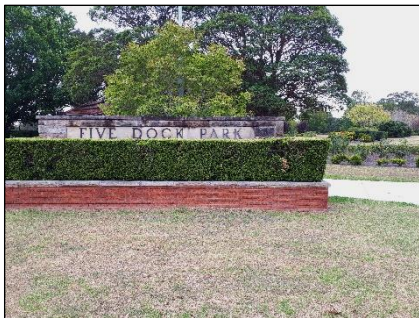


Five Dock Park Plan of Management

Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper

for community comment



BRINGING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

Final
27 July 2018

Five Dock Park Plan of Management

Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper

for
The City of Canada Bay

27 July 2018

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Prepared by: Alan Ginns and Pamela Fletcher (Registered Landscape Architect)
Mapping by: Pamela Fletcher (Registered Landscape Architect) and City of Canada Bay
Photographs by: Alan Ginns and Pamela Fletcher (unless otherwise noted)

Reviewed by: Andrew Ginns, Gondwana Consulting

Issued by: Alan Ginns, Gondwana Consulting



This Five Dock Park Plan of Management
"Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper"
for The City of Canada Bay
was prepared by

Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 905
Narrabeen, NSW 2101
Phone: 02 9913 3720 or 02 9944 6263
E-mail: admin@gondwanaconsulting.com.au

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1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Canada Bay is preparing a new “Plan of Management” for Five Dock Park (see Section 2).

Five Dock Park is located a short distance east of the Five Dock shopping centre. Bounded by Barnstaple Road, Ingham Avenue, First Avenue and Park Road the Park covers an area of approximately 8 hectares (Figure 1).

This historic park was reserved for public recreation in December 1885 with the Park’s distinctive radial path pattern, central war memorial, and formal design first laid out in the 1920s. Today Five Dock Park offers a well-maintained and attractive open space of extensive mown grass, shaded tree-lined paths plus groups of trees, and managed gardens beds with a range of facilities. The Park has:

- a flood-lit oval and small grandstand hosting both winter and summer sports;
- extensive passive use or leisure spaces including open lawn, garden beds, tree groves, seating, and covered picnic tables with nearby electric barbeques;
- a central war memorial;
- a small covered neighbourhood-level playground;
- a district-level skate bowl/park;
- a fenced off-leash dog area; and toilets.



In the north, on Barnstaple Road, the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club and the Five Dock Park Tennis Centre operate on Park areas leased from Council, and a Baby Health Centre is located in the area’s south-west corner.

Five Dock Park is a valuable and well-used green open space within the local area, and becoming more so with the trend to increasing residential density and reduction in private open space in the



Figure 1 Five Dock Park

surrounding suburbs. It is a popular venue for sports, leisure and recreation activities, school use and social gatherings as well as periodically hosting organised and informal community events.

This *Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper* presents a range of possible directions, considerations, or future scenarios for all or parts of Five Dock Park for the community’s consideration and comment.

It forms an important step in the preparation of the Park’s new Plan of Management. Community feedback on this Paper will help, along with other community inputs, to inform the new Plan’s preparation.

1.1 Some Ideas, Suggestions or Alternatives

This *Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper* offers some possible directions, ideas, suggestions, alternatives or possibilities for the future use, enjoyment, appearance, and management of Five Dock Park. Most would mean little alteration to the Park’s current use and character, others may mean more substantial change.

All are possibilities or proposals only, for the community’s and users’ comment and feedback, at this early stage in the new plan of management’s preparation. Park users, neighbours and others may also see alternative or additional possible directions for Five Dock Park – all ideas and views are welcome.

In this Paper’s following sections (Sections 3 to 6) possible ideas, suggestions or alternatives are grouped according to the following areas:

- accessing the Park;
- Park facilities and uses;
- Park landscaping and gardens; and
- leases and licences.

For ease of reference, or to help in finding topics of particular interest, the following table lists the possible directions, ideas, suggestions, alternatives or possibilities that are addressed in more detail in each of the later sections (along with a page reference).

Summary Table – Ideas, Suggestions or Alternatives

Accessing the Park (Section 3)	
Roads and Carparking	
Continue to implement traffic slowing/calming measures along Ingham Avenue adjacent to the Park.	page 14
Allow for angled or 90° parking along parts of the roads flanking the Park, to increase perimeter parking capacity, if required in the future.	page 15
Signpost/mark on-street disabled parking bays near those path entry points providing direct access to the Park’s key attractions or activity areas.	page 15
Public Transport	
Liaise with the State Transit Authority to relocate existing bus stops off the Park’s north-east and south-east corners closer to the Park where practical, and to include “Five Dock Park” naming as part of all signage for those bus stops adjacent or close to the Park.	page 15

Bike Paths/Access	
Improve safety for cyclists at the Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue roundabout at the Park's north-east corner.	page 16
Improve safety for cyclists at the Ingham and First Avenues roundabout at the Park's south-east corner.	page 16
Develop a new shared path, or a dedicated cycle path, along the Park's eastern (Ingham Avenue) boundary.	page 16
Provide bicycle racks at key entry points to the Park (and other internal locations).	page 17
Paths, Pedestrian and All-abilities Access	
Install assisted pedestrian crossing points (refuge crossings, zebra crossings, etc.) on Ingham Avenue at the end of the radial paths leading to Howley and Noble Streets.	page 18
Remodel the Park's north-western entry (Barnstaple and Park Roads) and south-eastern entry (Ingham and Frist Avenues) to provide for all-abilities access – as well as easier access for prams, bicycles, mobility scooters, etc. Enhance the presentation (plantings, signage, etc.) at these secondary entry points.	page 18
Install safe pedestrian crossing points (pram ramps, and refuges where required) where crossing options are now not provided for across Barnstaple Road at the Park's north-west corner and across Ingham Avenue at the south-west and south-east corners.	page 19
Realign the path end at the Park's north-east corner (Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue) to more safely enter the roundabout and existing refuge crossings at this point.	page 19
Ensure all path entry/exit points are signposted "No Parking" zones (if parking would otherwise be permitted).	page 19
Install (signposting, road marking, etc.) a low-speed shared zone at intersection of Park Road and Second Avenue in the Park's south-west.	page 19
Progressively upgrade the older narrow pram ramps at Park entry points, including those on the opposite sides of adjoining roads.	page 19
Install a pram ramp on the north-west corner of the Barnstaple Road and Betts Avenue intersection, to mirror the existing (but isolated ramp) on the Park's boundary opposite.ere required) where crossing options are now not provided for across Barnstaple Road at the Park's north-west corner and across Ingham Avenue at the south-west and south-east corners.	page 19
Park Facilities and Uses (Section 4)	
Sport and Active Leisure/Recreation – Facilities and Uses	
Oval and Grandstand	
Maintain the oval as a venue for the current winter sporting uses of rugby league and AFL.	page 22
Maintain the oval primarily as a cricket venue in summer, but with the possibility of also catering for other sporting uses where these can be accommodated and adequately managed.	page 22
Permit greater evening use of the oval for organised sports.	page 22
Redevelop a new (or substantially refurbish the existing) grandstand to improve the standard, safety and presentation of this facility – but of a similar size/capacity to the existing facility.	page 22
Redevelop/refurbish the grandstand in a style and scale that is consistent with, and sympathetic to, the Park's heritage character and formal layout and reflects the style of original (1930s) structure.	page 22

Provide public toilets (including accessible facilities), available during daylight hours (or managed according to Council's prevailing toilet access/locking regime), as part of the redeveloped/refurbished grandstand.	page 23
Include a general access/purpose or additional community space in a redeveloped/refurbished grandstand that could be made available for other users (on an permit basis from Council) – for activities such as fitness/exercise sessions, Pilates or yoga classes, community group use, meetings, small functions, etc.	page 23
Playground	
Repair or replace elements of the existing local/neighbourhood playground as and when required, and continue maintenance of this facility in a safe and serviceable condition.	page 24
Upgrade or replace the existing playground with a district level facility to provide a greater range of equipment and activities to better meet the needs of the local and surrounding community.	page 24
Alternative Playground Site 1 - Develop a new district level playground on the open terraced lawn area ("Grass Terrace 1") to the north/north-east of existing playground (as one possible site for this facility).	page 24
Alternative Playground Site 2 - Develop a new district level playground to east/south-east of the Baby Health Centre at the western end of the "Circular Rose Garden Terrace" (as one possible site for this facility).	page 25
Alternative Playground Site 3 - Develop a new district level playground at some other location elsewhere in the Park.	page 26
Provide an on-street "drop off" zone or pull-in bay (3-5 minute parking) adjacent to any new district level playground, to enable convenient vehicle drop-off and pick-up by users.	page 26
Design any new district level playground at Five Dock Park to offer a different play, and parents', experience and with a different character to the existing "iconic" Livvi's Place playground at nearby Timbrell Park (a large all-abilities playground which includes a "pop up" kiosk and toilets).	page 26
Five Dock Skate Park	
Continue to manage the skate park as a high standard district/regional level attraction.	page 27
Continue to maintain and progressively upgrade the skate park, including measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing seating and shelter at suitable, safe, locations around the park's margins; • adding additional "street elements" or other components to the park to diversify riding experiences and challenge; • providing areas/features to better cater for scooter riders and beginner or novice riders; • improved drainage measures to prevent ponding in the bottom of bowls; and • harden or remediate the park's margins where necessary to accommodate usage pressures. 	page 28
Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the skate park.	page 28
Ensure the code of conduct for skate park users is displayed, in a user friendly format, onsite at the skate park.	page 28
Undertake regular risk assessments at the park – especially in relation to fall/trip hazards around the site's margins and the need for perimeter fencing, bowl surface condition/repair, water ponding, and furniture/facility serviceability.	page 28
Continue to make the skate park available for major events and competitions, including commercial or sponsored events.	page 28

Basketball Half-court	
Retain and upgrade the basketball half-court in its present location.	page 29
Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the existing basketball half-court (and include in any new/re-sited half-courts).	page 29
Relocate the half-court to a more visible and appealing location elsewhere in the Park. Potential alternative locations may include – Site 1 west of the fenced dog park (Open Space 1), or Site 2 south-west of the skate park (at the western end of the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace”) – both enable connections with the skate park to maintain this part of the Park as a youth activities precinct.	page 30
Fenced Dog Park	
Retain the fenced off-leash dog park and enlarge the fenced area to the east to include a larger open grassed area.	page 31
Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the fenced dog park.	page 31
Install irrigation within the fenced dog park to assist in grass and landscape maintenance.	page 31
Clarify and provide consistent advice (on-line, published and on-site) indicating that the fenced off-leash dog park is the only space in the Park where off-leash dogs are permitted (with on-leash dogs permitted elsewhere across the Park, as subject to other regulations and restrictions).	page 31
Bocce Rinks	
Remove the existing disused bocce rinks, and floodlighting, and return this areas to lawn and/or landscape plantings.	page 32
Independent Active Recreation and Fitness	
Install low-key facilities to support personal exercise, fitness or training activities at appropriate sites within the Park. Suitable facilities could include a perimeter trail circuit, exercise stations (centralised or spaced along a fitness trail), climbing equipment, etc.	page 32
Personal Trainers	
Continue to approve personal trainers to operate within the Park, consistent with Council’s policies and personal trainer registration procedures.	page 33
Passive Leisure/Recreation - Facilities and Uses	
Paths, for Walking and Cycling	
Maintain the radial path network as the main movement “spine” and a key component of the Park.	page 34
Progressively repair and replace or upgrade damaged sections of path at service vehicle crossing points or travel sections, and identify/notify designated service vehicle crossing or access points to Park maintenance staff, contractors and others with approved vehicle access (such as event organisers).	page 34
Progressively upgrade all, or selected, paths to a minimum width acceptable for low-speed shared use (walkers and cyclists, 2.4 to 2.5 metres wide).	page 35
Develop a new section of path connecting the north-eastern radial path to Barnstaple Road opposite Betts Avenue, running east of the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club.	page 35
Assess, and/or monitor, the need for a dedicated bicycle path through the Park – especially a south-east to north-west link (and avoiding the Central War Memorial).	page 35
Picnic Areas	
Maintain the two larger picnic areas, including enhancing their landscape setting of scattered/open trees, plantings and open grass. Retain the older style, timber, character of the picnic furniture/facilities provided.	page 36

Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the eastern picnic areas.	page 36
Merge the two eastern picnic area when additional facilities are warranted by demand/usage pressures.	page 36
Remove/relocate the few isolated and little-used picnic facilities off the north-east side of the oval.	page 37
Passive Leisure and Recreation Uses, Areas and Facilities	
Maintain, and repair/replace as required, the furniture and facilities supporting the Park's casual passive leisure and recreation use.	page 37
Provide additional low-key casual passive leisure/recreation furniture and facilities at appropriate sites as/when warranted.	page 37
Maintain the Park's attractive lawn, trees, gardens, and path landscape as the underlying setting and appeal for the area's passive leisure and recreation uses (see Section 5).	page 37
Develop an outdoor/indoor pavilion or central seating hub (part sheltered, part open), including paving and appropriate landscaping/amenity plantings.	page 38
Community Events and Social Gatherings	
Continue to make Five Dock Park oval, the War Memorial, and other areas of the Park available for major community events, commemorations and celebrations – including commercial or sponsored events where appropriate.	page 39
Continue to collaborate with Five Dock RSL in the management of Anzac Day and other commemorations at the central War Memorial.	page 39
Investigate the crowd safety/security implications of large non-organised gatherings on the oval – notably the New Years Eve fireworks viewing – as part of a wider review of Council's crowd safety role/responsibility in public spaces across the entire City of Canada Bay area.	page 39
Memorials	
Central War Memorial	
Continue to liaise and collaborate with Five Dock RSL regarding the memorial's management and commemorative events.	page 40
Improve passive/casual surveillance over the War Memorial to assist in the prevention of future vandalism and damage. Install closed circuit television security if appropriate.	page 40
Investigate all-abilities access to the War Memorial, and provide if feasible.	page 40
Whitford Memorial	
Liaise and collaborate with the descendants of James Whitford regarding the memorial's management and upkeep.	page 41
Undertake repair and maintenance of the Whitford Memorial.	page 41
Investigate relocating the Whitford Memorial closer to, or as part of, the central War Memorial.	page 41
Other Park Facilities	
Toilets	
Provide accessible public toilets as part of the grandstand's redevelopment/refurbishment.	page 42
Provide accessible toilets in the southern part of the Park.	page 42
Lighting	
Maintain, and repair/replace as necessary, the existing path and area lighting.	page 43
Install additional lighting where paths are poorly lit or as necessary to improve illumination and user safety along the radial and other paths (existing and proposed).	page 43

Provide additional area lighting where and when necessary, as the Park's usage patterns change and evolve.	page 43
Upgrade lighting to facilitate dusk/evening use of selected Park facilities.	page 43
Use lighting for aesthetic purposes as well as for function.	page 43
PARK LANDSCAPING AND GARDENS (Section 5)	
Ornamental Gardens and Hedges	
Manage gardens to reflect the Park's heritage character, provide amenity, maintain a safe environment and perform required functions in a sustainable manner.	page 47
Tree-lined Paths	
Retain, supplement and extend semi-formal tree plantings along the existing path network.	page 48
Tree Groves or "Greenweb"	
Extend and reinforce the existing tree cover along the path network, across the informal treed corridor in Parks' west (First Avenue to Barnstaple Road), and within tree groves/islands to provide shade, amenity, climatic amelioration, birdlife/wildlife connections and micro-habitat.	page 49
Boundary Tree Plantings	
Re-establish perimeter plantings to the Park to maintain this heritage design feature.	page 50
Memorial Conifers	
Provide memorial plantings to reflect the significance of the "memorial zone", that are sustainable in the environmental and climatic conditions, that acknowledge the heritage of the Park and that provide an aesthetic and functional solution.	page 50
Lawn Areas	
Maintain the existing open lawn areas as attractive and usable open areas.	page 51
Rationalise the extent of lawn areas to minimise maintenance requirements.	page 51
Cool Green Zone	
Establish a "cool zone" to provide a refuge for Park users and local residents during the hotter months in the year.	page 52
Views	
Maintain the current open character, and highly visible/unobstructed nature, or most parts of the Park.	page 53
Avoid tall hedges, screening garden beds or dense shrub/tree plantings that may unduly screen areas to passive surveillance (from surrounding streets and residential areas, or other high use parts of the Park).	page 53
Ensure that any future development of the northern lease areas, notably Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club, do not impact the Park's role as a district high/vantage point.	page 53
Stormwater Management/Harvesting	
Provide passive systems to harvest rainwater/stormwater.	page 53
LEASES AND LICENCES (Section 6)	
Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club	
Continue to lease the existing 5,600 square metre site to the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club for the operation of bowling club and community facility, subject to appropriate terms and conditions to ensure this use compatible and in harmony with the Park and surrounding neighbourhood.	page 55

Five Dock Park Tennis Centre	
Continue to lease the existing 1,700 square metre site as a commercially operated tennis centre, subject to appropriate terms and conditions to ensure this use compatible and in harmony with the Park and surrounding neighbourhood.	page 57
Baby Health Centre	
Liaise with NSW Health to formalise lease of the Baby Health Centre building/site.	page 57
Liaise with NSW Health regarding possible relocation of the current Baby Health Centre function to another location outside the Park, to allow for repurposing of the building/site to better support use and enjoyment of the wider Park.	page 57

2. PREPARING A NEW PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR FIVE DOCK PARK

2.1 What is a Plan of Management ?

A Plan of Management is developed to determine and guide the future management of a place – such as a park, sportsground or bushland reserve – under Council management. It sets out management objectives and performance targets for community land as well as providing management and use direction and actions.

