

July 2020

Callan Park draft Landscape Structure Plan

Located in Sydney's inner west on the Parramatta River, historic Callan Park includes 61 hectares of parkland, sporting grounds and green space, alongside significant heritage buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries that reflect Callan Park's previous use as a hospital and mental health facility.

Who owns and manages Callan Park?

Callan Park is owned by NSW Health. The department manages leases across the site, as well as directly managing the Lower Central Slope, Callan Point and Upper Central Slope. These precincts cover approximately 40 hectares or two-thirds of Callan Park and include areas leased to Inner West Council, as well as the Waterfront and the Central Open Space parts of the site.

NSW Health continues to manage the Ambulance NSW precinct, Broughton Hall precinct, Sydney Local Health District Nurses' accommodation and the Kirkbride.



What is the Landscape Structure Plan (LSP)?

The department has prepared, with input from a team of urban design and landscape architects a high-level conceptual plan to revitalise Callan Park as an iconic, accessible urban parkland.

The vision of the LSP is to work with the diverse character areas of Callan Park to create a cohesive regionally significant urban parkland while retaining the special character of the site.

The process looks at the landscape structure, buildings and other features throughout Callan Park and tries to solve some of the current problems that hold the site back from realising the vision of a great multi-use open space parkland. The LSP prioritises the activation of the waterfront areas by opening up sight lines to Iron Cove, removing vehicle traffic from the waterfront Bay Run, and identifying intrusive, low-heritage buildings for adaptation or removal.

What role has the local community had in the development of the Landscape Structure Plan?

In 2007, Colin Menzies undertook consultation to establish the community's values for Callan Park on behalf of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. In 2011, McGregor Coxall undertook community consultation to inform the proposed Master plan at the time, on behalf of Leichardt Council. The key priorities from this process were public access, active and passive recreation, bush regeneration, and Glover St community garden.

The LSP has been developed by considering the community's priorities for Callan Park. Outcomes of consultations held in 2007, 2011, and 2018, have been analysed, and the following common themes identified:

Sharing our diverse spaces – The use of the site for a variety of purposes including sports fields, quiet spaces, places for active and passive recreation, areas for dog walking, community and health uses in the NGO precinct should continue. Effort should be made to resolve any conflict between activities, so access is safe and equitable.

Ensuring safe access and movement - Callan Park both day and night should be safe for all people and support easy pedestrian and cycle movement throughout the park.

Preserving our history and heritage – Maintain and conserve the significant landscape, social and cultural heritage of the site, from the shell middens and rock shelters used by First Nations People, to the historic sandstone buildings and therapeutic landscape gardens of the former hospital.

Consultation on the initial concepts within the draft LSP was undertaken in February 2018 by the former Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and received positive support from members of the general community. A presentation given by OEH at a community meeting at Balmain Town Hall in July 2018 was also positively received.

Does the LSP cover the whole of Callan Park?

The LSP focuses on the waterfront and central parts of Callan Park, which are directly managed by the department.

While the Kirkbride precinct and Broughton Hall gardens are outside the study area, the LSP has been developed to acknowledge their historic importance and ongoing use for health, education and community not-for-profit purposes.

What are the 2 strategies recommended to achieve the vision for Callan Park in the LSP?

Strategy 1 – Unlock Callan Park's potential to function as a large urban parkland that compares to other iconic parks across Sydney.

Two strategic moves will unite Callan Park as a functional, accessible, safe and fit-for-purpose parkland that supports the health and wellbeing of Sydneysiders.

Move 1. Creating more green space and opening up the waterfront

This move will increase the amount of green space in the park, increase the opportunities for a wider range of recreational uses, open up views to the waterfront and help to better connect park users to their heritage.

Move 2: Building a functional network of pathways

We will implement a purpose-built network of pathways that prioritise pedestrians and cyclists to create journeys through the park allowing discovery of the unique heritage and diversity that exists. This will ensure safe and equitable use of the park for everyone.

Strategy 2 - Celebrate and enhance Callan Park's diverse character areas

There are eleven landscape character areas that together create an intricate network of spaces across Callan Park. Each area has special values that will be enhanced and protected.

How does the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002* impact the LSP?

All of Callan Park is subject to the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002* which restricts uses to educational, health, and not-for-profit purposes. The LSP aligns fully with the Act.

Does the LSP support subdivision or sale of Callan Park?

No. The government intends to maintain, restore and manage Callan Park for the people of NSW, in line with the provisions of the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*. The LSP is intended to guide the revitalisation of Callan Park as one of Sydney's great parks.

Does the LSP address a governance model for Callan Park?

No. The government announced a 50-year vision for greater Sydney's network of parklands on 17 July 2020. The Vision will be championed by a Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) government agency that brings together the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Parramatta Park Trust, and Western Sydney Parklands Trusts, as well as Callan Park and Fernhill Estate. The *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002* will continue to apply, and the GSP will commit \$10 million in funding to Callan Park for urgent restorative work, which will enhance the connection with the waterfront and Bay Run. The Government is seeking input on the draft Vision. Go to <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/gsp> for more information.

