



HOWLEY PARK MASTERPLAN

DECEMBER 2023

Contents

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1 Background
 - 1.2 Objectives
 - 1.3 Guiding strategies and policies
 - 1.4 Consultation
- 2.0 REVIEW AND SITE ANALYSIS
 - 2.1 Better Placed objectives
 - 2.2 Site context
 - 2.3 Topography and landform
 - 2.4 Vegetation
 - 2.5 Visual character
 - 2.6 Heritage and culture
 - 2.7 Pedestrian access
 - 2.8 Vehicular access
 - 2.9 Amenity and comfort
- 3.0 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
 - 3.1 Movement and access
 - 3.2 Landscape
 - 3.3 Cultural heritage
 - 3.4 Activation
- 4.0 MASTERPLAN
 - 4.1 Design principles
 - 4.2 Proposed Masterplan
 - 4.3 Illustrative views

The City of Canada Bay acknowledges the Wangal Clan, one of 29 tribes of the Eora Nation and the traditional custodians of this land.
The Council pay respect to elders past and present and extends this respect to all Aboriginal people living or visting the City of Canada Bay.



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The City of Canada Bay Council is committed to help revitalise Howley Park to provide the community optimum open space and recreation resources. As such, it is recognised that a collective vision for the park's refurbishment and management is required to guide long-term enhancement.

In April 2021 Council obtained funding from the NSW Government's Department of Planning and Environment to upgrade Howley Park East. After consultation with the community it was recognised that a more ambitious plan was required.

To better reflect our communities vision, a Masterplan that covers the whole of Howley Park has been prepared. One that is based on a process of sound investigation and analysis, identification of opportunities, and the subsequent development of an integrated set of actions enhancing recreation and environmental outcomes.

This report, prepared by Environmental Partnership (NSW) Pty Ltd, summarises the study process and outcomes, detailing the recommendations for the ongoing improvement of the park to provide cultural, environmental and social benefits for the community.

1.2 Objectives

Council's brief identified the following objectives and opportunities:

- Optimise land use for public open space or recreational purposes.
- Provide a range of recreational settings, activities and compatible land uses.
- Protect and enhance the natural character and environment for recreational purposes.
- Facilitate public access to and along the foreshore.
- Increase the usability of open spaces within the park for passive recreation by providing increased seating opportunities within the park.
- Improve views through the park and open up access to historical elements.
- Consider the impact of street parking on Victoria Place and maximise efficiency.
- Consider environmental habitat and biodiversity opportunities.

1.3 Guiding strategies and policies

The following strategy and planning documents have been reviewed and considered in the development of concepts for Howley Park:



Parramatta River Masterplan



City of Canada Bay Council
Foreshore Access Strategy



City of Canada Bay Council
Community Strategic Plan



City of Canada Bay Council
Social Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan

1.4 Consultation

Phase One Consultation December 2021 - February 2022

Phase One consultation for the Howley Park East draft Masterplan was undertaken from 22 December 2021 - 20th February 2022, and included the following components:

- Collaborate survey
- Feedback via phone and email

The following methods were implemented to notify the community of the consultation activities:

- Notification letter delivered to 1,287 residents
- Site poster
- Collaborate project page: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/howley-park-east
- Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- City of Canada Bay enews (January)
- City of Canada Bay News (February)
- Direct email to Gladesville Marina and resident group



Distribution of Notification Letter: approximately 1,287 residences
(Source: Howley Park Community Consultation Report, City of Canada Bay, 2022)

Howley Park East

Beautification works

Community consultation
23 December 2021 - 20 February 2022

The City of Canada Bay has obtained funding from the NSW Government's Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to bring Howley Park East to life for the community.

This project aims to increase pedestrian access to the beach, upgrade existing garden beds and establish connection to the water.

You are now invited to review draft concept designs for the space and provide feedback.

Have your say

collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/howley-park-east
council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
9911 6555
Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 1470

Site Notification Poster
(Source: Howley Park Community Consultation Report, City of Canada Bay, 2022)

Phase One Consultation involvement

Council's Consultation Report February 2022 outlines that the consultation mediums received 48 contributions in total, 42 survey submissions and 6 pieces of feedback received via email.

Collaborate reach

- 1,483 page views
- 1,106 unique site visitors
- 40 people following the project for updates

Newsletter reach

- City of Canada Bay enews (January) emailed to 1,376 residents
- City of Canada Bay Newsletter (February) delivered to 36,400 households

Social media reach

This consultation was promoted via the following Council social media channels:

- Facebook – 4 x posts
- Instagram – 2 x posts
- Twitter – 2 x posts

Collectively, these social posts reached over 29,500 people and achieved 2,994 engagements (post likes, comments, and shares).

Phase One Consultation feedback

Concept Options

Feedback on the 6 concept options presented indicated that community preferences were split across the options for a diverse range of reasons. Common ideas (expressed through 2 or more submissions) included:

- Need to retain green space, trees, and wildlife (3)
- Proposed ramp dominates the space (3)
- More bench seating (2)
- Design should connect Howley Park East and West (2)
- Net off the area to make it safe to swim (2)

Other feedback on the options included:

- Include water station
- Easy access to bins
- Sustainable materials should be used for the retaining wall, fencing, seating etc
- Beach access should be a more natural bush track
- No bright LED lights
- Need additional input from local indigenous groups

Feedback via phone/email

14 submissions were received via email on the consultation material including the concept options. Common ideas (expressed through 2 or more submissions) included:

- Design should connect Howley Park East and West (8)
- The ramp and walking paths overpower the space in all design options and the space should be maximised by reclaiming a portion of the driveway (7)
- Design needs to facilitate recreation such as kayaking (4)
- Design should be kept as natural as possible to enhance what is already there (4)
- Design should be kept simple with no need for interpretative signage or art (3)
- Accessibility needs to be adequately addressed (3)
- Garden beds are unnecessary (2)
- Secure kayak storage should be considered, possibly supported by a kayak share initiative (2)
- Retain existing native plant species (2)
- Shark net to make the area safe for swimmers (1)

Other feedback on the options included:

- Additional planting of trees and shrubbery should be prioritised over garden beds, to attract birds
- Access to the furthest rocky outcrop (eastmost outcrop facing the bridge) should be explored as it is a popular fishing spot
- Imported sand would improve the beach
- Water quality should be tested regularly

Conclusions from Phase One Consultation

Council's Consultation Report February 2022 concludes that this consultation did not reveal a clear community preference for any of the draft concept designs, however specific elements were noted as being highly important.

Many community members expressed a desired focus to maximise retention of existing trees and plantings and there is a strong preference to keep the design character informal. Several residents would also like to see the First Nations history of the space recognised and accessibility more adequately addressed.

The community would like to maximise green space, with many respondents noting that the proposed ramp dominates the draft designs and limits green space and beach area. In line with this idea, residents closest to the park would like to see part of Victoria Place used to connect Howley Park East and West to create a more complete recreational space.

The community is excited about this project and the opportunity it brings for relaxation, recreation and to enjoy a beautiful part of Drummoyne that is not currently used to its full potential.

Phase Two Consultation October 2023 - November 2023

Following on from Phase One consultation, a draft Masterplan was prepared for the whole of Howley Park and was placed on public exhibition from 9 October 2023 - 16 November 2023.

Consultation mediums included:

- Collaborate survey
- One drop-in session held at Howley Park on 25 October 2023
- Feedback via phone and email

The following methods were implemented to notify the community of the consultation activities:

- Collaborate survey
- Notification letter delivered to 1,287 residents
- 2 x site posters
- Collaborate project page: collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/howleypark
- Social media
- Direct email to participants from the first round of consultation

Phase Two Consultation involvement

Council's Consultation Report November 2023 outlines that the Phase Two consultation received 47 contributions in total, 31 survey submissions, 13 email submissions and 3 pieces of feedback received via written forms at the drop-in session.

Collaborate reach:

- 620 page views
- 401 unique site visitors
- 20 people following the project for updates

This consultation was promoted via the following Council social media channels:

- Facebook – 3 x posts

Collectively, these facebook posts reached over 9,379 people and achieved 456 engagements (clicks, likes, comments, and shares).

Howley Park Draft Masterplan

Community Consultation 9 October - 1 November 2023



As part of our Open Space and Recreation Strategy and commitment to improving outdoor spaces, we are planning to upgrade Howley Park, Drummoyne. This \$1.5 million project is funded by the NSW Government's Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) along with a \$807,000 Commonwealth grant under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.

