

Wentworth Park - Vision and Structure Plan

File No: X082743.004

Summary

This report outlines a vision and plan for the return of Wentworth Park to the community as newly activated, publicly accessible open space to support planned growth in the Pyrmont Peninsula.

Wentworth Park is located between the Pyrmont, Ultimo and Glebe peninsulas. The park is bounded by main roads, including Bridge Road to the north, Wentworth Park Road to the west and Wattle and William Henry Streets to the east and south.

The 1873 Blackwattle Bay Land Reclamation Act established the whole of the area be set apart in perpetuity as a park or place of public recreation. Dedicated in 1885, Wentworth Park has played a significant role in the sporting, recreational and cultural life of Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont.

The 13-hectare park is currently divided into 3 portions. The City of Sydney manages the northern and southern park areas, and The Wentworth Park Sporting Complex is the Crown Land manager for the central portion which restricts public access. Refer Attachment A Location Plan.

In 2020, the NSW Government finalised the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy (Place Strategy) which provides a 20-year plan for growth, including 23,000 jobs and 4,000 homes. The Place Strategy identifies the need for more public space, improved quality of public space and better activation of public space to support the planned growth and includes a commitment to facilitate the return of Wentworth Park to the community as newly activated, publicly accessible open space to support the planned growth in jobs and homes.

In 2022, with joint funding from the NSW Government, the City led community engagement to develop a vision for the future of Wentworth Park. The community overwhelmingly supported the removal of the greyhound facilities to create more green space and unify the park as one park. Four key themes were identified in the consultation feedback:

- A green place connected to nature;
- A place of sport, exercise and play;
- A place that supports social activities and events; and
- A place that is easy to get in to and move through.

Based on the feedback from the community the City has developed a vision and plan for the future of Wentworth Park as 'One Park for Everyone'. The plan incorporates the community aspirations, and creates opportunities for much needed recreation facilities and increased passive open space to support the planned population growth while thoughtfully responding to the park's location, its history and environmental layers.

The City's proposal creates one unified 13-hectare park which realises the community vision for Wentworth Park. A significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other. The proposal includes 4 key moves:

- Revitalisation of Wentworth Park South - The southern end of Wentworth Park will be renewed to create a range of smaller intimate spaces for sitting and social activities, and large open grass spaces for passive recreation and informal use with native vegetation restored along the original foreshore line to increase biodiversity and the establish a wetland basin and filter stormwater.
- Returning Wentworth Park Central to community use - Returning the middle of Wentworth Park provides an additional 44,000m² of public open space and creates an active sports and recreation in the central precinct with a major new oval and two full-sized fields, surrounded by shade trees, seating and active recreation nodes.
- Release of Wentworth Park North for passive recreation - By consolidating the active sports fields to central park space, it releases the northern end of the park for passive recreation. The plan reinstates areas of the original Blackwattle native vegetation and reconnects Wentworth Park to Blackwattle Bay, the Fish Market and light rail. While maintaining views to the beautiful brick viaduct and protecting the significant fig trees.

Creation of a Perimeter Loop - The generous perimeter loop path, large canopy trees and green understory plantings stitches the park together. Providing shaded places to sit or be a spectator, a loop to walk, ride or exercise and a path to access, use and enjoy the facilities. Park entry and access improvements in the surrounding streets will improve links to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Returning Wentworth Park to the community as a unified park which is activated, publicly accessible (as a whole) re-established the park to it's original intent as a place of public recreation.

It is recommended that the City continues to advocate for the NSW Government to follow through on the commitment to return Wentworth Park (as a whole) to the community as public open space.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the commitment by the former NSW Government in the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy to return Wentworth Park to community use;
- (B) Council note that if the NSW Government extends the Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association's lease beyond 2027 and does not return Wentworth Park as public open space, the community will face insufficient open space, inadequate recreational infrastructure, and increased flood risks in an already densely populated precinct;
- (C) Council note the outcomes of consultation with the community in 2022 as outlined in Attachment C to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the forecast population growth associated with the Fish Market site and changes to planning controls, and the need for community infrastructure;
- (E) Council note that the population growth required by the NSW Government will lead to an additional 4,100 homes and 8,000 people living in this area, which significantly increases the need for commensurate open space and recreation space;
- (F) Council endorse the Wentworth Park vision and draft Structure Plan as described in the subject report and shown at Attachment D to the subject report, which will form the basis of negotiations with relevant stakeholders, promotion through the City's various communication channels, and as part of future community consultation;
- (G) Council note that the realisation of the community vision and structure plan is contingent on Local Environmental Plan (LEP) / developer contributions and management of the Crown Land being transferred to the City; and
- (H) Council note that a new Plan of Management would be required if the NSW Government return the whole of Wentworth Park to the City of Sydney; and
- (I) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Government about the Wentworth Park vision and draft Structure Plan and urging them to recommit to returning all of Wentworth Park to public green space in 2027.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Location Plan - Wentworth Park
- Attachment B.** Wentworth Park - Existing Facilities Plan
- Attachment C.** Engagement Summary Report
- Attachment D.** City of Sydney's Proposal for Wentworth Park

Background

1. Wentworth Park Glebe is located between the Pyrmont, Ultimo and Glebe peninsulas on each side. The park is bounded by main roads, including Bridge Road to the north, Wentworth Park Road to the west and Wattle and William Henry Streets to the east and south.
2. The 13-hectare park is currently divided into three portions. The City of Sydney manages the northern and southern park areas, and The Wentworth Park Sporting Complex is the Crown Land manager for the central portion which restricts public access. Refer Attachment A Location Plan.
3. In 2021, the City consulted with the community on the Wentworth Park Plan of Management - the POM was publicly exhibited from 29 September to 24 November 2021 and adopted by Council in March 2022.
4. In 2020, the NSW Government finalised the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy (Place Strategy) which provides a 20-year plan for growth, including 23,000 jobs and 4,000 homes. The Place Strategy identifies the need for more public space, improved quality of public space and better activation of public space to support planned growth and includes a commitment to facilitate the return of Wentworth Park to the community as newly activated, publicly accessible open space to support the planned growth in jobs and homes.
5. In 2021, Infrastructure NSW (INSW) lodged a State Significant Precinct (SSP) rezoning proposal for the current Fish Market site. The City's review of the SSP argued the need for the return of Wentworth Park as public open space noting that the SSP did not include adequate public open space to support the density proposed in the SSP. In response the NSW Government reduced the scale of the project and committed to investigate the return of Wentworth Park to the community. In response to the NSW Government's new housing targets INSW increase density from 1,200 to around 1,500 new homes.
6. In 2022, with joint funding from the NSW Government, the City led community engagement to develop a vision for the future of Wentworth Park. We invited the community to imagine returning the centre of the park to public open space and to tell us what they would like to see and do there. There was overwhelming support to remove the greyhound track, grandstand building and carpark to create more green space and unify the park. The engagement process and responses are outlined in Attachment C - A Community Vision for Wentworth Park.
7. On 11 March 2024, via a Lord Mayoral Minute, Council requested the preparation of a masterplan for a consolidated Wentworth Park when the Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association's lease ends in 2027.
8. On 17 February 2025, via a Lord Mayoral Minute, Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer:
 - (i) develop a concept plan for a reunited Wentworth Park in response to the community consultation and vision;

