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ELS HALL PARK, GREENWOOD PARK & BOOTH RESERVE

MASTER PLAN REPORT

For: City of Ryde

Adopted date: 28/05/2019

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INTRODUCTION

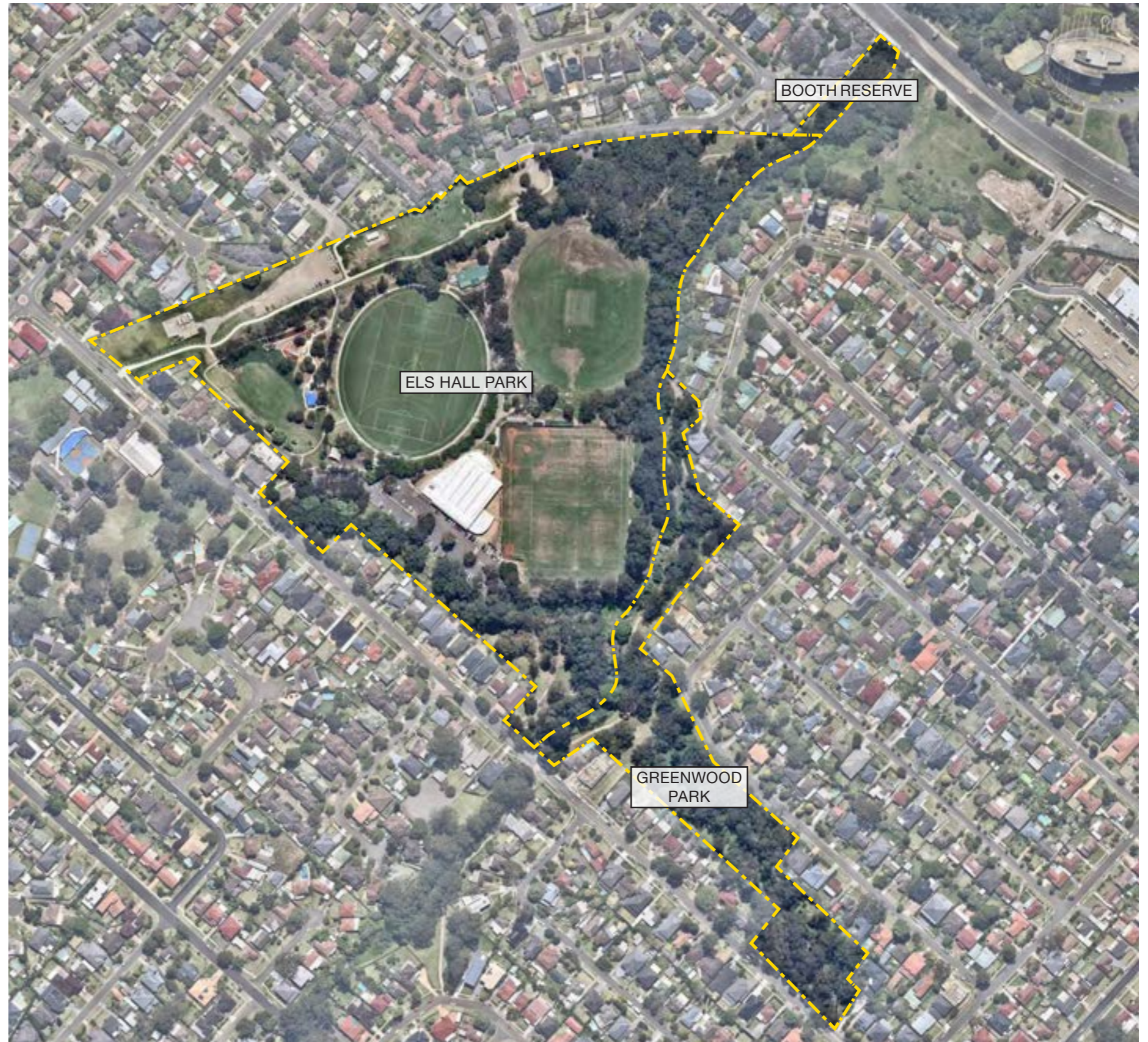
ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve together form a significant area of open space approximately 15.1 hectares in size. The parks are located at the interface of Marsfield and North Ryde residential areas with the Macquarie Park commercial centre and are important public recreation facilities for the locality. As the adjacent area further develops, the importance of this open space as a place of recreation, respite and relaxation will increase.

ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve are located adjacent to one another and provide formal sports facilities, indoor sports centre, riparian corridor, native vegetation (including Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest), open grassed areas, playground and picnic facilities. The proximity to Macquarie Park commercial centre and train station make the parks a highly used thoroughfare for commuters, important to both local residents and workers for active and passive recreation.

Consistent with national trends in changing recreation, within the City of Ryde area the community's use of recreation facilities has continued to evolve. The need for quality recreation spaces to meet the needs of the City's diverse communities remains consistent, therefore recreation opportunities must also evolve over time. There is a particular need to address the accessibility needs of our aging population.

The vision is to create a dynamic and engaging park that optimises the potential of the rich local history, unique setting, varied topography, as well as satisfying a wide variety of social and recreational opportunities.

Recreation and organised sporting uses will be embedded into the park and provide a diverse range of both structured and informal recreation opportunities, catering for increasing recreation demand. The park will continue to develop a strong ecological framework strengthening its contribution to the regional green grid and the ecological value this represents.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

Urban context

ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve are located 12km north-west of the Sydney CBD, 6km west of Chatswood CBD and immediately to the south-west of the Macquarie Park Precinct.

The immediate surrounds of the park are predominantly low density residential, with Epping Road providing a strong barrier to the north and marking the transition to the commercial precinct of Macquarie Park.

The Macquarie Park Precinct forms the northern anchor of the Sydney North Economic Corridor also incorporating St Leonards and Chatswood. In 2016, Macquarie Park was estimated to provide 58,500 jobs, with a target of 73,000 - 79,000 jobs by 2036 (Greater Sydney Commission, North District Plan).

Redevelopment within the precinct will lead to an increased residential population in conjunction with the increased numbers of workers visiting the area on weekdays.

Open space context

The master plan area is at the convergence of two open space corridors, the Shrimptons Creek riparian corridor and a linear open space zoned for a future county road.

The Shrimptons Creek corridor links Denistone East to Macquarie Park, connecting Santa Rosa Park to Greenwood Park, ELS Hall Park and Booth Reserve via a shared path along the creek line. Downstream, the creek corridor terminates at Waterloo Road in the heart of the Macquarie Park precinct, being undergrounded to the interface with Lane Cove National Park.

The open space corridor that is currently zoned SP2 Infrastructure (Classified Road) links Epping Rd, Macquarie Park to Blaxland Road and First Avenue, Eastwood. This corridor is primarily occupied by underutilised open space, although the Eastwood end of the corridor is occupied by detached dwellings. Kent Road Public School has adopted the portion of the land between Herring Road and Kent Road as part of the school site, fencing and utilising the open space as part of the playground and also to accommodate demountable classrooms. Within ELS Hall Park, the corridor is largely passive open space with infrastructure limited to informal, gravel car park, a shared cycle path and a fenced dog park.