In early 2022, we consulted with the community about how to bring Howley Park East to life. Having reviewed feedback, we have developed a draft Masterplan which we believe better reflects the community's vision for the entire park. A draft Masterplan identifies long term planning aspirations for the park. It's your time to review and share your feedback.

LEGEND

1 Vehicular entry to new shared environment	6 Landmark tree planting retained with park seating under canopy
2 Pedestrian crossing point	7 Proposed lawn terrace with sitting steps and gathering circle
3 New 90° parking spaces (10 in total including an accessible space)	8 Proposed park signage wall and new stair access to lower lawn terrace
4 Shared environment with bespoke pattern on surface	9 Proposed lawn terrace with sitting steps and revegetated garden bed
5 Improved pedestrian footpath amenity	10 Revegetation infill planting

Have your say

- 👤 Drop in: at the park on Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 5 - 7pm
- 📍 collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/howleypark
- ✉ council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
- 📞 Open Space Planning on 9911 6336
- 📍 Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 1470



Site Notification Poster
(Source: Howley Park Community Consultation Report, City of Canada Bay, 2023)

Phase Two Consultation feedback

Draft Masterplan

Feedback was collated using tags to show common themes. The word cloud to the right shows each tag, with the size of the words indicating the number of times each tag appeared.

Comments included:

- Improve access to the sand and water for recreation (4)
- Increase parking spaces and introduce resident permit parking (1)
- Introduce timed parking (1)
- Lighting - reduce light pollution don't light the end of the street (1)
- Provide play equipment and restrict dogs off-leash (1)

Feedback via email

13 submissions were received via email on the consultation material. Common points raised included:

- Provide beach access (5)
- Reduce parking to create more parkland (2)
- Extend engagement period (2) - in response to this request the engagement period was extended for two weeks and closed on 16 November 2023
- Install gym equipment and remove sitting circle (1)
- Increase parking spaces (1)
- Introduce traffic calming/lighting to reduce antisocial behaviour (1)
- Include an accessible toilet (1)
- Maintain access to the marina driveway and ensure access is not obstructed (1)
- Objection to marina lease on Crown Land (1)

Feedback via drop-in

A on-site drop-in session was held on Wednesday 25 October 2023 from 5-7pm for Council staff to discuss the draft Masterplan with the community. There were approximately 30 attendees at this event and 3 submissions were made.

Overall there was general support for the draft Masterplan. Main themes of feedback included:

- Provide beach access
- Increase parking
- Introduce timed parking

Conclusions from Phase Two Consultation

Overall, the community showed support for the draft Masterplan, in particular the revegetation elements, park furniture and seating, and improved pedestrian access.

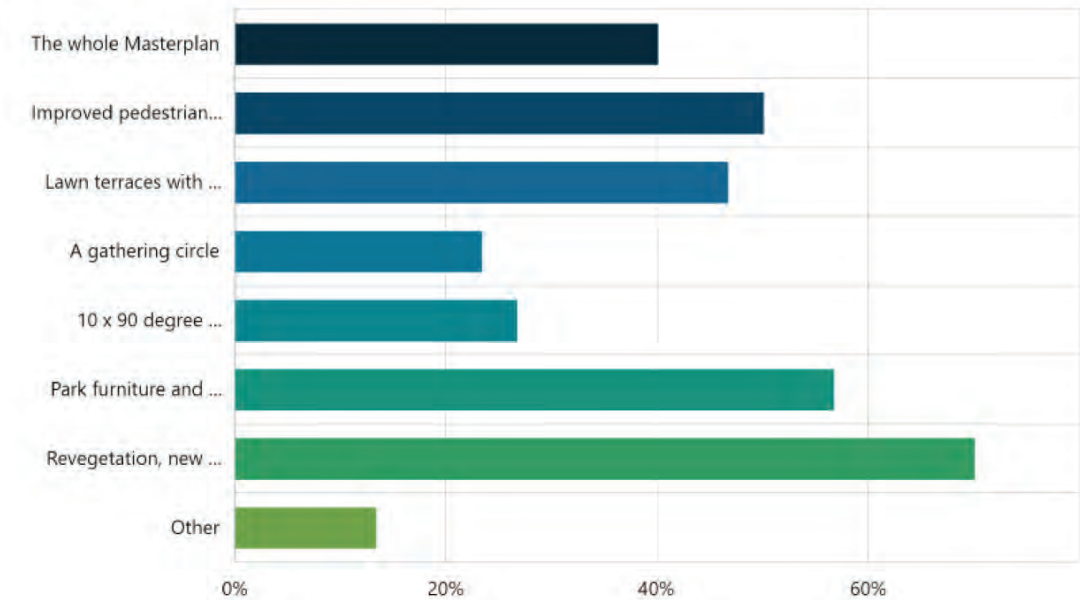
There was interest in beach access to be explored further at Howley Park and for this to be included in the Masterplan. Some community members believe more grassed areas should be retained in the space.

Parking was raised as a concern, with some community members requesting timed parking or a resident permit parking scheme be introduced. In addition to some requests to increase parking, there were also suggestions to reduce parking spaces to increase parkland.



5. Which aspects of the Masterplan do you like?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 30 (96.8%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
The whole Masterplan	40.00%	12
Improved pedestrian access throughout the park	50.00%	15
Lawn terraces with seating strips	46.67%	14
A gathering circle	23.33%	7
10 x 90 degree off-street angled parking, including 1 x accessible parking space	26.67%	8
Park furniture and seating	56.67%	17
Revegetation, new tree planting and retention of existing tree canopy	70.00%	21
Other	13.33%	4

Community Survey Results
(Source: Howley Park Community Consultation Report, City of Canada Bay, 2023)

2.0 Review and Site Analysis

2.1 Better Placed objectives

Better Placed is an integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW. It seeks to capture the collective aspirations and expectations for the places where our communities work, live and play.

The Better Placed objectives can inform the approach to the Howley Point site and for the development of this draft Masterplan. The following summary outlines potential outcomes building on the Better Placed framework.



Better Placed Objective	Better fit: Contextual, local and of its place	Better performance: Sustainable, adaptable and durable	Better for community: Inclusive, connected and diverse	Better for people: Safe, comfortable and liveable	Better working: Functional, efficient and fit for purpose	Better value: Creating and adding value	Better look and feel: Engaging, inviting and attractive
Process: Understanding existing conditions and influences	Understanding: - Context and potential role of the park to adjoining community - Context of the peninsula to local access connections and river corridor - Function of street and fragmentation of the reserve - The materials and design vocabulary of the reserve - The telling the story of the parks past role and evolution	Understanding: - Which sustainability targets are relevant and can offer most value - How to cost effectively implement sustainability measures - How any design move can serve multiple objectives and play multiple roles - How to embed flexibility and adaptability - Developing a materials vocabulary that complements existing but adds value and resilience where possible - By keeping solutions simple and pragmatic	Understanding: - Entry into the park from the Victoria Place - Entry to the park as a destination - Accessibility for all users - Making the park welcoming to all users (ages, genders, cultures, abilities) - Adding to the range of experiences the broader reserve provides	Understanding: - The potential roles of the park for a base level of day to day activity - The potential roles of the precinct for temporary activations - What is required to make the place comfortable for users at all times	Understanding: - The functional requirements for quality experiences of day to day users - The functional requirements for effective and memorable events - The functional requirements for event setup and servicing - Operational maintenance requirements for precinct in the context of the park and Council staff requirements	Understanding: - Adding to the range of permanent and temporary activation available in the park - Built outcomes that are cost effective for maintenance - Opportunities for rental income	Understanding: - A design aesthetic for the park that both reflects an individual identity within the park but recognises its context within Canada Bay - Clear and inviting sight lines - Uncluttered spatial definition - Availability of natural light
Potential Outcomes							
	- A place that is timeless and which feels like it belongs - A precinct with its own identity but which is also embedded within the structure and character of the five docks foreshores	- A place that conserves heritage fabric and celebrates heritage values - A place that is of high sustainability performance - A place that conveys a strong sustainability message - A place that comfortably integrates temporary activation and evolving community needs	- A place that provides clear entry and arrival experiences - A place that is welcoming and accessible to all users	- A place of day to day use across the week and to weekend that feels active and safe - A program of diverse uses and events to internal and external spaces	- A place that provides for a core base of use integrated with the broader park across the week and weekend - A place that provides an inspirational and evocative canvas for events and other activations	- A place that adds to and complements recreational opportunities across the park and adjoining areas - A place that is functional and sustainable to maintain	A place of unique character and identity that reveals the Five dock's foreshore its natural systems and inspires future use and experiences

2.2 Site context

Howley Park is located at the end of Victoria Place, Drummoyne and provides scenic water views over the Parramatta River. It is Crown Land which is in the care and control of the City of Canada Bay Council.