- (ii) incorporate the impact of the new Sydney Fish Market and proposed housing development at the current Fish Market site and the associated impacts on local residents in the development of the City's concept plan;
 - (iii) promote the City's proposal through its various communication channels; and
 - (iv) allocate appropriate resources in the 2025/26 budget.
9. In response to the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy and NSW Government's housing targets the City has worked with the community and developed the Ultimo Pyrmont planning framework which proposes new planning controls with the capacity to accommodate contribute between 4,500 and 4,800 homes and 23,600 and 27,000 jobs in the area up to 4,100 new homes and 20,000 - 27,000 new jobs. The planning framework includes a Draft Ultimo Pyrmont Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan amendments to the Local Environmental Plan 2021, the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 and the Central Sydney Development Contributions Plan 2020 The park is surrounded by a mix of residential terraces and townhouse, multistorey apartments, repurposed warehouses, Ultimo Public School and the City of Sydney depot (Bay Street). Blackwattle Bay is located north, and new Sydney Fish Market separates the park from the harbour.

Wentworth Park History

- 10. The Wangal and Gadigal people have lived on their ancestral lands, now known as Sydney, for at least 60,000 years. 'Tjerruing' Blackwattle Bay and creek was originally an abundant tidal estuary and watercourse. The creek was source of fresh water for First Nations people, and a place for fishing and activity.
- 11. By the middle of the 19th century the area was densely inhabited, and the creek highly modified. Industries established along the creek line including, abattoirs and boiling down works and timber yards. Within 100 years since the arrival of the First Fleet, the creek and bay were a polluted swamp.
- 12. The 1873 Blackwattle Bay Land Reclamation Act allowed the creek and swamp be filled and established the whole of the area reclaimed be '*set apart and dedicated in perpetuity as a park or place of public recreation*'
- 13. Using silt dredged from the harbour the area was filled between 1876 and 1880. By 1882, ovals, greens, paths, lakes and other facilities along with curving path system and plantings of evergreen and deciduous trees in a Gardenesque style were completed.
- 14. Wentworth Park was dedicated November 1885 and named after NSW Statesman William Charles Wentworth (1790–1872) has played a significant role in the sporting, recreational and cultural life of the Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont communities for many years.
- 15. The central park space had an enclosed cricket ground, a football field and an ornamental lake. The bowling green and pavilion was in the north-eastern corner of the park and later, an elegant rotunda was built on the western edge where brass bands played on summer evenings.

16. The park came to serve as a focus for community activities including concerts, celebrations, moving picture shows and in particular sport. In the early 1900s the lakes were removed; a kindergarten established and in 1919 the railway viaduct was built across the park.
17. During the first and second World Wars, many timber wool stores were erected in the park, and an American troop camp was set up on the central sport field. The wool stores sheds remained for several years after the end of the war.
18. A speedway used the park through to the early 1930s and the National Coursing Association opened the greyhound track in 1939. By the 1970s large crowds attended race meetings and the outer park was utilised extensively for car parking. The large grandstand building was opened 1985 however since then there has been a significant decline in numbers of people attending greyhound events.

Wentworth Park Today

19. Wentworth Park is Crown Land. The northern and southern portions of the park, about two thirds or 88,000m², are managed by the City of Sydney. The central third (44,000m²) is managed by the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex and leased to the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association. The lease is due to expire in 2027 - Attachment B Existing Facilities Plan
20. The Greyhound track and associated buildings and open space are fenced off. There is no access through this central area to connect the public open spaces of Wentworth Park north and south. In addition, the large grandstand building obstructs views through the park. A 100 x 68metre rugby sized sport field is located in the in the centre of the track. As part of the lease car parking is permitted in the open park area.
21. The park has an informal open grass and mature tree character with a mix of native, and exotic evergreen and deciduous trees. Large specimen and avenues of fig tree planting and several heritage items including an Art Deco Clock Tower, a small Cold Store and the Stewards building which contribute to the park setting. The Glebe railway viaduct, now Inner West Light Rail line, crosses the park with sinuously row of brick arches.
22. Due to the uncertainty around future use and access to Greyhound Complex land, the park is underdeveloped, and some existing facilities are near end of life or are demountable public amenities.
23. Despite the large park size, it has limited formal recreation, sports and park facilities and very few paths and lighting. A small local scale playground and exercise stations are located at the southern end of the park. The park is surrounded by busy roads, however recent traffic calming and pedestrian crossings on Wentworth Park Road have improved the pedestrian connections to Glebe.
24. Wentworth Park has four (100x 60m) sports fields, synthetic cricket pitches and practice nets which are well used for community club competition and social sports such as junior cricket, football (soccer), Oz Tag and touch football, training, school sports and informal use.

25. The demand for sport fields exceeds capacity and the fields are overused. Currently the fields are booked 45 hours per week which results in high turf wear, exposed dirt and compaction. Annual turf replacement is required and the fields are closed for 10-12 weeks every year. The recommended use of turf grass sport fields is 30-35 hours maximum per week.
26. Wentworth Park was once part of the harbour. It is low lying land and flood prone. In a 1 in 100-year event (1% AEP) parts of the park and the surrounding roads flood and the area is significantly inundated in a Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). As a result some facilities and uses are not suitable in Wentworth Park.
27. Wentworth Park and Bridge Roads are particularly flood prone with small and frequent events which recently occurred in February 2025. Several substantial Sydney Water stormwater drains are located under the park. With climate change, sea levels will rise, and the frequency and severity of storm events will increase. Wentworth Park provides space to help reduce and mitigate some of these future flooding changes.