They are important documents prepared in consultation with the community, and act as an agreement between a Council and the community as to how a place is to be managed and its values protected. Current uses and activities are identified and future uses and activities, including leases and licences, are approved by a Plan of Management.

Both the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and the *Local Government Act 1993* include provisions regarding the preparation of plans of management for lands under a Council's management, how a Plan of Management is to be prepared (including community engagement activities) and what must be included in a Plan. (From 1 July 2018 the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* requires local councils that are appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land, to manage that land as if it were public land under the *Local Government Act 1993* – including applying the plans of management requirements of this act.)

2.2 Why Council is Preparing this Plan of Management

The current Plan of Management for Five Dock Park was adopted by the then Drummoyne Council in 1996.

The City of Canada Bay was established following this time and the current Council took over implementation of this previous, earlier/existing, Plan. Since its adoption some of the actions recommended in the 1996 Plan have been achieved or partially achieved, others may no longer be relevant, and others were unable to be funded or otherwise remain unrealised. There have also been changes to the surrounding community's make-up and their recreation, leisure and open space needs. Council has also undertaken a number of studies, and adopted several Council-wide plans or strategies, that have implications for the future use and management of Five Dock Park.

Since the adoption of this earlier Plan of Management Council has also endorsed four versions of its "Community Strategic Plan", known as *Your Future 30*. This document sets out the community and Council's aspirations and priorities for at least the next 10 years. This community strategic plan was first developed in 2008, updated in 2010 and again in 2013. The current *Your Future 30*, adopted in 2018, is built around five key themes of a city that is inclusive and involved and prosperous, environmentally responsible, easy to move around, engaged and future focussed, as well as visionary and smart and accountable. Management of Five Dock Park must align with the relevant objectives of *Your Future 30* and ensure that the area's use and management remains consistent with the community's expressed values and preferences.

A new Plan of Management is therefore now required to provide new and updated management directions for Five Dock Park over the next 10-15 years. A new Plan will reconfirm the values the community holds for the Park, and ensure protection of those values in future management decisions. It will address current recreational uses, demands and trends as well as demographic changes and anticipated future uses and other pressures on the area. It will also consider the Park's heritage values along with its presentation and visual appeal, as well as leasehold or commercial activities and special events. The new Plan of Management will also address any emerging uses and issues that have come about since the 1996 Plan and will need to position Council to carefully allocate resources to this facility in the context of other Council commitments.

2.3 What is the Purpose of this Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper ?

The purpose of this Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper is to inform the development of a new Plan of Management through identifying current options or opportunities as well as issues, management challenges or problems. A range of possible management directions, considerations, or future scenarios for all or parts of Five Dock Park are identified for the community's consideration and comment. This Paper, and more importantly community feedback on the issues and management options it suggests (as well as other considerations, aspirations or ideas the community might raise), will help shape the new Plan of Management which will guide the Park's management into the future.

This paper has been prepared based on a review of the current Plan of Management, research and review of background information, field inspections and detailed on-site assessments of the Park and its use/management, and input and discussions with relevant Council staff.

This Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper is only part of a wider opportunity for community, stakeholder involvement in preparation of the new Plan of Management (as shown in Figure 2).

Exhibition of this Paper provides an opportunity for community feedback on these issues, opportunities and possible future management directions. It also allows the community to identify other issues and suggest preferred or alternative management directions. Such feedback can then assist Council in the preparation of a new Plan of Management.



Figure 2 Plan of Management preparation process

Community comment is now being sought on this Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper.

Council would like to know if the Paper adequately represents the values the community holds for the Park, as well as the key issues and opportunities relevant to the area.

Importantly the Paper provides an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on possible future management directions for Five Dock Park. All feedback will contribute to shaping the new Plan of Management.

A “Feedback Form” is included at Appendix 1 to assist people in providing their views/responses (if useful).

Responses will also be accepted by letter or e-mail as follows:

- **E-mail** council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
- **Post** City of Canada Bay
 Locked Bag 1470
 Drummoyne NSW 1470
 Attn: Parks Planner

Please ensure your feedback is returned by 4.30pm on Friday 31 August 2018.

The Draft Plan of Management, when prepared and after consideration of community responses to this Paper and the wider consultation activities, will also be placed on formal public exhibition (Figure 2).

2.4 Structure of this Discussion Paper

This Discussion Paper is divided into the following four sections – each addresses a specific area of the Parks’ values, uses, issues and opportunities or possible management directions.

- **Accessing the Park (Section 3)**
- **Park Facilities and Uses (Section 4)**
- **Park Landscaping and Gardens (Section 5)**
- **Leases and Licences (Section 6)**

Each section includes a number of topics or issues regarding the Park and its management (in each of these four areas).

A brief overview description or background/explanatory information is provided and possible management options, opportunities or directions are identified for each topic or issue – under the heading “Possible Direction / Action”. This is followed by a brief discussion of some points relevant to each possible direction or action, or some factors to consider when reviewing these proposals (or suggesting other directions or actions) – under the heading “Why? Things to Consider?”.

The possible management directions or actions suggested focus more on those issues and measures considered important for the Park's future use, management and appearance – rather than routine or operational matters (such as cleaning, daily maintenance, lawn mowing, etc.). However most of the management directions or actions suggested would result in only limited or incremental change in the Park's use, facilities, character and management – in recognition of the area's established usage, popularity and heritage values.

However some management directions or actions would, if implemented, be a notable change in direction from past management practices, or could create a marked change to the Parks' use, facilities and appearance.

A range of management directions or actions have been suggested, with multiple suggestions for some issues or topics (or for the same part of the Park in some instances). Some may appear contradictory or mutually exclusive. Not all necessarily can, or would be, implemented. However they have been offered for community feedback and input. It is valuable to present alternative futures or priorities, or a range of management directions, for community consideration, comment and feedback.

In addition, the set of management directions or actions suggested for each area is not exhaustive or complete – other management measures or solutions may be possible. When providing comments and feedback feel free to offer alternative management directions or solutions to those presented, or to prioritise alternative management measures.

Meaningful community input – including your comments, inputs and ideas – will help in setting the future management priorities and directions for the Park and contribute to shaping the new Five Dock Park Plan of Management.

3. ACCESSING THE PARK

3.1 Roads and Carparking

Five Dock Park is bounded by Barnstaple Road in the north, Ingham Avenue in the east, First Avenue to the south and Park Road to the west.

Ingham Avenue is a busy road, carrying over 7,700 vehicles per day (2017 data). Vehicle speeds on this road are also a concern, and Council has installed a radar-activated speed advisory sign (northbound) near Noble Street. By comparison First Avenue and Barnstaple Road (in the vicinity of the Park) carry approximately 4,000 vehicles per day (based on data for earlier years). All three roads carry through traffic, with only Park Street on the Park's western edge being a narrower lower-speed residential road with two "speed humps" (opposite the nursing home towards its south end).



A school speed zone, for the adjoining Domremy College operates along First Avenue and short adjoining sections of Ingham Avenue and Pak Road.

There is no developed carpark or other on-site car parking (for the general public) within the Park. Apart from 90° parking bays (29 parking bays, including 1 disabled parking bay) on Barnstaple Road in front of the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club, all Park visitors arriving by vehicle must park on the surrounding streets where parallel on-street parking is available. Other than some limited no stopping zones (primarily for road safety and visibility reasons) untimed free parallel parking is available on the greater majority of the surrounding streets. The minor exceptions are a small 15 minute parking zone in front of the nursing home on Park Road and a school bus zone on First Avenue.

Available on-street parking for Park users appears adequate for all but peak use periods and special events. Parking does not appear to be an issue on the streets flanking the Park, other than:

- the southern end of Park Road, which can be congested at times possibly due to the residential flats opposite in Second Avenue as well as the nursing home (and possibly the adjacent Baby Health Centre and playground, both within the Park) – and exacerbated by the narrower nature of this road;
- the north side of First Avenue, which can be heavily parked during school hours (including by senior students from Domremy College); and
- along Barnstaple Road outside the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club, mainly for shorter periods in the early evening ("bistro time") especially later in the week and on weekends.



Roads and Carparking - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to implement traffic slowing/calming measures along Ingham Avenue adjacent to the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Ingham Avenue is a busy road, with recognised vehicle speed issues and a history of bicycle-vehicle crashes at the roundabouts at the eastern corners of the Park (Ingham Avenue and Barnstaple Road, and Ingham and First Avenues).
- Lower traffic speeds (and volumes) would improve visitor access/safety and the experience of people in nearby areas of the Park.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Allow for angled or 90° parking along parts of the roads flanking the Park, to increase perimeter parking capacity, if required in the future.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Provides the option of additional carparking capacity for existing and future Park users.
- Perimeter parking is preferable to developing carparking within the Park (with loss of open space, greater vehicle intrusion, visual impacts, greater cost, etc.).
- Perimeter carparking is most feasible along First Avenue and parts of Barnstaple and Park Roads.
- But providing perimeter carparking is constrained in some areas – along parts of Park Road (due to excess slope that would require unwelcoming retaining walls along the Park’s edge and a quieter residential road), parts of Barnstaple Road (proximity of the oval and need for a sports “run-off” safety zone in places), Ingham Avenue (traffic volumes and road safety issues), and where remaining Canary Island Palm Trees (landscape/heritage value) may be impacted.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Signpost/mark on-street disabled parking bays near those path entry points providing direct access to the Park’s key attractions or activity areas.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To improve all-abilities access and use of the Park.

3.2 Public Transport

The Park is accessible by public transport with busses (2 routes) running along First Avenue adjacent to the area, with stops located at the Park’s south-west corner (both sides of road, including bus shelters) and south-east corner (Park-side only).

Bus routes also touch the Park’s north-eastern corner (2 routes) and south-eastern corner (1 route). In the north-east bus stops are located approximately 40 metres and 125 metres (walking distance) east of the Park in Barnstaple Road, while in the south-east stops are located approximately 45 metres south in Ingham Avenue and 85 metres east in First Avenue.

Public Transport - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Liaise with the State Transit Authority to relocate existing bus stops off the Park’s north-east and south-east corners closer to the Park where practical, and to include “Five Dock Park” naming as part of all signage for those bus stops adjacent or close to the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To promote greater, and easier, access to the Park by public transport.

3.3 Bike Paths/Access

Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue are existing on-road (stencilled logos and signposted) secondary bicycle routes running alongside the Park. Barnstaple Road is part of the east-west “Route SR2, King Bay to The Bay Run” and Ingham Avenue part of the north-south “Route SR6, Five Dock to Five Dock Bay” (according to Council’s 2014 *Strategic Review of the Canada Bay Bike Plan*). Main bicycle route “MR3 Homebush Bay to City” (an incomplete east-west route at present) runs along Fairlight Street approximately 150 metres south of the Park. These adjoining and nearby bicycle routes enable connection to The Bay Run, approximately 710 metres to the east or 900 metres to the south/south-east.



This 2014 bike plan report also identified the intersection of Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue (a roundabout) as having the highest number of bicycle crashes (6 reported crashes) for the entire City of Canada Bay Council area (Roads and Maritime Services 2008-2012 bicycle crash data). Two bicycle crashes were also recorded for the intersection of Ingham Avenue and First Avenue intersection (also a roundabout) over this period.

Bike Paths/Access - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Improve safety for cyclists at the Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue roundabout at the Park’s north-east corner.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- This intersection is on the north-south “Route SR6, Five Dock to Five Dock Bay” secondary cycle route and used by both Park visitors and passing cyclists, but has a high incidence of recorded bicycle crashes (the highest in the City of Canada Bay area between 2008 and 2012).
- The 2014 *Strategic Review of the Canada Bay Bike Plan* recommended that Council investigate safer cycling treatments at roundabouts in general, and specifically at the “multiple crash” site of the Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue roundabout.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Improve safety for cyclists at the Ingham and First Avenues roundabout at the Park’s south-east corner.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- This intersection is on the north-south “Route SR6, Five Dock to Five Dock Bay” secondary cycle route and used by both Park visitors and passing cyclists, and possibly by students from Domremy College, but has a history of bicycle crashes.
- The 2014 *Strategic Review of the Canada Bay Bike Plan* recommended that Council investigate safer cycling treatments at roundabouts in general.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Develop a new shared path, or a dedicated cycle path, along the Park’s eastern (Ingham Avenue) boundary.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To remove recreational cyclists, and people accessing the Park by bike, from the higher traffic volumes and greater vehicle speeds along Ingham Ave.
- To provide safer cycle, skate and other access to the Five Dock Skater Park (a regional level attraction/destination).

- Design of a dedicated cycle path, or shared path, along the Park’s eastern edge could be integrated with redesign of the Barnstaple Road - Ingham Avenue and Ingham - First Avenues roundabouts to enhance cyclist safety at these points.
- A shared path, or a dedicated cycle path, “detouring” into the Park along Ingham Avenue may not be used by all riders on the “Route SR6, Five Dock to Five Dock Bay” secondary cycle route – with adjacent on-road cycle route marking likely to continue to be required.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide bicycle racks at key entry points to the Park (and other internal locations).

Why? Things to Consider?

- To cater for those people who already cycle to the Park, and encourage greater bicycle access.

3.4 Paths, Pedestrian and All-abilities Access

Pedestrian-only footpaths along the Park’s boundary only occur along First Avenue, the southern section of Park Road (before this footpath curves north-east into the Park) and a very short section of Ingham Avenue (linking one of the Park’s internal paths to opposite Noble Street). The remainder of Ingham Avenue and Park Road, and all of Barnstaple Road, do not have Park-side footpaths.

A feature of the Park’s radial internal path network is that all paths lead to the Park’s four corners (and the intersection of adjacent roads) or to opposite surrounding residential streets in the east (Howley and Noble Streets).