Located at a prominent focal point on the western side of Gladesville Bridge, it is an important historic site for the area with links to First Nations Dreaming history as well as being the site of the original Gladesville Bridge.

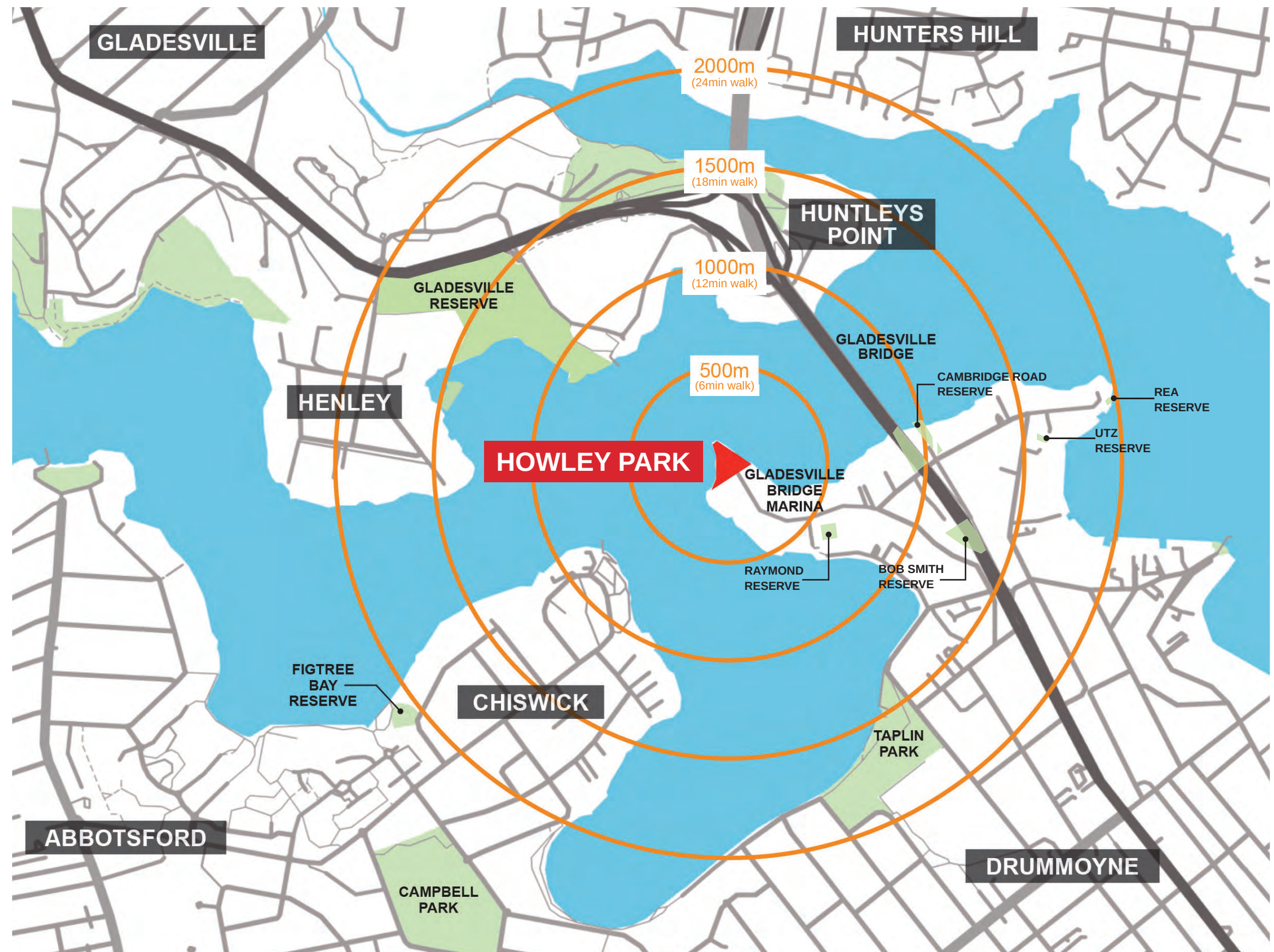
The study area includes the eastern and western foreshore area of the peninsula which is separated by Victoria Place. On the 5th October 1978 the park was declared as a "place of recreation."

The Park is approximately 4200m² in size housing many historical monuments relating to colonial history. The remnant fabric and signage shape the park as both a historical site and an essential amenity for visitors and residents.

It forms one of the many small parklet spaces in the local neighbourhood, highly valued by the local residents. These spaces are used for exercise, picnics and as rest spots to take in the impressive district views across the Parramatta River. It is the largest of 6 parks located within a 2km radius, or 24min walk of the site.

Nearby parks include:

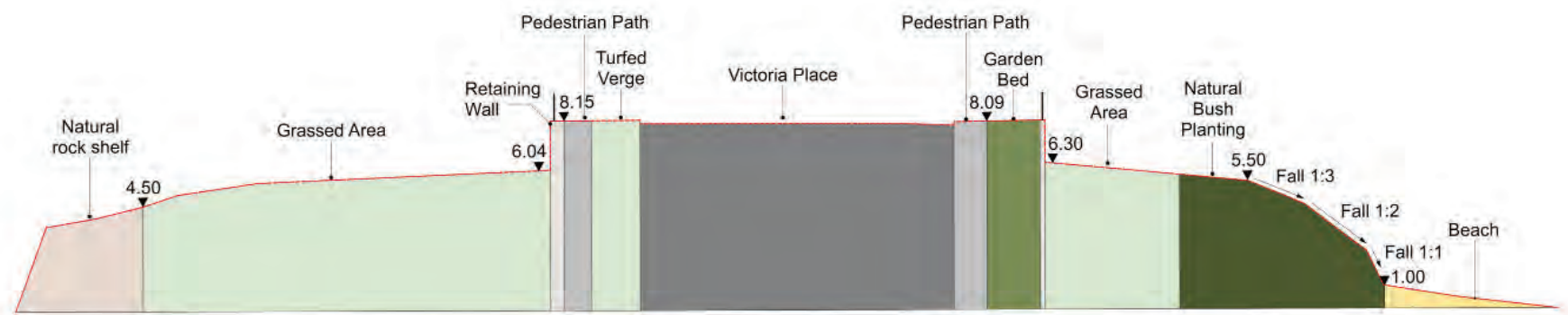
- Raymond Reserve
- Cambridge Road Reserve
- Bob Smith Reserve
- Utz Reserve
- Rea Reserve



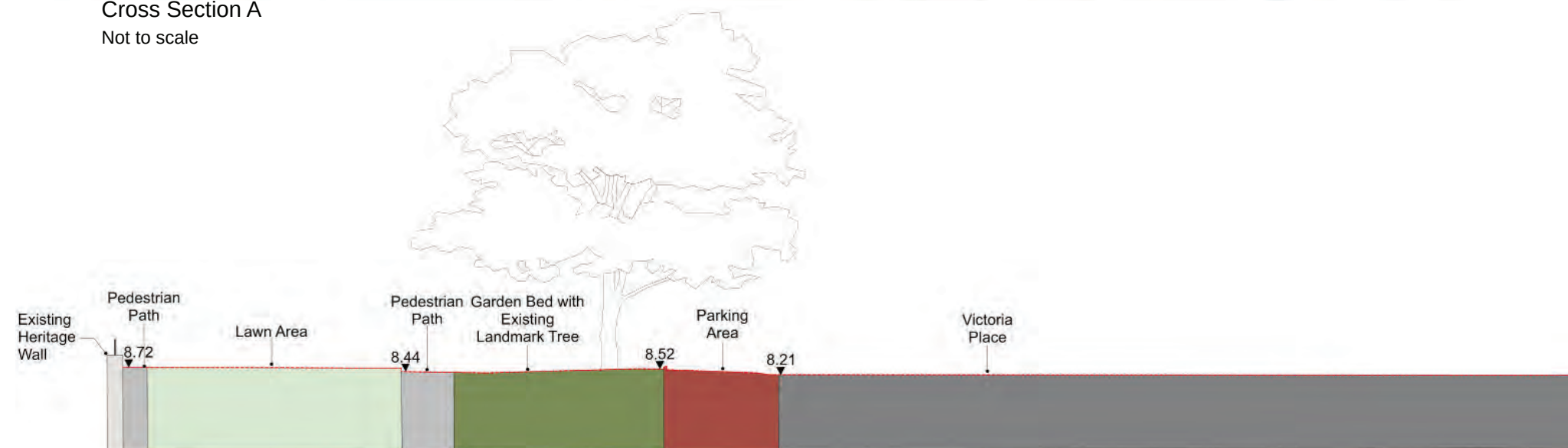
2.3 Topography and landform

Key observations:

