, such as utilising locally sourced materials for the development of new or refurbished facilities to improve energy and water efficiencies.
  - Increasing native planting where appropriate.
  - Enhancing the health and quality of green space.
  - Maintaining an environmentally sustainable water use strategy including minimal irrigation and reduced reliance on potable water supplies.
Moore Park is a place for everyone. It is a place that offers a diverse range of engaging recreational and sporting activities.

The park has a strong cultural and historical significance – particularly its relationship to community health, wellbeing and recreational opportunity throughout its green spaces.

Referred to by some as the 'green lungs of the city', this process aims to strengthen and revitalise Moore Park for future generations.

**Vision**

Moore Park 2040 | A place for everyone

A plan to green the green space & revitalise the built space

**Principles**

01 Preserving the green space and heritage

- Conserve the green space, & protect the Park’s natural, built and cultural heritage

02 Better connected and more permeable

- Increase public access to and across the Park while breaking down barriers to pedestrian and cyclist flow

03 Improved visitation and participation

- A place for all to play: balancing community & high performance sports and leisure activities with world-class entertainment and events

04 Improving sustainability

- Strengthen the Park’s, social, environmental & financial sustainability

**THE MASTER PLAN**

- Explore by THEME

  - GREEN
  - HERITAGE
  - ACCESS
  - SPORTS
  - LEISURE
  - ENTERTAINMENT

- or USER GROUP

  - FAMILY
  - CYCLISTS
  - WALKERS
  - GOLFERS
  - NATURE LOVERS
  - HERITAGE LOVERS
  - EXPERIENCE SEEKERS
  - SPORTS FANS
  - WORKERS
  - SPORTS PARTICIPANTS
Figure 2.2: Artist’s impression of the proposed look and feel of Moore Park north of Moore Park Golf and Robertson Road Fields. Note: DIGITALLY ALTERED IMAGE

Proposed Light Rail Station

Existing Bus Stop

Central Station

Revitalise the Built Space

Revitalise the Built Space

Green the Green Space

Revitalise the Built Space

Restore Heritage

Revitalise the Built Space
The four principles have been built upon to create a Master Plan for the future of Moore Park towards 2040. The Master Plan represents the synthesis of a comprehensive and transparent design process. It is based on detailed physical analysis and the collection of data across a range of specialist disciplines such as:

- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Design
- Traffic and Transport Planning
- Statutory and Strategic Planning
- Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Sport and Recreational Planning
- Arboricultural Analysis

It is also informed by detailed public consultation with community groups, the general public and key stakeholders – clubs, codes and tenants across the precinct – as well as with neighbouring Trusts, local Councils and political representatives.

The Master Plan brings together a number of recently completed or committed projects (such as the Albert Tibby Cotter Bridge and CBD & SE Light Rail) and foreshadows a number of potential future projects (such as a possible Toll House upgrade or construction of a short form golf facility).

It also establishes a robust evaluation method to consider and assess the value of future as-yet-unknown proposals within Moore Park.

In this sense, the Master Plan is both strategic and specific – at a strategic level, the Master Plan guides future proposals in a manner that ensures they contribute to a bigger picture. And at a specific level, the Master Plan enshrines a series of identified short to mid-term projects into the fabric of Moore Park.

The Master Plan is intended to guide the future development and management of Moore Park – as critical public open space – up to the year 2040.
Moore Park’s multi-layered history celebrated through adaptive re-use and interpretation

