



Implementation

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 PRIORITIES AND STAGING

The River Walk will need to be implemented in stages over time, as funding becomes available. To develop priorities for works, the projects should be considered for the multiple benefits that can be offered.

Key projects should be selected for the River Walk project that offer opportunities for:

- making strategic links,
- building upon patterns of existing use,
- enhancing safety for cyclists and pedestrians,
- places for art and interpretation,
- establishing connections to public transport.

Strategic Links

Important strategic links along the route that need to be addressed as a priority include:

- Shepherds Bay depot site (under construction),
- Waterview St / Kissing Point Park,
- Chadwick St / Hoffman Park
- Morrison Rd footpath (Bill Mitchell Park bypass)
- Glades Bay Park / York St,
- Ashburn Pl footpath upgrade.

Concurrent Public Domain Improvements

In addition to the development of new and missing sections of the trail system, there is also potential for upgrading the existing pathways and amenities in the area. Concurrent improvements will enhance the use and range of visitors such as:

- Lighting along pathways, particularly in the Meadowbank area,
- Shelters, toilets, water points and rest areas along the route,
- Kerb ramps at intersections.

Raising Visibility and Awareness

The legibility and understanding of the route is important due to its convoluted form, linking between foreshore, parks and streets. This understanding of the route can be achieved through:

- public art,
- signage,
- mapping.

7.2 KEY PROJECTS

The following projects are presented as key areas for improvement with multiple benefits for users.

Kissing Point Park

Kissing Point Park offers opportunity to the River Walk as a catalyst project because it:

- makes a final link in the path system,
- links a series of parks along the foreshore that are disconnected by development,
- connects public transport nodes at Meadowbank Station (Ferry and Rail) to Kissing Point Ferry Wharf,
- offers an area rich in local history that can be interpreted,
- is relatively evenly graded area that is generally accessible to a range of users abilities,
- is connected to an area that forms an important river circuit trail

Key features of the proposal include:

- Shared path 3m wide along the park edge running parallel to Waterview St (maintaining the existing parking on the road verge) suitable for higher speed cyclists and joggers,
- Separate shared foreshore path meandering through the park,
- Small scale public art integrated along the foreshore trail,
- Large iconic artwork located in Kissing Point Bay.





Putney Park

Putney Park offers opportunity to the River Walk as a catalyst project because it:

- enhances recreation opportunities of an existing regional park,
- provides a rest area along the route with high visual quality and park amenity,
- connects to transport access at the Putney Punt,
- offers an area rich in local history that can be interpreted,
- is a mix of evenly graded areas and undulating area, offering a range of recreation opportunities to a range of users abilities,
- is connected to an area that forms an important river circuit trail

Key features of the proposal include:

- Shared path 2m wide as a recreational loop path, linking to the main River Walk route and Punt access from Pellisier Road,
- Separate small loop path near the childrens play area,
- Public art opportunities.

7.3 COMPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES

Ryde Bicycle Strategy and Master Plan 2007

The draft Bicycle Strategy and Master Plan outlines recommendations for the development of the cycle network across the Local Government Area. The regional route along the foreshore generally corresponds to the main path outlined for the River Walk and supports the need to increase the quality and amenity of the pathways in this area. The River Walk main path diverges in some areas in response to opportunities for views, connection to parks, linking to recreation destinations and for additional walking and jogging opportunities.

The Bicycle Strategy outlines additional guidelines for cycle provisions and infrastructure.

Parramatta River Heritage Study

The heritage interpretation opportunities focusing along the Parramatta needs to be further investigated. A heritage and interpretation strategy should link into the River Walk network to support the cultural value of the trail. Interpretation signage may be developed in conjunction with wayfinding and information signage or collocated at rest stops.

The study may also further inform the content of relevant public art works, with potential collaboration between heritage interpretation and public art consultancies.

Promotional Information

The trail should be promoted as a regional recreation destination. The opportunity is to develop mapping and information packages available through Council facilities and web site, as well as at transport nodes.

7.4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The physical infrastructure and use should be monitored and evaluated over time. It is expected that as awareness increases and pathways improve in quality and connectedness, that there will be an increased patronage and demands on the trail.

Council should develop a program that is focused on evaluating:

- condition and maintenance of pathway infrastructure
- detail public domain improvements in ramps, kerbs, markings
- cycle and pedestrian volumes and capacity
- legibility and connectedness
- supporting infrastructure such as toilets, shelters, water access and rest areas.