The case for change

City of Sydney Open Spaces and Recreations Needs

28. The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016 (Rec Needs Study) provides directions and recommendations for the planning, provision, development and management of public open space and recreation facilities in the City.
29. The Rec Needs Study identifies a need to provide more open space, additional sports fields and indoor and outdoor courts by 2032 to meet community needs. It also includes has specific recommendations for Wentworth Park:
 - (a) Investigate feasibility of indoor sports court in Wentworth Park Sporting Complex in any future master planning of the park.
 - (b) Long-term, develop additional sports fields with any redevelopment of Wentworth Park.
30. The former Fig and Wattle Street site Pyrmont is located next to Wentworth Park. A condition of sale for the Fig and Wattle Street site requires the developer to provide two new indoor courts (basketball, netball and volleyball etc). These new indoor courts will address the existing short-fall and help meet community needs. This solution also avoids putting a new building in the park and maximises the amount of green open space in the park.
31. Wentworth Park is the only park managed by the City with multiple adjacent sports fields, suitable for social sport and local club competition use. The removal of the greyhound track will free up space and creates the opportunity to provide a new oval containing two sports fields. This increases flexibility, the range of sports which can be played and usability.

Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy

32. In December 2020, the NSW Government finalised the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy (PPPS) which provides a 20-year plan for growth, including 23,000 jobs and 4,000 homes.

33. The PPPS identifies Wentworth Park is a vital green space as the area changes in the long term. The lease at Wentworth Park for greyhound racing expires in 2027. This provides an opportunity to reuse this space for other community, recreation and open space activities and to reconnect the north and south of the park and return it to its original design intent as a contiguous green public open space. Key priorities for Wentworth Park precinct include:
- (a) Facilitate the return of the Wentworth Park greyhound track land as newly activated, publicly accessible open space as part of a larger and enhanced parkland.
 - (b) Investigate open space and recreation improvements at Wentworth Park to increase capacity and community access for a district park destination for active and passive uses, including a new synthetic sports field (if feasible).
 - (c) Investigate future joint and shared use opportunities for open space and public buildings, including Ultimo Public School and Wentworth Park.

Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct

34. The Blackwattle Bay Precinct on the eastern side of the bay on the current Fish Market and Concrete Batching Plant sites. The Bank Street open space site and portions of the foreshore promenade are zoned RE1 Public Recreation in the Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012.
35. In 2021, Infrastructure NSW (INSW) lodged a State Significant Precinct (SSP) rezoning proposal for the current Fish Market site. The proposal significantly increased the development of the site with some new public open space to support the proposed density.
36. The Blackwattle Bay Precinct includes the 1.1-hectare Bank Street open space which has a multipurpose court, playground, dragon boat storage and launch, café and passive park areas. New open spaces include a smaller Promontory Park, the foreshore promenade, new streets, laneways and shared zones, plaza and pedestrian space. Despite the development and population size, the proposed open space provision is modest with limited large open grass areas and no active sports fields or facilities.
37. In July 2024, in response to the NSW Government's new housing targets, INSW has increased the density from 1,200 to around 1,500 new homes. This increase further reinforces the need for the return of Wentworth Park to meet growing demand.

Ultimo Pyrmont Planning Proposal

38. The City has been tasked by the NSW Government to deliver 18,900 new private homes by July 2029.
39. The City's draft Ultimo Pyrmont Planning Framework can deliver up to 4,500 and 4,800 additional homes and space for 23,600 and 27,000 jobs. Following 2 years of planning and early consultation, the proposal was placed on formal public exhibition in late-2024 and is being reported to Council with a final recommendation.
40. The proposal is a direct response to Direction 9 of the PPPS, which focuses on housing growth and opportunities for more social and affordable rental housing in residential areas including around Wentworth Park.

41. Returning Wentworth Park to the public and removing the greyhound racing track, its stand, carparking, and surrounding infrastructure ensures open space to support this increase in density, rather than the NSW Government having to purchase costly private land for this purpose.
42. If the NSW Government allows greyhound racing to remain at Wentworth Park beyond 2027 or proposes an alternative use on the site instead of open space it may jeopardise the urgent delivery of housing in this area. It will require the Ultimo Pyrmont Planning Proposal, the associated Contributions Plan and increased density to be reconsidered. The NSW Government and the City may also need to consider providing the required alternative open space in locations currently proposed for housing.

Bays West Precinct

43. The Bay West Precinct is located on Glebe Island, Rozelle in the Inner West Council Local Government Area. The island has large silos and primarily used as a port for the bulk construction materials like cement, gypsum and sand.
44. The NSW Government prepared the Bays West Place Strategy 2021 to guide the transformation of Bays West Precinct from industrial uses to a new place for living, working and recreation. The Bays West Transport Orientated Development (TOD) rezoning proposal establishes residential dwellings, commercial uses and open space in Stage 1 around the new Metro Station and the White Bay Power Station precinct.
45. The TOD rezoning proposal includes new open space for passive recreation, but no new sports fields or active facilities are proposed. The new population in the Bay West Precinct will rely on Rozelle Parklands and Wentworth Park for meet community needs.
46. Currently there are a few different proposal options for the Bays West Precinct which retains bulk port uses and facilities on the site with new high-density housing and commercial uses. However, should the whole precinct be changed and redeveloped for housing it will further necessitate the need for more open space, active sport and recreation facilities in Wentworth Park.

A Community Vision for Wentworth Park

47. With joint funding from the NSW Government, the City led community engagement to develop a vision for Wentworth Park in late 2022. We invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound complex, returning the centre of the park to public open space and to tell us what they would like to see and do there.
48. There was overwhelming support to remove the Wentworth greyhound track to create more green space and unify the park. The community sees Wentworth Park as a significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other.
49. The community was most engaged with the following four themes:
 - (a) a green place connected to nature.
 - (b) a place of sport, exercise and play.

