

Centennial

Queens Park
Master Plan

Sept. 2005

Parklands



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index

1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 History	2
2.1 Vegetation	2
3.0 Physical Conditions	3
3.1 Existing Landscape Character	3
3.2 Soil and Vegetation	4
3.3 Existing Tree Structure	4
3.4 Rockshelter with Pigment Images	6
3.5 Park Users	7
3.6 Lease Agreements	8
3.7 Transport Access & Parking	8
3.8 Children's Playground	11
3.9 Amenities	12
3.10 Services	12
4.0 Landscape Master Plan	15
4.1 The Vision	15
4.2 Design Principles	15
4.3 Consultation Feedback	16
4.4 Landscape Character Types	17
4.5 Centennial Park Connection	20
4.6 Pedestrian / Cycleway Connections	21
4.7 Entry Areas & Signage	21
4.8 Seating	22
4.9 Children's Playgrounds	22
4.10 Toilet Facilities	22
4.11 Amenities Building	23
4.12 Accessibility Improvements	23
4.13 Aboriginal Cave Site	23
4.14 Night Use	24
4.15 Dog Use	24
4.16 Views & Lookouts	24
4.17 Visual Curtilage	25
4.18 Furniture	25
5.0 Conclusion	28
6.0 Bibliography	29
Appendix A	
Queens Park Master Plan – Community Comments	30

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Centennial Parklands, comprising Moore Park, Centennial Park and Queens Park, provides diverse opportunities for recreation and relaxation in the midst of an increasingly dense, urban setting. Centennial Parklands faces similar challenges as other Victorian parks: protecting its historical character and features, particularly its mature tree population, while at the same time accommodating ever changing recreational and leisure needs and changes to its setting.

While Moore Park was created in 1867 and the Centennial Celebrations Act created Queens and Centennial Parks in 1887, the three parks evolved with individual characteristics. It has only been since 1991 that the three parks have been recognised and managed together. Consolidated management of the parks provides the impetus and opportunity to strengthen the identity of each park and at the same time articulate an overall Parklands character.

Queens Park covers an area of around 25 hectares and draws over 250,000 visits annually, many for organised and informal recreational activities.

CONTEXT Landscape Design was commissioned by Centennial Parklands to undertake a Master Plan for Queens Park:

- To review its landscape character in relation to the whole of Centennial Parklands.
- To consolidate its identity as Queens Park.

The brief requested a review of existing and proposals for new facilities within the park including paths, furniture, and public facilities (including toilets, BBQ's, potential café sites, parking, etc). It was also to further resolve the proposals made within the Centennial Park Tree Master Plan (2001) and the Centennial Parklands: Transport Access and Parking Plan (2002), which form part of the Centennial Parklands Plan of Management.

The draft Master Plan was exhibited in late 2003 with members of the community, the Community Consultative Committee, the Queens Park Precinct Executive Committee and other stakeholders invited to provide feedback. The submissions received were assessed and the Master Plan reviewed.



*Plate 1:
View corridor looking south*



*Plate 2:
View from southeast
corner of Queens Park
looking over Moriah
College and City*

2.0 HISTORY

Created under the Centennial Celebrations Act, 1887, Queens Park was developed on swampy land enclosed by sandstone ridges. A dam occupied the low lying areas of the park for much of the 19th Century and for a time the park featured an eleven hole golf course which was re-established at Botany in 1899. A wooden park rail fence was built marking the boundary of Queens Park in the late 1880's, and was replaced in 1967. A dwarf sandstone wall along the western edge of Queens Park seems to match Centennial Park's fence in terms of materials and age.

Queens Park was originally physically part of Centennial Park. In 1929, York Road was extended through to Darley Road, effectively dividing the two parks.

Queens Park was 'beautified' during the 1930s, firstly by relief labourers during the Depression and later as part of a State and Federal Government initiative to improve national fitness by encouraging sporting activities. Extensive amounts of fill were used to create the present playing fields. Baronga Avenue which now links the northward extension of Avoca Street to Queens Park Road was built around this time.

Since the 1930s Queens Park has served mainly as a place for team sports; cricket in the summer and football in the winter. Christian Brothers College, Waverley has a lease to use and maintain the football fields in the south eastern part of the park.

2.1 Vegetation

The *Centennial Parklands Tree Master Plan* identifies that the earliest phase of tree planting in Queens Park occurred in the late 1880s and early 1890s with an open woodland of Moreton Bay Figs, Port Jackson Figs, Monterey Pines, Araucarias and Holm Oaks established on the higher ground. The sandstone outcrops may have already been overgrown with the locally indigenous Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*), which are now quite a striking feature of the north eastern corner of the park.

The Coral Trees (*Erythrina x sykesii*) and Melaleucas lining the southern and western edges of the park were planted in 1923, replacing original plantings of alternating, Brush Box and Maples. The dates of other plantings, such as the Paperbarks along Darley Street and the rows of Hills Figs between the terraced fields have not been identified. Monotoca (*Monotoca elliptica*) inhabit the northern planting areas and are recognised as plantings, yet are significant as representative of the Eastern Suburb Banksia Scrub community which historically comprised parts of Queens Park. In more recent years, native shrub plantings, particularly Wattle species have been installed to supplement the tree plantings on the ridges. The dominant tree species are consistent with Centennial Park and provide visual continuity between the two parks.



Plate 3:
View looking northeast to
Waverley Communications
Tower



Plate 4:
West facing bank with sandstone
cliffs



Plate 5:
Vegetation in Queens Park



Plate 6:
Coral Trees along Darley Road

3.0 PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

The following section describes the existing conditions and character of Queens Park. It also identifies the recommendations for Queens Park of various studies conducted by Centennial Parklands. The issues and recommendations area consolidated on an Opportunities and Constraints diagram (refer page 13).

3.1 Existing Landscape Character

Queens Park, overlooked by suburban neighbourhoods and undivided by roads or avenues, is quieter and more residential in scale than the other parks within Centennial Parklands. Its steep slopes and the varied woodland plantings around its edges provide intimate spaces and extended views across its playing fields and the rest of the parklands.