The Park’s south-western corner has been developed as a major entry point – with a formal path entry, a large decorative stone-faced wall displaying the Park name (set in a brick-based hedge), and backed by formal rose gardens. At-grade paths, and a pram ramp crossing the south end of Park Road (via a refuge island), enable easy all-abilities access. However there are no crossing points provided to the south over First Avenue at this entry.



The other three corners of the Park have been developed as secondary entry points, with:

- an upright/pillar metal sign and 5 wide curved steps at the south-east corner (First and Ingham Avenues) – these steps and the adjacent grassed banks limit all-abilities access to the Park at this point, pram ramps and a refuge island provide for people crossing the south end of Ingham Avenue however there are no crossing points provided to the south over First Avenue;
- flanking garden beds, a timber sign and an at grade path with a pram ramp onto the roundabout at the north-east corner (Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue) – gentle gradients make this an easy and all-abilities Park entry, the path’s end is hazardously aligned relative to the roundabout however pedestrian refuges allow for connections across both Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue into the surrounding footpath network;
- a wide concrete apron, 3 wide steps and a timber sign at the north-west corner (Barnstaple and Park Roads) – these steps and the adjacent gentle grassed banks limit easy all-abilities access to the Park at this point and these is evidence of bicycle and other traffic (including



maintenance/contact staff) avoiding these steps in favour of a well-used worn path adjacent, pram ramps provide for people crossing the north end of Park Road however there are no crossing points provided to the north over Barnstaple Road.



A raised zebra crossing, signposted and floodlit, is located mid-block on First Avenue in the Park's south. This also functions as a school crossing, and primarily serves the adjacent Domremy Collage. There are no other marked/signposted pedestrian crossings accessing the Park.

Pram ramps in the road kerbs (both sides) allow for Park access and road crossings at the end of the paths opposite Howley and Noble Streets on the Park's eastern side. The path end and ramp at Howley Street is "protected" by a signposted "No Parking" zone, however the Noble Street ramp and crossing point is not which sometimes creates poor visibility for crossing Ingham Avenue at this point due to the proximity of parked cars.

In the south-west pram ramps allow for people crossing Park Road, just south of Second Avenue, to move to and from the Park. This location has poor sight distances/visibility due to proximity of parked vehicles and the greater congestion/constriction in this area (including the Park's service vehicle entrance, which pedestrians and others sometimes also use), however Park Road is also a lower traffic speed area. A pram ramp was previously located opposite the nursing home nearby (to the north) in Park Road, however this has recently been removed – requiring nursing home residents and their visitors to cross both Second Avenue and Park Road to safely access the Park.

An isolated pram ramp, unconnected to the internal path network or any perimeter footpaths, is located in the Park's north-east opposite Betts Avenue.

Many of the pram ramps in the road kerbs surrounding the Park are an older narrow style and may be an impediment to easy access for elderly, less mobile or disabled users.

Paths, Pedestrian and All-abilities Access - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install assisted pedestrian crossing points (refuge crossings, zebra crossings, etc.) on Ingham Avenue at the end of the radial paths leading to Howley and Noble Streets.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To improve safe access to the Park across Ingham Avenue, due to traffic volumes and speeds.
- To assist in traffic calming and reducing speeds along Ingham Avenue.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Remodel the Park's north-western entry (Barnstaple and Park Roads) and south-eastern entry (Ingham and Frist Avenues) to provide for all-abilities access – as well as easier access for prams, bicycles, mobility scooters, etc. Enhance the presentation (plantings, signage, etc.) at these secondary entry points.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To improve all-abilities access and use of the Park.
- To improve access for prams, bicycles, the elderly and less mobile visitors.
- To enhance the presentation of these secondary entry points, and reduce avoidance/detouring of the existing steps.
- Additional bicycle use of the Park's internal path network may need special management measures (see Section 4).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install safe pedestrian crossing points (pram ramps, and refuges where required) where crossing options are now not provided for across Barnstaple Road at the Park's north-west corner and across Ingham Avenue at the south-west and south-east corners.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To improve safe access to the Park across adjacent streets.
- To better connect the Park with the surrounding footpath network.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Realign the path end at the Park's north-east corner (Barnstaple Road and Ingham Avenue) to more safely enter the roundabout and existing refuge crossings at this point.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To improve safe access to and from the Park at this busy intersection.
- Realigning this path entry could be integrated with redesign of the Barnstaple Road - Ingham Avenue roundabout to enhance cyclist safety and/or the provision of a dedicated cycle path, or shared path, along the Park's eastern (Ingham Avenue) margin.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Ensure all path entry/exit points are signposted "No Parking" zones (if parking would otherwise be permitted).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To prevent vehicles parking across or close to path entry/exit points limiting access and reducing visibility/safety for users.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install (signposting, road marking, etc.) a low-speed shared zone at intersection of Park Road and Second Avenue in the Park's south-west.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To assist access by nursing home residents and their visitors, as well as those using the existing small playground adjoining the Baby Heath Centre, due to the congestion/constriction in this area.
- The section of Park Road in front of the nursing home is already a low-speed zone due to the placement of twin speed humps, and this zone could readily be extended and improved.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Progressively upgrade the older narrow pram ramps at Park entry points, including those on the opposite sides of adjoining roads.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To allow for easier use/access – especially by elderly, less mobile or disabled Park users.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install a pram ramp on the north-west corner of the Barnstaple Road and Betts Avenue intersection, to mirror the existing (but isolated ramp) on the Park's boundary opposite. where crossing options are now not provided for across Barnstaple Road at the Park's north-west corner and across Ingham Avenue at the south-west and south-east corners.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To improve safe access to the Park across Barnstaple Road and better connect the Park with the surrounding footpath network.
- Only warranted if a new internal path is developed connecting this now undeveloped Park entry point, and isolated pram ramp, into the Park's path network (see Section 4).

4. PARK FACILITIES AND USES

4.1 Background

Five Dock Park is a larger, district-level, park. As described in Council's various open space and recreation planning studies, a "district-level park":

- is a larger park, usually 3 hectares or more in area, that can cater to the needs of a broader population;
- serves both local residents who can walk or cycle to the park, as well as those people living with 2 to 3 kilometres who could also cycle but for many the park would be a "drive to" destination;
- combine a variety of features and uses, and provide for a larger scale or specialist recreation opportunities that cannot be readily accommodated in small local parks –
- for district sports grounds this means playing fields that provide for a range of active organised sport and recreation uses, and for district passive parks a range of facilities such as larger playgrounds or more comprehensive play equipment, pleasant social settings, cycle tracks, dog exercise areas, or walking circuits, etc.;
- can accommodate longer-term activities such as family/group social gatherings, picnicking, walking or cycling – in addition to short-term play and leisure opportunities that can be undertaken in a local park;
- may have cultural heritage, or natural heritage, features or resources as important elements;
- may have significant landscape features such as views, varied topography, significant vegetation, and the like as well as links with other open spaces;
- are "user" friendly - in terms of attractiveness, diversity of opportunity, perceived safety, proximity to user populations and presence/absence of access barriers; and
- receive high "levels of service" – in terms of the standard of facilities, maintenance, and presentation.

Five Dock Park meets many of these benchmarks.

Built, or otherwise developed and managed, facilities are a feature of the Park and the focus of many of the area's more active leisure, recreation and sporting activities – as described below. These are set within, complement, and blend with the Park's lawn, landscaped and garden areas (addressed in more detail in Section 5).

4.2 Sport and Active Leisure/Recreation – Facilities and Uses

4.2.1 Oval and Grandstand

The oval, and grandstand on its western margin, are the dominant elements of the Park's north-west. The oval occupies the northern end of the higher central parts of the Park. It is a full/senior sized ground, used for cricket in summer (on a synthetic wicket) and both rugby league and AFL in winter (using offset field and goal post configurations). The oval is



irrigated and well-maintained (mown once or twice a week in summer, and less regularly in winter). Council has recently installed upgraded floodlighting to improve its evening use, and to spread these usage pressures more evenly across the oval. Five backed seats are spaced around the oval's southern boundary.

The adjacent grandstand is described in a 1989 heritage report prepared for the then Drummoyne Council (*Drummoyne Heritage Study – Specialist Reports: Archaeology and Landscape*) as a “brick grandstand of crude simplicity from possibly the later 1930s”. Historical photographs show that the original grandstand has been added to over the decades, with smaller outbuildings constructed to the north-west and an earlier fenced (at least in the early years) enclosure in front of the main grandstand developed as an elevated viewing balcony (safety-fenced) with change rooms and other facilities beneath that was opened in 1990.



Today the grandstand includes the main (original) roofed seating area now comprising 8 rows of stepped concrete benches some (but not all) with wooden seats and the elevated safety-fenced viewing balcony in front, change rooms, small male and female public toilets, game-day canteen, storage, and utilities/services (including recycled water tanks and irrigation/pump equipment nearby to the south). The grandstand and associated facilities are locked and inaccessible when not being used by sporting groups or approved users. However the public toilets are unlocked during daylight hours. Notably these are the only public toilets now available in the Park. Although still used, the grandstand is in poor condition and Council has identified the need for its replacement or major repairs/remediation.

Sporting and other groups use the oval under licence, or via occasional permit arrangements, with Council. In summer the Inner West Harbour Cricket Association uses the ground on both weekend days and for week night training. In winter the Drummoyne Power Junior AFL play on Saturdays and the Five Dock RSL Junior Rugby League play on Sundays, with both clubs also approved to use the oval for week night training (on designated days).



Source: Five Dock RSL Dockers Rugby League Club (Facebook)

Five Dock Park oval is 1 of 15 cricket ovals available in summer across the entire City of Canada Bay area, but only 1 of 3 full-size rugby league fields and similarly 1 of only 3 full-size AFL grounds available across the local government area in winter. Council's ground allocations, and sports usage pressures, indicate that this oval is of particular importance in meeting the demand for rugby league fields within the City of Canada Bay.

Occasional approved users of the oval and grandstand (and sometimes incorporating nearby “passive” use parts of the Park) include local schools – most usually Domremy College and Five Dock Public School – for activities such as school sport, school cross-country and casual use or field hire.

When not being used for team sport or other organised activities the oval is available for, and used by, other Park visitors. As the largest open level area in the Park it is a popular location for independent fitness training (jogging, exercise, etc.), casual leisure and recreation (walking, dog-walking, informal sport uses, casual ball games, kite flying, etc.), relaxation and socialising (typically on the seats and other facilities that ring the oval) as well as being a route for people transiting through/across the Park or going to/from the skate park in the area's south-west.

Oval and Grandstand - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the oval as a venue for the current winter sporting uses of rugby league and AFL.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Council's past recreation planning has identified that most sportsfields across the City of Canada Bay area are used at or above capacity in the winter season, placing an added emphasis on the continued availability of grounds for winter sports.
- The oval is of particular importance in meeting local demand for rugby league fields.
- The oval is only 1 of 3 full size rugby league fields and AFL grounds available across the City of Canada Bay area.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the oval primarily as a cricket venue in summer, but with the possibility of also catering for other sporting uses where these can be accommodated and adequately managed.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Council's past recreation planning has identified that there may be spare capacity across the area's sportsfields in the summer season.
- Flexibility in sportsfield allocation or uses will enable Council to better accommodate sporting pressures across the local government area as whole (for both existing and emerging sports) and maximise use of Five Dock Park oval.
- The ability of Council to manage additional or varied summer sporting uses of the oval, and maintenance of the oval's surface/condition, would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Permit greater evening use of the oval for organised sports.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- The new upgraded floodlighting around the oval enables greater dusk and evening use of the area for sporting activities (possibly including "small field" activities such as touch football, seven-a-side soccer, walking soccer, etc.).
- Maintenance of the oval's surface/condition, and the amenity of surrounding residents, would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Redevelop a new (or substantially refurbish the existing) grandstand to improve the standard, safety and presentation of this facility – but of a similar size/capacity to the existing facility.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Council has identified that the grandstand is in poor condition and in need of replacement or major repairs/remediation.
- The size/capacity of the existing grandstand appears adequate for Five Dock Park oval's role as a district level sportsfield and the existing levels and frequencies use. Therefore redevelop/refurbish the grandstand to a similar building "footprint" and "envelope/scale" as the existing structure.
- Redevelop/refurbish the grandstand in its current location, as there are very few alternative locations around the oval (and a west-facing is not preferred).
- Incorporate a similar set of functions/facilities – to support organised sports and club use of the building – as are now provided by the existing grandstand.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Redevelop/refurbish the grandstand in a style and scale that is consistent with, and sympathetic to, the Park's heritage character and formal layout and reflects the style of original (1930s) structure.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- All of Five Dock Park is listed as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the *Canada Bay Local Environmental Plan 2013*.
- Despite modifications the existing grandstand – its style, scale and location – is an important part of the heritage character, layout and value of the Park. The 1989 heritage report prepared for Drummoyne Council (*Drummoyne Heritage Study – Specialist Reports: Archaeology and Landscape*) recognised Five Dock Park as “the most impressive formally laid out period park in the municipality” noting that “parks with well developed elements from this period are becoming quite rare in the Sydney region”.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide public toilets (including accessible facilities), available during daylight hours (or managed according to Council’s prevailing toilet access/locking regime), as part of the redeveloped/refurbished grandstand.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- The public toilets (male and female) attached to the existing grandstand are sub-standard, and neither includes accessible facilities. However they are now the only public toilets available in the Park, as well as being important facilities for players and spectators.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Include a general access/purpose or additional community space in a redeveloped/refurbished grandstand that could be made available for other users (on an permit basis from Council) – for activities such as fitness/exercise sessions, Pilates or yoga classes, community group use, meetings, small functions, etc.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Creates an additional community space and public asset for enjoyment, beyond the sporting groups typically using the oval and grandstand.
- An income generating asset for Council.
- May result in more frequent, but short-term, parking along the adjacent section of Park Road, but this is not an existing congested parking area.

4.2.2 Playground

A local/neighbourhood level playground is located in the Park’s south-west – sitting adjacent to the Baby Health Centre and the Park’s service/access driveway to the north, with a path nearby to the east. This playground is fenced (and abuts the Baby Health Centre in part, but is not accessible from this building) and provided with a shade covering (and is also partly shaded by surrounding trees), fluorescent lighting (attached to the Baby Health Centre), a seat and rubbish bins. Despite offering only a simple modular play structure (on a synthetic soft-fall base) and catering only for younger/pre-school children only, the playground receives regular levels of use. The Park’s existing picnic area is located approximately 100 metres north-east of this small playground.



Originally built in 1996, the playground was assessed as requiring “renewal” by 2011 in Council’s 2008 *Let’ Play* outdoor playground strategy. The 2015 update of this strategy indicated that this was yet to occur, and today the play equipment remains in need of renewal and refurbishment with other items (such as the shade shelter) also requiring repair or replacement.

Council’s *Let’ Play* strategy also identified Five Dock Park as the preferred site for a district level playground, identifying this as a medium priority. District playgrounds are intended to serve larger

user “catchments” (typically people living in the local and neighbouring suburbs, greater than a 10 minute walk but less than a 10 minute drive), a larger offering and greater range of equipment and activities (usually 8 to 12 activities provided by 1 to 3 pieces of equipment), cater for at least 2 age ranges, and are provided with ancillary facilities (such as seating, picnic tables, and access to toilets and drinking water). District playgrounds are usually located near other recreation or other community facilities/nodes (such as sportsfields, schools, shopping centres) and can be serviced by kerbside parking or dedicated carparks.

Existing district level playgrounds, or the higher level “iconic” playgrounds, are poorly distributed in the Drummoyne/Five Dock/Abbotsford area, with no district (or iconic) playgrounds in the Five Dock/Russell Lea/Wareemba area. The very popular Livvi’s Place (an iconic accessible playground) is located 800 metres from Five Dock Park however all other district or iconic playgrounds are nearly 3 kilometre or more distant.