**Surry Hills**
Central event and entertainment plaza

**MOORE PARK EAST**

**MOORE PARK WEST**

**MOORE PARK SOUTH**

**MOORE PARK GOLF**

**ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER**

**KEY MOVES**

- Improved pedestrian and cycle access to Entertainment Quarter, Sports Stadia and improved employee access to Fox Studios
- Continue priority tree-lined boulevards with pedestrian and cycle priority along Driver Avenue
- New feature tree planting along the Entertainment Boulevard at Driver Avenue
- New tree planting at top of Mt Steel
- Reconfigured park edge to increase pedestrian and cycle access along the Park’s perimeter with new understorey planting including sedges and grasses
- Vegetation buffer along South D околоing Street
- Conserve and enhance heritage open spaces
- Conserve and enhance existing areas of open space
- Introduce new full-size Rugby field within Moore Park East
- Central event and entertainment plaza
- Existing heritage wall
- Conserve heritage buildings and identify opportunities for adaptive re-use
- Approved building envelope for re-development
- Any upgrade of existing or development of new facilities to minimise energy and water consumption
- Existing building form
- Improve amenity of natural lookout from top of Mt Steel and introduce public access to lookout adjacent to E.S. Marks Athletics Field
- Enhance green open space following the progressive removal of the temporary event on-grass parking in Moore Park East
- Adaptive re-use of the Moore Park Toll House and integrate into a new sporting precinct with improved access and parking
- Maintain, enhance and interpret the historic Kippax Lake while maintaining its importance as a destination for social and cultural activities. Introduce appropriate aquatic plantings to maintain a healthy aquatic habitat.
- Examine potential relocation of event bus loop on Driver Avenue following completion of Light Rail
- Adaptive re-use of Tram Shed and integrate use with new Entertainment Boulevard along Driver Avenue
- Primary entrance to Entertainment Quarter linked directly with the future Moore Park Light Rail stop
- Prominent new pedestrian and cycle boulevard along Dacey Avenue with potential new entry to Centennial Park improving access to the Park for the growing number of Green Square residents
- Encourage greater range of pre- and post-game activities through improved integration of entertainment and sports precinct
- Improve flexibility of sporting facilities to meet future demands, eg new multi-purpose fields and/or courts
- Upgrade E.S. Marks Athletics Field facilities and services and provide for high performance sports training and community sports facilities.
- Return the former Show Ring to its historic use as an active multi-purpose sports and events venue
- Rejuvenate open space and sporting fields in Moore Park West following construction of light rail
- Review the planning controls for Entertainment Quarter to increase activation and balance between commercial, recreation and public access
- Enhance and revitalise Equestrian Centre facilities including potential for a new welcome centre at the main entrance
- Continue relationship with neighbouring school for additional event car parking options outside of school hours
- Create Moore Park Common adjacent to Kippax Lake in Moore Park East - as a community destination for passive and active recreation
- Increase tree and understorey planting within the Moore Park Golf Course at appropriate locations
- Potential Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) landscape treatment along Driver Avenue
- Establish a key stakeholder working group to explore further options in the precinct to address traffic movement, congestion and parking issues

**MOORE PARK MASTER PLAN 2040**

- Continuous pedestrian and cyclist paths
- Improved pedestrian and cycle access to Entertainment Quarter and South D околоing Street
- Continuous pedestrian and cyclist paths
- Creation of an Entertainment Boulevard with pedestrian and cyclist priority along Driver Avenue
- Improve access and increase capacity at existing car park locations
- Potential underground car parking option
- Continuous fitness circuit
- Upgrade sporting fields / courts and amenities
- Introduce new golfing activities within the Moore Park Golf precinct to meet changing trends of golf in the future
- High performance fields with equitable community access
- Introduce new sports related commercial activities and facilities
- Future light rail and stops
- Direct pedestrian connection to Central Station
- Informal pedestrian connection
- Enhance pedestrian and cycle connection
- Continuous pedestrian and cyclist paths
- Creation of an Entertainment Boulevard with pedestrian and cycle priority along Driver Avenue
- Improve access and increase capacity at existing car park locations
- Potential underground car parking option
- Continuous fitness circuit
- Upgrade sporting fields / courts and amenities
- Introduce new golfing activities within the Moore Park Golf precinct to meet changing trends of golf in the future
- High performance fields with equitable community access
- Introduce new sports related commercial activities and facilities
- Future light rail and stops
- Direct pedestrian connection to Central Station
- Informal pedestrian connection
02 The Master Plan
By Theme

EXPLORE BY THEME

GREEN

HERITAGE

ACCESS

SPORTS

LEISURE

ENTERTAINMENT

Figure 2.4. Artist’s impression of a new community destination at Kippax Lake, including new picnic and barbeque facilities, a children’s playground, and new tree planting.
02 The Master Plan
By Theme

SIX Themes

HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHIER COMMUNITY
Keeping the green areas green is the number one priority for Moore Park and the people of Sydney. More trees will be planted throughout the Park, contributing to the cooling of our city and improvements to air quality and wellbeing.