Queens Park is notable for the dramatic contrast between its steep, forest sandstone ridge and the expansive playing fields below these slopes. Four dominant tree species in Queen’s Park - Figs, Pines, Araucarias in the woodland planting on the ridge and the Coral Trees on the edges - are consistent with those in adjacent Centennial Park and provide visual continuity between the two parks. However, the actual physical connection across York Road is impeded by the awkward intersection and the lack of continuity in planting character along the edges of the two parks.



Plate 7:
Landscape Character of Queens Park and surrounds

The expansive and uncluttered open fields in many ways define the character of Queens Park. There are few urban Parks that offer the same wide-open spaces as found in Queens Park.



Figure A: Vegetation Communities in Queens Park

Flanked to the east by rising ground, the east west orientation of the open fields provides spectacular views towards the city and beyond. Edge trees create 'green walls' to the open fields and soften the intrusion of the urban edge. A key challenge will be to maintain the 'green edges' whilst not overly restricting views from adjoining residential areas.

3.2 Soil and Vegetation

Land within the boundaries of Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks belong principally to the Tuggerah soil landscape unit. The high ground with wind-blown Aeolian sands in Queens Park is classified as Newport soil landscape. Small expanses of sandstone outcrops are located at the eastern end of Queens Park, expressed as a small cliff-line with rockshelters. Although these areas of sandstone have been severely altered by landscaping activities including blasting, they still retain their true character of cascading rock ledges.

The nature of the soils influences the vegetation communities which grow on them. Benson & Howell's (1990:90) map of the distribution of plant communities at the time of British colonisation shows Eastern Banksia scrub grew on the sandy soils that cover most of the Parklands, whereas the northern and eastern boundaries were covered with heath and woodland. The Eastern Banksia Scrub consists of varied heath, scrub and low forest with a rich variety of shrubs. Very little of this vegetation now remains in Sydney or the Centennial Parklands. The small pocket that remains on York Road is being restored.

3.3 Existing Tree Structure

As identified in the *Centennial Parklands Tree Master Plan*, Queens Park has a total tree population of approximately 460 trees with a very limited species mix, dominated by the following species: *Acacia spp.*, *Erythrina x sykesii* (Coral Tree); *Monotoca elliptica*; and *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Paperbark). These few species make up 72% of the total population in Queens Park. To some extent, this is deceptive as the smaller growing *Acacia spp.*, and *Monotoca elliptica*, are restricted to few areas within the park.

Apart from the Coral Trees, other large growing tree species appear to dominate the park, however these make up only a small proportion of the population in terms of tree numbers. Of these, the most frequently occurring trees are as follows:

<i>Ficus microcarpa var. hillii</i>	Hill's Fig
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak
<i>Araucaria columnaris</i>	New Caledonia Pine
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine
<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted Gum
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak



Plate 8:
A collection of trees illustrating the tree structure in Queens Park.

The potential problems arising out of this mix of tree species are:

- To consolidate its identity as Queens Park.
- The reliance on only a small number of large tree species with relatively short prospective life span and tree hazard issues, particularly the Coral trees.
- Among the figs on this site, the large, healthy (and therefore dominant specimens) have good prospective life spans over the next 50 years. However, at least half of the total fig population probably has only a 40 year remaining life expectancy.
- The largest single area of vegetation cover (*Acacia* spp., and *Monotoca elliptica* on the ridge adjacent to Queens Park Road) is dominated by species with a likely lifespan of only another 20 years.

The following are recommendations for Queens Park arising from the *Tree Master Plan*:

- The replacement of the Coral Trees on Darley Road is recommended due to the safety hazard they present. The continued use of a deciduous flowering tree is desirable as it would provide both visual appeal and an aesthetic connection with the Darley Road slope planting in Centennial Park.
- The increased use of Holm Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) is recommended on the perimeter of Queens Park as it performs well. Additional figs, particularly the Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), are also suggested for the west, west end of the south edge, and north edges. Woodland planting of water-tolerant eucalypts is recommended for the steep and wet slopes at the eastern end of Darley Road.
- Retain and reinforce the informal open woodland character with additional plantings of large evergreens such as Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*), Holm Oak (*Quercus Ilex*), Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*), New Caledonia Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*), and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) as needed.
- Retain the shrub plantings, increasing the variety to extend range of colour and flowering time. Highly recommended *Acacia* sp. include: *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle), *Acacia longifolia* (Sydney Golden Wattle), *Acacia binervia* (Coast Myall), *Acacia floribunda* (White Swallow Wattle), *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood), and *Acacia obtusifolia*.
- Below Queens Park Rock Shelter develop a wet sclerophyll forest planting of native trees and emergent palms. Include species such as *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash), *Callitriche serratifolia* (Black Wattle), *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palms), *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm), and *Tristania* sp. (Water Gum).