Playground - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Repair or replace elements of the existing local/neighbourhood playground as and when required, and continue maintenance of this facility in a safe and serviceable condition.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain the existing playground in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition – until its possible replacement.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Upgrade or replace the existing playground with a district level facility to provide a greater range of equipment and activities to better meet the needs of the local and surrounding community.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Council’s 2008 *Let’ Play* strategy identified the development of a district level playground at Five Dock Park as a medium priority, to be achieved by 2014. This facility is yet to be developed.
- The existing small local/neighbourhood level playground is overdue for replacement.
- There are at present no district (or iconic) playgrounds in the Five Dock/Russell Lea/Wareemba area.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Alternative Site 1 - Develop a new district level playground on the open terraced lawn area (“Grass Terrace 1”) to the north/north-east of existing playground (as one possible site for this facility, as shown on Figure 3).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- This site represents an “enlargement” of the existing local/neighbourhood level playground but remaining in its current general location within the Park (although on the north side of the service/access driveway).
- Located on a similar level to the current playground, across a mostly flat or gently sloped area but also with the possibility of incorporating the nearby existing grassy slope into the playspace (to potentially offer play equipment for older children e.g. flying fox, ropes, etc.).
- A less heavily/frequently used space at present, but offering high visibility and good passive surveillance.
- Potential site extends north-east closer to, or possibly connecting with, the existing (main) picnic area.
- Close to the Baby Health Centre – a desirable connection if the Centre is developed as a community hub/pavilion space in the future (see Section 3 and 5) (but would require relocation of the Park service/access driveway for full connection).

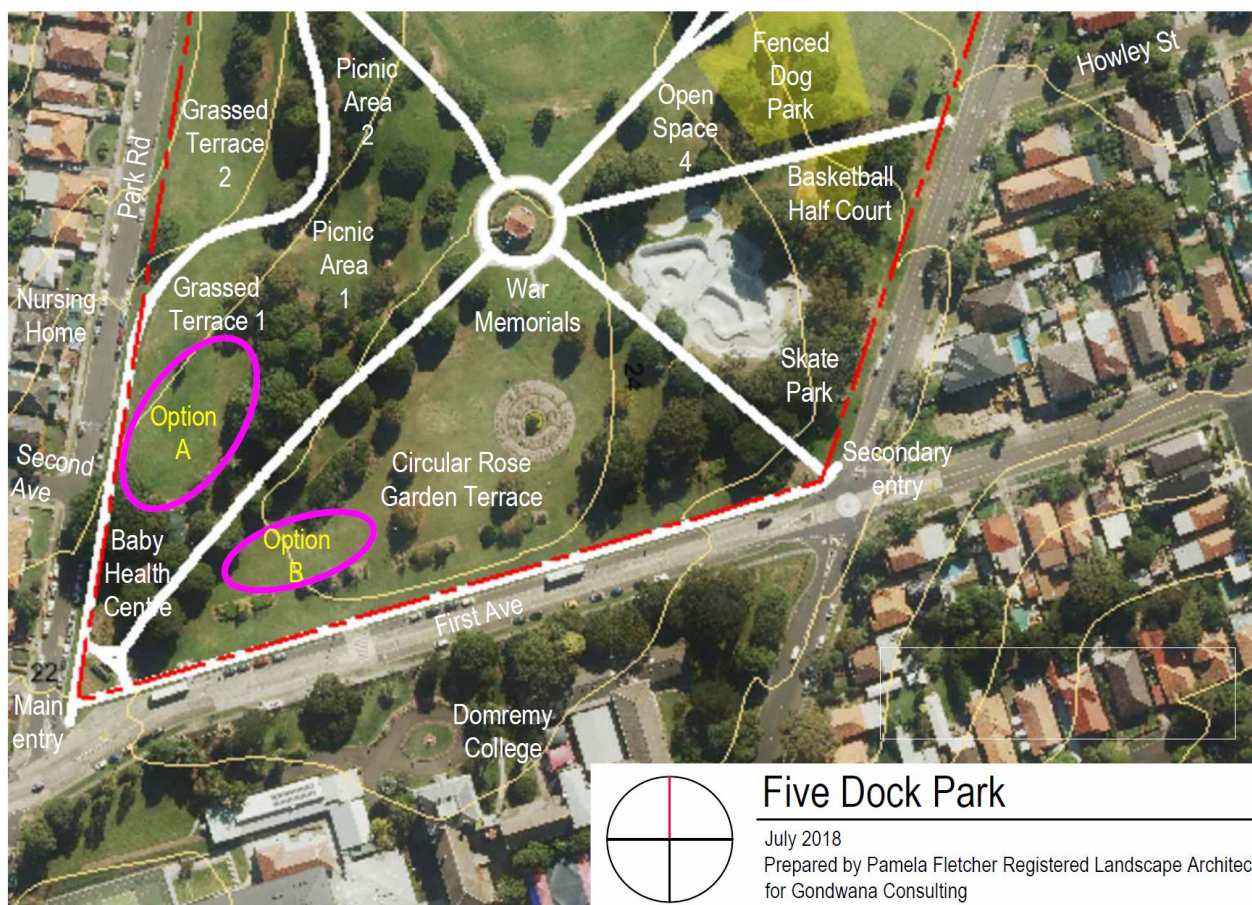


Figure 3 Possible alternative locations for a new district level playground

- Potential to be connected to, or incorporated with/into, a possible “cool zone” with heat reducing plantings/features - and including existing mature tree cover to the north-east (see Section 5).
- Opposite the Park View Nursing Home, offering the potential for inter-generational or shared/communal use across wide range of age groups (e.g. older people watching children or young families at play).
- As a district level facility visitors from further afield will drive to Five Dock Park to use a larger playground – resulting in additional car parking requirements. The Park’s south-west corner is already congested with limited on-street parking (particularly on Park Road and Second Avenue). This site is likely to generate greater car parking pressures in this area, requiring additional parking capacity/arrangements (such as angled or 90° parking along nearby parts of First Avenue – see Section 3).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Alternative Site 2 - Develop a new district level playground to east/south-east of the Baby Health Centre at the western end of the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace” (as one possible site for this facility, as shown on Figure 3).

Why? Things to Consider?

- Located in the Park’s south-east quarter, but slightly relocated from the existing local/neighbourhood level playground’s position.
- Located on a flat site offering good visibility and passive surveillance (with only minor screening by existing hedge plantings along First Avenue).
- In a quieter part of the Park, only receiving lower levels of passive leisure/recreation use and occasional personal trainer activity.

- Close to the Baby Health Centre (but on opposite side of existing south-western radial path) – a desirable connection if the Centre is developed as a community hub/pavilion space in the future (see Section 4 and 6).
- Potential to be connected to, or incorporated with/into, a possible “cool zone” with heat reducing plantings/features – but with little existing tree cover at this site (see Section 5).
- As a district level facility visitors from further afield will drive to Five Dock Park to use a larger playground – resulting in additional car parking requirements. The south-west corner of the Park is already congested in terms of on-street car park. This site is likely to generate greater car parking pressures in this area, requiring additional parking capacity/arrangements (such as angled or 90° parking along the adjacent section of First Avenue – see Section 3).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Alternative Site 3 - Develop a new district level playground at some other location elsewhere in the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- What other locations would be suitable/preferred for providing a new district level playground within Five Dock Park ?
- Preferred locations for siting a district level playground should be – easily accessible (for mothers with prams and young families) with nearby car parking, mostly flat to gently sloping, have sufficient open area/size, have good visibility and passive surveillance, have supporting facilities/infrastructure (water, toilets, picnic areas, paths, etc.) nearby or easily accessible, ideally have nearby shade. The playground should preferably be sited away from other potentially conflicting, disruptive or hazardous Park activities and in a location that does not displace large numbers of other/existing users.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide an on-street “drop off” zone or pull-in bay (3-5 minute parking) adjacent to any new district level playground, to enable convenient vehicle drop-off and pick-up by users.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- As a district level facility visitors from further afield will drive to Five Dock Park to use a larger playground – resulting in additional traffic and parking requirements on the street(s) adjacent to this facility. An on-street “drop off” and “pick-up” zone close to the playground would be a convenience, and safety measure, for playground users (however this option would only be safely available for users with escorted or older children).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Design any new district level playground at Five Dock Park to offer a different play, and parents’ experience and with a different character to the existing “iconic” Livvi’s Place playground at nearby Timbrell Park (a large all-abilities playground which includes a “pop up” kiosk and toilets).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To ensure there is a range of playground styles/experiences for intending visitors to choose from.

4.2.3 Five Dock Skate Park

Located in the Park’s south-east quarter adjacent to Ingham Avenue, the Five Dock Skate Park is a district/regional level attraction and the only facility for skateboarding and related activities now available in the City of Canada Bay area. Built in the 1980s it is an outdoor sunken concrete style (as opposed to more recent ground-level or elevated skate facilities) featuring three bowls, a “snake run” and a half-pipe. The park is suitable for skateboards and BMX as well as, but to a lesser degree, scooters. Designed to cater for users of different abilities, it is more suited to riders

of intermediate to advanced skill levels – however outer parts of the facility are appropriate for less experienced or novice riders.

The skate park is freely available for use at all times, however the facility is not lit which limits its evening use. A bubbler and rubbish bins are the only facilities located around the skate park, and there is no seating in the area. From the south-west to north-east the skate park is fringed by mature trees, which provide some shade to its edges. The basketball half-court is located a short distance to the skate park's north-east.

The skate park is very popular and frequently the main focus of recreational activity in the Park (outside of organised sport times). It well-used after school, on weekends and during holiday periods with school age children and young adults – mainly males – the principal users. Skateboarders and BMX riders are the dominant users, with scooter riders also regular users (especially younger users accompanied by their parents), with less frequent use by in-line skaters or rollerbladers. Council's 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* identified that there are around 4,000 skaters across the City of Canada Bay area with this demand expected to increase by approximately 1,100 participants over the coming years – largely due to increases in the area's younger age groups and, to a degree, an additional number of older adults returning to the activity.



Significantly the Five Dock Skate Park also occasionally hosts major events and competitions, including events attracting international competitors or participants. Commercially sponsored or organised events – such as the *Vans Park Series Oceania Continental Championships* and *Vans BMX Pro Cup, King of Concrete*, and *BMXPO Sydney* – have been held at the park (on a permit basis from Council). These can involve exclusive use of the skate park and surrounds for several days and usually include competitor facilities, food and merchandise, displays, entertainment, temporary stands/seating, and portable toilets. Most are well-patronised and increase the skate park's profile and appeal. The venue continues to be a popular location for such events.



The skate park is closely managed and well maintained by Council with only minor issues – such as water ponding in the bottom of some bowls or erosion and areas bare/compacted earth along some of the concrete margins. Not all edges of the larger bowls are fenced (the only perimeter fencing being in the north-east corner), with steep drops of over 2 metres in some places. Council has developed a code of conduct for skate park users – to reduce the risk of injury to users, promote sharing of the area among riders of all-abilities, and minimise disturbance to other Park users and nearby residents. This code of conduct is available on-line but not displayed on-site at the park. The park is a designated, and signposted, alcohol free zone. It has been the source of relatively few incidents of anti-social behaviour or complaints from nearby residents (the skate park is located approximately 50 metres from residences on the opposite side of Ingham Avenue to the east, and partially screened by a band of mature trees).

Five Dock Skate Park - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to manage the skate park as a high standard district/regional level attraction.

Why? Things to Consider?

- It is an established and popular attraction within the Park, the only facility of its kind available in the City of Canada Bay area, and a well-known high profile destination among the local and wider skating and BMX community.

- Council's 2007 *Canada Bay Recreation Plan* identified the provision of "youth-oriented play facilities (including skateboard facilities ...)" as a medium priority action/strategy in relation to outdoor informal recreation.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to maintain and progressively upgrade the skate park, including measures such as:
 - providing seating and shelter at suitable, safe, locations around the park's margins;
 - adding additional "street elements" or other components to the park to diversify riding experiences and challenge;
 - providing areas/features to better cater for scooter riders and beginner or novice riders;
 - improved drainage measures to prevent ponding in the bottom of bowls; and
 - harden or remediate the park's margins where necessary to accommodate usage pressures.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To better cater for skate park users, including parents supervising younger riders.
- Council's 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* identified a need for additional "street elements or other components" and "shade and support facilities" at the skate park "to encourage young people to travel there".
- Position seating and shelter in a visible (and potentially lit) location to allow for passive surveillance and deter anti-social behaviours.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To extend the park's usable periods and appeal.
- Use of directional glare-shielded lights (to reduce light "spill" and disturbance of nearby residents) with timed cut-off (to ensure set times are observed).
- Additional lighting may assist in deterring anti-social behaviours.
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Ensure the code of conduct for skate park users is displayed, in a user friendly format, onsite at the skate park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To ensure awareness of, and better promote, the code of conduct for all skate park users.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Undertake regular risk assessments at the park – especially in relation to fall/trip hazards around the site's margins and the need for perimeter fencing, bowl surface condition/repair, water ponding, and furniture/facility serviceability.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To ensure user safety, within the limits of Council's responsibilities and "duty of care" as the site's manager.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to make the skate park available for major events and competitions, including commercial or sponsored events.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Approved and managed on a permit or licence basis from Council, with appropriate conditions.
- Desirability of capping the number of major skate park events per year, and/or identifying blackout periods when events will not be approved ?

- Accommodating major events at the skate park will require some nearby areas to be retained as lawn/open space as event set-up and support areas.

4.2.4 Basketball Half-court

A hard paved half-court with a single goal (backboard and hoop) is located to the north/north-east of the skate park and immediately south of the fenced dog park. The basketball half-court is terraced into a gentle slope, with adjacent mounding (to contain loose balls), and set among tall established trees (mostly Eucalypts) which provide abundant shade but limit grass growth. The half-court is not lit (and receives limited spill/peripheral lighting from the adjacent path), and there are two seats set very close to the court's northern end. Despite being located just south of the radial path leading to Howley Street, the half-court is well-screened from most other parts of the Park and nearby residences. The site is part of the designated, and signposted, alcohol free zone which includes the skate park. The half-court has been the source of relatively few incidents of anti-social behaviour or complaints from nearby residents.



The court and surrounds are a mixture of surface materials, with some unevenness at joints and edges. Overall the facility is in only fair condition and not well presented. Despite this it receives intermittent to regular use, mainly after school and on weekends, for basketball activities (goal shooting, “one-on-one”, games) as well as for other small-scale ball games and skateboarding or scooter riding (as spillover from the adjacent skate park). Council’s 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* predicts there will be nearly 1,700 basketball players in the City of Canada Bay area by 2031, although this may underestimate informal casual or leisure participants. The half-court is 1 of only 2 such facilities in the Canada Bay area (there is also no full-sized outdoor public basketball court in the area).

Basketball Half-court - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Retain and upgrade the basketball half-court in its present location.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Upgrading to include improvements to the landscape and presentation of the half-court’s surrounds.
- The half-court, in its present location, offers complementary youth-focused activities that are a “good fit” with the adjacent skate park in a position screened from many other areas.
- Council’s 2007 *Canada Bay Recreation Plan* identified the provision of “youth-oriented play facilities (including ... half court basketball facilities ...)” as a medium priority action/strategy in relation to outdoor informal recreation.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the existing basketball half-court (and include in any new/re-sited half-courts).

Why? Things to Consider?