You’ll be able to stroll or cycle under more tree-lined boulevards that will also add habitat for our native bird and animal populations. Grass areas will be significantly enhanced, especially as on-grass event day parking is progressively removed from the Park.

GREEN

1.1 TREES
With extraordinary foresight from Charles Moore, the tree planting along Moore Park’s roadways are arguably its most identifiable feature. Enhancing and expanding this landscape feature with new tree planting will create a stately unifying signature, and link each precinct together. Additional tree planting throughout the Park is also important to replace lost specimens, visually integrate the place as a whole, provide shade, wind protection, ecological habitats, noise and visual screening to new developments and create spatial definition.

Key Challenges to Address
- Irregular planting along various sections limit the continuous tree lined boulevard character.
- Trees removed for the light rail project need to be replaced.
- Relatively narrow range of species diversity exists largely due to adverse physical and biological conditions.
- Some boulevards are poorly lit and not amenable to pedestrians after dark.
- Poor integration with pedestrian pathways and cycleways exists in the broader region limiting permeability.

Key Strategies for the Future
- Recognising appropriate succession strategies for ageing mature fig trees.

1.2 LANDSCAPING
Moore Park’s natural landscape are what make it the “lungs of the city” - a vital space for community recreation, health and wellbeing. With increasing pressure and demands on the use of green open space for community use, particularly as surrounding areas continue to grow with almost no sizeable green space provision, conserving and enhancing Moore Park’s natural landscape is key to the ongoing health and sustainability of Sydney.

Key Challenges to Address
- Some boulevards are poorly lit and not amenable to pedestrians after dark.
- Poor integration with pedestrian pathways and cycleways exists in the broader region limiting permeability.
- Some boulevards are poorly lit and not amenable to pedestrians after dark.
- Relatively narrow range of species diversity exists largely due to adverse physical and biological conditions.

Key Strategies for the Future
- Strengthen tree lined boulevards to recognised their role in the natural history of the site while creating better integration of one parkland.
- Strengthen tree canopy in harmony with future infrastructure development.
- Create a landscape buffer along South Dowling Street to improve edge condition and contribute to the tree lined boulevard character of the Park.
- Reinforce tree lined boulevards as major movement axes for pedestrians and cyclists which integrate into the wider network.
- Implement an appropriate re-planting strategy to compensate for trees lost during construction of the light rail.
- Re-vegetation commitment is for 2 to 8 new trees for each lost (depending on the size lost).
- Increase tree species diversity to protect the park from the impact of potential pest or disease attacks that may impact on one species.
- Re-populate indigenous native planting of the Botany Sands systems in suitable locations such as at Moore Park Golf Course, Robertson Road Precinct and Moore Park West Precinct.

1.3 WILDLIFE
Wildlife habitats will be conserved and enhanced to add to the city’s biodiversity and wellbeing. Kippax Lake is an important part of the city’s natural ecosystem, it plays a vital role in the stormwater management of the Park, is home to eels and other invertebrates, and is a resting and nesting place for native birds.

Key Challenges to Address
- Threats of major and disruptive development on wildlife habitat from potential pest or disease attacks.
- The surrounding urban context largely isolates habitat in the Park, limiting native fauna movement.

Key Strategies for the Future
- Protect and conserve Kippax Lake (the last remaining lake in Moore Park) and raise awareness of the importance of Kippax Lake to current and future generations.
- Enhance vegetation habitats across the Park and Park edges to increase biodiversity with additional tree and understory planting (such as low level sedges and grasses to ensure new vegetation does not compromise safety and passive surveillance).
- Create habitat corridors between areas of green open space (both within and beyond the Park’s boundaries).
Strengthened tree-lined boulevards along the Park’s main roads

Extension of Federation Way along Cleveland Street

Extension of tree-lined urban boulevards into the surrounding context

New feature tree planting defining a pedestrianised entertainment boulevard along Driver Avenue and Moore Park Common to the north-west of Kippax Lake

