



establishing an education precinct

fact sheet

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Trust) has established an education precinct within Centennial Park for the use of schools, the community and Centennial Parklands volunteers.

This precinct that offers a variety of opportunities and experiences, including a:

- multi-functional **Learning Centre** to allow for covered classroom space and community and recreational hire
- **Discovery Garden** which includes elements such as compost bays and recycling materials, soil profile boxes for exploring, and interactive table gardens
- **Community Nursery** where volunteers, students and community groups can propagate plants for the Parklands

Currently over 12,000 students per year participate in educational programs in the Parklands. This all weather facility will reduce class cancellations due to inclement weather and increase our capacity for more activities.

We also propose to further develop:

- **Discovery Trail** through an adjacent woodland area providing an interactive learning walk for students and allow for self-guided walks by visitors; and
- **Ponds System Model** that will demonstrate how the Parklands' ponds filter water through the whole Botany catchment including the Botany Aquifer which Centennial Parklands sits atop.

A precinct built on recycling principles

The Education Precinct is located on the site of a bulk storage and waste disposal area which then became a paved surface for events. This site suited the Trust's long term vision for education facilities, especially as there was no loss of greenspace within the Park.

The Learning Centre was previously an old demountable building which housed Trust staff. The building was split into three and relocated to the site, craned into position for re-assembly and refurbished. The new deck external to the building is constructed using a recycled wood-plastic composite. The composite materials used require less maintenance than timber and avoids the use of preservatives.

In addition to protection from wet weather, the new external deck roof is designed as a sun-shade to assist cooling. All roof structures are connected to water tanks that are for garden watering and teaching purposes. General rainwater on the site is captured by subterranean beds and is not directly discharged into the ponds.

The vegetable gardens in the Discovery Garden will also promote how sustainability issues can be undertaken at home. A number of interpretive bays help demonstrate environmental principles such as waste management, recycling and soil or water management.



A resource for environmental education

The Education Precinct provides an outstanding opportunity for the education program to also focus on the rare environmental features found within a densely populated urban environment

The pond system within Centennial Parklands captures stormwater from the surrounding Eastern Suburbs. The critical issue for the Trust is that our pond system forms the upper catchment of the Greater Botany Wetland - that flows from the Parklands through Rosebery and onto the Airport eventually discharging into Botany Bay. A key aim for the Trust is ensuring the quality of stormwater is improved prior to flowing downstream.

We do this through initiatives such as European Carp removal and native fish re-stocking, pond bank landscaping to prevent erosion and draw down on high nutrient levels found in stormwater, and capturing waste through Gross Pollutant Traps and waste capturing devices. These unique environmental assets adjacent to the precinct will allow the Trust to deliver curriculum-aligned, hands-on educational programs for the schools of Greater Sydney and beyond.

A resource for volunteers and community groups

The Trust aims to create a sense of community and volunteer inclusion and engagement with the Education Precinct through a range of opportunities, including:

- The Centennial Parklands Volunteer Program has opportunities in bush regeneration, plant propagation, pond maintenance and visitor information services. This Community Nursery will provide our volunteers with proper facilities to propagate our threatened Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrubs plants that can often succumb to fungal disease during propagation.
- The Learning Centre will be used by our Carp Fishing Volunteers who meet once a month to assist in the removal of the pest species, European Carp from our pond system.
- The Learning Centre will also be used by the group of intellectually-disabled trainees from the Windgap Foundation, who propagate banksias and undertake pond bank landscape works.

Other community groups will be able to book and use the Precinct. All enquiries can be directed to: info@centennialparklands.com.au or (02) 9339 6699.

Thanks to our generous supporters

This new precinct will be the centre for educational and community programs within the Parklands and has been made possible by the NSW Government, the Centennial Parklands Foundation, Visy and the Trust working together to deliver this great new resource. The Centennial Parklands Foundation (www.yourparklands.org.au) has generated more than \$3 million towards a wide range of environmental and educational projects across the Parklands in the last five years.

Thanks to the team behind the project

The Trust has been ably assisted by the following contractors in the delivery of this project:

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