- To extend the half-court’s usable periods and appeal.
- Use of directional glare-shielded lights (to reduce light “spill” and disturbance of nearby residents) with timed cut-off (to ensure set times are observed).
- Additional lighting may assist in deterring anti-social behaviours.
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Relocate the half-court to a more visible and appealing location elsewhere in the Park.
- ▶ Potential alternative locations may include – Site 1 west of the fenced dog park (Open Space 1), or Site 2 south-west of the skate park (at the western end of the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace”) – both enable connections with the skate park to maintain this part of the Park as a youth activities precinct.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- A half-court (or other similar outdoor hard court facility, potentially up to a full-sized outdoor basketball court) is a valuable facility to continue to provide within the Park.
- Council’s 2007 *Canada Bay Recreation Plan* identified the provision of “youth-oriented play facilities (including ... half court basketball facilities ...)” as a medium priority action/strategy in relation to outdoor informal recreation.
- Council’s 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* recommended the provision of “social/family recreation spaces ... where the whole family (people of all ages and abilities) can have social and non-organised physical activities” and identified “free access hard courts” (for activities such as basketball, volleyball, futsal, ball games, etc.) as appropriate facilities noting that “suitable play spaces in larger parks could be developed to provide for this type of space”.
- Site 1, west of the fenced dog park, may intrude into (or detract from) the visual setting of the nearby central War Memorial. This site could not accommodate a full-sized basketball court without relocating part of the adjacent fenced dog-park and the removal of some trees.
- Site 2, south-west of the skate park at the western end of the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace”, may intrude into (or detract from) the character and visual setting of this formally laid out part of the Park. A full-sized basketball court in this location would exacerbate these impacts, including being closer to the circular rose garden, and also potentially require the removal of some large trees.

4.2.5 Fenced Dog Park

The Park’s fenced off-leash dog park, located in the area’s east, is 1 of 18 off-leash dog areas in the City of Canada Bay. However it is the only fenced off-leash dog park now available in the Council area. Set on a slight slope the site encloses an area of approximately 1,850 square metres (around 37-54 metres by 33-48 metres), featuring several small to medium trees and a limited open/unshaded grass area.



The dog park receives regular use and appears particularly popular in early mornings as well as late afternoons and early evenings – indicative of before and after work or school use. It is also very well used on most weekends. It is provided with a double gated (holding bay) entry, two seats, dog water point and waste bin (and a service access gate). Due to its high level of use the grass within the enclosure is heavily worn with large areas of bare compacted soil, especially in shaded areas beneath the trees. The park is not lit, with spill/peripheral lighting only from adjacent paths, but is nevertheless used at night by some dog owners.



Public information regarding off-leash dogs elsewhere in Five Dock Park is confusing. Council’s website describes the designated unrestricted off-leash area as being “(near Five Dock Skatepark)” but the accompanying on-line map shows all of the Park as one of Canada Bay’s “Off Leash Areas - Permitted anytime”. Older on-site signage on the Park’s eastern boundary (opposite Noble Street) indicates that the whole Park is a timed off-leash dog area (weekdays before 9am and after 4pm, and weekends before 9am only). In practice dogs,

both on and off leash, can be seen across all parts of the Park at any time – with the oval a popular area for running dogs off leash when not in use for sport or other activities.

Fenced Dog Park - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Retain the fenced off-leash dog park and enlarge the fenced area to the east to include a larger open grassed area.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- This facility is a popular and well-used attraction, and the only fenced off-leash dog park now in the City of Canada Bay area.
- Extending the open grassed areas will provide additional space for dog play and increasing the facility's capacity, while reducing "wear and tear" usage pressures on existing shaded grass areas.
- A larger fenced area would provide opportunities to improve the facility's design/standards – such as including separate large and small dog areas, quiet areas, or activity elements (mounds, logs, agility equipment, etc.).
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be considerations in the extent (and operating hours) for an expanded fenced off-leash dog park.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the fenced dog park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To extend the fenced off-leash dog park's capacity, conveniently usable period and appeal.
- Use of directional glare-shielded lights (to reduce light "spill" and disturbance of nearby residents) with timed cut-off.
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install irrigation within the fenced dog park to assist in grass and landscape maintenance.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain the condition and resilience of grassed areas, particularly in shaded parts, to increase the facility's appeal, appearance and help manage "wear and tear" usage pressures.
- To enhance the facility usage or "carrying" capacity.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Clarify and provide consistent advice (on-line, published and on-site) indicating that the fenced off-leash dog park is the only space in the Park where off-leash dogs are permitted (with on-leash dogs permitted elsewhere across the Park, as subject to other regulations and restrictions – such as prohibited public places for pets, and Council's guidelines regarding pet owner responsibility in public areas).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To provide clarity around, and appropriately manage, use of the Park and its attractions by dogs owners.

4.2.6 Bocce Rinks

Two adjoining concrete bocce rinks are located in the Park's far north-west corner, just north-west of the grandstand close to Park Road. They are set into the ground, with kerbed edges and no drainage, and previously lit by floodlighting (now



switched off) alongside the western rink. They are poorly or only occasionally maintained (if at all). These rinks were established by Council with a local Bocce Club, who have since relocated to another site and the facility is now no longer used (for bocce, or apparently for other purposes). Two uncovered picnic tables (one located in the shade of a tree) are situated nearby.

Bocce rinks - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Remove the existing disused bocce rinks, and floodlighting, and return these areas to lawn and/or landscape plantings.

Why? Things to Consider?

- The bocce rinks are no longer used, are poorly designed with drainage problems, and appear out-of-place in this corner of the Park.
- Bocce is preferably played on grass surfaces, rather than concrete.
- Despite a large number of people with of Italian descent in the local community the local demand for bocce is being met at other locations.

4.2.7 Independent Active Recreation and Fitness

The Park does not include any sites or facilities specifically designed or provided to support independent or non-organised active recreation or fitness uses – such as running/jogging, circuit or interval training, using exercise equipment, climbing or challenge activities, etc. People independently exercising within the Park can occasionally be seen using seats, fences and even trees as exercise while many others simply jog, run or cycle around and through the Park. Council's 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* identified that "outdoor fitness is one of the fastest growing activities in Council parks and public spaces" and cited the substantial recorded growth in participation rates of gym/fitness activities (by 34%) since 2006. It also noted that such facilities were important in equity and accessibility terms – suggesting that "these activities have been responsible for a significant increase in participation rates of females" as they can be undertaken "in small time chunks that can be fitted in around work and family responsibilities and at a variety of times of day".



Independent Active Recreation and Fitness - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install low-key facilities to support personal exercise, fitness or training activities at appropriate sites within the Park.
- ▶ Suitable facilities could include a perimeter trail circuit, exercise stations (centralised or spaced along a fitness trail), climbing equipment, etc.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To better cater for independent or non-organised active recreation or fitness uses, increase the Park's accessibility/appeal for leisure and fitness and leisure uses, and potentially attract/encourage additional users.
- The 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* recommended that Council "consider install [sic] climbing/free running facility at Five Dock Park" and identified the Park as one of a number where council should consider developing "park perimeter trail circuits". "Off-road" paths and trails were considered among the most frequently used type of recreation facility – largely because of the high participation rate in walking, dog walking, cycling and skating.
- The Park's eastern/north-eastern side ("Open Space 1", "Open Space 2" and "Open Space 3") and western side ("Grass Terrace 1" and "Grass Terrace 2") would be preferred locations

for such facilities which could “activate” these lesser used parts of the Park and complement the existing free/independent use character of these areas.

- The “Circular Rose Garden Terrace” would be a less suitable site for such facilities considering the formal layout and passive use character of this part of the Park.

4.2.8 Personal Trainers

Five Dock Park is 1 of 24 “passive parks” that Council has identified as suitable for use by personal trainers (which includes personal trainers, fitness trainers, yoga instructors, tai chi instructors or the like). Three registered personal trainers are, at present, approved to operate in Five Dock Park. Personal trainers are approved to operate on designated days, typically in the early mornings or late afternoons and early evenings. Group sizes are usually limited to a maximum of 10 people.



Council approves personal trainers to enable it to maintain an up-to-date registry of trainers using Council parks and facilities (and approve/manage the use of certain parks at specific times) and to help manage these activities and their impacts; as well as to ensure operators have appropriate insurance, professional qualifications and affiliations.

Within the Park the area around the Baby Health Centre and the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace” appear to be popular locations for personal training groups.

Personal trainers - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to approve personal trainers to operate within the Park, consistent with Council’s policies and personal trainer registration procedures.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To help deliver health and physical and mental well-being outcomes for the community.
- Commercial fitness activities should not prevent others from enjoying the Park, and the amenity of nearby residents should also be considered in specifying locations and times.
- Preferred, and any “no go”, areas for personal trainers operating within the Park ?

4.3 Passive Leisure/Recreation - Facilities and Uses

4.3.1 Paths, for Walking and Cycling

A strong feature of the Park is the radial path network centred on the War Memorial located just south of the Park’s centre. These radial paths link each corner of the park to a ring path around this central War Memorial. In the Park’s east two additional paths link to nearby cross streets, Noble and Howley Streets, off Ingham Avenue. Another path winds along the Park’s western edge, from Park Road (opposite Second Avenue) linking to the grandstand and the radial path to/from the Park’s north-west corner. Betts Avenue in the Park’s north-



east, off Barnstaple Road, is the only (directly accessible) cross street connected to the Park's path network.

The paths are concrete construction with generally gentle gradients. Most are approximately 1.3 metres wide (other than the wider ring path around the War Memorial). They were originally intended as footpaths. Although not designed to contemporary all-abilities or wheelchair access standards, most of the paths would be suitable for all-abilities access (and the entire network would be suitable for assisted wheelchair access).

The paths provide access to, and between, the Park's main facilities and activity areas as well as allowing transit through the area. Several have "avenue plantings" of mostly older trees (Brushbox, Palms and Figs) which add considerably to their appeal. They are well used by people moving in and about the Park – accessing its attractions, facilities and activity nodes – as well as by people simply strolling or relaxing, walking for fitness or dog walkers (runners or joggers tend to favour the Park's grassed areas rather than the paths.) Pedestrians of all ages, from young school children to older people (including some using walking frames) are the main path users. However they are also used by mothers with prams, older people in mobility scooters, skaters, scooter riders and cyclists. The paths running diagonally between the Park's south-east and north-west corners appear to be the more frequently used by cyclists, possibly as a short-cut or local link through the Park.



The narrow paths are not suitable (or to the required standard) for shared use, by pedestrians and cyclists. They can also be difficult for prams and mobility scooters or wheelchairs, especially when passing other users. However there appear to be few conflicts or collisions – possibly due to the good visibility and leisurely, low-speed, park setting.

The paths are mostly well maintained and in good condition. Some cracking and surface unevenness occurs where service (or other) vehicles cross over or drive along some sections of path.

Paths, for Walking and Cycling - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the radial path network as the main movement "spine" and a key component of the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain the path network in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition – including path lighting (see below) and avenue tree plantings (see Section 5).
- The existing path network is a long-stranding and effective movement system in and around the Park, and provides good connections with the surrounding residential street/areas.
- It is an important element of the Park's layout and landscape character and heritage value.
- Council's 2013 *Recreation Facilities Strategy* identified dedicated, "off-road", paths and trails as among the most frequently used type of recreation facility – largely because of the high participation rate in walking, dog walking, cycling and skating.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Progressively repair and replace or upgrade damaged sections of path at service vehicle crossing points or travel sections, and identify/notify designated service vehicle crossing or access points to Park maintenance staff, contractors and others with approved vehicle access (such as event organisers).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain the path network in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition and prevent further vehicle damage.
- May be part of the progressively upgrading/widening of all, or selected, paths (see below).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Progressively upgrade all, or selected, paths to a minimum width acceptable for low-speed shared use (walkers and cyclists, 2.4 to 2.5 metres wide).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To better accommodate use of the path network by a multiplicity of users (walkers, mobility scooters, skateboarders, cyclists, joggers, etc.).
- Not all widened paths need necessarily be made available for cyclists' use, but restricting riders to approved paths only could be challenging. (Shared use paths, walkers and cyclists, are already in place and operating in other Council parks – such as Queen Elizabeth Park, Concord.)
- The path running diagonally across the Park, south-east to north-west, would be a priority route for upgrading to a shared path standard and approval for low-speed use by cyclists.
- Widened/upgraded paths should be able to cope with service vehicle loadings to path damage (and provide service vehicle access/movement routes around the Park if necessary).
- Avoid impacting avenue tree plantings when widening parts of the path network.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Develop a new section of path connecting the north-eastern radial path to Barnstaple Road opposite Betts Avenue, running east of the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To connect the path network and Betts Avenue cross street.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Assess, and/or monitor, the need for a dedicated bicycle path through the Park – especially a south-east to north-west link (and avoiding the Central War Memorial).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To track and, if necessary, meet emerging usage pressures and needs.
- Careful design and alignment of any cycle path would be required to ensure the safety of Park and path users and maintain the area's amenity and heritage values.

4.3.2 Picnic Areas

Three clusters of picnic facilities/furniture are located around the Park, with the main or larger area situated immediately west of the central War Memorial

The main cluster of picnic facilities/furniture is set in a bowl-shaped depression surrounded by trees which opens to the west undulating/sloping down to the open terraced lawn area ("Grass Terrace 1") bordering Park Road. This area contains 2 uncovered brick electric (single) barbeque units (1 with a tap and dog bowl), 2 covered picnic table/seat sets, 2 open picnic table/seat sets, and garbage bins. This site is accessible from both the Brushbox lined south-western radial path (to the south) and Park Road path (to the north-west).



A smaller group of picnic facilities/furniture is located slightly (40-45 metres) to the north of the main grouping, on a grassed bench at the same level as the nearby oval, and south of the grandstand. This area offers a covered picnic table/seat set, an open picnic table/seat set (located

in the shade of tree), an uncovered brick electric (single) barbeque unit, and garbage bins. This site is close to both the north-west radial path (to the east) and the Park Road path (to the west).

These picnic settings are older-style (log and plank) park furniture, but well maintained and serviceable. Neither are lit, with little spill/peripheral lighting from the nearby paths. They are reasonably well shaded and spaced to give a degree of privacy, with the barbeque units positioned away from the picnic tables to prevent “monopolising”. They are set among scattered/open trees in mown grass, with some areas of bare/compacted earth (usually in shaded spots or on slopes).

These two areas receive regular but not excessive use for picnicking, socialising, gatherings of families or friends, and group leisure activities. The available capacity appears adequate – with no immediate demand/pressure for expansion or additional facilities. Most use occurs during weekends, especially in the warmer months. Despite the absence of lighting some picnickers use these facilities into the night (relying on torches or their mobile phones for lighting). The picnic furniture is also used at other times for casual passive uses - such as sitting, reading, socialising and relaxing.



Limited picnic facilities – an uncovered brick electric (single) barbeque unit, seat, and garbage bin – are located off the north-eastern margin of the oval (close to the Five Dock Park Tennis Centre) under a large Fig tree. These facilities appear to be very little used – possibly mostly by the Tennis Centre and its patrons.

Picnic Areas - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the two larger picnic areas, including enhancing their landscape setting of scattered/open trees, plantings and open grass.
- ▶ Retain the older style, timber, character of the picnic furniture/facilities provided.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain the main picnic areas in a safe and serviceable condition, and improve the attractiveness of their setting.
- Retain a mix of open and covered picnic furniture/settings – to accommodate both summer and winter use.
- To retain the atmosphere of the picnic areas and style of furniture/facilities provided in keeping with the more traditional character of the Park as whole.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Install lighting to enable dusk/evening use of the eastern picnic areas.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To extend the eastern picnic areas' usage and appeal, during the popular dusk and early period.
- Use of directional glare-shielded lights (to reduce light “spill” and disturbance of nearby residents) with timed cut-off (to ensure set times are observed).
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be important considerations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Merge the two eastern picnic area when additional facilities are warranted by demand/usage pressures.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To create a single picnic precinct as/when warranted by usage levels.