Plate 9:
Informal Fig Avenue



Plate 10:
Woodland Area

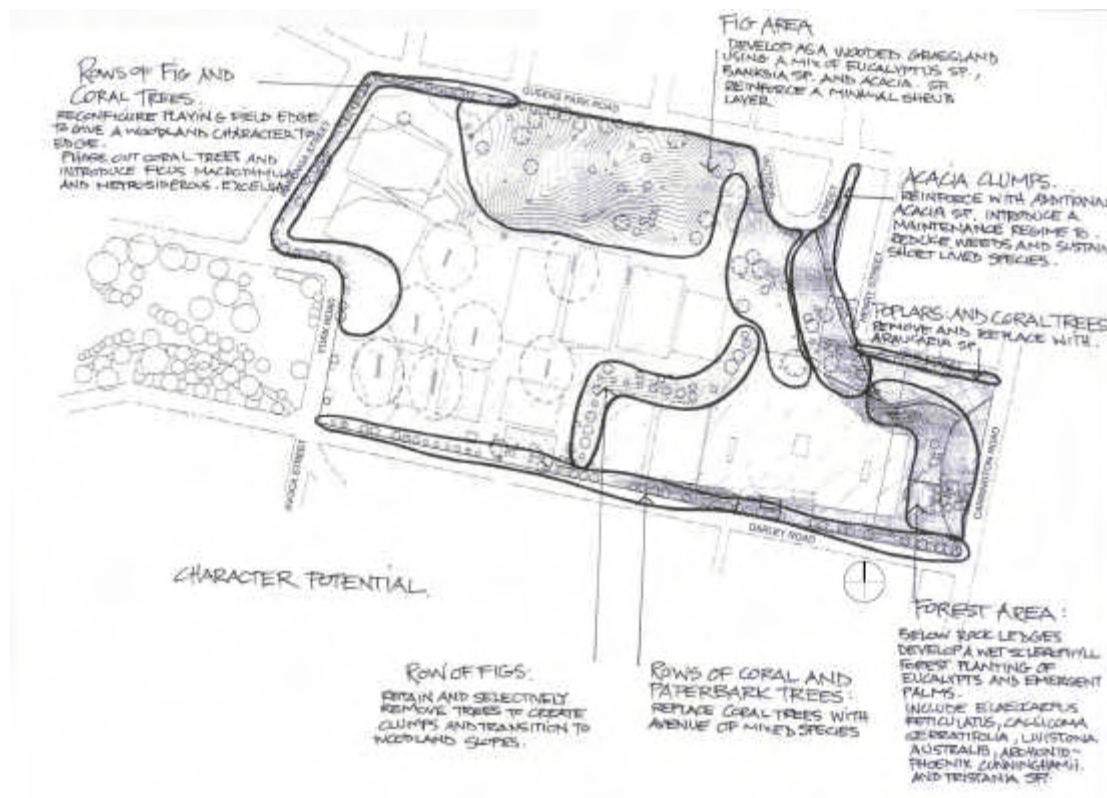


Figure B: Tree Structure and Character

3.4 Rock Shelter with Pigment Images

The Queens Park Rock Shelter is located along the north-east boundary of the Park between Henry and Victoria streets. It is a significant visual and heritage feature of this passive recreational corner of Queens Park.

The uniqueness of the Queens Park Rock Shelter includes:

- Evidence of pre-colonial Aboriginal use through wall paintings. The *Centennial Parklands Conservation Management Plan* describes the rock shelter within Queens Park to have '27 white hand stencils, 1 white fish stencil and 6 white unknown stencils. These stencils range from quite clear to very faint. Cave has been subjected to heavy vandalism since 1899 and it's quite surprising any art survives at all.'
- The rock shelter is registered on the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW Indigenous Sites Register (DEC).
- The rock shelter is identified on the *Centennial Park Management Plan* as a site of pre-colonial archaeological interest.
- The rock shelf accommodates a natural 'slippery dip' which, subject to further investigations, appears to have been utilized by children both during pre and post colonial periods.



Plate 11:
Sandstone Rock shelter with
Aboriginal Rock Paintings.

According to NSW Heritage Office guidelines, the rock shelter could have moderate to little significance, but it is still to be assessed by a rock-art specialist and rock-art conservator. Any proposed work that could affect the integrity of the cave or its interpretation will be subject to the Indigenous Reference Panel.

3.5 Park Users

Environmetrics completed a study of the users of Centennial Parklands in December 2002. The report identified the main activities for users of Queens Park to be:

- Walk the dog / Let dog play.
- Supervise children playing.
- Sporting facilities were used by around one-half of visitors and include cricket, touch football, rugby and soccer.

Respondents to the focus groups and on-site surveys included the following suggested improvements to the Parklands and its management:

- More/improved facilities (eg. Toilets, water bubblers, rubbish bins, children's play equipment/areas, shade, picnic tables, BBQ, café and restaurant).
- Traffic management.
- Communication (eg. More interpretation, signage, provide maps).



Figure C: Sporting Facilities

3.6 Lease Agreements

A large area of the eastern part of Queens Park is leased to Waverley College for their sporting facilities. The area is potentially available for other sporting groups and is maintained by Waverley College.

Moriah College consistently use the north-west area of the park for their informal sporting activities, although they do not have any agreement with the Parklands at this time.



Plate 12:
Waverley College Sports Stadium
and Lease Area

3.7 Transport, Access & Parking

The variety of activities provided within the Parklands environment can cause traffic and access conflicts and demands for car parking when timing/demands from different user groups coincide. The *Centennial Parklands: Transport Access & Parking Plan, 2002* (TAPP) addresses access issues within the Parklands to improve visitor safety and enhance the Parklands' values. The key findings of the TAPP in regards to Queens Park are as follows:

- The park is accessed on foot (including walking and jogging) for a significant portion of trips.
- Pedestrian links between the Parklands are poor – particularly between Centennial Park and Queens Park.
- Cycle access to and between the Parklands is restricted by heavily trafficked roads and intersections.
- The majority of visitors to the sporting facilities in Queens Park arrive by car.
- There are no parking facilities within Queens Park, however there are a significant number of on-street spaces on all the streets immediately adjacent the park.

The key actions included in TAPP for Queens Park are:

- Provide facilities for taxi drop off and pick up.
- Encourage visitors to use more sustainable modes of transport through the promotion of walking, cycling and public transport access.
- Improve pedestrian and cycle linkages between Centennial Park and Queens Park at Darley Road/York Road - this will require RTA/Council support.
- Provide connected cycle routes with the current and planned cycle networks of the surrounding council areas.
- Install cycle storage facilities.
- Progress a signage strategy to indicate the location of key activities and facilities.

TAPP included paths within Queens Park to link with the local and regional cycle network as follows:

- On the northern side of Darley Road as a shared pedestrian/cycle path.
- On Queens Park Road as an on-road cycle way.
- North-south through Queens Park, connecting Bondi Junction to Randwick, as a shared pedestrian/cycle path.

A further shared path link has since been identified along the western perimeter of Queens Park, connecting Queens Park Road to Darley Street.