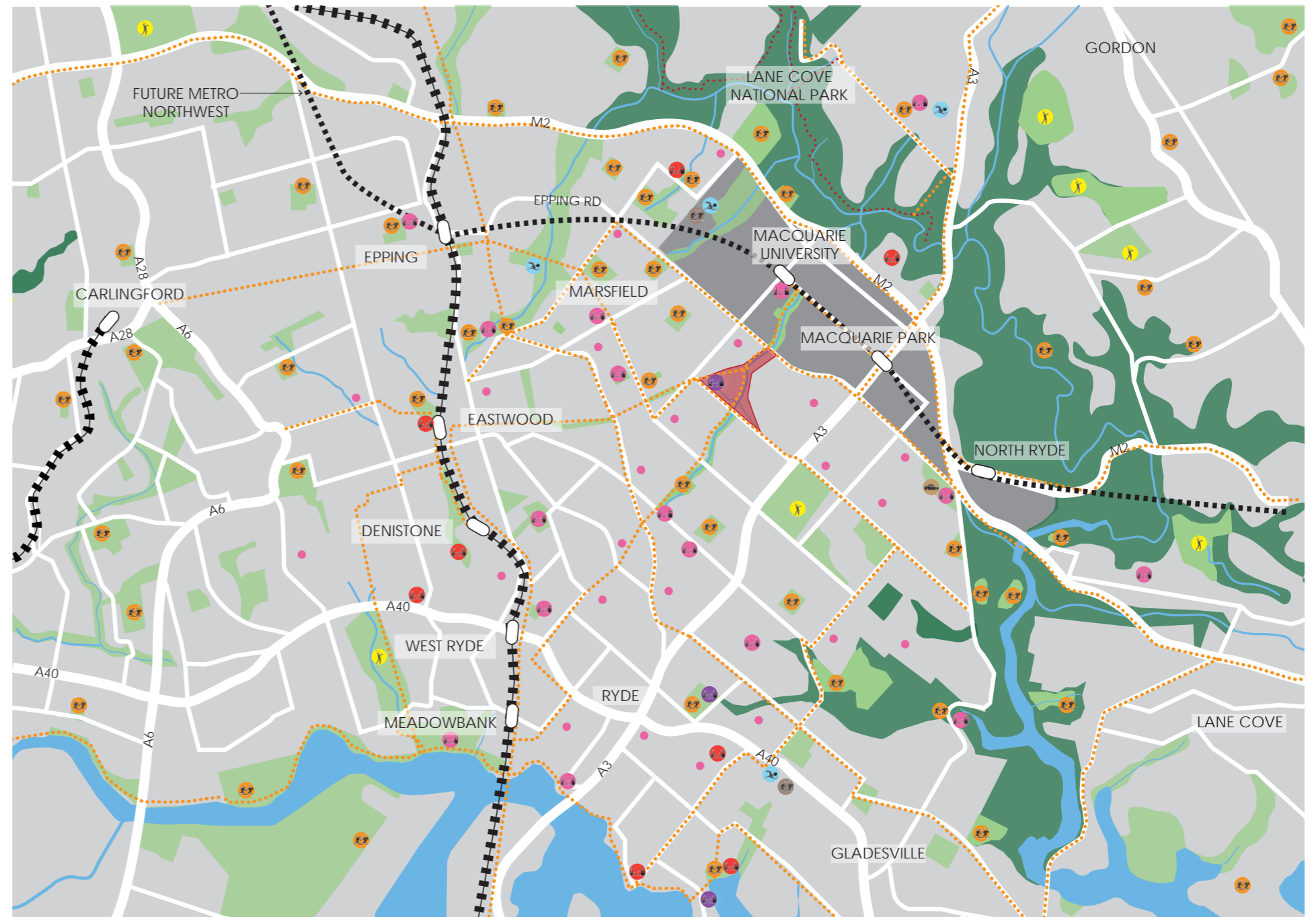
Irrespective of zoning, the North District Plan prepared by the Greater Sydney Commission identifies the County Road corridor as a priority Open Space corridor, linking Shrimptons Creek to Terrys Creek. Opportunity exists to invest in this open space and create a valuable connection for both the community and natural environment. In the future, this could provide a valuable link for fauna to move throughout the wider City of Ryde area, increasing resilience.

Lane Cove National Park provides a large ecological corridor alongside the Lane Cove River including several tributary creek corridors such as Blackbutt Creek, Terrys Creek, and Buffalo Creek. Ecological areas are generally limited to this large corridor, the Shrimptons Creek corridor and some isolated pockets in Denistone.

Recreation context

With three large sports fields and the Ryde Community Sports Centre (RCSC), ELS Hall Park contributes significantly to the formal recreation offering of the area. There are few open spaces within the Macquarie Park area to the north and east of the site, placing a high importance on both formal and informal recreation offering of the master plan parks.

Together ELS Hall Park, Booth Reserve and Greenwood Park provide a variety of recreation opportunities, from organised indoor and outdoor sports to walking, jogging, dog walking, cycling, general fitness and play. This allows the park to be used by a variety of people for many varied reasons and purposes.



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | SITE BOUNDARY | | NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUND | | WATERWAY |
| | OPEN SPACE | | REGIONAL PLAYGROUND | | REGIONAL BICYCLE ROUTES |
| | BUSHLAND | | DISTRICT PLAYGROUND | | OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE ROUTE |
| | GOLF COURSE | | REMOTE CONTROLLED CAR RACING TRACK | | TRAIN LINE |
| | SPORTS FIELD | | AQUATIC CENTRE | | UNDERGROUND TRAIN LINE |
| | LOCAL PLAYGROUND | | INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE | | TRAIN STATION |

LOCAL CONTEXT

Together ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve form the largest park within the local area, covering an area of 15.1 hectares. The parks are surrounded by low density housing to the east, south, west and north-west, with Epping Road acting as the northern barrier and transition marker to the Macquarie Park commercial core beyond.

Macquarie University and Macquarie Centre are both located to the north of the site and can be accessed easily along the Shrimptons Creek corridor. Kent Road Public School is located opposite ELS Hall Park at its south-western tip.

Shrimptons Creek runs roughly south to north through the subject site, forming an almost continuous riparian corridor from Quarry Road and Santa Rosa Park to Waterloo Rd at the Macquarie Centre, where the creek is underground, emerging north of the M2 motorway at Lane Cove National Park.

ELS Hall Park is a destination park, attracting users from a wide area who come to play organised sport on the outdoor fields or in the indoor sports centre. These users tend to arrive by private vehicle and visit the park periodically, although form a large user group collectively. The park is also used by residents of surrounding suburbs, who typically drive to the park to utilise facilities such as the dog off-leash area or large playground regularly. Residents and workers from the immediate area make up the remaining portion of park users, typically using facilities such as shared paths, walking tracks, fitness equipment, playground and the dog off-leash area.

Booth Reserve forms a very small portion of the overall site and is used primarily by local residents and workers as a connection to the underpass under Epping Rd and the continuation of the shared path northwards.

Greenwood Park is comprised largely of linear turf areas and riparian vegetation around a tributary channel of Shrimptons Creek that emerges from Kent Road near Ada Street. This portion of Greenwood Park is not well used but provides a quiet informal walking path to the rear of properties on Kent Road. Greenwood Park also extends northwards alongside Shrimptons Creek to the pedestrian link to Trevitt Road, accommodating a portion of the Shrimptons Creek shared path connection.