- (c) a place that supports social activities and events.
 - (d) a place that is easy to get in to and move through
50. The vision for Wentworth Park as 'One Park for Everyone' incorporates the community aspirations and recreation needs while thoughtfully responding to the park's location, its history and layers. Unifying the park re-establishes the park originally intended, a place of public recreation.

City of Sydney's Proposal for Wentworth Park

51. In response to the community engagement the City has developed a draft Structure Plan (Plan) is to guide long term decision making and provide a clear framework for the park, allowing a staged renewal and upgrade over time which delivers a cohesive and beautiful park that meets community needs - Attachment D Wentworth Park - One Park for Everyone
52. The Plan establishes a framework with a series of sympathetic interventions that focuses on preserving and enhancing the parks mature trees and landscape character, acknowledges place and its heritage significance, and ensures access to the park improved and maintained for everyone into the future.
53. The proposal creates one unified 13-hectare park which realises the community vision for Wentworth Park. A significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other. The combined total area of Wentworth Park is about 132,000m², similar in size to Hyde Park and will make it the fourth largest park managed by the City. There are 4 key components to the proposal:
- (a) The Loop

The generous perimeter loop path, large canopy trees and green understory plantings stitches the park together. Providing shaded places to sit or be a spectator, a loop to walk, ride or exercise and a path to access, use and enjoy the facilities. Park entry and access improvements in the surrounding streets will improve links to the surrounding neighbourhoods.
 - (b) Wentworth Park North

By consolidating the active sports fields to central park space, it releases the northern end of the park for passive recreation. The plan reinstates areas of the original Blackwattle native vegetation and reconnects Wentworth Park to Blackwattle Bay, the Fish Market and light rail. While maintaining views to the beautiful brick viaduct and protecting the significant fig trees. The space provides:

 - (i) regional scale playground.
 - (ii) tween social space.
 - (iii) picnic facilities, tables, seat and shelters.
 - (iv) places to sit.

- (v) large open grass space for passive and informal recreation.

(c) Wentworth Park Central

Returning the middle of Wentworth Park provides an additional 44,000m² of public open space and creates active sports and recreation in the central precinct. The key move is the establishment of new a Common with oval and two full-sized fields, surrounded by shade trees, seating and active recreation nodes.

The large oval will be a hub for community sports, recreation and informal use and community gathering. Embellishments of the existing fields will improve use for sports and recreation use. New multiple purpose courts and a skateable moment focuses on active recreation.

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings will provide a community room, sports and spectator facilities, changeroom and park amenities. The art deco clocktower marks the main park entry and provides an opportunity for heritage interpretation to celebrate the rich history of the park. The precinct will provide:

- (i) A flexible grass Common for the community.
- (ii) 5 sports fields and ovals with cricket pitches.
- (iii) Park amenities and changerooms.
- (iv) Adaptive reuse of heritage building
- (v) Skateable moment and youth area
- (vi) 2 multiple purpose courts and basketball hoops.
- (vii) 2 cricket practice nets
- (viii) Circulation and link paths
- (ix) Passive open grass and warm up area.
- (x) Heritage interpretation

(d) Wentworth Park South

Revitalisation of the southern end of Wentworth Park will provide a range of smaller intimate garden rooms for siting and social activities, and large open grass spaces will cater for passive recreation and inform use. Restoration of the Blackwattle native vegetation along the original foreshore line will increase biodiversity and the establish of an ephemeral wetland basin will reveal and filter stormwater.

The majestic figs trees frame a small local-scale playground, picnic facilities and exercise stations. New circulation paths improve access and links through the park. The south space includes:

- (i) Native habitat and biodiversity plantings.

- (ii) Ephemeral wetland basin.
- (iii) Local scale playground.
- (iv) Exercise stations.
- (v) Picnic facilities, tables, seat and shelters.
- (vi) Small social spaces and places to sit.
- (vii) Large open grass space for passive parks uses.
- (viii) Circulation and link paths

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

54. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - The Structure Plan establishes a framework for Wentworth Park which guides and coordinate staged park improvements.
 - (b) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - Wentworth Park is an essential public oasis of natural calm in the dense built environment of the inner city. The community supports a sustainable park with rich biodiversity, incorporating green open spaces, mature shady trees and native plants. The plan will reveal the natural water systems of the area.
 - (c) Direction 3 - Public places for all - The Structure Plan embeds park enhancement which improve accessibility and inclusivity. Future Park upgrades will ensure it serves as a welcoming space for all community members which meets the needs of a variety of users and provides opportunities for social interaction.
 - (d) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development - The plan will improve the quality of open space. Incorporating sustainable materials and practices in the park's renewal, promoting environmental responsibility and resilience to climate change.
 - (e) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - the Structure Plan establishes a network of circulation paths to improve access and provide links through and around the park for pedestrians and bike riders. Traffic calming measures, intersection improvements and pedestrian crossings will improve connections to the light rail and surrounding neighbourhoods.

- (f) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - The vision is a park that encourages safe, easy movement for everyone, and one that has sensible connections into surrounding neighbourhoods for walking and cycling. That facilities cater for everyone and meet community needs.
- (g) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - With the return of the central space to the park it will provide much needed open space and new recreation facilities for a diverse and for the growing community.

Organisational Impact

55. The proposed Structure Plan will provide additional open space and increase the sports, recreation and community facilities. These assets will require additional staff and ongoing maintenance.

Risks

56. If the Wentworth Park greyhound track is not returned to the park to provide more open space, improving public access and planning for the increase population in the area will result in failure to meet community needs and expectations.
57. Implementing the Vision for Wentworth Park will require a series of projects over time as funding becomes available. Project and design safety risk assessments will be developed and continuously reviewed and updated through the life of all future projects in consideration of the principles in the City's risk appetite, which states that:
- (a) We are open to taking risks that align with our strategic objectives and are within our capacity to manage effectively.
 - (b) We have an open risk appetite and will accept some level of risk to enhance our infrastructure, assets or property.
 - (c) We encourage a culture of responsible risk taking to support innovation, excellence and continuous improvement.
 - (d) We identify and evaluate emerging risks to ensure timely and appropriate responses.

Financial Implications

58. The NSW Government provided matched grant funding of \$80,000 under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program for the Wentworth Park Community Vision and Plan.