- Maintain adequate separating between individual items of picnic furniture/settings, to provide for (perceived) privacy.
- New or replacement picnic furniture/facilities should match/mirror the older, timber, style and character of the existing picnic areas.
- Potential to co-locate with the proposed district level playground (at both Alternative Sites 1 or 2) (see above), or the possible “cool zone” (see Section 5).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Remove/relocate the few isolated and little-used picnic facilities off the north-east side of the oval.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Infrequently used and poorly located, isolated, site.
- Will reduce the maintenance demands of managing a little-used site.

4.3.3 Passive Leisure and Recreation Uses, Areas and Facilities

As a large attractive green open space the Park is enormously valuable for casual or independent passive leisure and recreation uses. Steady numbers of people can be seen enjoying all parts of the Park across almost all daylight hours, and beyond. These uses include casual walks or strolls, walking babies in prams or dogs on leads, sitting on picnic benches or backed seats (more popular among older visitors), sitting under shady trees or lying on the grass, talking with friends or family or in small groups, children playing or “burning off energy”, children learning to ride, “kick-about” and casual ball games, kite flying or Frisbee throwing, laying in the sun, reading or studying, listening to music, or simply relaxing and daydreaming.

The Park’s open lawns, trees (singly and in groves), paths, and gardens are the major assets and attractions or settings for these passive leisure and recreation uses. However these are also supported by more than 20 seats – most spaced along the radial paths, around the oval or at the various activity nodes (such as the fenced dog park or playground) – and a few picnic tables, bubblers and garbage bins. Other than 3 covered single picnic tables, there is no (built) sheltered space for casual leisure and relaxation provide in the Park at present. Similarly the Park does not have a focal point or central location where casual passive uses, and associated facilities, are clustered into a shared space offering a more communal or group setting for those seeking this experience.



<p>Passive Leisure and Recreation Uses, Areas and Facilities - Possible Management Directions or Actions</p>

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain, and repair/replace as required, the furniture and facilities supporting the Park’s casual passive leisure and recreation use.
- ▶ Provide additional low-key casual passive leisure/recreation furniture and facilities at appropriate sites as/when warranted.
- ▶ Maintain the Park’s attractive lawn, trees, gardens, and path landscape as the underlying setting and appeal for the area’s passive leisure and recreation uses (see Section 5).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To continue to provide for people to enjoy the Park for casual passive leisure and recreation.
- To maintain furniture/facilities in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition.
- Ensuring that passive use furniture/facilities are available in a variety of settings and locations throughout the Park, to support differing types of use and experiences.

- Consider the provision of one or more small sheltered seating areas, to address the absence of covered sitting/gathering spaces in the Park – pending the possible development of a centralised outdoor/indoor pavilion or seating hub (see below).
- A possible “cool zone” (see Section 5) would also provide an additional casual passive leisure and recreation space within the Park.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Develop an outdoor/indoor pavilion or central seating hub (part sheltered, part open), including paving and appropriate landscaping/amenity plantings.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To offer a shared central space or focal point for casual passive uses, leisure and socialising in a communal or group setting – a possible local community “hub”.
- Potentially sheltered seating and a passive use area, an “outdoor room” part covered and part open, with associated built elements as well as shade and amenity plantings. Would require detailed design, with community input.
- Preferably include toilets (beneficial if located in the Park’s southern half), possibly a community use space, or potentially a kiosk (if viable). Space could also be available for booking for group use.
- Ideally located close to the proposed district level playground (see above) and possible “cool zone” (see Section 5) for greatest use and value.
- Potential to re-purpose the Baby Health Centre, if/when available, as the core for such an outdoor/indoor pavilion (see Section 6) – possibly retaining the existing building’s roof line and street façade to be in keeping with the Park’s heritage character and style.

4.4 Community Events and Social Gatherings

Five Dock Park oval has in the past been the venue for the annual events – such as “Carols in the Park” and occasional community events or other large organised gatherings. Council has also been approached for permission for larger events – featuring food stalls, music/entertainment, displays, amusements and rides – but these have not proceeded to-date. All these larger, organised, events are authorised by permit (with conditions as necessary) from Council.

As one of the Park’s highest points, offering views to the city skyline and Harbour Bridge, the oval is also the scene of large gatherings of Five Dock and surrounding residents to watch fireworks and other major events in the City or on the harbour. These independent or non-organised events may attract over a thousand people – notably to the New Year’s Eve fireworks.

The central War Memorial is the scene of annual Anzac Day commemorations, organised by the Five Dock RSL (in co-operation with Council), which is usually attended by several hundred people. Other, smaller, commemorative events occur at the War Memorial at other times throughout the year.



Council has identified Five Dock Park as a suitable location for wedding ceremonies and photography as well as organised/group “social recreation” uses, such as large family gatherings or school use. It is also identified as a suitable location for corporate hire, events and festivals. These larger organised activities periodically occur in the Park. These require bookings and Council approval (with specific requirements and conditions) – other than for family or social gatherings involving fewer than 80 people (unless these include a jumping castle).

Community Events and Social Gatherings - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to make Five Dock Park oval, the War Memorial, and other areas of the Park available for major community events, commemorations and celebrations – including commercial or sponsored events where appropriate.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Approved and managed on a permit, licence or booking basis from Council, with appropriate conditions (including bonds).
- Where consistent with Council's Community Fair, Public Open Space Hire and other policies plus the social recreation application, filming and photography and other procedures.
- Identifying adequate management and or permit conditions for potentially higher impacts elements of major events – such as heavy vehicle access and routes, generator use, traffic and access, crowd safety/security, etc.
- Desirability of capping the number of major events per year, for different locations within the Park, and/or identifying blackout periods when events will not be approved?
- Consider amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents when determining the maximum number or frequency of events/approvals and their location.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to collaborate with Five Dock RSL in the management of Anzac Day and other commemorations at the central War Memorial.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To assist/support this major event in the Park, that is closely linked to the site's history and heritage values.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Investigate the crowd safety/security implications of large non-organised gatherings on the oval – notably the New Year's Eve fireworks viewing – as part of a wider review of Council's crowd safety role/responsibility in public spaces across the entire City of Canada Bay area.

Why? Things to Consider?

- More effectively/appropriately undertaken as a Council-wide assessment and action plan, for implementation as applicable to Five Dock Park.

4.5 Memorials

4.5.1 Central War Memorial

The larger central War Memorial is an elaborate brick rotunda or open pavilion with a red tiled-roof and an octagon shaped tablet at its heart, on which are inscribed the names of those honoured, surmounted by a light. The veterans listed participated in World War I, World War II and the Korean Campaign. The main structure is secured by metal grills in its large door way and window openings. A stepped ramp gives access to the memorial's gates/doors from the west, off the wide concrete path that rings the memorial, but despite having handrails both sides the entrance is not all-abilities accessible. Within the encircling ring path the memorial is surrounded by a circular lawn area, inaccessible to the public, containing rosemary bushes and four juvenile pines plus three flagpoles south of the



memorial's entrance. An additional flagpole is located opposite the stepped ramp on the outside of the ring path.

Opened and dedicated in 1923 this War Memorial is a feature of the Park and contributes significantly to the area's heritage value and "period" presentation (as recognised by the 1989 heritage report prepared for the then Drummoyne Council – *Drummoyne Heritage Study – Specialist Reports: Archaeology and Landscape*). It has been an important local place of commemoration ever since. Additional plaques were dedicated after WWII, in a large ceremony held in November 1948. The memorial was refurbished by Drummoyne Council, and subsequently rededicated, in 1987.

Five Dock RSL organises Anzac Day ceremonies at the site each year, which in recent times have been attended by several hundred people. The memorial is also used for other military commemorations.

The memorial rotunda essentially forms the central pivot in the Park's radial path network, and in this location is passed by all people who traverse the Park. However it has also suffered vandalism attacks in the past (graffiti and break-ins) which led to the installation of the metal security grills. A ring of conifers, planted after WWII, occur on the outside of the wide path that encircles the memorial. Probably originally extending completely around the monument, these broad-spreading trees now only remain in a semi-circle to the memorial's west.



Although part of the "memorial zone", several are suffering stress and in fair condition only (possibly showing signs of dieback) as well as being pruned for lighting infrastructure.

Central War Memorial - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to liaise and collaborate with Five Dock RSL regarding the memorial's management and commemorative events.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To ensure close and ongoing involvement of the local RSL community.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Improve passive/casual surveillance over the War Memorial to assist in the prevention of future vandalism and damage.
- ▶ Install closed circuit television security if appropriate.

Why? Things to Consider?

- The conifers located on the outside of the ring path are bushy to the ground and partially screen the structure to view from much of the rest of the Park and from adjacent streets. Replacement with more suitable species would increase visibility to allow improved passive surveillance (but an appropriate "commemorative" or "heritage" species, in keeping with the sites memorial significance and heritage values, would be preferred) (see Section 5).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Investigate all-abilities access to the War Memorial, and provide if feasible.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To allow veterans and others to easily access and view the memorial when open.
- Possible physical and visual impacts of providing all-abilities access would need close considerations in terms of the site's heritage and aesthetic values.

4.5.2 Whitford Memorial

A second small memorial, known as Whitford Memorial, is located immediately south of the central War Memorial – in the “memorial zone” but outside of the path circling the larger memorial. It is a small *brick structure with three steps leading to a mosaic tiled surface with the letters RAAF and the Airforce three ring symbol*. A brass plaque at the rear (south) features the Air Force wings and wreath, with an inscription to the memory of RAAF Pilot James Richard Whitford who was killed on war service in Victoria in 1939. The memorial was funded and dedicated by citizens and friends, and was unveiled in 1941 by the then Mayor of Drummoyne.



This smaller memorial has been damaged, and requires repair (the bubblers are no longer functional and a step tread is broken), and is in only in fair condition – a fact which is highlighted by the condition of the nearby larger memorial.

Whitford Memorial - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Liaise and collaborate with the descendants of James Whitford regarding the memorial’s management and upkeep.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To recognise the on-going interest and involvement of James Whitford’s descendants.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Undertake repair and maintenance of the Whitford Memorial.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Replace the broken step tread, repair bubbler features (with or without functional plumbing ?).
- To bring the Whitford Memorial to the same standard of maintenance and presentation as the nearby larger War Memorial.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Investigate relocating the Whitford Memorial closer to, or as part of, the central War Memorial.

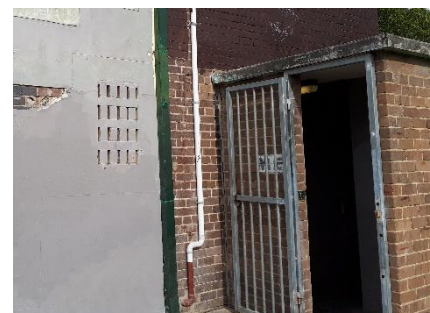
Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Consolidates the Park’s “memorial zone”.
- Would require discussion with both the Five Dock RSL and descendants of James Whitford.
- Maintain good passive surveillance of this structure, and retain a clear connection between the Whitford Memorial and the central War Memorial in any new landscape schemes/plantings.

4.6 Other Park Facilities

4.6.1 Toilets

The only public toilets now available in the Park are the separate male and female toilets located at the grandstand (one each side). These facilities are small, old, and in poor condition. They are not to all-abilities access or use standard, and present poorly. These units are unlocked during daylight hours (locked in winter between 4 and 6pm each day, and in summer between



6 and 8pm). Significantly they are the only public toilets now available in the Park, but located in the area's north-west some distance from the main activity zones/facilities in the south (120 metres from the fenced dog park, 135 metres from the skate park, and 200 metres from the existing playground). The toilets the Baby Health Centre are not publicly accessible.

Toilets - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide accessible public toilets as part of the grandstand's redevelopment/refurbishment (see above).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- The separate male and female public toilets attached to the existing grandstand are sub-standard and in poor repair, and do not include accessible facilities. But are the only public toilets now in the Park and important facilities for people using the oval, grandstand and Park's north-west.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide accessible toilets in the southern part of the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To meet the need for toilets located closer to the existing (and possible future) activity zones/facilities in the Park's southern half.
- Possibly as part of a potential outdoor/indoor pavilion or central seating hub (see above) – if developed in the Park's south,
- Investigate the possibility of providing stand-alone accessible toilets at an appropriate location in the Park's south if the outdoor/indoor pavilion or central seating hub is unlikely to be realised or too far in the future (and toilet requirements in this area escalate due to other facilities/developments and increased usage levels).
- Potential to re-purpose part or all of the Baby Health Centre, if/when available, to offer accessible public toilets (see Section 6).
- Consider passive surveillance, visibility, and "crime prevention through environmental design" principles in the siting and design of public toilets.

4.6.2 Lighting

More than 20 light poles, topped by circular enclosed lights, are spaced along the Park's 6 radial paths (including 4 lights spaced around the War Memorial at the centre of this network) and provide lighting along these routes of an evening/night. These paths are reasonably well lit, except those sections shaded by nearby trees – the radial path to Howley Street being the most dimly lit (due to mature trees either side of the path casting heavy shadows between the basketball half-court and the fenced dog park).

The Park Road path, in the Park's west from opposite Second Avenue to the grandstand, does not have pathside lighting but relies on "area" lighting from 2 nearby light poles set in the adjoining grassy terraces (however mature trees adjacent to this path cast deep shadows over much of this route).

Area lighting is also provided across the "Circular Rose Garden Terrace" (2 light poles), at the north-east corner of the skate park (1 light pole, between the skate bowl and basketball half-court) and on the south side of "Picnic Area 3" off the ovals north-east margin (1 light pole). However all these lights only illuminate the immediate surrounds, and do not support evening/night use of the wider areas.

The path lights and area lights are the same style and age (and flattened ovoid luminaire centred on top of a tall pole) providing a consistent lighting style/appearance throughout the park that adds to the coherence of the area's landscape character.

Under eaves lighting is available at the Baby Health Centre, with two lights overlooking the adjacent small playground (though insufficient to use the playground safely at night) plus two security lights at the southern end of the building.

Generally, the Park's facilities and activity zones (other than oval, where the floodlighting has recently been upgraded by Council, and the Bowling Club and Tennis Centre lease areas) are not well lit by the path network lighting nor the area or other lighting. The fenced dog park, basketball half-court, small playground, and picnic areas (1 and 2) cannot be effectively used at night. The area light (1) and nearby path lights (4) around the skate park throw insufficient light to be able to use the skate bowl safely at night.

The path lights and area lights appear to be on different (automated) circuits, and turn on consecutively rather than concurrently.

Two floodlights are located on the western side of the Bocce rink, but are not operational.

Lighting - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain, and repair/replace as necessary, the existing path and area lighting.
- ▶ Install additional lighting where paths are poorly lit or as necessary to improve illumination and user safety along the radial and other paths (existing and proposed).
- ▶ Provide additional area lighting where and when necessary, as the Park's usage patterns change and evolve.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To continue to enable people to safely and conveniently move around and through the Park in the evening/night.
- Replacement and new path and area lighting should match, or be stylistically close to, the existing lights (poles and luminaires) to maintain the "look and feel" of the Park.
- Ensure additional lighting does not compromise the use of the Park for viewing Harbour/City fireworks on New Year's Eve and other celebrations.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Upgrade lighting to facilitate dusk/evening use of selected Park facilities.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To extend the capacity, available usable periods and appeal of selected Park facilities.
- Directional glare-shielded lights can be used to reduce light "spill" and disturbance of nearby residents.
- Automated timed "cut-off" can be used to enforce approved dusk/evening usage times.
- Minimising any potential amenity impacts or disturbance for surrounding residents would be important considerations.
- Refer to relevant "Possible Direction / Action" sections for the skate park, fenced off-leash dog park, basketball half-court, playground, and picnic areas for details (see above).