LEGEND

- - - SITE BOUNDARY LINE
- GREEN OPEN SPACE
- EDUCATION
- NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
- COMMERCIAL AREA
- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- INFRASTRUCTURE, CLASSIFIED ROAD

- CREEK/CHANNEL
- CYCLE ROUTE
- B BUS ROUTE AND STOPS
- T TRAIN STATION AND UNDERGROUND TRAIN LINE
- ⊙ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUND
- ⊙ 500m RADIUS FROM SITE



EXISTING SITE CONDITION

Passive recreation

Formal sports uses are complemented by a wide variety of informal recreation activities, reflecting the needs and wants of the wider community.

- Shrimptons Creek shared path connecting north-south within the local area. The shared path is generally shaded and well-used, being busy at peak times. The path is also subject to flooding given its close proximity to the creek and water level.
- Kent Road to Scott Street shared path, constructed 2017. Shade trees have been planted but have not yet matured enough to provide meaningful shade so the path is currently hot and exposed.
- General walking trails throughout the parks of varying surface types and widths. Many tracks have been formed across turf or through planted areas, highlighting key desire lines.
- Fenced off-leash dog area with tree planting and seating shelter, constructed 2016
- New district playground offering a wide variety of activities, opened September 2018
- Planned upgrade to fitness facility to replace old equipment. New fitness area to be located to the south of field 1 under the existing shade structure of the old playground.



Ryde Community Sports Centre is a major attractor



Informal Adelphi Road car park is exposed and hot



New playground opened September 2018

Organised sports

ELS Hall Park accommodates a wide variety of organised sports across a number of dedicated facilities.

- Ryde Community Sports Centre (RCSC) - two court Indoor Sports Centre with community meeting room and small kiosk, constructed in 2010-2011
- ELS Hall Park 1 - Synthetic pitch (oval) installed end 2016, serving multiple sports
- ELS Hall Park 2 - Grass pitch (rectangular) with baseball diamonds and football (soccer)
- ELS Hall Park 3 - Grass pitch (oval) reported by AFL, cricket and Ultimate Frisbee users to be dry and dusty or wet and muddy
- Limited spectator seating to field 1
- Uncomfortable spectator seating to fields 2 and 3. Field 2 seating too hot / exposed. Field 3 seating on aged terraces with access only from a steep bank.



Shrimptons Creek shared path is well-used but flood prone



Good quality vegetation in the north of ELS Hall Park



Shared path and dog off-leash area currently hot and exposed

Supporting functions

The formal and passive recreation uses of the parks are enabled by a number of supporting functions including:

- Formal car park from Kent Road, at or exceeding capacity weekly in peak periods
- Informal gravel & grass car park from Adelphi Road, currently underutilised in part due to lack of line marking and inefficient usage
- Informal gravel & grass car park from Scott Street, currently underutilised (access controlled)
- Amenities building between fields 1 and 3. The existing facility was severely damaged by fire in February 2019 and is due for replacement in the near future.
- Amenities and canteen for field 2 are incorporated into the RCSC building, serving the field well. The immediate surrounds are hot and exposed due to large expanses of concrete and limited shade available
- Picnic shelters located throughout the park used by a variety of park visitors throughout the week, both from organised sports and passive park users.



Former amenities building between fields 1 and 3. Building severely damaged by fire in February 2019.



Multi-purpose synthetic pitch on field 1 is well used day and night



Ageing infrastructure adjacent to field 3

CURRENT USE PATTERNS

Community use

A relatively small portion of the park is available for use by the general community year-round.

- Walking and cycle paths are a key attractor and drive a significant portion of use. Additional paths may encourage users to linger within the site or enable connections to other desirable facilities such as fitness equipment
- Fitness equipment is aged and outdated although still used by local community members. It is also exposed to the elements, with only small pockets of shade cast by the equipment pieces themselves. The equipment is to be replaced in 2018/2019 with new equipment consolidated into one location under an existing shade structure.
- Two picnic shelters are provided within the park, with the large shelter near field 1 and the Kent Rd car park almost constantly used by park visitors. There appears to be a demand for additional shelters to service both the local community and sporting groups
- The large dog off-leash area is a well-used facility that attracts locals to the park
- A new regional playground (opened in September 2018) has begun attracting local families and serves both locals and visitors brought by organised sports. The adjacent open lawn area is not well-used currently but is available for general community use.
- The Ryde Community Sports Centre (RCSC) is also available for general community use but must be pre-organised and pre-booked. This council facility is currently leased and managed by the YMCA. The facility has regular community classes such as seniors exercise sessions, sports competitions and has two courts and one meeting room which can be booked for casual use.

Sports - Winter season

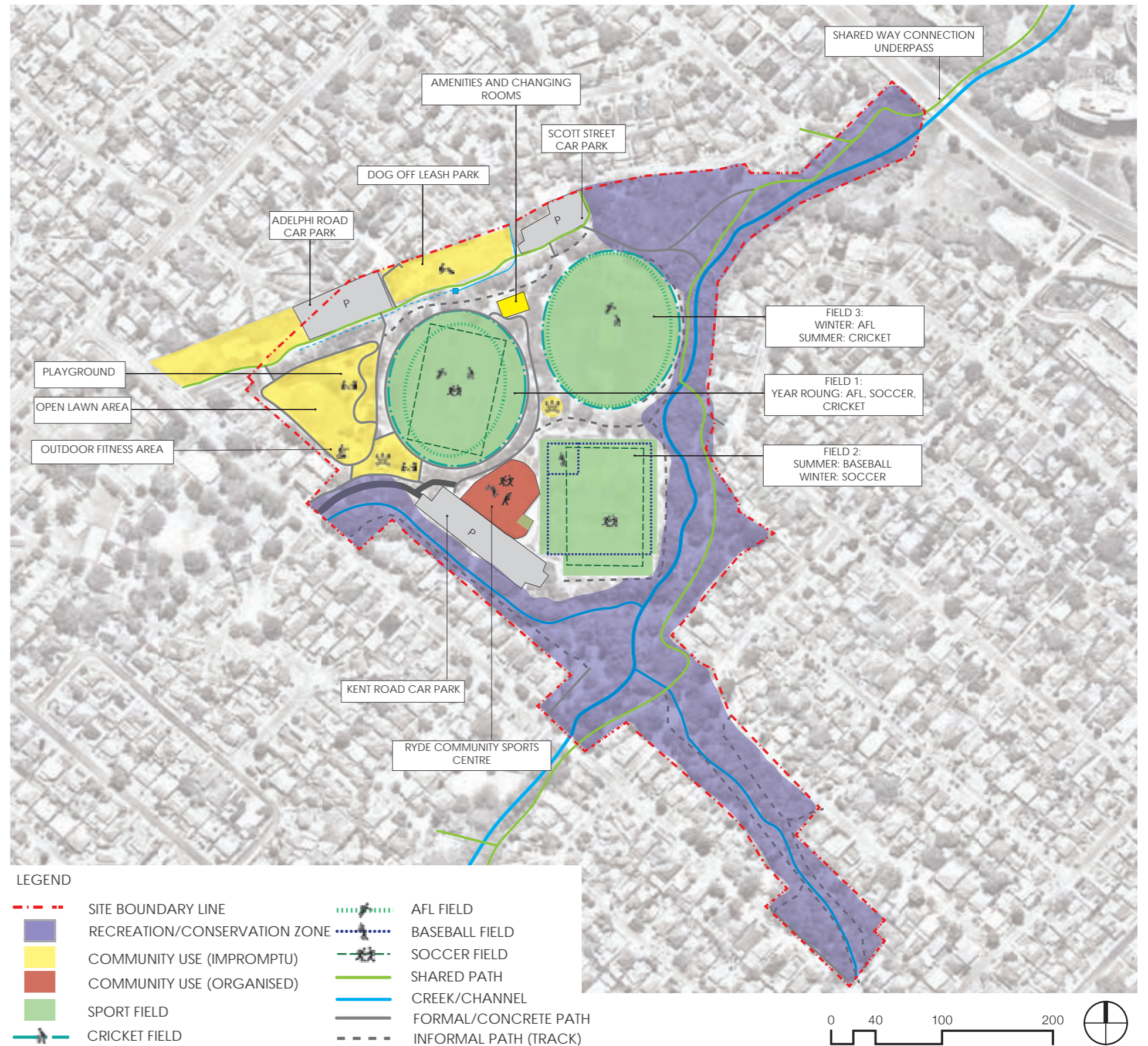
Winter is the peak season for organised sports at ELS Hall Park, with soccer dominating the organised sports use. Relatively high turnover of games creates large demands for parking and supporting infrastructure over a long period of the day.