59. The Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 have been amended to meet the requirements of the NSW Government Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy. The draft Ultimo Pyrmont local infrastructure contributions plan 2023 has been prepared to fund future open space, recreation, sports and community facility capital works projects. The draft plan includes allocations for Wentworth Park including: :
- (a) Wentworth Park South - capacity improvements \$20 million.
 - (b) Wentworth Park North - capacity improvements \$40 million.
60. The NSW Government is responsible for the costs associated with removal the greyhound racing track, grandstand, carparking, and surrounding infrastructure before return the central portion of the park for public recreation at the end of the greyhound lease and handing care and control for this portion of the park to the City.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

61. A summary of the key dates are:
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| (a) NSW Government Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy | December 2020 |
| (b) Wentworth Park Community Vision Consultation | September 2022 |
| (c) Blackwattle Bay State Significant Rezoning Policy Approval | May 2025 |
| (d) Planning Framework - Ultimo Pyrmont | October 2025 |
| (e) New Fish Market Opening | January 2026 |
| (f) Greyhound Track Lease Due to Expire | September 2027 |

Public Consultation

62. In late 2022 we invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound facility and tell us what they'd like to see and do there. A summary of the consultation activities included:
- (a) Letters advertising the online feedback portal were distributed to the Pyrmont, Ultimo and Glebe areas.
 - (b) 3 workshops with schools and children's services (61 children).
 - (c) 2 pop-ups in the park (250 people).
 - (d) An online information session (30 people).
 - (e) Interactive map visited by 713 people with 264 comments.
 - (f) 34 surveys.

- (g) 50 email submissions, including 5 from community groups and 2 from schools or children's services.
 - (h) A handwritten letter.
63. The community feedback provided overwhelming support to remove the Wentworth greyhound track to create more green space and unify the park. The community sees Wentworth Park as a significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other.
64. This is a place that welcomes people and can be safely and easily accessed from the surrounding built environment. The community is passionate about a unified and connected park people can move through easily and that is designed well to integrate its many uses.
65. The depth of connection people feel about the park and breadth of expectations being voiced about its future supports the creation of a Structure Plan. Wentworth Park is deeply valued by the community as a large green space in an increasingly dense inner-city area.
66. The community were most engaged with the following 4 themes.
- (a) A green place connected to nature – more than 630 engagements.
 - (b) A place of sport, exercise and play – more than 1,230 engagements.
 - (c) A place that supports social activities and events – more than 825 engagements.
 - (d) A place that is easy to get in to and move through – more than 470 engagements.
67. The community comments and themes have helped inform the draft Structure Plan. The purpose of the Vision and Structure Plan is to facilitate discussions with the NSW Government and stakeholders.
68. Once removal of the greyhound facility and the return of the centre of the park for public open space has been confirmed, the City will undertake public consultation and exhibit the draft Structure Plan.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Maren Parry, Development Manager

Stephen Merchant, Development Manager

Attachment A

Location Plan - Wentworth Park

LOCATION PLAN

WENTWORTH PARK, GLEBE

CITY OF SYDNEY



Attachment B

Wentworth Park – Existing Facilities Plan

Existing Park

- 1 - Heritage Fig Tree Avenue & Significant Trees
- 2 - Open Turf Grass Area for Passive Recreation
- 3 - Picnic Facilities, Tables and Seats
- 4 - Sport Fields (100 x 80m)
- 5 - Glebe Railway Viaduct - Heritage Item
- 6 - Cricket Fields with Synthetic Pitches
- 7 - Park Amenities and Changerooms - Demountables
- 8 - Cricket Practice Nets
- 9 - Wentworth Park Greyhound Complex Stadium
- 10 - Greyhound Racing Track
- 11 - Sports Field (100m x 88 + in Goal Area)
- 12 - Car Parking
- 13 - Clock Tower - Heritage Item
- 14 - Quarry Street Pedestrian Bridge and Lift
- 15 - Store Building - Heritage Item
- 16 - National Coursing Association Stewards Office - Heritage Item
- 17 - Playground - Local Scale
- 18 - Significant Figs and Mature Trees.
- 19 - Exercise Nodes
- 20 - Palisade Boundary Fence and Walls

Legend

- Paths
- Secondary Paths
- Boundary Fence - Restricted Access
- Wentworth Sports Complex Lease Area
- Playground
- Fitness Nodes
- Sports Fields
- Passive Open Grass
- Buildings / Structures

CITY OF SYDNEY

Wentworth Park Glebe Existing Facilities Plan

23 June 2025



Attachment C

Engagement Summary Report

A community vision for Wentworth Park



Contents

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A community vision for Wentworth Park

Background

In its Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy, the NSW Government has committed to relocating the greyhound track, currently licensed to the Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association until 2027, to create one large, unified park for the local community.

The north and south sections of the park are currently under the City of Sydney's care. We welcome the state government's commitment to provide this significant parcel of Crown land as public open space.

Working towards a consolidated park is also an identified action in the [City of Sydney's Wentworth Park plan of management](#).

A long-term plan for the park is needed to respond effectively to the likely removal of the greyhound facility and potential for greater public green space. This will ensure the best use of the park in the future.

In late 2022 we invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound facility and tell us what they'd like to see and do there.

Engagement summary

From 8 August 2022 to 5 September 2022, we asked the community to help us develop a vision for Wentworth Park.

Our consultation provided an opportunity for early community involvement on a vision for the future when the greyhound facility moves and the centre of the park becomes public open space.

Consultation activities

- 3 workshops with schools and children's services (61 children)
- 2 pop-ups in the park (250 people)
- An online information session (30 people)
- Interactive map visited by 713 people with 264 comments
- 34 surveys
- 50 email submissions, including 5 from community groups and 2 from schools or children's services
- A handwritten letter

What we heard

The community sees Wentworth Park as a significant multipurpose green space where people of all ages can exercise and play, connect with nature and each other.

This is a place that welcomes people and can be safely and easily accessed from the surrounding built environment. The community is passionate about a unified and connected park people can move through easily and that is designed well to integrate its many uses.

The depth of connection people feel about the park and breadth of expectations being voiced about its future supports the creation of a long-term plan. Wentworth Park is deeply valued by the community as a large green space in an increasingly dense inner-city area.

The community were most engaged with the following 4 themes.