Figure D: Transport Access and Parking Plan
Summary of Cycle Improvements



Figure E: Transport Access and Parking Plan
Summary of Pedestrian Improvements

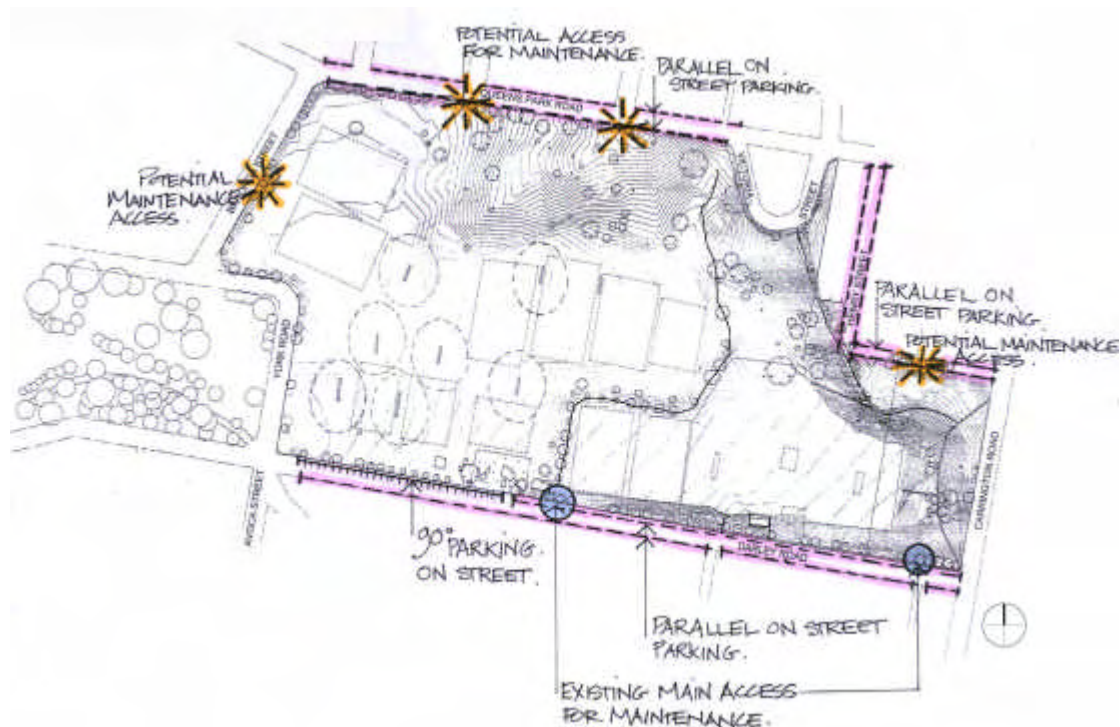


Figure F: Maintenance Access and Parking Plan

The Independent Living Centre NSW completed an audit into the provision of access for people with disabilities within Centennial Parklands in July 2003. The audit identified key issues and recommendations for improving safe and independent access and the provision of suitable facilities for people with a disability. The most significant concerns for the Parklands identified in the audit were:

- The lack of suitable links between facilities.
- The provision of accessible sanitary facilities.

A summary of the key issues is as follows:

- Clear points of arrival.
- Accessible car parking and taxi/car drop-off facilities.
- Accessible paths of travel between facilities and features.
- Accessible sanitary facilities.
- Accessible access to recreational outdoor entertainment facilities and unique features.
- Provisions for the hearing and sight impaired.
- Signage and wayfinding.
- Accessible paths of travel to and accessibility of outdoor furniture.

The audit made the following recommendations for Queens Park:

- Providing accessible paths of travel to accessible park facilities from Baronga Ave, Queens Park Road, and Darley Road.
- Ensuring Council upgrades all kerb ramps to accessible standards.
- Provision of accessible car parking spaces near facilities at Queens Park Rd and Darley Road.
- Provision of accessible sanitary facilities at Darley Rd playground and Baronga Ave.
- Provision of accessible picnic facilities with accessible paths of travel at Queens Park Rd and Darley Rd.
- Provision of accessible bubbler adjacent sports fields on Queens Park Rd.
- Provision of accessible paths to recycle bin enclosures at both ends of Queens Park Rd and at the Darley Rd playground.
- Provision of viewing platforms for wheelchairs adjacent seating.

To realize the recommendations of the Access Audit, an Access Strategy will be prepared to establish a direction for the implementation of new, and upgrade of existing, equitable arrangements within Centennial Parklands.

3.8 Children's Playground

A limited user survey and review of the existing condition of the Queens Park playground was undertaken by Truyard in May 2003. The key recommendations of the study are as follows:

- The existing playground be renovated to create a more interesting, less equipment-dominated play area.
- Other improvements to be considered include: renovating existing toilet block; designing a new fence; adding seating for adults; and exploring options for renovating the depot building.
- Consideration is to be given to creating a designated play area for older children, potentially using some of the larger play equipment from the existing playground.



*Plate 13:
Playground near Darley Road*

3.9 Amenities

Centennial Parklands conducted an Amenities review in April 2003 and an *Amenities Master Plan* for Centennial Park, Queens Park

and Moore Parklands was prepared by Johnson Pilton Walker in 2005. The outcomes of the review and Master Plan were:

- Most visitors to the park would like to see more/improved facilities.
- Bins and toilets are the most important and frequently used facilities. Bins are important when sports events are staged and should be located closer to picnic and seating facilities. Picnic table and bubblers are used by half of visitors to the park and BBQ's are used the least.
- Toilets are considered as being the highest priority in terms of facilities that need to be improved within the park.
- There is a general perception that amenities are unevenly allocated in relation to new or recently developed areas of the park.

The key outcomes for Queens Park are:

- Proposed refurbishment of toilets and change rooms at Baronga Street.
- Refurbishment of old bubblers and introduction of new bubblers near Carrington Road and Queens Park's eastern playing fields.
- Dog refuse bag dispensers to be removed and phased out.
- Upgraded and additional picnic and seating facilities appropriate distributions and shaded areas.
- Upgraded and additional barbeques in strategic locations e.g. near children's playground.
- Possible introduction of a café/kiosk facility.

3.10 Services and Stormwater

There are no services implications that currently affect Queens Park's recreational facilities. Services and easements within the park include:

- The fields are fully irrigated via the Centennial Park ponds irrigation system (except Waverley College Area).
- The barbeque has a gas connection entering from Queens Park Road.
- The three toilet facilities have electricity, water and sewage services.
- The maintenance block has electricity and water and sewer.

Upgrading of services would be required if a café/kiosk was constructed. The scale of the upgrade will depend on the final location of the café/kiosk.