- ELS Hall Park 1 - Synthetic sports pitch used by football (soccer), AFL and Ultimate Frisbee
- ELS Hall Park 2 - Grass sports pitch used by football (soccer)
- ELS Hall Park 3 - Grass sports pitch used by AFL and Ultimate Frisbee

Sports - Summer season

Organised sports use remains high in summer, although longer game times give a slower turnover time and slightly reduced pressure on supporting infrastructure compared to winter. This may be offset slightly by increased general community use of play and picnic facilities.

- ELS Hall Park 1 - Synthetic sports pitch used by football (soccer) (small-sided games evening competition), cricket, AFL and Ultimate Frisbee
- ELS Hall Park 2 - Grass sports pitch used by baseball
- ELS Hall Park 3 - Grass sports pitch used by cricket



CIRCULATION & CONNECTIONS

Entrances

ELS Hall Park has three vehicular entrances, from Kent Road, Adelphi Road and Scott Street. These entrances each lead to a single car park, with no connections between parking areas. If users enter a car park and find it full, they must exit the car park and use the local road system to navigate to another entry point and car park. The roads entries are not obvious to users unfamiliar with the park.

The Kent Road car park is entered via a short access road which visually terminates in a no entry sign and directs vehicles through a tightly curved entry loop. This arrangement encourages drivers to ignore the no entry sign if a parking space is visible near the entry/exit. Large vehicles such as coaches are also unable to navigate the entry loop, forcing them to proceed against the traffic flow if they have attempted to enter the car park.

There are seven (7) additional formal pedestrian/cycle entries to the park from the surrounding road network. These facilitate increased permeability for pedestrians and allow connections to North Ryde on the eastern side of the parks. The park is also accessible for pedestrians from another five (5) locations at street edges although these are not well-used as they do not connect to the formal path system.

Circulation

The path system within the site is under-developed and does not allow for users to explore the whole site without using informal tracks or doubling back on themselves. Loop paths exist around field 1 and the informal lawn area with playground and these are well-used by walkers. Informal tracks exist around field 2 and 3, presumably created by sports users, sports spectators and users wishing to explore ELS Hall Park without exiting the park or crossing Shrimptons Creek.

Emergency and maintenance vehicular access to the fields and amenities building is from the Kent Road car park, also allowing connection to the Scott Street car park.

Connections

The two shared paths within the site, the Shrimptons Creek and Kent Rd-Scott St paths currently do not connect within the site, instead relying on users exiting the parks and navigating the road system to then re-enter the park and connect with the path again. Likewise, the Shrimptons Creek shared path is isolated from the main facilities in ELS Hall Park, with only one internal crossing of the creek (near Trevitt Road).

The lack of connections between paths and key facilities likely reduces visitor numbers and/or encourages residents within walking distance to instead drive to the park to use the facilities.



ECOLOGY

Current conditions

The Ryde Biodiversity Plan identifies two key ecological communities within ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve worthy of conservation efforts. A portion of Coastal enriched sandstone dry forest exists in the northern corner of ELS Hall Park, bordered Scott Street, field 3 and the Shrimptons Creek riparian corridor below. Coastal enriched sandstone dry forest is not an endangered ecological community as it 'is commonly encountered on the upper slopes and dry gullies of Sydney urban areas'.²

The Shrimptons Creek corridor is partially made up of Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest, with small linear pockets in ELS Hall Park and Booth Reserve, and a larger remnant in Greenwood Park. Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest is listed as an endangered ecological community and is subject to numerous threats within urban areas. Additional community information is provided on the following page.

The Ryde Biodiversity Plan lists the Shrimptons Creek corridor as a local biodiversity connection within the LGA³. The ecological value of the corridor should be protected and improved where possible, exploring options for the creation of links to other areas of value.

The Shrimptons Creek corridor contains significant weed incursion along its length, with a wide variety of weed species present throughout. The linear nature of the creek corridor leaves the vegetation vulnerable to weed invasion due to its high edge to area ratio. Stormwater runoff from urban areas typically contains high nutrient loading, further favouring introduced species over native vegetation.

Conservation planning

The Ryde Biodiversity Plan identifies Greenwood Park as having a high conservation significance and makes it a very high conservation priority. The table below is extracted from the plan:

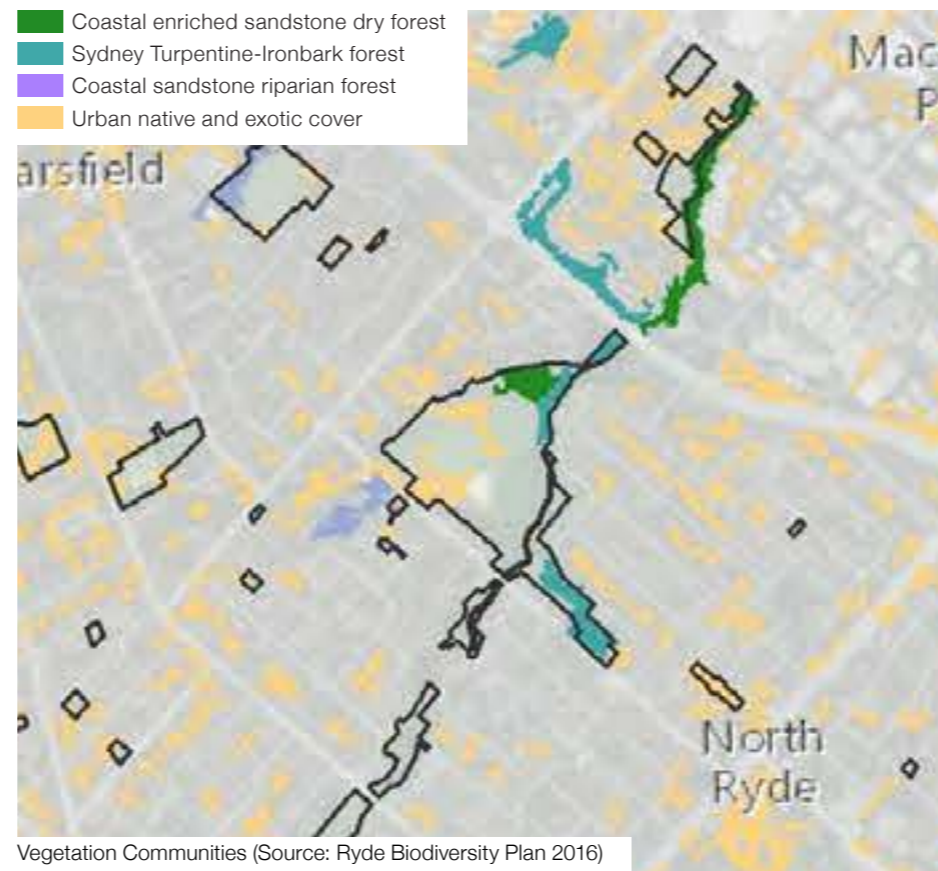
LOCATION	CONSERVATION PRIORITY	CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	THREAT VALUE
Greenwood Park	Very High	High	High
Booth Reserve	High	Moderate	High
ELS Hall Park	High	Moderate	High