New or enhanced feature tree planting and lighting along key pedestrian links. Avenue planting along new pedestrian connections to be expressed as a significant new layer in the evolution of the place with its own integrity

New vegetation buffer along South Dowling Street to improve edge condition including increased visual and noise screening, while contributing to the tree-lined urban boulevard character

New understorey planting including low level sedges and grasses along park edges within which new bike and pedestrian paths pass through

New tree planting at the top of Mt Steel and to the south-west of E.S. Marks Athletics Field to better define the natural lookout, while increasing amenity and shade

Signature tree planting and signage at key entry nodes

Increase tree and understorey planting within the Moore Park Golf Course at appropriate locations

1.2 LANDSCAPING

Enhancement of green open space in Moore Park East following progressive removal of temporary on-grass car parking

Rejuvenation of Moore Park West following construction of Light Rail

Examine potential relocation of event bus pick-up/set-down following construction of the light rail

Potential Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) landscape treatment along Driver Avenue

Introduce appropriate aquatic plantings at Kippax Lake to help maintain the health of the aquatic habitat by filtering out pollutants from stormwater runoff

General: Restrict scale of new developments on green space that impact adversely on the Park through loss of open space together with impacts on heritage, environmental and social values

1.3 WILDLIFE

Raise awareness of the environmental importance of Kippax Lake to current and future generations

Create continuous habitat corridors linking areas of green open space, both within and beyond the boundaries of Moore Park

General: Additional planting of new trees in appropriate locations across the Park to compensate for those lost during the construction of the new light rail and to provide additional shade, wind protection, ecological habitats, noise and visual screening and spatial definition.

Figure 2.6. Green Map

Explore by User Group (refer to pages 34 to 45)
Moore Park’s rich and multi-layered history is often unrealised. Finding ways to creatively communicate and interpret its story across the Park is a key challenge.

Key Challenges to Address
- Raising public understanding of the evolution of Moore Park’s landscape and history (including significant historic uses such as the Zoological Gardens, Military Rifle Range & Royal Easter Show).
- Identifying opportunities for heritage interpretation to tell the story of the park’s multi-layered history.

Key Strategies for the Future
- Engage with the site’s historical context through story and interpretation.
- Recognise the major entertainment uses and events that have historical significance in the park.
- Celebrate former historical uses by reviving and re-interpreting appropriate uses in a way that meets current and future requirements.
- Any new design projects to demonstrate an understanding of the historical evolution of the place and that design proposals be integrated with interpretation.
Key opportunities in the Master Plan

2.1 BUILT HERITAGE

- Adaptive re-use of the historic Moore Park Toll House for new sporting related activities and facilities and the Driver Avenue Tram Shed to bring back to life as a cafe or another appropriate use that adds community benefit.
- Conserve the historic use of E.S. Marks Athletics Field for athletics while upgrading facilities to support modern athletics competition standards.
- Recognise and conserve heritage items, buildings and spaces across Moore Park, particularly within Entertainment Quarter and Fox Studios.
- Return the Show Ring to its historic use as a multi-purpose place for sport, concerts and events.
- Create / utilise existing access points in heritage wall and fences for pedestrians and cyclists to improve permeability and create more memorable entrances.
- Potential for significant new gateway entry to mark the Sesquicentennial anniversary (150 year) at the northern entrance to the Park.

2.2 LIVING HERITAGE

- Maintain and strengthen the historic avenue of trees along the major arterial roads.
- Conserve and enhance remaining areas of Sydney’s former Sydney Common, including Mt Steel, Kippax Lake, and the open space system for public recreation use.
- Maintain historical alignment of trees defining key pedestrian routes in Moore Park East, including the double row of Canary Island Palms defining MacArthur and Gregory Avenues.

2.3 INTERPRETATION

- Create opportunities for interpretation and engagement to tell the story of:
  1. Kippax Lake and Busby's Bore and its role in Sydney's early water supply.
  2. Royal Easter Show.
  3. The importance of Anzac Parade and military use in line with the newly relocated obelisk.
  4. Active sport and leisure history, such as cricket, golf and athletics.
  5. Zoological Gardens.
  6. Former Sydney Common and Moore Park’s living history of bold plantations and open grassed space.