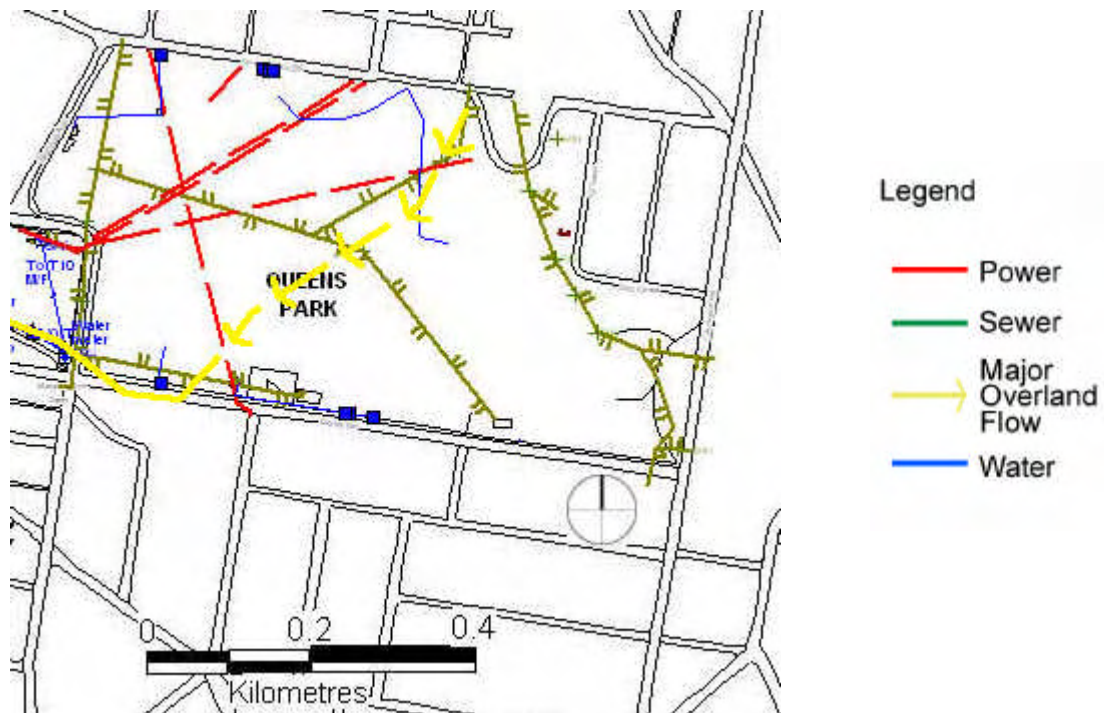


Figure G: Existing Services Plan

There are very few stormwater implications for Queens Park due to the fact that all piped underground stormwater has been diverted to the Centennial Parklands pond system. As such, the only stormwater affecting Queens Park is overland flow from the adjacent areas and the park itself.

A major overland flow path exists through the middle of the park, running north to south west (refer Figure G). Minor overland flow paths exist throughout the park, generally running from the north and east to the south west. With effective vegetative measures to control erosion, and the fact that there are very little gross pollutant issues with overland flows, stormwater does not present any negative implications within Queens Park.

4.0 LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

4.1 The Vision

The vision for Centennial Parklands, articulated in the *Plan of Management (1998)*, perpetuates its tradition as the peoples' park:

Centennial Parklands will be a place of beauty, peace, excitement and culture in the hearts of the people of Sydney; a place where a diversity of activities can be safely pursued by people of all ages and abilities; a place where national, civic and individual milestones are marked and treasured in landscapes, events, monuments and memories.

In addition, the Trust's mission is:

The sustainable development of urban parkland and leisure facilities on behalf of the community through the application of the principles of best practice management.

4.2 Design Principles

The following design principles have been developed for Queens Park:

- To enhance the recreational amenity and aesthetic appeal of Queens Park.
- To conserve and enhance the forest character along the ridge and the open playing fields.
- To create a low maintenance environment.
- To maintain Queens Park 'multi-use' character.
- To provide Children's play facilities that are challenging, innovative, contemporary and safe.
- To identify where existing facilities require upgrading or improvement.
- To improve the connection between Queens Park and Centennial Park, both physically and visually.

Generally, the Master Plan promotes a gentle and sympathetic modification to the existing Queens Park character, maintaining open fields defined by edge plantings. The diversification of edge plantings will reflect similar plant groups in Centennial Park. High ground with expansive outlooks will be utilised, while recreational pursuits will continue in the current configuration.

The following sections describe the elements of the Master Plan, the consultation process that was undertaken, and changes to the Master Plan following feedback from the consultation. Refer page 22 for Landscape Master Plan.

4.3 Consultation Feedback

The draft Master Plan was exhibited from mid September to December 2003 at the following locations and submissions invited:

- Queens Park.
- Centennial Parklands Website.
- Centennial Parklands Administration Building.
- Superintendent's Residence.
- Waverley Council Chambers.
- Waverley Council Library.
- Healthy Parks, Healthy People Open Day, Centennial Park.

The Master Plan was also presented and reviewed by the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) in March 2003 and the Queens Park Precinct Executive Committee in August and November 2003.

Eighty-eight submissions were received from the community and stakeholders, including Waverley Council, Randwick City Council, Woollahra Municipal Council, Queens Park Executive Committee, Community Consultative Committee, Waverley College, and BIKEast Inc.

The key issues from the feedback and the Master Plan responses included the following:

Key Issue	Master Plan Response
Substantial opposition to the north-south shared path through the middle of the park due to concerns of conflict between passive users of the park and cyclists, and objections to more paving within the park.	Shared path through the middle of the park removed.
Agreement and objections to the proposed café/kiosk.	Option for a café/kiosk to remain.
Agreement for the provision of an improved, safe crossing between Centennial Park and Queens Park.	Detailed analysis and design of the crossing between Centennial Park and Queens Park to be undertaken with the RTA and Council following adoption of the Master Plan.
Agreement to the suggested additional tree and vegetation plantings to the park with a general agreement on species.	Suggested additional tree and vegetation plantings to remain. Further analysis of species types and locations to be undertaken during detailed design.

Key Issue	Master Plan Response
Request for adequate accessible parking spaces to be provided.	Provision of adequate accessible parking spaces to be determined during the preparation of the Access Strategy for the Parklands.
Request for accessible access to all facilities and amenities including play equipment, signage, toilets, showers, bubblers, picnic and BBQ facilities.	An accessible BBQ facility is available in the park. The provision of more accessible facilities will be determined during the preparation of the Access Strategy for the Parklands.
Request for more facilities around the park, including bubblers, rubbish bins and toilets.	Further analysis of the requirement for more facilities within the park to be developed following adoption of the Master Plan.