Threat value assesses criteria such as surrounding land uses, edge disturbance and influence of climate change. All parks within the study area were allocated a high threat value.

Conservation significance value is used to identify and prioritise areas which require protection and management. The assessment includes factors such as size and connectivity, conservation values (legislative protection, vegetation cover and presence of threatened species) and community values.

² Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, October 2013, 'The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area, Volume 2: Vegetation Community Profiles'

³ Eco Logical Australia for City of Ryde, December 2016, 'Ryde Biodiversity Plan'



ECOLOGY

Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest

Conservation status in NSW: Endangered Ecological Community

Commonwealth status: Critically Endangered

Gazetted date: 16 Oct 1998

'Characteristic tree species in the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) are Syncarpia glomulifera, Eucalyptus globoidea, Eucalyptus resinifera, Eucalyptus paniculata, Angophora costata and Angophora floribunda. The structure of the community was originally forest, but may now exist as woodland or as remnant trees.

It is estimated that only 0.5 % of the original area of STIF exists in the form of a number of remnants. Only small areas of STIF are presently included in conservation reserves.

Large areas of STIF have been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Remnants are small and scattered. Identified threats include: clearing, physical damage from recreational activities, rubbish dumping, grazing, mowing, weed invasion.

*In view of the small size of existing remnants, the threat of further clearing and other known threats, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is likely to become extinct in nature unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate and that listing as an endangered community is warranted.'*⁴

A large area of STIF is mapped within Greenwood Park. The vegetation is centered around a drainage channel tributary of Shrimptons Creek. Mown, informal access paths exist to the edges and partially through the vegetation, allowing access to pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. Some weed incursion is present at the edges and along the stormwater channel and should be identified for ongoing management. Strategies to improve the health of the remnant vegetation should be explored and incorporated into the master plan.



Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in Greenwood Park



Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in Greenwood Park

⁴ NSW Scientific Committee - final determination, 'Sydney turpentine-ironbark forest - endangered ecological community listing'

FLOODING

Almost all of Booth Reserve and Greenwood Park are subject to flooding, with flood depths in Booth Reserve exceeding 2m in 100 year ARI events. Much of ELS Hall Park is also subject to flooding, with depths ranging from 0.25m or less on the playing fields to over 2m along Shrimptons Creek below. Greenwood Park is susceptible to flood depths of up to 1.5m in 100 year ARI events.

The risks to park users during flood events are high, particularly in events which cause a rapid rise in water levels in Shrimptons Creek. There are five (5) stormwater outlets directly to Shrimptons Creek, and at least four (4) additional outlets feeding tributary waterways within the site area. In severe rain events, this can lead to high volumes of water flowing through the stormwater system and entering waterways at high speed.

'From a flooding perspective, the current proliferation of weeds can inhibit the conveyance of flood waters and also generate material that could exacerbate blockage of culverts, with the potential to locally increase flooding. The study therefore supports the recommendation of the WSUD report to rehabilitate the riparian corridor, with a preference for flood-compatible native species. A strategy to implement this rehabilitation would be beneficial and could have the following objectives:

