

29 July 2021

Centennial Park car free weekend

To increase opportunities for COVID-Safe exercise in Centennial Parklands, all access gates at Centennial Parklands will be closed to inbound vehicles from 5.30pm Friday 30 July until 6.30am Monday 2 August 2021.

This document answers frequently asked questions regarding the reasons for the change in park access and how it will be managed.

Why are the main gates being closed to cars now when they have been open in lockdown up until now?

Centennial Park will be car free this weekend, at the request of NSW Police, to help manage the large crowds in the Park and ensure adherence to COVID-safe rules. Police are concerned about group gatherings and other activities in the Park that are not complying with current health orders. With the onset of warmer weather, we are expecting more visitors, so can now provide more space for COVID-safe exercise by removing cars from the Park.

Will the Park be car-free every weekend of the lockdown?

We will continue to work closely with NSW Police to ensure Centennial Parklands remains COVID-safe and accessible. With the lockdown extended for a further four weeks to 27 August, it is likely every weekend will be car-free until then. We will continue to keep the community updated.

If the gates are closed, where can I park?

Parking is available on surrounding streets including Driver Avenue, Oxford Street, York Road, Darley Road, Martin Road and Robertson Road. [Parking is also available at the Entertainment Quarter carpark](#). Visitors will only be able to enter the Parklands on foot.

What about people with a disability who will need to access the Park?

Disability access entry will be via Jervois Ave gates and then parking will be in Jervois Ave. No public vehicles will be allowed onto Grand Drive.

Are you allowed to picnic in the park or gather in groups?

Under current COVID-safe rules you must not participate in outdoor public gatherings of more than 2 people unless you are with other people in your household, providing care or assistance to vulnerable people or providing emergency assistance to a person. So essentially it means no social gatherings, picnics or children's parties. The Parklands are open for COVID-safe exercising and should be used for this purpose only. An increase in social gatherings is a concern to NSW Police and one of the reasons for closing the area to cars. There will be increased patrols to manage compliance in relation to gatherings by NSW Police and Centennial Park rangers.

Are the Parklands being patrolled to enforce COVID-safe rules?

Everyone in the Greater Sydney Area must follow the current additional COVID-19 rules in relation to where you can exercise (in your local government area or ten kilometres of your home) and who you can exercise with (members of your household or just two people if one is from a different household). Masks are not required to be worn for outdoor exercise, but you should consider doing so in busy areas. We are working closely with NSW Police who are regularly patrolling the Parklands. In order to remain open for essential exercise, we're asking everyone to cooperate with Police and NSW Health Orders to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, please note that our Rangers do not have the authority to fine or charge visitors in breach of these rules, so it is imperative that breaches are reported directly to Police by contacting Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or they can be reported online.

Are people supposed to be wearing masks in the parklands? I wear one but I don't see others wearing them.

In Greater Sydney you must wear a face mask in all indoor areas and at certain outdoor gatherings where maintaining social distance is not possible. Masks are not compulsory for outdoor exercise but are encouraged in areas, such as Centennial Parklands on the weekend, where there are lots of people. Masks must be worn when using facilities in the park such as the cafes.

How will Grand Drive be shared by pedestrians and cyclists?

Cyclists will still be required to use the dedicated cycle lane and obey the 30km/h speed limit. There will be traffic management in place and clear signage and bollards to ensure pedestrians and cyclists can enjoy the space separately and safely. All visitors to Centennial Parklands must follow all COVID-safe guidelines including social distancing and keeping exercise groups to the people you live with or one person you do not live with. We ask pedestrians and cyclists to be alert and watch out for each other when using the roads (particularly when crossing from one side to the other) and stay safe.

How fast are cyclists allowed to ride in the Parklands?

The safety and enjoyment of all visitors is a priority for Parklands management. As you would know, Centennial Parklands is one of the busiest and most diverse public parklands in New South Wales with a variety of user groups, and there is an expectation for park users to be respectful and observe the rules and regulations.

Cyclists have their own dedicated cycle lane with a (signposted) speed limit of 30km/h. Cyclists are required to follow this speed limit and give way to pedestrians at all times.

Our Rangers work tirelessly to ensure that everyone is reminded of Parklands rules. Bicycles are not identifiable by a registration plate or similar as cars are, and it is not always possible or safe for the Police to intercept moving cyclists and issue infringements, particularly if they are travelling at speed and choose not to stop.

Are dogs allowed in Centennial Park? How do I report an issue with a dog?

The safety and enjoyment of all visitors is a priority for Parklands management, and while some areas are leash free, all dog walkers are required to have their dogs under effective control. The off-leash and leashed areas are enforced by our Ranger team.

Our Rangers work tirelessly to ensure that everyone is reminded of Parklands rules and are on site 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Should you encounter a situation where Park users are not observing rules or regulations, please contact Ranger Services immediately on 0412 718 611 so they can investigate.

The amenities were dirty when I visited the Park. Has cleaning stopped because of COVID?

The Homestead, Fearnley Grounds and Wild Play toilets are currently cleaned three times a day. We also entrust that our community will also play their part to help keep our toilets clean and tidy. To help improve maintenance of our facilities, we encourage the community to report specific incidences by phone to our rangers on 0412 718 811 or to email us at info@centennialparklands.com.au

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