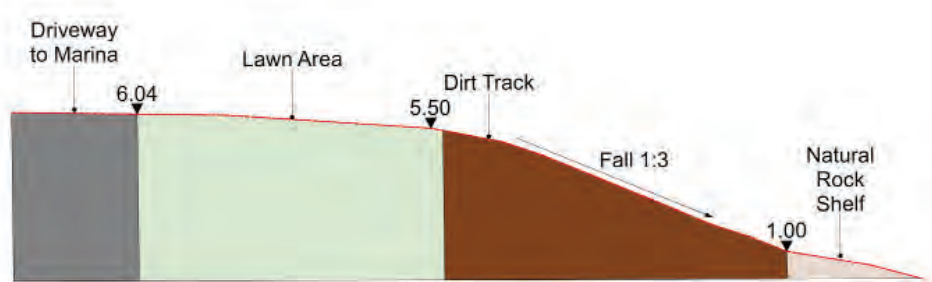
- The landform of the site is steep and undulating. The site falls from Victoria Place down towards the foreshore.
- Victoria Place is elevated above the adjacent park areas by approximately 2m.
- The eastern foreshore is 8.4m below Victoria Place.
- The western side of the park has a steep grassy slope with no formal access path.
- Pedestrian connectivity is complex due to the eroded embankments and sandstone outcrops.



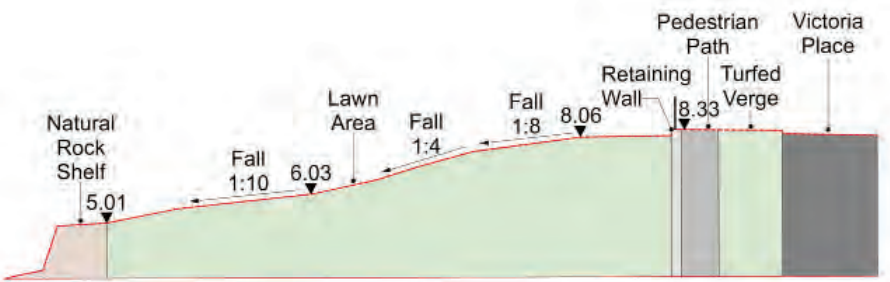
Cross Section A
Not to scale



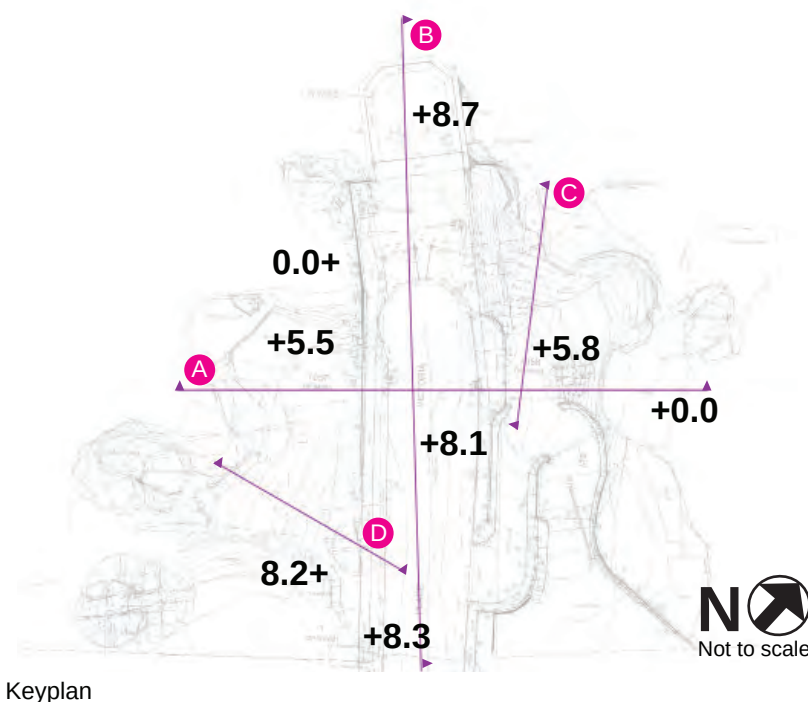
Cross Section B
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Cross Section C
Not to scale



Cross Section D
Not to scale



Keyplan



Sandstone outcrop and remnant Gladesville Bridge abutment



Pearson's Soap sign painted onto the sandstone outcrop on eastern foreshore



Gladesville Bridge abutment terrace space with carved capital stonework



Steps carved into the sandstone outcrop to access foreshore



Pier and post holes carved into sandstone outcrop



Western edge of abutment

2.4 Vegetation

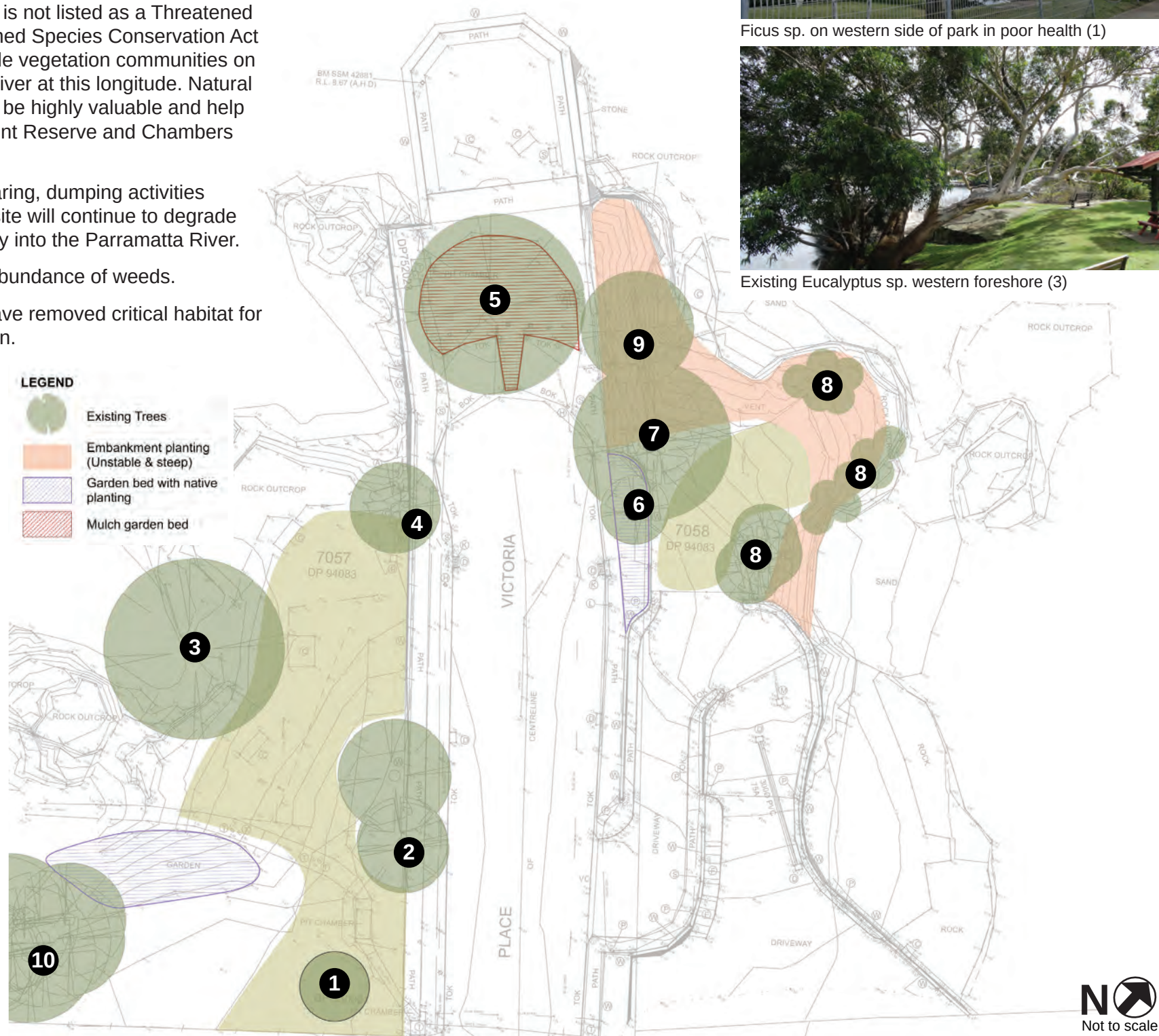
Key observations:

- Council has undertaken a bush care review. The investigation revealed that the park forms a small part of a Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest corridor with intact remnants remaining across the Parramatta River at Huntley's Point.
- Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest is not listed as a Threatened Ecological Community on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW). With little to no identifiable vegetation communities on the southern bank of the Parramatta River at this longitude. Natural area restoration at Howley Park would be highly valuable and help form a wildlife corridor to Blackwall Point Reserve and Chambers Park at Chiswick.
- The site is highly degraded due to clearing, dumping activities and erosion. Without intervention the site will continue to degrade causing soil and debris to find their way into the Parramatta River.
- The site has been overtaken with an abundance of weeds.
- Previous clearing and modifications have removed critical habitat for small bush birds such as the Blue Wren.