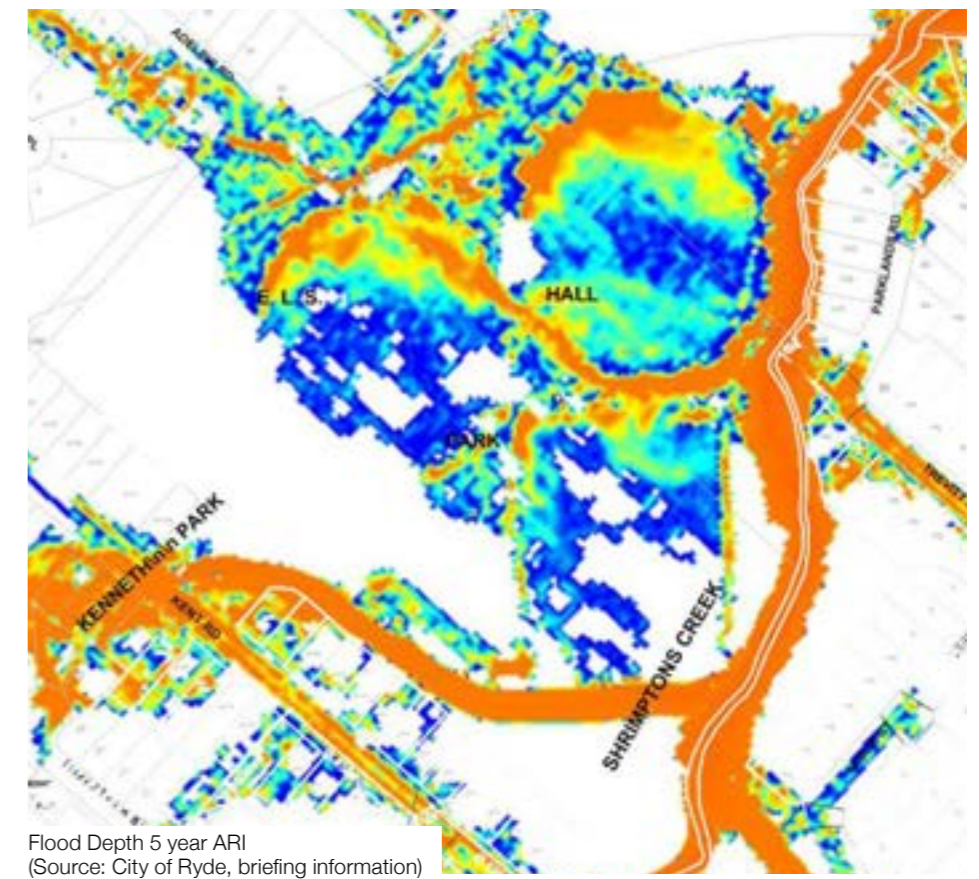
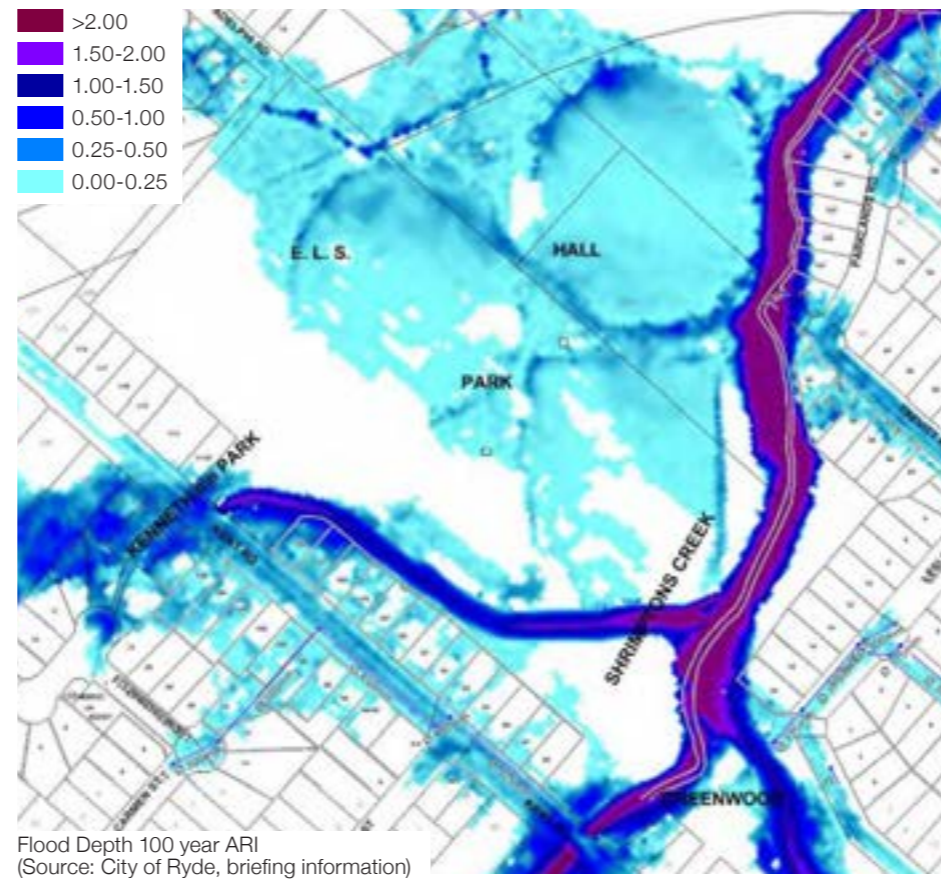
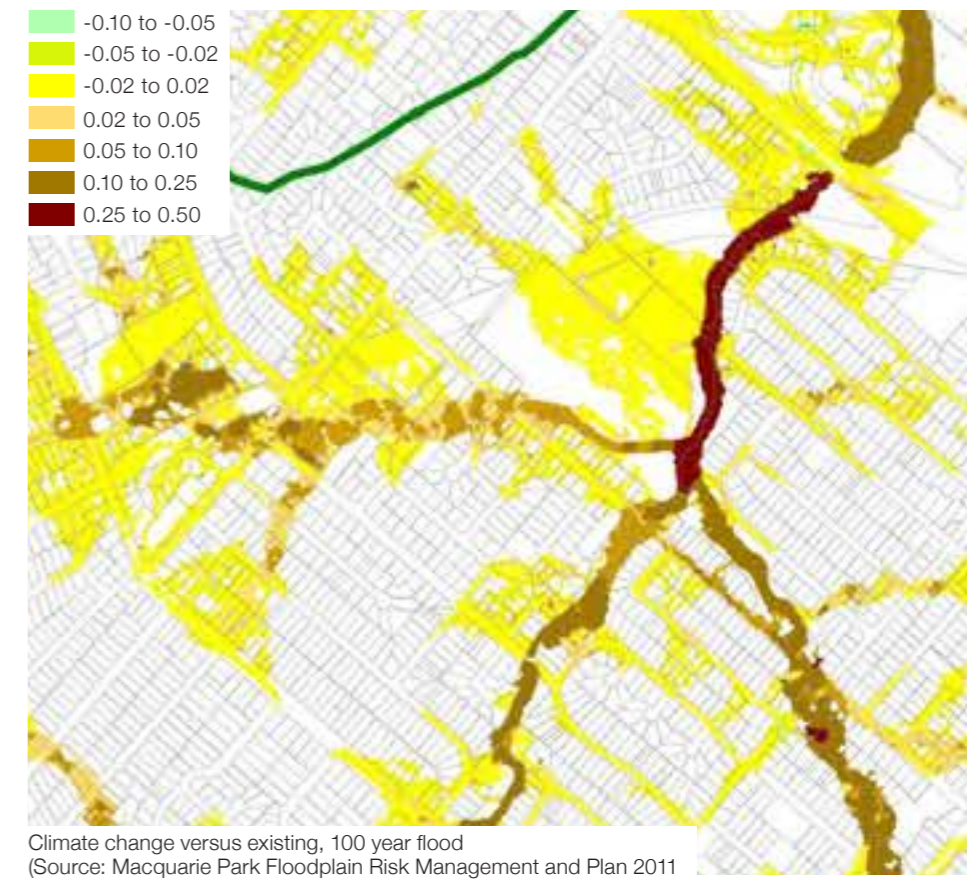
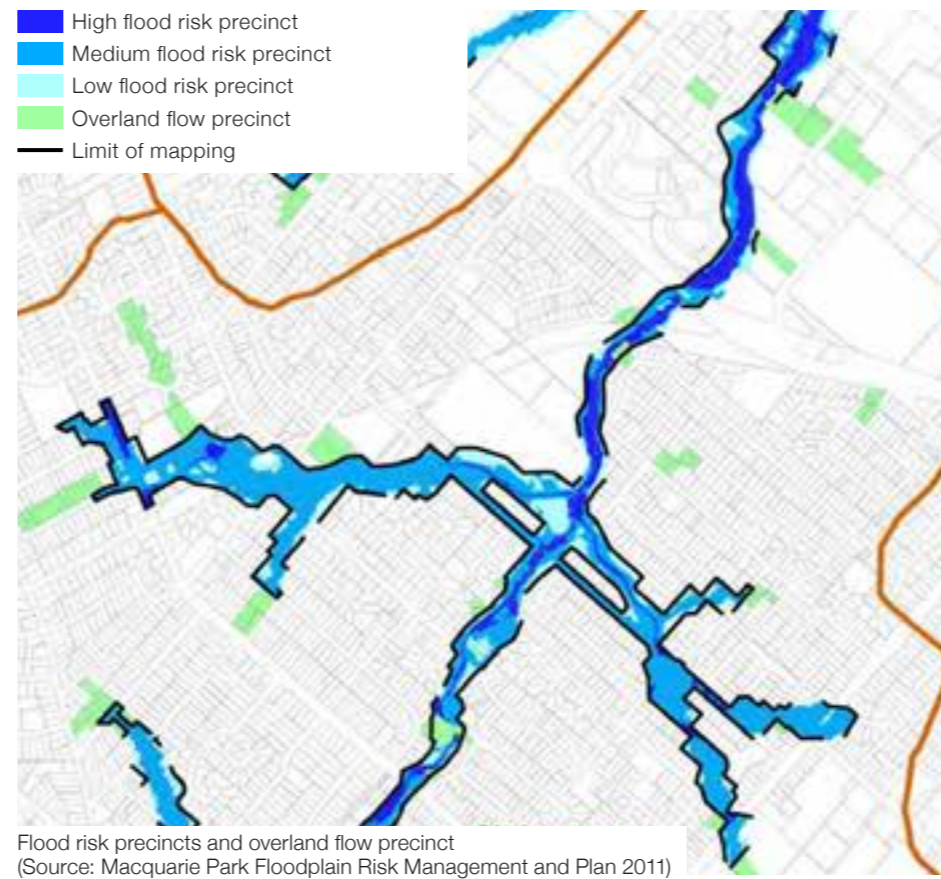
- To remove exotic plant species from the creek corridor to improve the hydraulic function of the creek.
- To provide for the rehabilitation of the creek corridor with endemic plant species which are tolerant of riverine conditions.
- To create an environment which is sympathetic to the ecology of the creek and, in particular, fauna habitat.
- To create a rehabilitated creek corridor which allows for access by the general community for recreation and education.
- To ensure that the potential for soil erosion and destabilisation of the creek banks is addressed by providing for the managed and staged rehabilitation of the creek.