- A green place connected to nature – more than 630 engagements.
- A place of sport, exercise and play – more than 1,230 engagements.
- A place that supports social activities and events – more than 825 engagements.
- A place that is easy to get in to and move through – more than 470 engagements.

Removing the greyhound facility to create more green space

We invited the community to imagine a park without the greyhound facility and tell us what they'd like to see and do there.

There was overwhelming support to remove the greyhound facility to create more green space and unify the park. There is a strong sense that its potential is not currently realised.



A green place connected to nature

The community strongly supports a sustainable park with rich biodiversity, incorporating green open spaces, mature shady trees, native plants and rewilded areas. They want to rediscover the natural water features of the area.

The community wants to connect with nature through the park, with walks and places to sit protected from the view of surrounding buildings and local traffic noise. They want to interact with water running through creeks, ponds and fountains and to see and hear a diversity of wildlife.

Wentworth Park is viewed as an essential public oasis of natural calm in the dense built environment of the inner city.



A place of sport, exercise and play

The community wants a park that supports a diverse range of exercise and sporting activities for a wide variety of people and organisations, including schools.

There is strong interest in open sporting fields for football, soccer and hockey, and more specialised facilities for sports like tennis, cricket, basketball and netball. The community raised the need for upgraded playing surfaces, better drainage and improved amenities for sporting teams and spectators.

An expansion of active recreation opportunities included outdoor gym and parkour equipment, walking tracks, skateboarding areas and open space for more informal activities.

The community wants a place that supports a variety of play options for children of all ages. Nature play with water features were highlighted.

The subject of dogs is important to community members and different views about how best to manage dogs in the park were expressed.



A place that supports social activities and events

The community wants the park to have facilities that encourage relaxation and socialising, and education and entertainment.

The northern part of the park was identified as an area for picnic shelters and barbecues as it is close to the Sydney Fish Market.

The community would like more public toilets, seating, bins, bubblers and lighting throughout the park. They would like homeless people supported as the park changes.

Ideas for future facilities included the creation of small intimate natural spaces for quiet relaxation, an amphitheatre for outdoor events, a community centre and library, a place for markets and the repurposing of heritage buildings for community events and as arts spaces and cafes.

The community is interested in seeing the local heritage recognised including the connections and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the park's industrial and sporting history.



A place that is easy to get in to and move through

The community wants a park that encourages safe, easy movement within it, and one that has sensible connections into surrounding neighbourhoods for walking and cycling.

People are interested in paths that move them through the park efficiently, while also providing paths for recreational and social purposes.

The community is interested in overhead walkways and cycleways to integrate the park, the new Sydney Fish Market development and public transport options such as the light rail.

Increased traffic and parking are concerns for the community. Traffic calming options as well as pedestrian and cycle connections throughout the surrounding streets are desired by the community.