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Use lighting for aesthetic purposes as well as for function.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Use lighting to develop artistic themes or to highlight features within the Park.
- Ensure lighting does not compromise the use of the Park for viewing Harbour/City fireworks on New Year's Eve and other celebrations.

5. PARK LANDSCAPING AND GARDENS

5.1 Background, Layout and Heritage Value

The Park's attractive formal gardens and landscaped areas, single and clumped trees, tree-lined radial paths, and open lawn areas – all arranged to a formal layout strongly reflecting the area's past – are key elements in shaping the Park's character and appearance. They underpin its appeal as a leisure and recreation attraction and are the foundation of its scenic value.

The Park's formal lay out dating from the 1920s, radiating paths, boundary plantings, geometric garden beds, fine lawns and specimen trees, particularly large Fig trees, and remnant native eucalypts were all factors cited in its identification as a place of local heritage significance by the 1989 heritage report prepared for the then Drummoyne Council (*Drummoyne Heritage Study – Specialist Reports: Archaeology and Landscape*). This study described Five Dock Park as “the most impressive formally laid out, period park in the municipality ... notable for its period qualities” and commented that “parks with well developed elements from this period are becoming quite rare in the Sydney region”. Today the entire Park is listed as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the *Canada Bay Local Environmental Plan 2013*.

Many of the key landscape elements of the Park – the garden plots, “avenue” tree plantings along paths, boundary trees, and open lawn areas – are visible, in nascent form, in a 1943 aerial photograph of the Park (Figure 4).

Topographically Five Dock Park is a high point in the local area with a broad ridge running from First Avenue in the south, through the circular rose garden, the central War Memorial and the oval, to Barnstaple Road in the north. The land falls gently away from this central axis to the east to Ingham Avenue, rising gently towards Barnstaple Road in the north east corner. The Five Dock Park Tennis Centre and Tiger Five Dock Bowling Club sites in the north-east quadrant have been terraced in the slope to create level courts or greens. To the west, the land falls away from the central axis to Park Road via a series of banks and terraced areas.

The open spaces in the Park have essentially been defined by the pathway network focused on the central War Memorial (as shown on Figure 1). The radial path system is an important element in the Park's formal layout and heritage character.

The skate park and basketball half-court is located in the triangular piece of land formed by the paths from the south east corner on First Avenue and from opposite Howley Street, and by Ingham Avenue. The area is well treed with a mature grove of essentially native species located between the skate park and Ingham Avenue

Working in a clockwise direction around the Park, the “Circular Rose Garden Terrace” is located in the triangular area of land defined by the paths from the site's south-east and south-west corners and by First Avenue. This area contains several garden areas and specimen trees (Liquidambar) in a large essentially level lawn area.

The Baby Health Centre and adjacent small fenced playground are located immediately north of the Park's main “formal” entrance, in the south-west corner, on the Park Road and First Avenue intersection. The building is dominated by a large Fig/Strangler Fig to the north.





<p>The City of Canada Bay believes that the information contained herein is correct. However, it does not warrant the accuracy of that information. The City of Canada Bay disclaims all responsibility for any omissions, inaccuracies, discrepancies, errors or scale inconsistencies that may exist between the actual and the plan representation. The City of Canada Bay further disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage that may be suffered by any person relying upon such information, whether that loss or damage is caused by any negligence on the part of The City of Canada Bay or its employees.</p> <p>All Map Data should be verified on site</p>	<p>1943</p>	 <p>Created on 11/04/2018 by Robert Marshall</p>	<p>N</p> 
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Figure 4 1943 aerial view of Five Dock Park showing early landscape elements
source: City of Canada Bay

The large area of land bounded by the paths from the south-west and north-west corners of the Park and by Park Road (“Grass Terrace 1” and “Grass Terrace 2”) is dissected by a path from Second Avenue winding to the grandstand, and further broken into smaller spaces by sloping banks and terraced grassed areas. The upper terraces, closest to the War Memorial and the oval contain two picnic areas, (“Picnic Area 1” and “Picnic Area 2”) and a wide grove of mature trees linking the Baby Health Centre and the grandstand. The Bocce rink is located in this area between the grandstand and the north-west corner of the park.

The area defined by the paths from the north-west and north-east park corners and by Barnstaple Road is the Park’s largest “zone” - containing the oval and the grandstand to the west (along the ridge), the Five Dock Park Tennis Centre and the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club to the east. There is a remnant of open lawn between the north-east corner and the Bowling Club (“Open Space 1”). Significant trees in this area include Fig trees and an Oak tree between the oval and the Tennis Centre and Bowling Club. The Fig trees provide shade to the few picnic facilities adjacent to the Tennis Centre (“Picnic Area 3”).



The remaining areas are triangular spaces created by the paths from the north-east corner and Noble Street and by Ingham Avenue; and the paths from Noble Street and Howley Street; and by Ingham Avenue to the east. The first, northern, area (“Open Space 2”) is largely undeveloped with perimeter plantings only. Palms occur on Ingham Avenue. The second, southern, area (“Open Space 3”) contains the treed fenced off-leash dog park with open grassed area below (to the east). There is also a small triangular grassed area with scattered trees upslope of the dog park towards the War Memorial (“Open Space 4”).



Over the years, the Park’s landscape and layout has, for various reasons, lost some of the original formality in design and has developed into the slightly more “organic” form seen in parts of the area today. The “Circular Rose Garden Terrace” is the zone which perhaps retains most of its original landscape form. Across the Park the most significant changes are the loss of a large proportion of the boundary plantings of Canary Island Palms to disease (Fusarium Wilt) and the addition of infill groves of predominantly native trees in specific areas. However Five Dock Park today retains much of its original layout and appearance, which is the foundation of its heritage value and adds significantly to the area’s character and scenic appeal.

5.2 Ornamental Gardens and Hedges

Formal garden beds have always a feature of Five Dock Park, and are a central element of the area’s character and appeal.

Of the “original” garden beds (based on photographs from the 1940s) the following remain today:

- the 6 garden beds along the First Avenue boundary which contain a patchy mix of exotic hedges, shrubs and small trees (which partially obstruct views into the Park from First Avenue);
- 2 circular rose gardens at the Park’s south-west entry;



- the large garden bed of exotic species (shrub and tree plantings obstructing access and views) near the garden beds along First Avenue;
- edge planting within the concrete ringed path at the War Memorial (previously planted with Cannas, but today comprising memorial conifers);
- planting west of the grandstand consisting of a mature Fig tree with under plantings of Murraya hedges and unpruned Photinias (providing a softening screen to the building);
- the rose gardens at the Park's north-east entry; and
- 1, possibly 2, triangular garden beds at the Park entry in the north-eastern corner.

Several earlier garden beds have been removed in the years or decades following WWII including – 5 rectangular beds that were offset from and parallel to the Ingham Avenue boundary in the south-east corner, a planting area halfway between the War Memorial and the Park Road boundary, possible plantings around the War Memorial inside the ring path, and a hedge planting west of the grandstand.

However since WWII the following gardens have also been added:

- the large circular rose garden (offset from the First Avenue boundary) set in a large lawn area and ringed by 7 mature Liquidambar – roses and hedges in the garden are pruned but the beds are un-mulched with weeds present, the feature is a major attraction with the roses accessed by grassed strips which are maintained but are very narrow (creating a barrier to equal access);
- pruned hedge plantings at the Baby Health Centre (which soften views of the building from Park Road);
- a small mounded garden at the north-east corner of the oval, with exotic plantings of May Bush, Brunnsfelsias and Gazanias;
- hedge plantings along the western edge of the driveway to the Tennis Centre; and
- 2 additional planting areas of Gelditzias (trees) and Disoma (shrub) plus ornamental fruit trees along the radial north-eastern path.



Ornamental Gardens and Hedges - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Manage gardens to reflect the Park's heritage character, provide amenity, maintain a safe environment and perform required functions in a sustainable manner.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Many of the existing gardens were established prior to WWII and contribute to the Park's formal layout and heritage character/values.
- The gardens and hedges along First Avenue ("Circular Rose Garden Terrace") provide design formality and compliment the adjacent Domremy College heritage buildings.
- The rose beds in the Park appear to be popular attractions and provide attractive park entries in the south-west and north-east.
- Formal gardens, particularly rose gardens and hedges, however, are high maintenance and require skilled attention. Many of the garden areas show signs of insufficient maintenance – such as gaps in planting and the presence of weeds.
- Tall hedges screen and compromise the opportunity to allow casual surveillance over a public area. This applies to all but the hedges behind the grandstand and at the Baby Health Centre (which soften these structures and do not compromise security).
- Consider rationalising the existing garden areas. Options may include:
 - provide additional maintenance efforts and skilled attention to maintain gardens at an appropriate standard;

- consolidate gardens into one or two display areas, in historically accurate locations and styles as far as possible, to provide improved management at the same level of resourcing;
- prune or replace plantings to allow general passive surveillance (maintain open views between 1 and 2.5 metres in height); or
- consider long term replacement with species requiring less maintenance.

5.3 Tree-lined Paths

Avenue plantings of Brushbox, Palms and Figs were established along most of the Park’s radiating paths (with the exception of the area’s north-eastern quadrant) during the site’s early years. These paired avenue plantings pre-date WWII (as shown on Figure 4).

An appealing feature of the Park, especially the southern half of the area, today tree-lined paths occur as follows:

- Fig trees line the path from the south-east corner and the path to/from Howley Street in the east;
- Brushbox trees line the path from the south-west corner;
- Fig trees line the path from the War Memorial to the grandstand, with Brushbox trees and Fig trees lining this path as it continues to the north-west corner of the Park; and
- Fig trees along the path from the north-east corner, but only that section near the oval and Tennis Centre with few mature trees alongside (or screening) the Bowling Club.



Tree-lined Paths - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Retain, supplement and extend semi-formal tree plantings along the existing path network.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Many of the trees pre-date WWII and planting for succession replacement of aging specimens is required.
- Extend tree plantings along pathways where gaps occur, such as in the north-east quadrant of the park, or along possible new paths (see Section 4).
- Use the Park’s tree-lined path network to provide planted links to the adjacent street network within the residential areas to enhance local “greenweb” connections.

5.4 Tree Groves or “Greenweb”

Isolated specimen trees were originally (based on 1940s photographs) widely scattered through the Park. Remaining significant “feature trees” which appear to be part of these earlier plantings (making them over 70 years old) include – the large Fig tree with a well-established Strangler Fig near the Baby Health Centre in Park Road, a small-leaved Fig on the Park Road boundary, and a Camphor Laurel and Fig Tree on the Barnstaple Road boundary near the north-west corner. A small number of mature Eucalypts in the south-east quadrant also appear to be part of the original plantings.

A large mature Oak tree located to the west of the Tennis Centre, while a significant visual feature today, most likely post-dates WWII.

The present informal tree groves were established over the years since WWII (during which period the Park's tree cover was markedly increased):

- a wide, slightly open, grove of mature trees (Eucalypts, Casuarinas, Melaleucas, Pittosporums, Wattles and Chinese Elms apparently planted in the late 1970s) from near the Baby Health Centre to the grandstand and west of the War Memorial – these trees are sited in a lightly and patchily mulched area with no understorey planting, but provide open access through with good shade;
- a large area of mature trees (Eucalypts and some palms) informally sited in the south-east corner along the Ingham Avenue boundary, from First Avenue to Howely Street wrapping around the skate park;
- a small group of Celtis and Chinese Elms south/south-west of the grandstand;
- a grove of Casuarinas south west of the grandstand with no underplanting (one tree appears dead);
- a group of 3 Fig trees north-east of the oval providing dappled shade to the picnic area nearby; and
- a grove of trees within the fenced dog park providing much needed shade to users of this area.



Tree Groves or “Greenweb” - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Extend and reinforce the existing tree cover along the path network, across the informal treed corridor in Parks' west (First Avenue to Barnstaple Road), and within tree groves/islands to provide shade, amenity, climatic amelioration, birdlife/wildlife connections and micro-habitat.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Many of the trees pre-date WWII and planting for succession replacement of aging specimens is required.
- Preference for indigenous species to enhance biodiversity and wildlife linkage/habitat values (careful species selection is required to ensure Park user safety).
- Retain “open parkland” character, by avoiding understorey plantings consistent with the Park's heritage value.
- Address bare patches under trees in shaded areas with groundcover plantings or mulch.
- Include deciduous tree species as required for winter solar access.
- Select species that will tolerate predicted climate changes.

5.5 Boundary Tree Plantings

The early Five Dock Park featured boundary plantings to all sides, of predominantly Canary Island Palms and a few scattered Fig trees – these are clearly evident in the 1943 aerial photograph (Figure 4). Few remain due to the impacts of Fusarium Wilt. Today remnant palms from the original Park boundary plantings are located in Barnstaple Road from Ingham Avenue to the Bowling Club. Additional palms are located in Ingham Avenue, although some are showing signs of disease and are due to be removed to avoid further spread of Fusarium Wilt.



These boundary plantings were an important part of the Park's formal layout and its character and appearance. They were also a significant feature noted in its heritage assessment.

Boundary Tree Plantings - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Re-establish perimeter plantings to the Park to maintain this heritage design feature.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Many of the trees pre-dated WWII and planting for succession replacement of aging and dying/dead specimens is required.
- The original Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), numbering nearly 60 along all 4 boundaries, were significant elements in the formal layout of the Park.
- Remove Fusarium infected palm species as/when detected.
- Due to the presence of this disease in the soil these past plantings cannot be replaced by either *Phoenix* or *Washingtonia* palm species.
- Improved protocols/practices of Council staff and contractors are required to halt further spread of Fusarium.
- Consider the desirability of reinstating formal statement/heritage plantings along the Park margins. Possible options might include:
 - a suitable palm species comparable in habit and appearance to Canary Island Palms (ensuring it is a non-weed species);
 - clear-stemmed "specimen" or "statement" native trees;
 - park perimeters are incorporated into adjacent landscape/planting treatments;
 - appropriate plantings are selected for biodiversity and adaptation to climate change as well as for aesthetic, heritage and environmental reasons.
- Ensure passive surveillance from surrounding streets and residences is maintained.

5.6 Memorial Conifers

On the outside of the concrete path that rings the War Memorial is a partially broken ring of mature Conifers. These trees are located in the position of the Canna beds (now removed) that originally ringed the memorial. Of the original 12 that were planted post 1943, only 8 Conifers remain. Five of the remaining trees show signs of dieback and stress. Inside the concrete ring path and adjacent to the memorial are also new plantings of 4 pines.

Memorial Conifers - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide memorial plantings to reflect the significance of the "memorial zone", that are sustainable in the environmental and climatic conditions, that acknowledge the heritage of the Park and that provide an aesthetic and functional solution.

Why? Things to Consider?

- The conifers do not appear to predate WWII.
- They are suffering stress and showing obvious signs of dieback. The stressed conditions (long period of drought, above average temperatures then heavy rain) have possibly allowed these trees to be open to attack by Cypress Canker. There is little that can be undertaken to manage or treat this fungal disease other than ensuring that these plantings do not suffer environmental stress. This would entail providing a high level of maintenance to maintain tree health without any guarantee that the treatment would be successful.

- Consider long term planting options, such as:
 - long term replacement with species tolerant to the environmental conditions; and
 - select species to reflect the heritage character of the Park and the memorial purpose of the space.
- Opening views to the War Memorial building to assist with security should be considered.

5.7 Lawn Areas

The Park features expansive open lawn areas, all of which were present in the 1940s (Figure 4). However some earlier areas of lawn were subsequently planted to tree cover or garden beds, with today's lawn areas smaller and/or fewer than was historically the situation.