*Under the Water Management Act 2000 a controlled activity approval may be required for the removal of vegetation.'*¹

Additionally to the management of the immediate Shrimptons Creek corridor, strategies for improving the flood resilience of key pathways should be explored within the master plan. As much of the Shrimptons Creek shared path is flood prone, strategies for improving safety may include:

- Providing alternate access routes during severe flood events
- Increasing the level of bridge crossings to maintain access during minor flood events
- Explore options for lifting portions of the path or relocating to higher ground
- Providing a flood buffer wall to the Epping Road underpass or facilitating alternate safe access routes to/from Macquarie Park
- Increasing permeability of the path, providing additional connections and 'escape routes' to higher ground

¹ Bewsher, February 2011, 'Macquarie Park Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan'



TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of ELS Hall Park varies across the site, with large flat areas occupied by sporting fields and site features such as the Ryde Community Sports Centre, off-leash dog park and car parks. The land slopes roughly from the north-western edge towards Shrimptons Creek in the south-east. Greenwood Park is relatively flat, with the land sloping towards the creek line on both sides. Booth Reserve is similar, falling from both sides towards to creek line.

Within ELS Hall Park, field 1 is steeply banked on two ends, elevated above the surround levels at the southern end and nestled into the slope at the northern end. Field 3 has a similar arrangement, with a steep bank to the north-western end. The embankments to both fields provide informal spectator viewing areas for those who are able to access them. Opportunity exists to formalise these seating opportunities and improve access, allowing a greater numbers of visitors to utilise the facilities. The aspect of these areas suits spectator seating well, with the afternoon sun being located behind the spectator.

The playground area, informal lawn and county road corridor (occupied by Adelphi Rd car park and dog park) are all gently graded, providing easy access for all. Accessibility problems may be encountered to the north of field 3, where the path connection ramps up steeply and then connects to an elevated stair structure climbing the embankment. The natural grades in this area are steep and the adjacent vegetation is dense and well-established, listed as Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest.

The western bank of Shrimptons Creek within ELS Hall Park, is steeply sloped and inaccessible from either the top (adjacent sporting fields) or the bottom (from Shrimptons Creek). No contour information is provided for the eastern bank of Shrimptons Creek although, generally the shared path in this zone is accommodated within a flat area before sloping up towards the residential property boundaries. The Shrimptons Creek shared path is mostly gently graded, with short steeper sections at Trevitt Road and Wilson Street entry points.



SITE ANALYSIS

Passive recreation

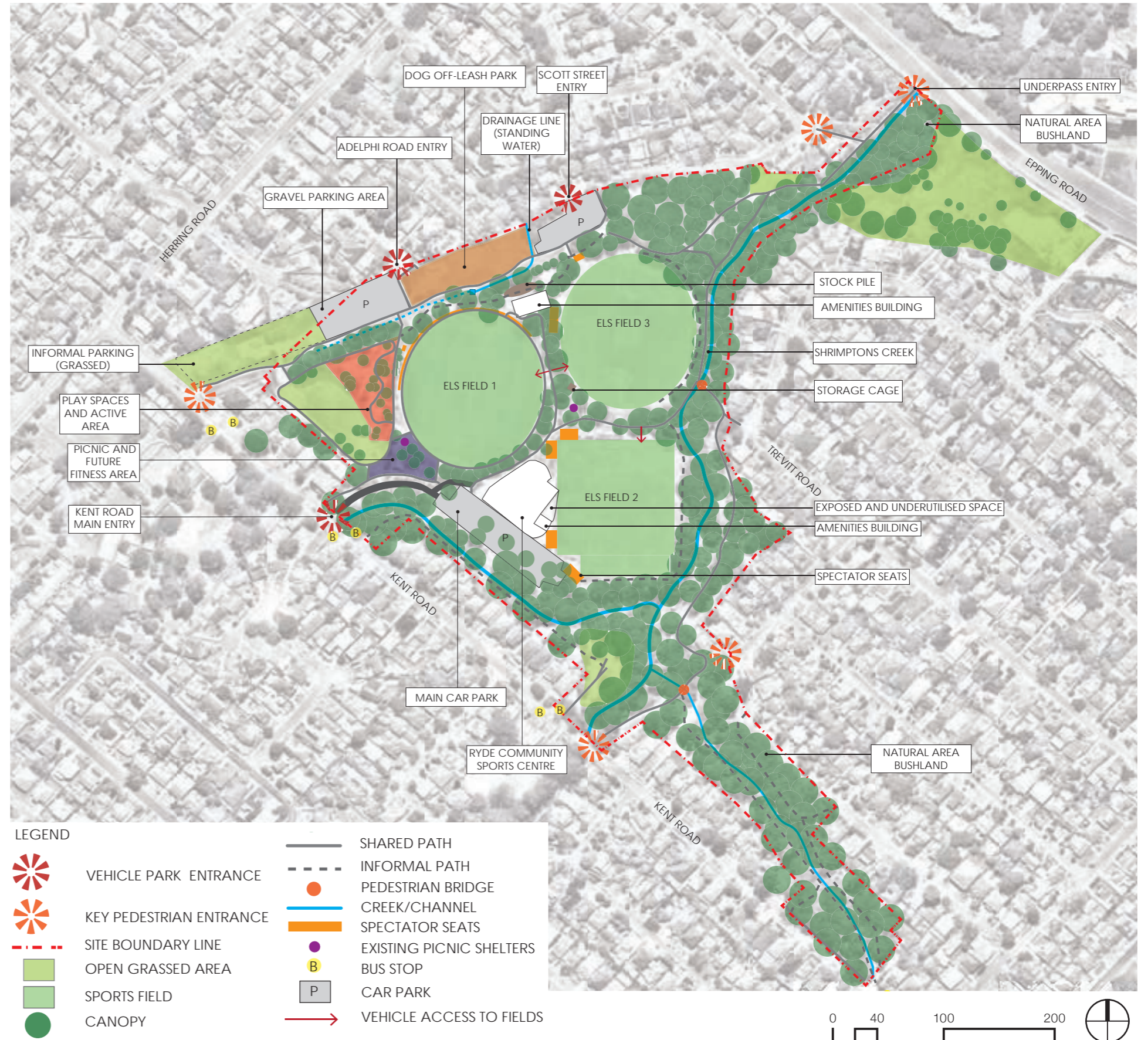
- Loop paths are not provided around ELS Hall Park and informal track indicate desire lines
- Existing shared paths are isolated from one another
- Informal lawn adjacent to play space is underutilised
- No shelters are provided near play area, encouraging only short stays
- Existing picnic shelters are consistently well-used, indicating a demand for more shelters
- No informal recreation offerings for youth within the park outside organised sport
- Removal of secondary playground within ELS Hall Park (near 85 Kent Rd) leaves empty clearing and disconnected open space area
- Significant ecological areas exist and threats to their health must be managed
- Land parcel adjacent to Epping Road is unused and difficult to access - disconnected from Booth Reserve and Parklands Road
- Dog area is very well used by public