Site observations:

1. Existing tree observed not marked on survey. Tree in poor health
2. Existing Casuarinas damaging fence and pavement
3. Existing Eucalyptus tree with low hanging limbs, potential safety risk
4. Small tree marked on survey not observed on site, has been removed
5. Landmark fig tree in good health
6. Tree in poor health
7. Tree in poor health
8. Self seeded Casuarinas weak and in poor health, consider replacement
9. Dead tree
10. Existing Fig trees in good health

Note: Further tree investigations and assessments to be undertaken during design development



Ficus sp. on western side of park in poor health (1)



Existing Eucalyptus sp. western foreshore (3)



Victoria Place landmark planting Ficus sp. in good health (5)



Victoria Place planting dead or in poor health (6, 7, 9)



Eastern foreshore planting in poor health and unsightly (8)



Embankment infested with weeds and dead or dying trees (8)

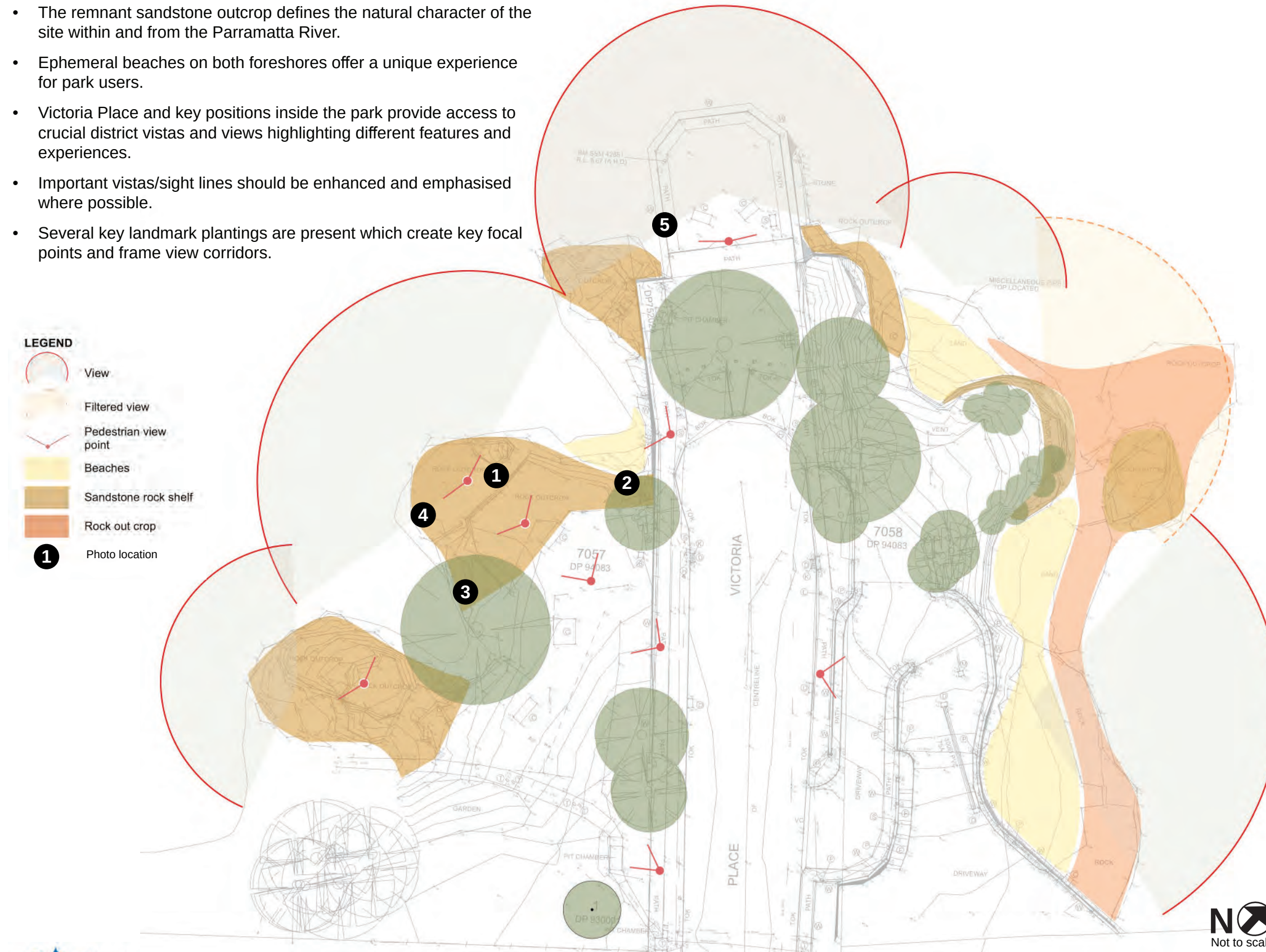


Western foreshore planting Ficus sp. (10)

2.5 Visual character

Site observations:

- The remnant sandstone outcrop defines the natural character of the site within and from the Parramatta River.
- Ephemeral beaches on both foreshores offer a unique experience for park users.
- Victoria Place and key positions inside the park provide access to crucial district vistas and views highlighting different features and experiences.
- Important vistas/sight lines should be enhanced and emphasised where possible.
- Several key landmark plantings are present which create key focal points and frame view corridors.