A detailed summary of the feedback received can be found in Appendix A.

4.4 Landscape Character Types

A series of landscape character types have been developed for Queens Park, based on the character types discussed in the *Tree Master Plan*.

Open Grassland

Open areas of grass, including playing fields. The playing fields have been deliberately left open with no tree canopy to allow flexibility in their arrangement and to ensure the retention of the views within and beyond the park. The grand open vistas across the fields reinforce the dramatic openness and spaciousness that is fundamental aspect of the Queens Park character. Tree planting in groves to the edges of the playing fields have been reinforced to provide shade and amenity to users, using the traditional Parkland palette of figs and evergreen oaks.

Species List

<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brushbox
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak

Evergreen Wooded Grassland

Areas containing more trees than open grassland that are distinguished by irregularly spaced trees providing light and random cover to an area of mown or unmown grass. Tree plantings may be widely spaced single specimens or groves of various sizes.

This existing character type to the northern slopes of Queens Park is reinforced with additional tree planting including the traditional Parkland palette of figs, evergreen oaks and pines and groves of *Eucalyptus sp.* To reduce maintenance requirements, this area of the park will be placed under a reduced mowing regime.

Species List

Queens Park Road

<i>Agathis lanceolata</i>	Agathus
<i>Aleurites moluccana</i> var.	Candlenut Tree
<i>Angophora costata</i> (near sandstone)	Smooth Barked Apple
<i>Banksia aemula</i>	Banksia
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Old Man Banksia
<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	Lacebark
<i>Choisia insignis</i>	White Floss Silk Tree
<i>Corymbia exima</i>	Yellow Bloodwood
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Bangalay
<i>Eucalyptus gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood
<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>	Scribbly Gum
<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	Sydney Peppermint
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coastal Teatree

Wet Sclerophyll Forest

Areas planted densely with trees and shrubs and having a nearly continuous canopy cover. This is located below the eastern sandstone cliffs using wet sclerophyll species such as Eucalypts and emergent palms.

Species List

<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia binervia</i>	Coast Myall
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash
<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	Bangalow Palm
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame Tree
<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>	Black Wattle
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black Bean
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Tree fern
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatis</i>	Blueberry Ash
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Giant Blueberry Ash
<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted Gum
<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	Tallowwood
<i>Flindersia australis</i>	Teak
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig
<i>Livistona australis</i>	Cabbage Tree Palms
<i>Monotoca elliptica</i>	Tree Broom-heath
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Water Gum

Woodland

Areas where trees are dominant and canopies interconnect. Trees are planted randomly in large groves with a grassy understorey (mown or unmown) throughout. This typology occurs in two locations in Queens Park: near Victoria Street between the Evergreen Wooded Grassland along the northern slopes to the Wet Sclerophyll Forest at the sandstone cliffs, and below Carrington Road. Species and locations will be carefully chosen to ensure views from Carrington Road to the city are maintained.

Species List

Near Victoria Street

<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia binervia</i>	Coast Myall
<i>Araucaria columnaris</i>	Pine
<i>Acmena smithii</i> (near bottom of slope)	Lilypilly
<i>Araucaria columnaris</i>	Pine
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksia
<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	Lacebark
<i>Eucalyptus deanii</i>	Sydney Bluegum
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Liquidambar

Near Carrington Road

<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia binervia</i>	Coast Myall
<i>Banksia sp.</i>	Banksia
<i>Eucalyptus exima</i>	Gum
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak

Upper Darley Road

<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame Tree
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
Native Grasses	

Avenues, Rows and Belts

Comprises the various linear and formal tree plantings. Linear plantings define spaces within the park and provide shelter from sun and wind. Generally, the existing avenues and belts to the boundaries of the site are to be reinforced in an informal manner with additional planting.

For Darley Road, the Coral trees are to be replaced with *Tipuana tipu*, a semi-deciduous, flowering tree spaced at 15 metres to ensure the retention of views from Darley Road. *Quercus ilex* (Holm Oak) will be planted as an informal secondary avenue with the occasional *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig) to the Upper Darley Road area.

Species List

Darley Road

Lower Darley Rd	
<i>Tipuana tipu</i>	Tipuana
<i>Quercus illex</i>	Holm Oak
Upper Darley Rd	
<i>Tipuana tipu</i>	Tipuana
<i>Quercus illex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig

Carrington Road

<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth Bark Apple
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John St Corner

<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth Bark Apple
<i>Araucaria sp</i>	Pine
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Zelkova

Queens Park Road / Baronga Ave

<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Zelkova
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Melaleuca Stand

Tea Tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) stand on bottom of slope in south-east corner of park to be retained and reinforced.

Landmark Trees

Species such as Norfolk Island Pines and large figs that provide visual statements and are prominent.

Species List

<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Morten Bay Fig
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig
<i>Quercus illex</i>	Holm Oak

4.5 Centennial Park Connection

A number of options were examined to determine the best solution to improve the pedestrian and cyclist connection between Queens Park and Centennial Park. These included:

- Overpass over York Road – the structure was deemed to be too visually obtrusive, creating a further alienation of the visual connection between Queens Park and Centennial Park.
- Underpass under York Road - underpasses can often produce unpleasant environments that encourage vandalism and decrease pedestrian safety.
- Lowering York Road – very high capital cost.
- Pedestrian crossing of York Road near Baronga Street – RTA approval for a pedestrian crossing in this location unlikely.

- Pedestrian crossing at northern side of Darley Road / York Road intersection - This is the preferred option with the creation of an entry area within Queens Park with signage and entry markers to complement Centennial Park entrance. The Centennial Park entrance also requires reconfiguration. Liaison with councils and RTA is required.

4.6 Pedestrian / Cycleway Connections

Pedestrian and cycle connections were assessed and modified in accordance with the Centennial Parklands *Transport Access and Parking Plan* and responses received during the consultation process.

Existing pedestrian footpaths in Queens Park are currently limited to a cliff top walk along the western edge with stair access to the lower level. Greater provision of accessible pathways was required without dividing the park. The need to connect Queens Park to the regional cycle network was also recognised as a way to increase sustainable access to and through the park.