Attachment D

**City of Sydney's Proposal for Wentworth
Park**



Wentworth Park

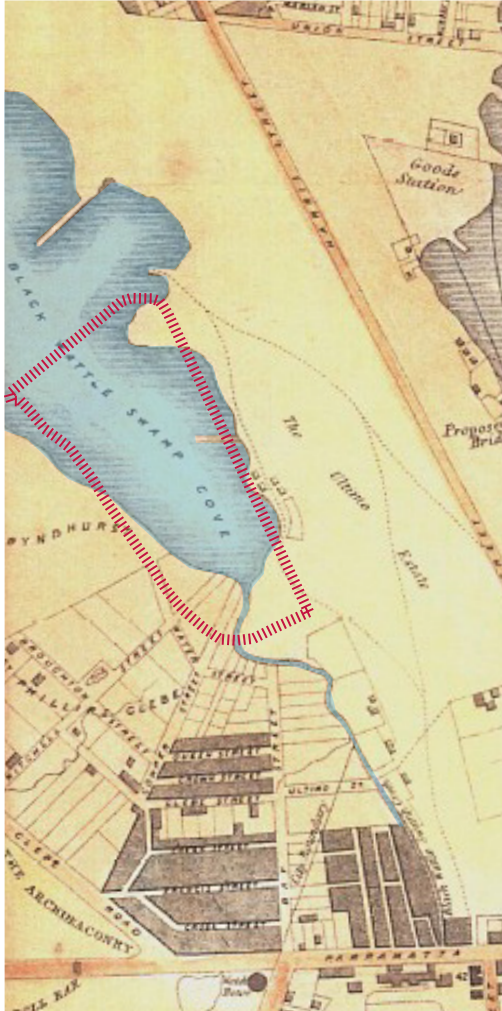
One Park for Everyone

CITY OF SYDNEY

DRAFT October 2025

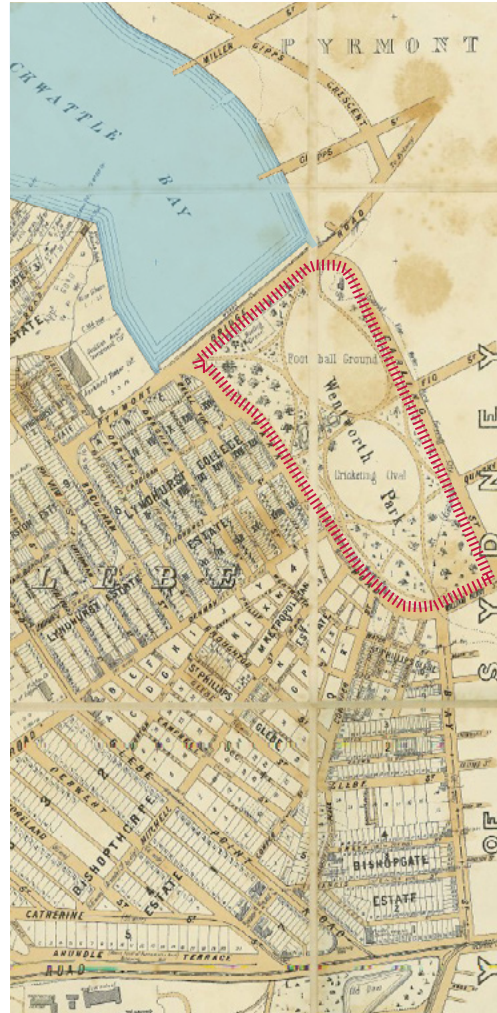
History

1855 - Swamp



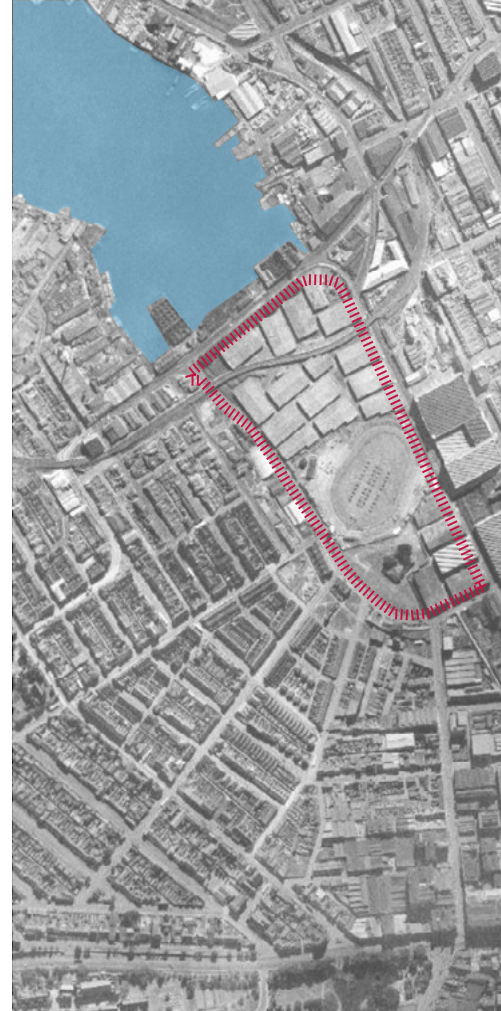
Map of Sydney and Suburbs, 1855
Smith and Gardiners - City of Sydney Archives

1886 - Park



The Glebe Camperdown Newtown Map 1886,
Higginbotham and Robinson, National Library of Australia/
Trove

1943 - Stores & Camp



Aerial photograph of Sydney 1943,
Spatial Information Exchange.

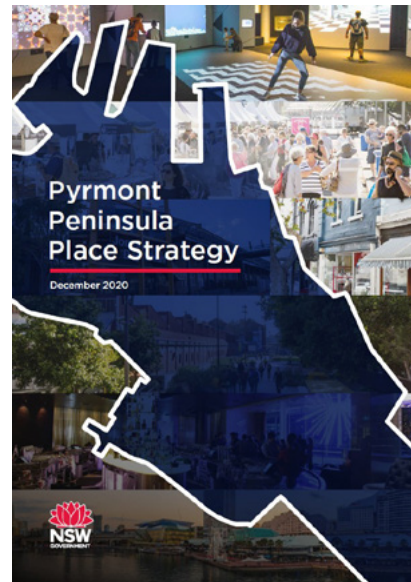
2025 - Track & Park



Aerial Photograph Glebe & Ultimo 2025,
Nearmap / City of Sydney

Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy 2020

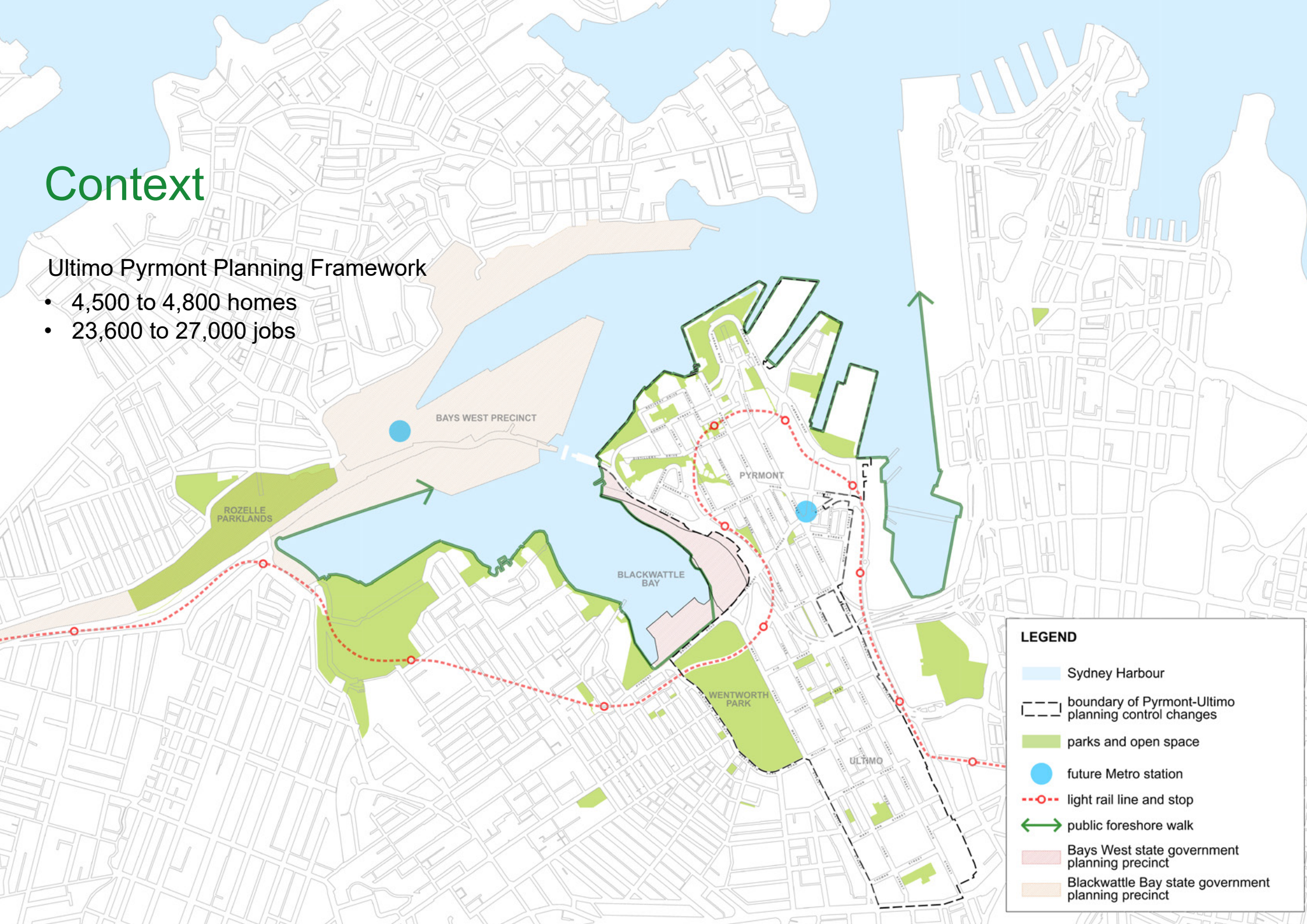
- 20-Year Plan for growth
- Committed to alternative site for greyhound racing.
- Return of Wentworth Park to the community as public open space.
- District destination park.
- Increase active & passive use.
- New play spaces.