1. View of northern sandstone outcrop



2. View of western heritage steps and former 'Five Docks'



3. View of northern vista from western terrace



4. View back towards western grassed terrace



5. View from northern lookout terrace looking south west

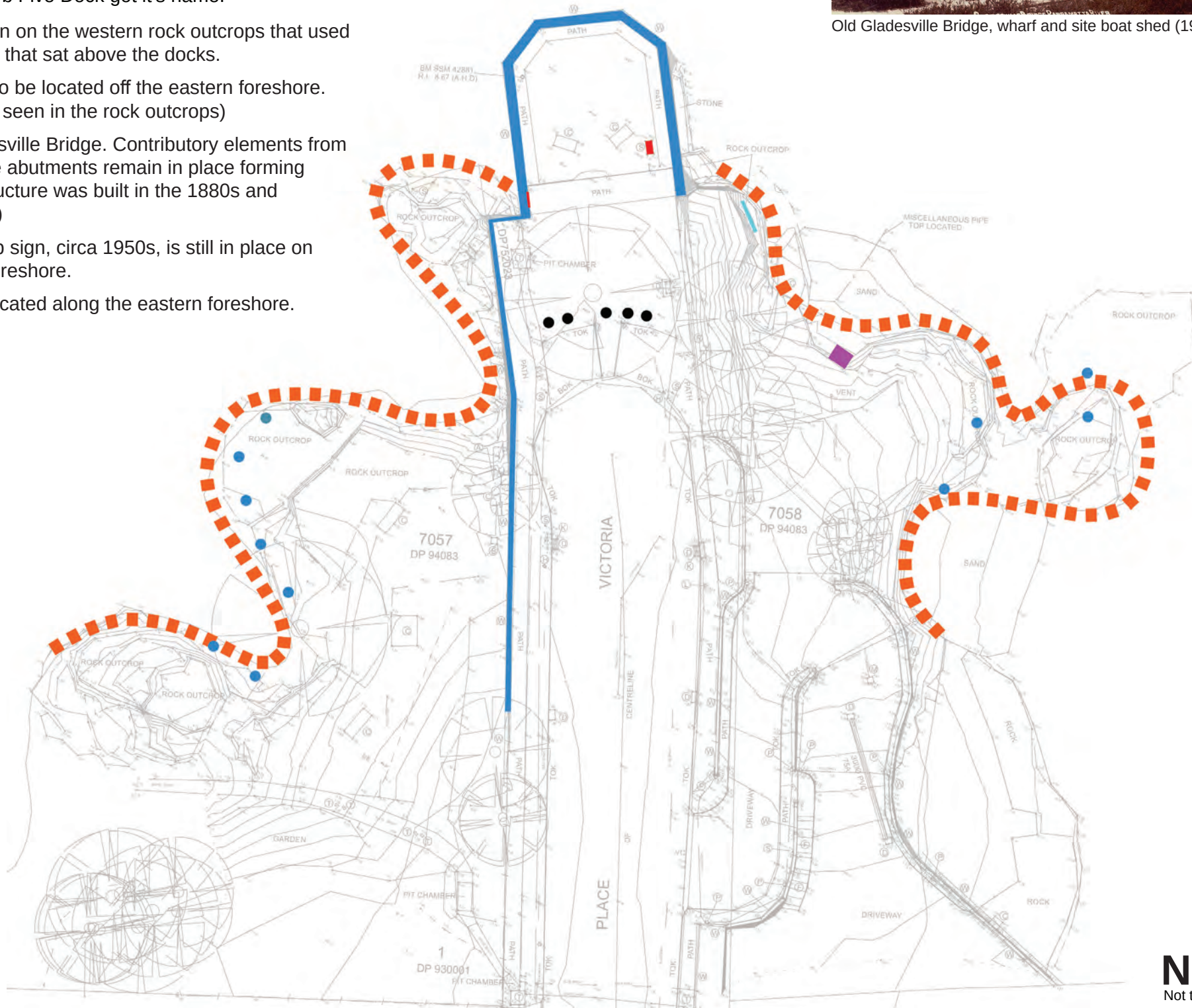
2.6 Heritage and culture

Heritage observations:

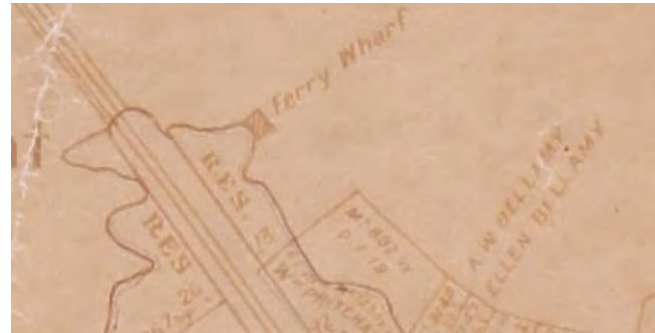
- Howley Park was originally known for it's unique landform. The shoreline formed five sandstone abutments which were known as Pa-rein-ma by First Nations people. These natural landforms were later used as boat docks and were known as the place of 'Five Docks' of which the suburb Five Dock got it's name.
- Old pile holes can be seen on the western rock outcrops that used to support old boat sheds that sat above the docks.
- An old Ferry wharf used to be located off the eastern foreshore. (Old footing holes can be seen in the rock outcrops)
- Location of the old Gladesville Bridge. Contributory elements from the old Gladesville Bridge abutments remain in place forming the northern terrace. (Structure was built in the 1880s and decommissioned in 1964)
- A painted Pearson's Soap sign, circa 1950s, is still in place on rockface of the eastern foreshore.
- An old limestone kiln is located along the eastern foreshore.

LEGEND

- Old Gladesville Bridge abutment walling
- Historic natural shoreline (Five Docks)
- Limestone kiln
- Pearson's Soap sign on existing rock shelf
- Sandstone block bollards
- Remnant pile holes in sandstone from old boat shed & ferry wharf
- Interpretive signage



Old Gladesville Bridge, wharf and site boat shed (1908)



Plan of old Gladesville Bridge and ferry wharf (1918)



Old Gladesville Bridge and wharf and site boat shed (1947)



Old Gladesville Bridge ferry wharf



Interpretive signage of the Gladesville Bridge

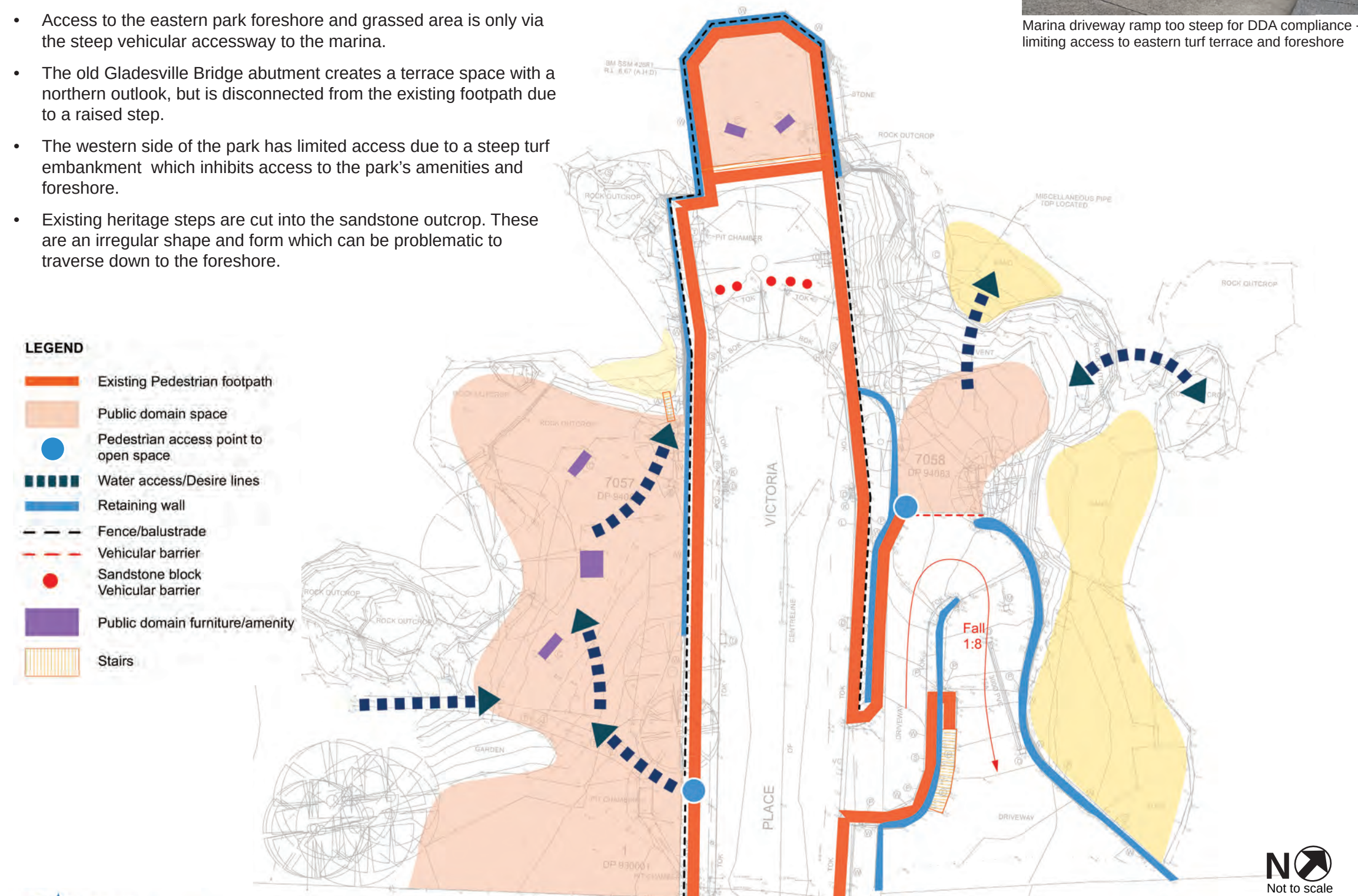


Old sandstone blocks being used as vehicular bollards, stone reflects blockwork of the remnant abutment

2.7 Pedestrian access

Site observations:

- Pedestrian paths are made up of several different surface materials, varying in quality and condition.
- Due to the landform and topography there is limited formal access to foreshore areas.
- Access to the eastern park foreshore and grassed area is only via the steep vehicular accessway to the marina.
- The old Gladesville Bridge abutment creates a terrace space with a northern outlook, but is disconnected from the existing footpath due to a raised step.
- The western side of the park has limited access due to a steep turf embankment which inhibits access to the park's amenities and foreshore.
- Existing heritage steps are cut into the sandstone outcrop. These are an irregular shape and form which can be problematic to traverse down to the foreshore.