What is happening with the Kirkbride complex?

On 17 June 2020, the NSW Government opened a 12-week Expression of Interest (EOI) process to seek a new tenant for the Kirkbride complex, in line with the provisions of the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*. Details on the EOI process are available at <https://kirkbrideprecinct.com.au/>

Will the LSP impact on any existing tenancies or the buildings they occupy?

No. All current leases for buildings in Callan Park will be unaffected by the concepts proposed in the LSP. The LSP envisages a continued presence for the multi-uses across the site.

Will the LSP limit where I can let my dog off-leash in Callan Park?

Callan Park is public open space and the *Companion Animals Act* applies to the publicly accessible parts of the site. Callan Park is currently on-leash in all parts of the park, and owners are responsible for maintaining effective control of their dogs at all times. Inner West Council is responsible for regulating and enforcing the Companion Animals legislation in Callan Park for the

Frequently asked questions

safety of dogs and park users. The current designated off-leash areas are at Inner West Council managed ovals and the requirements for dog owners are outlined on signage at those locations.

The LSP does not specifically identify suitable areas as additional off-leash zones, as it is a high-level conceptual plan setting the vision for the site. Identifying options, and resources for additional off-leash areas in Callan Park will be investigated as part of detailed concept designs resulting from the Implementation Plan.

Does the LSP recommend the removal of buildings in Callan Park?

The LSP recommends that all heritage buildings in the park are retained to provide opportunities to activate the unique character areas and open spaces of Callan Park.

The LSP also proposes a series of moves to open up sight lines across the park, creating a stronger visual connection to the waterfront, which requires partial or full removal of a number of low-heritage buildings throughout the park, outlined on the social pinpoint map at <https://dpie.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/callan-park>

Further assessment of the economic benefit and functional adaptive reuse potential of these buildings is being undertaken and will, alongside community and stakeholder feedback, determine the inclusion or removal of these buildings in the future.

Does the LSP limit public access to the park?

No, the LSP is aligned with the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002* and promotes improved and safer access to the public open space in Callan Park.

Will the LSP improve pedestrian and cyclist safety in the park and on the Bay Run?

Yes. The plan will make the park more accessible to pedestrians by providing more pathways. As part of this it is proposed to realign the Bay Run and enhance the way the waterfront is accessed by both pedestrians and cyclists.

Will parking be reduced in the park as a result of the LSP?

No. The LSP proposes a designated at-grade parking area for around 100 vehicles that will be lit at night and provide good access to the sporting fields and waterfront. A drop-off bay will be located near the sports field with disabled parking.

How has the LSP been informed by previous plans developed for the site?

The architects have reviewed all previous plans in detail and have used them to influence the recommendations in the draft LSP. previous plans reviewed included:

Callan Park - Land Use Plan (2007) Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority / Hassell

Callan Park Master Plan report (2011) Leichhardt Council / McGregor Coxall

Master Plan for the Rozelle hospital site (2002) NSW health / UDAS

Callan Park - Land Use Plan (2007) Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority / Hassell

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Callan Park Master Plan report (2011) Leichhardt council / McGregor Coxall

Callan Park, What Future? (2007) Leichhardt Council

Callan Park Survey Report (2007) Leichhardt Council/Colin Menzies

Community Survey, Callan Park (2008) Leichhardt Council/Piazza Consulting

Media release - Callan Park secured for the future (2008) the Hon. Kristina Keneally MP / the Hon. Verity Firth MP

Rozelle hospital Sydney, Master Development Control Plan (1990) health works, NSW Department of Public Works

A Landscape Conservation Plan for the Rozelle hospital (1986) UNSW thesis / Rebekah Pow

Callan Park Plan of Management (2011) Leichhardt Council / McGregor Coxall

Rozelle hospital Heritage Study (1991) NSW public works department / historic buildings and environment design group

Understanding the mental health act (2011) NSW Health

Living Well, a Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 201-2024 (2014) Mental Health Commission of new south wales

Callan Park, Rozelle Conservation Management Plan (CMP) vol. 1&2 (2002) endorsed NSW Health / Tanner Architects

Callan Park, Rozelle proposed Conservation Management Plan (CMP) vol. 1&2 (2011), prepared by Tanner Architects for Leichhardt Council - not endorsed by the NSW Health Council.

Has the NSW Heritage Council endorsed the LSP?

The draft LSP has been presented to heritage bodies including:

- NSW Heritage Council (May 2019) who resolved to support the public exhibition of the draft plan
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee to the Heritage Council (June 2019), with feedback incorporated into the draft plan.

Additionally, an early draft of the waterfront concept design from the draft LSP was presented to the NSW Heritage Council in 2017. The Council provided in-principle approval for the waterfront concept design, subject to the development of a broad framework for the site – now presented as the LSP.

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