Context

Ultimo Pyrmont Planning Framework

- 4,500 to 4,800 homes
- 23,600 to 27,000 jobs



Phases

Original



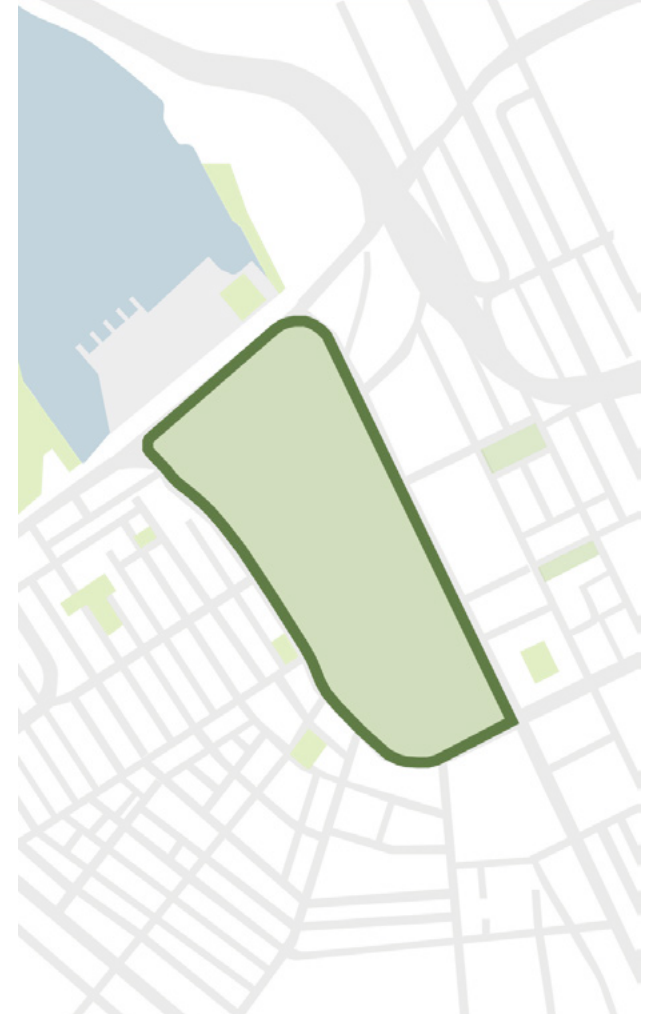
Gardenesque Park for Public Recreation

Now



A Divided Park

Future



One Park for Everyone

Vision

Loop



Continuous Loop Path that stitches the park together

- Wide Loop Path
- Seating Nodes
- Canopy Shade Trees
- Green Understorey Planting

Northern Park



A passive park to sit, socialise, picnic and play

- Blackwattle Native Planting
- Regional Play Space
- Tween Social Space
- Passive Grass Area
- Picnic Facilities & Shelters

Central Park



An active core for sports, recreation, community and events

- Sports Fields & Ovals
- Multipurpose Courts & Hoops
- Skateable Moment
- Community & Change Rooms
- Public Amenities

Southern Park



A place to be in nature, sit, socialise, play and exercise

- Blackwattle Native Planting
- Ephemeral Wetland Basin
- Local Play Space & Picnic
- Passive Grass Area
- Exercise Stations

WENTWORTH PARK GLEBE STRUCTURE PLAN

PROGRAM

- 1 Heritage Fig Tree Avenue & Significant Trees
- 2 Park Edge Plantings
- 3 Main Park Entries
- 4 Open Turf Grass Area for Passive Recreation
- 5 Picnic Facilities and Shelters
- 6 Pedestrian Access and Intersection Improvements
- 7 Heritage Viaducts - Lighting Improvements
- 8 New Park Amenities and Changerooms
- 9 Sport Fields (100 x 60m) & Cricket Fields with Synthetic Pitches
- 10 Cricket Practice Nets
- 11 Multipurpose Courts & Basketball Hoop
- 12 Youth Recreation Area - Skateable Moment & Parkour
- 13 New Oval Sports Fields (130 x 70m) & AFL + Cricket with Turf Pitches
- 14 Entry Forecourt and Heritage Interpretation
- 15 Heritage Clock Tower
- 16 Adaptive Use Stewards Building - Community Room, Amenities, Changerooms
- 17 New Regional Adventure Playground
- 18 Tween Social Space
- 19 Playground - Local Scale
- 20 Significant Figs to be protected
- 21 Exercise Nodes
- 22 Ephemeral Foreshore Wetland
- 23 Blackwattle Native Habitat Planting
- 24 Heritage Store Building
- 25 Quarry Street Pedestrian Bridge and Lift

LEGEND

- Loop Path
- Main Paths
- Secondary Paths
- Picnic Facilities and Shelters
- Access Improvement and Traffic Calming
- Exercise Nodes
- Ephemeral Wetland - Water Treatment Basin
- Passive Turf Grass
- Active Turf Grass
- Buildings and Structures
- Original Blackwattle Bay Foreshore Line
- Endemic Blackwattle Native Vegetation
- Canopy Trees



02 October 2025



A green place connected to nature
Image: Mark Gerada



A place of sports, exercise and play
Image: Mark Gerada



A Park that enables relaxation and socialising, education and entertainment.

Image: Mark Gerada



A Place that is easy to get in to and move through

Entry at St Johns Road, Adaptive Reuse Stewards Building - Community Room, Changerooms, Canteen and Public Amenities

Image: Mark Gerada



Northern Park Amenities and Sports Fields

Image: Mark Gerada



Vision for Wentworth Park - View to North East
Image: Mark Gerada