Marina driveway ramp too steep for DDA compliance - limiting access to eastern turf terrace and foreshore



Eastern foreshore and ephemeral beach



Marina stair access and driveway ramp



Variable pavement widths and treatment on Victoria Place



Access to lime furnace, beach and eastern foreshore

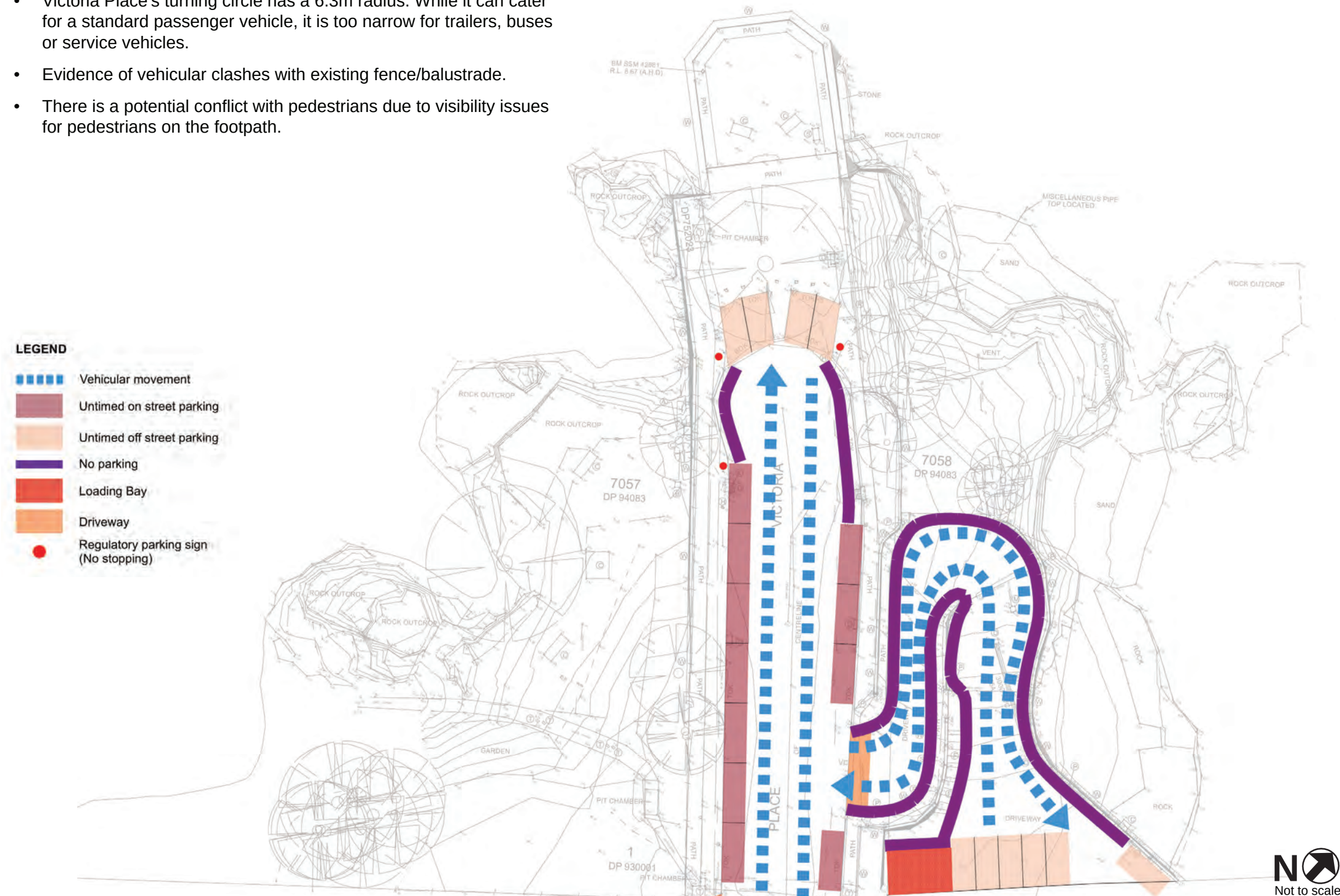


Access to beach via heritage stairs to western foreshore

2.8 Vehicular access

Site observations:

- Unrestricted parking has enabled long term storage of vehicles which reduces the capacity, impacting on park users.
- Missing or lack of regulatory signage on street parking.
- Victoria Place's turning circle has a 6.3m radius. While it can cater for a standard passenger vehicle, it is too narrow for trailers, buses or service vehicles.
- Evidence of vehicular clashes with existing fence/balustrade.
- There is a potential conflict with pedestrians due to visibility issues for pedestrians on the footpath.



Vehicular damage to existing balustrade

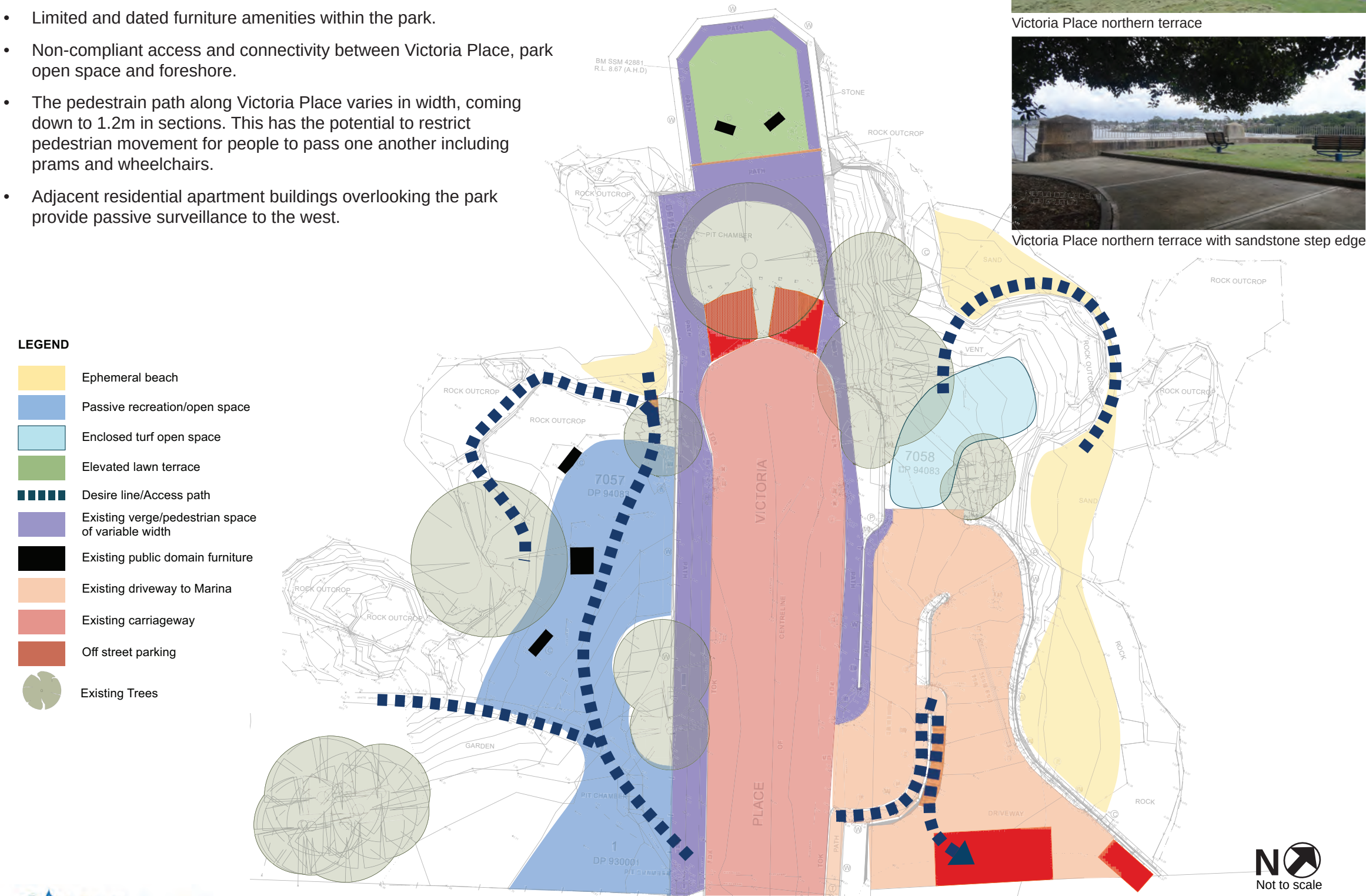


Oversized vehicles protruding from small car park spaces restricting vehicle turning amenity within the street

2.9 Amenity and comfort

Site observations:

- Fence barriers restrict access from Victoria Place to western side of park.
- Seats / park benches are not easily accessible from existing footpaths.
- Limited and dated furniture amenities within the park.
- Non-compliant access and connectivity between Victoria Place, park open space and foreshore.
- The pedestrian path along Victoria Place varies in width, coming down to 1.2m in sections. This has the potential to restrict pedestrian movement for people to pass one another including prams and wheelchairs.
- Adjacent residential apartment buildings overlooking the park provide passive surveillance to the west.