The following pedestrian / cycleways have been included within the Master Plan:

- Shared pedestrian/cycle path to the northern side of Darley Road.
- Shared pedestrian/cycle path along the western edge of the park, connecting Darley Road via Baronga Street to Queens Park Road.

All paths will be designed to comply with AS1428.1 to ensure accessibility within the park.

4.7 Entry Areas & Signage

Queens Park currently has ill-defined entry points with people accessing the site wherever there is a break in the fence line. It is proposed to formalise the entry points into the park with paved entry areas, entry planting, and appropriate directional and information signage. An entry point hierarchy has been devised to reflect the differing scales of use and visibility of each area. These are:

Major :

- Corner of York and Darley Roads, to encourage the connection between Centennial and Queens Park.
- Midway along Darley Road at the potential café site. This entry will also provide access to the existing and proposed playgrounds and will have restricted vehicular access for maintenance. A drop-off zone will also be provided along Darley Road.
- Corner of Carrington Road and Darley Road facilitating access to upper playing fields and passive recreation areas.

Medium:

- Baronga Street adjacent the existing amenities facilities and pedestrian crossing.

Minor:

- Carrington Road and John Street to facilitate access to the eastern high section of the park.
- Opposite Bourke St and Manning St along Queens Park Road to encourage access from the Bondi Junction area.

In general, all entry points where practicable should be accessible to the disabled. The paved area at each of the entry points should be in proportion to the scale of use and visibility. The paved areas will not exceed 18 square metres, and should use segmental pavers which reduce the impact of runoff and resulting erosion e.g. permeable pavers - Rocla EcoTrihex has been used for this purpose at Olympic Park and on Driver Avenue, Moore Park.

4.8 Seating

Additional seating has been installed around the boundaries of the park and generally adjacent to the proposed pathways. The proposed seating will reflect the variety of park users (from the elderly to children) by offering a selection of seating types in various locations e.g. boundary seating is desirable for use by older, less mobile users. Seating will range from types such as benches, bench seats, and seats with arm rests.

There are also further opportunities for picnic facilities additional to that which is presently existing. The café / playground precinct offers particular opportunities.

Refer section 5.0 Furniture for further detail.

4.9 Children's Playgrounds

As recommended by the playground survey, the existing playground is to be upgraded to provide facilities for a broader mix of younger children. The playground will be moved further into the park to allow a cycle/pedestrian path along Darley Road and low planting to screen the playground fence. Detail planning is to be undertaken prior to implementation.

An older children's playground is also proposed in close proximity to the younger children's playground.

4.10 Toilet Facilities

The existing toilet facilities near Darley Road and Baronga Street are to be retained and refurbished to accessible standards.

4.11 Amenities Building

The existing amenities building located on Darley Road near the existing children's playground has been identified as a potential café/kiosk site. Other potential sites are the York/Darley Road entry point or adjacent the Baronga Street toilet/change room block.

Potentially associated with a covered outdoor paved seating area, The café/kiosk could encourage visual surveillance of the park, and increase user amenity by offering services similar to those found in Centennial Park on a smaller scale, as recommended by Johnson Pilton Walker's *Amenities Masterplan* (2005). Dual use of this facility would occur with sporting groups utilising it at registration times.

The amenities building on Darley Road could also be adaptively reused as a change room, storeroom or other facility. Detail planning of this area will be undertaken by Centennial Parklands on approval of the Master Plan and prior to commencement of works.

4.12 Accessibility Improvements

The adoption of the Master Plan and the preparation of an Access Strategy for Queens Park will prioritise the upgrading of existing and installation of new facilities to meet accessible standards within Queens Park. The facilities to be refurbished, replaced or added include: toilet facilities, playground, picnic tables, workout area, pathways, entryways, signage, bins, car parking, and seating.

4.13 Aboriginal Cave Site

The improvement of the area surrounding the Queens Park rock shelter site is required to reduce further vandalism and increase recognition. Several recommendations for the rock shelter's protection and preservation have been made, including:

- Further investigations into the historical use of the shelf and shelter by both the Aboriginal community and the wider public.
- Further study preliminary to the introduction of base development guidelines regarding the privately owned properties on Henry Street addressing: development setback distances, building materials, visual curtilage and services which may damage the Park or shelter site (refer Section 4.17 Visual Curtilage for further detail).

It is proposed that a 'place' be created at the site that will include interpretative signage and seating. This matter will be addressed by the Centennial Park Indigenous Reference Panel prior to any works being undertaken.

4.14 Night Use

Queens Park does not currently have lights for the playing fields, reducing potential use in the evenings. Although a demand exists for night training, the current strategy is for no lights to be installed to conserve the carrying capacities of the playing fields. Lighting towers within the playing field area would affect the configuration of both the cricket and football fields.

4.15 Dog Use

It is recognised that the diversity of dog walking will increase over time. The current strategy allows dogs to be off leads within the park except in the vicinity of the playground, adjacent food outlets and BBQ's, and sporting fields when in use.

The *Centennial Park Amenities Masterplan* (Johnson Pilton Walker, 2005) recommends that due to misuse, dog bag refuse points are to be removed and phased out of the Queens Park area. As this happens, dog walkers will be required to bring their own bags. Bin facilities however, will be upgraded to help improve Park sanitation with regard to dog refuse and dog bubblers are to be introduced.

4.16 Views & Lookouts

Queens Park has significant city views and regional vistas to the west, the Blue Mountains and Botany Bay. These views are captured particularly in elevated sections of the Park. Internal views and the Park's landscape character of wide open spaces, smaller open areas in between large specimen trees, avenue plantings, wooded areas, scrubland and sandstone outcrops are also of significance and provide a diversity of visual experiences. These vistas generate an experience of being in a public park surrounded by a distant high density urban environment.

Queens Park's distinctive panoramic views both within the Park and to the city and larger Sydney will be maintained through the careful selection and planting of new trees. Particular care will be taken with the planting to Darley Road, Carrington Road and around the playing fields to ensure views are retained. A viewing platform has been proposed on the eastern slopes with potential interpretative signage and seating. An informal lookout is also encouraged adjacent John Street.