The main areas of lawn are today found:

- across the oval and flanking lawn areas – the Park's largest, flat, open grassed area;
- a large open lawn area adjacent to the centre and north-west of the eastern (Ingham Avenue) boundary, "Open Space 2" and "Open Space 3" – these areas become slightly sloped towards the west (especially the more southerly "Open Space 3");
- a smaller "remnant" lawn area east of the Bowling Club to the north-east corner ("Open Space 1");
- a small triangular grassed area, with open scattered trees, upslope of the dog park towards the War Memorial ("Open Space 4");
- an elongated lawn area, broken up by the circular rose garden, alongside First Avenue in the Park's south ("Circular Rose Garden Terrace"); and
- a large area along the western boundary on Park Road, bounded by the paths from the south-west and north-west corners of the Park and featuring terraced and rolling grassed areas ("Grass Terrace 1" and "Grass Terrace 2").



Council maintains a regular mowing regime across all these lawn areas.

Lawn Areas - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the existing open lawn areas as attractive and usable open areas.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Large, open, lawn areas are an important part of the Park's character and leisure/recreation value and uses.
- Development of additional or relocated facilities and activity, or further garden beds and tree plantings, may reduce the size/extent or number of available lawn areas.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Rationalise the extent of lawn areas to minimise maintenance requirements.

Why? Things to Consider?

- In developing the "Greenweb" consolidate and locate groupings of tree plantings to create useable outdoor spaces/rooms.
- Avoid creating remnant or "scrap" areas of lawn.
- Mulch under trees where solar access is limited and bare patches occur.
- Ensure grassed areas receive adequate sunlight to maintain a healthy cover all year round.
- Provide rain gardens where water tends to pond in grassed areas.

5.8 Cool Green Zone

The Park's shaded lawn areas and groves of trees already offer a degree of refuge for visitors and surrounding residents during the hotter months in the year. With the frequency of high temperatures and "heat wave" periods predicted to increase, the Park's role in offering a cool green refuge will likely increase in value and could usefully be enhanced.

Cool Green Zone - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Establish a "cool zone" to provide a refuge for Park users and local residents during the hotter months in the year.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- With Sydney maximum temperatures on the rise, creation of an area that uses various techniques to provide a cool environment during the hotter parts of the year is desirable. It would potentially be particularly useful for older or aged residents and those that do not have access to air conditioning at home. Cooling techniques could include:
 - water misting;
 - shade giving elements, such as mature trees and built shelters; and,
 - directional funnelling of available winds/breezes through planting to reduce temperatures at a microclimate level.
- The cool zone could be usefully co-located with the proposed new district playground and/or the proposed indoor/outdoor pavilion or seating hub (see Section 4).

5.9 Views

Five Dock Park is one of the highest areas in locality. It offers filtered views from the oval and Park's north eastwards to the Sydney CBD skyline and Harbour Bridge (with this space used informally on New Year's Eve to watch the fireworks display). The oval is open to view from Barnstaple Road otherwise views in this area are contained by the Tennis Centre and Bowling Club to the east and by the encircling mature trees.

Both the north-west and north-east corners are open to views of and from the adjacent residential areas (and to street noise). The Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club is fully open to view from the north-east corner of the Park and adjacent residential areas. Conversely, the Bowling Club has open views from the bistro/bar area over the Park to the south-east. No tree plantings are located around the Club to the south east, east or north to soften the built structure.

The visibility of, and views to and from, other parts of the Park's include:

- views onto and from the fenced dog park, skate park and basketball half-court are filtered by the surrounding tree plantings;
- views onto and from the "Circular Rose Garden Terrace" are partly contained by the garden beds along the First Avenue boundary – with only filtered views of, and from, Domremy College available;
- along Park Road the area has an "open" boundary allowing good visibility and uninterrupted views onto and from the lower grassed terraces; and



- the “open” Ingham Avenue boundary, from the fenced dog park to Barnstaple Road, allows open views onto and from these grassed areas.

Internally the central core of tree planting limits views within the Park, and the partial ring of conifers contain views of and from much of the memorial zone.

Views - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Maintain the current open character, and highly visible/unobstructed nature, or most parts of the Park.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- The Park’s appearance and character as a large open space, offering highly visible grassed and landscaped areas and “long” views, is fundamental to its value as an area of open space in an otherwise built-up urban environment.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Avoid tall hedges, screening garden beds or dense shrub/tree plantings that may unduly screen areas to passive surveillance (from surrounding streets and residential areas, or other high use parts of the Park).

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To avoid creating “hidden” or perceived/potentially “risky” areas with the Park, and observe the principles of “crime prevention through environmental design”.
- Balance with the desirability of providing individual/personal or discrete usage areas as well as screening and/or separating facilities or usage zones within the Park.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Ensure that any future development of the northern lease areas, notably Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club, do not impact the Park’s role as a district high/vantage point.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- So as not to obstruct views to the City skyline and Harbour Bridge from the oval or other Park areas.

5.10 Stormwater Management/Harvesting

During and after periods of wet weather stormwater ponds in the lower-lying lawn areas along the Park’s Ingham Avenue boundary, especially the area opposite Howley to Noble Streets, and the ground remains boggy for a period of time. Similarly along the centre western boundary, beside Park Road, the adjacent terraced areas are essentially grassed swales delivering stormwater to this lower-lying boundary also creating wet/boggy areas following rain.

At present there are no stormwater harvesting and re-use measures in place within the Park.

Stormwater Management/Harvesting - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Provide passive systems to harvest rainwater/stormwater.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- Install rain gardens along the eastern/low margin of Park (along Ingham Avenue) to treat this occasional stormwater ponding/boggy area, and to add planting/microhabitat diversity.

- Ensure open views and passive surveillance is retained.
- Install rain gardens along the north-western/western margin of the park (along Park Road).

6. LEASES AND LICENCES

Three organisations at present operate on sites within Five Dock Park on the basis of lease agreements or similar arrangements with Council—the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club and the Five Dock Park Tennis Centre are both located on Barnstaple Road in the area's north and a Baby Health Centre is located in the Park's south-west corner facing Park Road.

6.1 Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club

Originally opened in 1933 (as the Five Dock-Abbotsford Bowling Club) as a “pavilion” style building and single green, this facility has been the subject of numerous expansions and modifications over the decades since. Today the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club operates on an area of approximately 5,394 square metres leased from Council. The current lease extends to June 2019 with an option for a further 2 years.

The Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club is a popular and well patronised local community facility (for members and visitors). It comprises a single storey club building (but elevated and split-level, with access/storage beneath) and two grass bowling greens slightly terraced into the Park's northern frontage to Barnstaple Road. The Club's dining area offers views out over the Park's north-east corner. A service road/driveway, accessing both the Club and the adjacent Five Dock Park Tennis Centre, runs along (and partly outside of) the lease in the west and includes designated parking spaces adjoining the “upper” green. The club building, driveway and small service area (west of the building), and two greens take up almost all the lease area – with little “free” space. A narrow, residual, strip of Park (managed by Council) runs between the Club lease and the 90° parking along Barnstaple Rd (which is primarily used by club patrons).



The site is fully fenced from the remainder of the Park. There is little screening planting (generally limited to native grasses and low hedges) around the building, which presents a stark façade to the Park's north-east and visually dominates this area of green space. Three large stormwater tanks are set along the building's eastern face, next to a grassed bank with picnic furniture on a small triangular area (also within the lease area). The radial path leading to/from the Park's north-eastern corner runs close beside the club building and lease area's southern margin.

Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to lease the existing 5,600 square metres (approximate) site to the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club for the operation of bowling club and community facility, subject to appropriate terms and conditions to ensure this use compatible and in harmony with the Park and surrounding neighbourhood.

Why ? Things to Consider ?

- To maintain an existing, popular, community meeting place and asset that has been a long-term use of this site.
- To ensure that on-going operation of the Club (the building, greens and ancillary areas) is in keeping with, and does not significantly detract from, the appearance and enjoyment of the adjacent and wider Park areas or have unacceptable impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Considerations that could be addressed in a future lease might include:
 - permitted use(s) and activities, appropriate level and scale of any future development, and maintenance responsibilities;
 - maintaining building heights lower than the surrounding treeline (from all vantage points) and not obstructing views to the City skyline from the oval or other Park areas;
 - the possibility of developing an outdoor dining terrace east of the existing building (the current triangular grassed area);
 - the possibility of converting the bowling green(s) to a synthetic surface (to offer greater resilience and flexibility for other uses, or enabling other outdoor recreation uses);
 - the type, number and timing of any outdoor “events held on the greens (markets, music, etc.);
 - screening or “softening” the building’s south-eastern side with landscape plantings, when viewed from within the Park and along Ingham Avenue; and
 - potentially rationalising the lease boundary (in relation to the service access/driveway and Barnstaple Road frontage).

6.2 Five Dock Park Tennis Centre

This smaller lease area (approximately 1,619 square metres) adjoins the south-west of the Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club. It is leased to a private operator and functions as a commercial outdoor tennis centre, offering lessons and court hire. The current lease expires in 2018, but has an option for a further 5 years

Five Dock Park Tennis Centre comprises 2 synthetic surfaced courts surrounded by high chainmesh wire fencing, both courts are floodlit. The courts are raised at the south-east corner, and retained with a concrete block wall. They take up almost all the lease area – with an area along the outer edge of the eastern court used for small shelters, seating and other low-key park furniture/facilities.



A service road/driveway, accessing both the Tennis Centre and the adjacent Tigers Five Dock Bowling Club, provides access to the site from Barnstaple Road (but is not part of the lease).

The courts are fully fenced from the Park with no access. They are reasonably well-screened from nearby Park areas (despite shade cloth, with advertising, hung on the courts’ boundary fences) by a mature Oak tree to the west and the Fig trees to the south along the radial path leading to/from the Park’s north-eastern corner. A barbeque and seats provided on the adjacent area of Park (west of the access driveway) appear to be used primarily by court patrons.

Five Dock Park Tennis Centre - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Continue to lease the existing 1,700 square metre (approximate) site as a commercially operated tennis centre, subject to appropriate terms and conditions to ensure this use compatible and in harmony with the Park and surrounding neighbourhood.

Why? Things to Consider?

- Future lease should specify permitted use(s) and activities, appropriate level and scale of any future development, and maintenance responsibilities.
- To maintain an existing well patronised sport facility.
- Five Dock Park Tennis Centre is 1 of only 5 tennis centres in the City of Canada Bay area.
- To ensure that on-going operation of the Tennis Centre is in keeping with, and does not significantly detract from, the appearance and enjoyment of the adjacent and wider Park areas or have unacceptable impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Council's recreation planning predicts that the City of Canada Bay area will require an extra 15-17 tennis courts by 2031.
- Potential to extend the lease area to enable the development of an additional court to north/north-west of exiting lease area (but this would require loss of large established Fig tree and removal/relocation of the barbeque now here).

6.3 Baby Health Centre

The Baby Health Centre (officially the "Five Dock Early Childhood Health Centre") located in the Park's south-west corner, accessed off Park Road, operates under a long-standing agreement with Council. The Centre first opened in 1954. It is now primarily used as a base for home visits by baby health service staff of NSW Health, and also holds "group sessions" at the centre at least once a week as well as occasionally serving clients at the centre on a "drop-in" or "by appointment" basis. The building is a functional brick design set amongst large established trees and screening/decorative hedges. The existing small local playground adjoins the building's northern side. The nearby section of Park Road is congested with limited on-street parking.



Baby Health Centre - Possible Management Directions or Actions

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Liaise with NSW Health to formalise lease of the Baby Health Centre building/site.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To formalise existing occupancy and usage agreement.
- Future lease should specify permitted use(s) and activities, appropriate level and scale of any future development, and maintenance responsibilities.
- To maintain an existing community health facility.

Possible Direction / Action

- ▶ Liaise with NSW Health regarding possible relocation of the current Baby Health Centre function to another location outside the Park, to allow for repurposing of the building/site to better support use and enjoyment of the wider Park.

Why? Things to Consider?

- To repurpose and encourage greater use of an under-utilised facility (generally closed to public access and presents as only occasionally occupied/used).

- Potential to repurpose and/or redevelop the building as:
 - a community use facility – as a possible “attraction and activity space” for surrounding residents (including adjacent medium density flats) and occupants of the nearby Nursing Home (plus their visitors).
 - as part of an outdoor/indoor pavilion or seating hub (see Section 4);
 - linked to and supporting a possible regional playground, depending on the siting of this (see Section 4)
 - linked to and supporting a possible cool/green zone, depending on the siting of this (see Section 5)
- ▶ Issues with existing congestion and limited on street parking nearby (Park Road, Second Avenue and First Avenue). The building/site is however close to public transport (a bus stop nearby in First Avenue) and access by walking and public transport could be encouraged.

7. WHERE TO FROM HERE ?

Please take your time to review this Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper, or those sections of most interest/relevance to you or your group (but not overlooking the “whole Park” options that this Paper also presents) and complete the Feedback Form included in the Appendix.

A copy of the Feedback Form (and the Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper), can also be downloaded from Council’s website at:

- www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Feedback received in relation to this Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper will be used – along with other information and discussions from wider community consultation efforts that will be undertaken at the same time – to inform and shape the preparation of a new draft Plan of Management for Five Dock Park.

The draft Plan of Management will be placed on exhibition to provide a further opportunity for community consultation and input into the development of the final Plan of Management. It is anticipated that the draft Plan of Management will be exhibited later in 2018. The final Plan of Management for Five Dock will be adopted in early 2019.

Feedback and comments in relation to the Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper must be received in writing by 4.30pm on Friday 31 August 2018 and can be delivered as follows:

E-mail – to council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Written comments – addressed as follows:

City of Canada Bay
Locked Bag 1470
Drummoyne NSW 1470
Attn: Parks Planner

APPENDIX

Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper **FEEDBACK FORM**

Five Dock Park Plan of Management Issues, Opportunities & Discussion Paper FEEDBACK FORM



DUE BY – 4.30pm on Friday 31 August 2018

You are invited to comment on this *Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper* for Five Dock Park.

Are there any values or issues missing? Have the values and issues been represented accurately and fairly? Are there any possible management directions or action that concern you or that you do not agree with? Are there combinations of management directions, or alternative management directions, you would suggest? Do you have any other comments specific to the *Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper*, or more importantly, for Five Dock Park and its future management?

Feedback received on this Discussion Paper, and a wider concurrent community consultation process, will be used to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan of Management for Five Dock National Park. It will be used to help confirm values and issues, determine the Park’s future character and usage, and set and prioritise management directions for the Park.

Please complete this Feedback Form and return, by any of the following methods, by 4.30pm on Friday 31 August 2018.

Email – to council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Written comments addressed as follows:

City of Canada Bay
Locked Bag 1470
Drummoyne NSW 1470
Attn: Parks Planner

A: Are there any values or issues missing?

If so please describe them.

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B: Have the values and issues been represented accurately ?

Are there any values or issues that require further clarification or may not be considered entirely accurate ? Are there any other issues to address ? If so please elaborate.

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C: Please identify your preferred Possible Management Direction or Directions ?

Which Direction(s) would you prefer to see included in the Plan of Management ?
What do you like about your Preferred Management Direction(s) ?

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What you do you disagree with, or not like about, about other Possible Management Directions presented in the Paper.
What Directions do you think should definitely not be pursued ?

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D: Are there any Possible Management Direction(s) that you would like to offer further comments on – either for or against ?
Please describe them and your reasons.

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E: Would you like to suggest any other Management Directions, that have not been presented in the Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper ?
Please describe them and your reasons.

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F: Any other comments you have regarding the Issues, Opportunities and Discussion Paper, or other inputs to preparation of the Draft Plan of Management, would be welcome.

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