Victoria Place northern terrace



Victoria Place northern terrace with sandstone step edge



Western foreshore beach



Western park large lawn open space



Western park large lawn open space. with steep access



Eastern foreshore ephemeral beach



Eastern side of park enclosed turf space

3.0 Challenges and Opportunities

3.1 Movement and access

Challenges:

- Pedestrian paths along Victoria Place are too narrow to allow people to pass.
- No on grade connections to usable open lawn terraces.
- No DDA compliant access to open space and foreshore. Accessibility is restricted by topography.
- No connection between both sides of the park.
- Due to park's small size, creating spaces that cater to multiple activities may prove challenging.
- There are inconsistent finishes and elements due to a mixture of surface materials, quality and condition within the park.
- Defining a parking structure and layout that can meet parking demand and use.

Opportunities:

- Provide movement corridors along Victoria Place that allow direct access into park from road corridor.
- Provide an accessible route to open space and northern terrace.
- Investigate access options to foreshore for water recreation and experiences.
- Formalise and consolidate parking within Victoria Place. Consider how this can improve efficiency and pedestrian safety.
- Explore the possibility of a shared environment. Consider connections between both sides of the park with the possible use of vehicle barriers and bollards to act as traffic calming measures.
- Investigate the possibility of providing a multi-purpose space for events.
- Recognise and provide a variety of amenity for large and small groups.
- Use of garden beds to help separate pedestrians and vehicles.



Narrow steep access to eastern side of park along Marina shared access road



Narrow footpath with varying materiality along Victoria Place

3.2 Environment

Challenges:

- Several existing trees are of poor health and condition which are creating unsightly character.
- To protect and enhance the habitat value of the Parramatta River lower catchment.
- Emulate Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest as accurately as possible.
- Planting of Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest species from local providence seed.
- Encourage a site of low maintenance and strong resilience.
- Site overtaken with noxious and environmental weeds.
- Containing existing soil along the eastern foreshore due to significant erosion.

Opportunities:

- Increase planting along road corridor. Consider WSUD opportunities and softening of the space.
- Retain and protect significant tree planting, such as Moreton Bay Fig terminating Victoria Place, which are iconic to the park's character.
- Increase canopy cover over hard paved surfaces to mitigate heat.
- Consolidate canopy and potential understorey to existing pockets of trees in the park.
- Provide regenerative planting along eastern foreshore and western boundary to strengthen existing community, increase biodiversity and to provide habitat.
- Look at re-use of dead trees to provide habitat for wildlife and increase of biodiversity value.



Self seeded Causaurinas along eroded eastern embankment



Existing significant Moreton Bay Fig

3.3 Cultural Heritage

Challenges:

- Creating a balanced and cohesive interpretive strategy throughout the park that is reflective of the local First Nations culture and the park's post settlement history.
- Using interpretive elements that reflect the significant cultural and historical history that will also be sympathetic to the park's iconic character.
- Currently no access through the park and along foreshore to allow visitors to view existing heritage items, due to limited site access.

Opportunities:

- Providing interpretative elements within the park that represent First Nations history, led by First Nations people.
- Investigate the interpretation of the 'Five Docks' foreshore to celebrate the park's historical location.
- Conserve existing post settlement heritage items through the park.
- Preserve and enhance natural features to retain the tranquil nature of the park.
- Telling the story of place.
- Explore a variety of interpretive mediums in which ideas are embedded in the public domain by innovative interpretive techniques rather than just a signage overlay.
- Investigate opportunities to work with First Nations people to reconcile the history and meaning of place.



Old Pearson's Soap sign



Old pier holes in existing sandstone shelves

3.4 Activation

Challenges:

- Creating flexibility within the park that is suitable for a variety of events both large and small due to the site's topography and restricted space.
- Parking is insufficient to support increased visitation for future activities within the park.
- Creating amenity within the park that will be resilient for a range of future needs.
- Activation of foreshore limited by steep topography and access.

Opportunities:

- Provide a variety of landscape settings and experiences that can cohesively sit with the existing park character.
- Provide community gathering spaces.
- Investigate opportunities to alternate recreational uses between both sides of the park.
- Investigate opportunities for foreshore activation.



Existing access to western beach and foreshore



Rock shelves along eastern foreshore

4.0 Masterplan

4.1 Design principles

Based on the project objectives outlined in the Introduction, appraisal of the site values, challenges and opportunities and with the input of community feedback a series of design principles were identified to guide the Masterplan and ongoing design development and refinement.

Movement and access



- Provide accessible path routes to park areas.
- Provide safe access to the eastern area of the park.
- Improve connections to open space and between both sides of park.
- Explore opportunities for exploration and experiences for park users.
- Formalise and explore efficient parking configurations and flexibility of space.
- Maximise flexibility and improve continuity of materials.

Environment



- Improve embankment stability and biodiversity.
- Preserve existing foreshore and natural edges.
- Retain and protect native tree canopy and bushland areas.
- Provide additional tree and understorey planting to increase species diversity and habitat.
- Explore the retention of habitat trees.
- Increase canopy cover over hard paved surfaces for heat mitigation.

Cultural Heritage



- Represent and celebrate First Nation culture and thinking.
- Conserve historical fabric and elements. Explore options of interpretation.
- Conserve existing Pearson's soap sign.
- Conserve existing lime kiln and explore options of access.

Note: First Nations engagement is to be completed during the future detailed design phase of the project. During the masterplanning process the study team discussed and developed some key strategies for the site to provide some high level guidance for the future First Nations engagement.

Activation



- Explore flexible passive recreational opportunities catering to small and large groups.
- Celebrate the local character and natural values.
- Provide clear and identifiable pedestrian connections from street to park.
- Investigate potential use for community events.
- Make the most of the views across the Parramatta River.
- Investigate opportunities to access the foreshore for recreational use.

4.2 Proposed Masterplan

The Masterplan on page 22 illustrates the key recommendations for the site as described below.

- 1** Proposed shared environment
 - Bollards and garden beds are used to separate vehicles from pedestrians
 - Hammerhead turning area at the northern end
- 2** Raised threshold to shared environment
 - A raised threshold with cobble paving, alerts vehicles to a change in conditions while defining a clear crossing point for pedestrians
- 3** 90 degree parking
 - 9 parking spaces
 - Parking area can be closed off via a vehicular gate or temporary barrier during event use
- 4** Accessible parking
 - 1 accessible parking space integrated into shared environment
- 5** Pedestrian footpaths widened
 - Footpaths widened with a 2m minimum clearance both sides of carriageway
 - Several level crossing points provide accessible route to carpark and other side of park
- 6** Proposed bench seat beneath canopy of existing Moreton Bay Fig
 - Bespoke circular seating situated under the existing fig will provide a shaded rest spot to take in the district views
- 7** Proposed accessible ramp
 - Accessible ramp access to the northern terrace and western side of the park
- 8** Proposed lawn and sandstone sitting terraces for passive recreation
 - Sandstone sitting terraces maintain park character and provide views over the Parramatta River
- 9** Park signage wall and stair access to eastern side of park
 - Proposed park signage wall with potential for interpretative element integration
- 10** Sitting circle
 - Sandstone sitting circle with opportunity for further development with future First Nations input
- 11** Proposed tree planting
 - Increase indigenous tree plantings for biodiversity and habitat
 - Increase canopy cover over carriageway to mitigate heat
 - Revegetate embankments with indigenous species to supplement existing planting and help protect against erosion
- 12** Informal access to foreshore via timber sleeper stairs
- 13** Proposed stair access to beach to be investigated
- 14** Accessible options to beach to be investigated in the future



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- 2 Raised threshold to shared environment
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4.3 Illustrative views



Proposed lawn and sitting terraces for passive recreation



Proposed shared environment at the end of Victoria Place



Proposed shared environment with 90° parking



Widened footpaths leading to ramped access to northern lawn area



Accessible crossing points across Victoria Place