4.17 Visual Curtilage

Centennial Parklands, including Queens Park, is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate as a natural, Indigenous and cultural heritage resource. Queens Park is also listed as a Landscape Heritage Item under the Waverley Local Environmental Plan 1988. The landscape heritage value of Centennial Parklands also extends to its visual curtilage, as viewed from the Parklands. The visual curtilage for Queens Park is bounded by the ridgelines of Oxford Street (Bondi Junction town centre), Bronte Road, Frenchmans Road and York Road.

The Centennial Parklands Conservation Management Plan also recommends strengthening planning controls to ensure that “new structures and landscape elements erected in the vicinity of the Parklands do not negatively impact on the historic precinct, nearby heritage streetscapes/areas, the setting of Centennial Parklands and views to and from Centennial Parklands”. This applies to all properties within the visual curtilage of Queens Park.

Whilst matters of building heights, density and setbacks are set by Councils, it is the Trust’s position that properties surrounding the Parklands should not dominate the skyline, encroach upon or overshadow the Parklands. Immediately adjoining properties, such as those in Henry Street, Queens Park require a number of specific planning constraints such as:

- reasonable setbacks from the Queens Park rock shelter to maintain its natural visual character.
- protection of the integrity of the Queens Park rock shelter landform and its indigenous significance.
- maintenance of existing building heights and rooflines that follow the natural landfall.
- transparency and staggered building levels when viewed from the Park.

4.18 Furniture

The Johnson Pilton Walker *Amenities Master Plan* (2005) made several recommendations regarding seating, picnic facilities, bins, bubblers and bbqs that should be applied to Queens Park. Generally, their findings were:

1. There are number of siting options within the parklands, including locations at gateways, activity nodes and key recreational areas.
2. Amenities should be sited to avoid visual clutter and intrusion within the Victorian parkland setting.
3. Amenities should be located with due consideration for security and vandalism by allowing surveillance of facilities at all times.
4. All amenities should be convenient, visible, and where possible, accessible by all.

This Master Plan proposes more seating along pathways, near entry points and at ‘eddy’ zones near play equipment, barbeques, playing fields and viewing points to cater for a variety of users.

New picnic tables and seats are proposed near the existing barbeque in the north-west of the Park, and under shade trees near the children's playground in the Park's south. Tables are to be consistent in design with those proposed for the rest of Centennial Park (JPW, 2005). Due to the northern area's relatively low use, the tables could be moveable to provide flexibility regarding sun/shade and sports viewing on the nearby fields (JPW, 2005), while tables near the playground would be fixed to hard paving.

The Park's sole barbeque, which is in easy walking distance of toilets and change amenities, is to be retained and renewed so that it is easy to maintain and includes garbage facilities. A new barbeque near the children's playground is also proposed.

One bubbler presently exists in Queens Park near the Baronga Street amenities building. Due to the Park's frequent use as a playing field, exercise and dog walking area, new bubblers are proposed in two locations: on the eastern slopes viewing platform and near the terrace that separates the Waverley Leased area from the lower playing fields (JPW, 2005). The existing bubbler will be retained and upgraded. All bubblers should be located on a hard surface with adequate drainage so that puddles do not form at their base, with separate drinking facilities for dogs e.g. low level tap or stainless steel bowl on a chain.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Queens Park Master Plan encompasses issues including the park's landscape character, tree selection, facilities for users, indigenous significance, visual and physical connections, and maintenance requirements. The Master Plan recommends the enhancement, with sympathetic tree planting, of the existing landscape character types within the park and the introduction of path connections and a potential café. Entry to the park will be improved with formalised paved entry plazas with new signage. These facilities will provide and reinforce the users' experience and the park's unique mixture of leisure activities and open parkland character.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX A

Queens Park Master Plan – Community Comments March 04

ISSUE	DETAILS
Shared cycle/pedestrian path	<p>Substantial objection to path through the middle of the park.</p> <p>BIKEast Inc cyclist group support the path due to connection with the overall eastern suburbs regional bike plan.</p> <p>Encouragement for the middle path for preservation of the fields.</p> <p>Agreement to the path making the area more accessible for wheelchairs/aged/disability.</p> <p>General agreement for path to go along the perimeter of park as opposed to through the middle.</p> <p>Safety issues to be addressed if for pathway ie. mixture of children, aged, skateboarders, cyclist and dogs etc.</p> <p>North end of middle path runs through a gully used by children, picnickers & dogs. A mixture of cyclist and passive users of the area could be a safety concern.</p> <p>Gully area is considered beautiful and a path through this area would be detrimental to this.</p> <p>Suggestion that the path through the gully is too steep for bikes (3 steep hills).</p> <p>Close attention to the design and management of the shared middle path is required eg. winding path, non slip material, suitable gradient.</p> <p>Suggestion of eastern path to be outside of the park boundary along Darley Rd.</p> <p>Move western bike path closer towards Baronga Ave.</p> <p>Make new paths less than 3m in width and less obtrusive.</p> <p>Better linkage of the middle path with other paths in the park.</p> <p>Request for footpath to be placed on the western side of the fence, outside of the park boundary.</p>
Café/kiosk	<p>objection to kiosk due to increase in visitor traffic</p> <p>agreement to kiosk</p> <p>disability access – wide circulation space requested</p> <p>suggestion that it will make queens park café unviable</p>
Master plan	<p>request for master plan to be done in conjunction with the Bondi junction precinct plan</p>

Waverley College	oppose port Jackson figs being planted due to their invasive root system due to mass planting on sth slopes, request for more land towards the pavilion request for clarification of public use of this land on master plan when not being used by the school.
Traffic signals	signalised pedestrian crossing from Centennial to Queens park requested
Vegetation	general agreement to trees in master plan suggestion for tree plantings given more trees and seating is favourable
Sports venues	request for more girls sports venues by councillor. improvement of the ground around the fitness facility.
Parking spaces	accessibility by aged and disability by providing adequate parking spaces.

ISSUE	DETAILS
Disability access	playground equipment amenities – showers, bubblers, lockers, toilets picnic and bbq facilities improved access from all roads surrounding the park signage
Facilities	rid of bindi-eye more bubblers, rubbish bins, toilets located nearer to fields used similar bin treatments, consistent signage to centennial park for same look and feel ensure proper maintenance of proposed facilities opposition to playground bbq near aboriginal cave