Organised sports

- Lack of comfortable seating - field 1 lacks seating provision, field 2 seating is hot and exposed, field 3 seating is aged, uncomfortable and difficult to access (unsafe)
- Pedestrian access to and around field 2 is limited and difficult
- Team facilities at field 2 (e.g. dugouts and batting cages) are aged and unsightly
- Pedestrian access to and around field 3 is limited and some areas are steeply graded or terraced
- Ryde Community Sports Centre (RCSC) provides significant recreation offering but must be pre-booked and organised in advance i.e. not suitable for impromptu activities

Supporting functions

- Access to car park entries are not well signposted
- Kent Road car park is consistently at or over capacity
- Adelphi Road car park creates dust issues and is inefficient as an informal car park
- Amenities building does not relate to any field in particular and is difficult to access from fields (grade separated from 1 and 3, distance from field 2), requiring storage of sports equipment such as goals and synthetic turf wickets elsewhere on site
- Lack of awareness of public toilet facilities within amenities building
- Material stockpiles (e.g. mulch) are located in accessible areas which creates a 'back of house' feel within the park
- Site is split between areas and uses with little integration across the site
- Limited lighting throughout the park
- Shrimpton's Creek shared path is within flood area and subject to inundation
- Ryde Community Sport Centre at capacity
- Minimum interactions of sports visitors with creek and environmental areas
- Wayfinding is difficult, with minimal path connections and limited signage



OPPORTUNITIES

Access and circulation

A number of opportunities exist to improve access to and around the site by providing additional car parking, new pedestrian and shared paths and formalising existing access tracks.

- Expand Kent Rd car park to provide one additional row of car parking. Improve access into car park to allow for use by buses. Provide formal pick-up / drop-off area
- Formalise Adelphi Rd car park, providing a sealed car park with marked parking bays and tree planting for shade. Consider lighting to improve safety
- Connect Kent Rd-Scott St shared path to Shrimptons Creek shared path within the site
- Formalise existing pedestrian routes between and around sporting fields
- Provide lighting to key routes to improve safety after dark
- Bus drop-off area

Recreation offerings

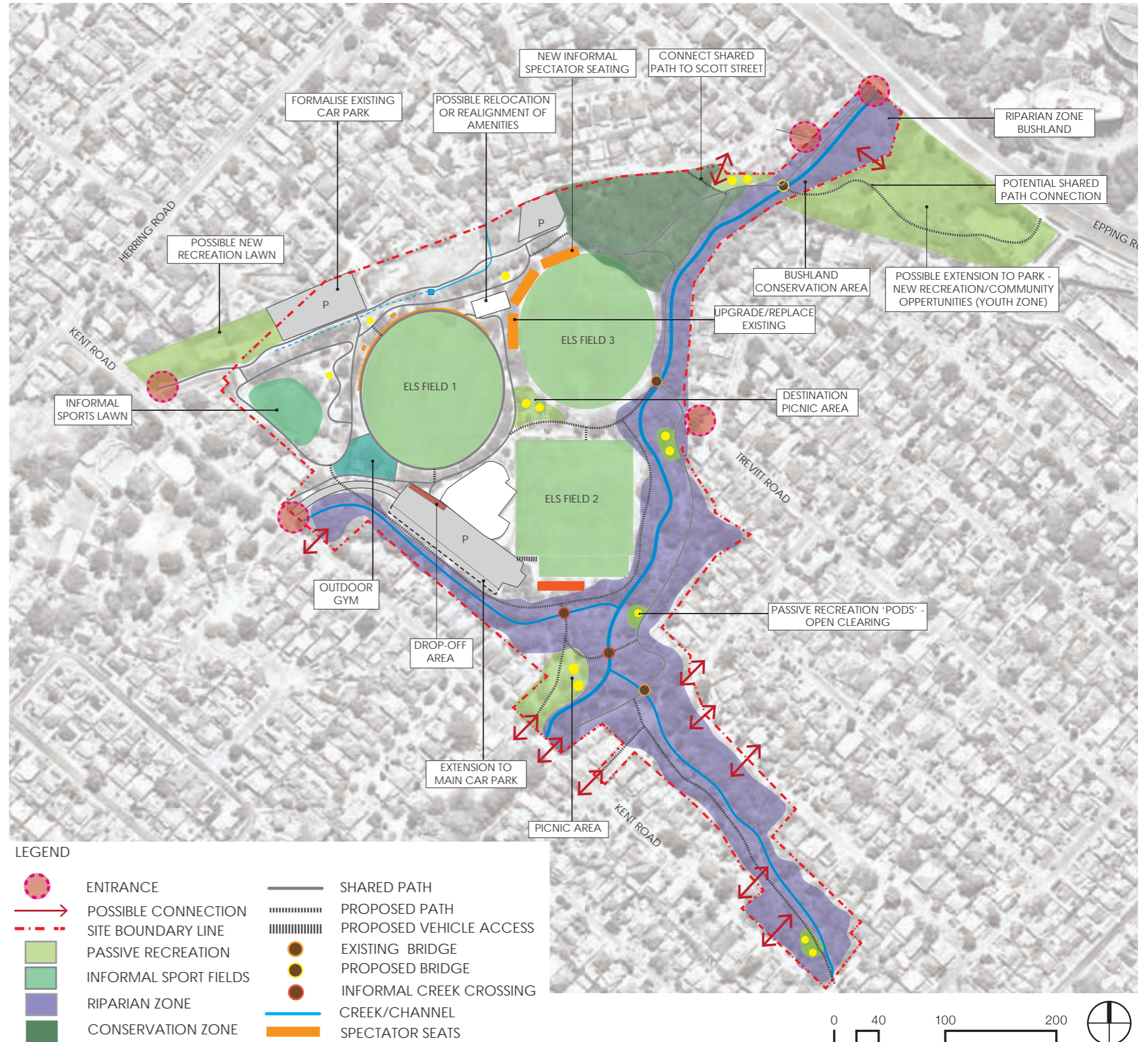
Opportunities for new recreation activities have been identified as follows:

- Provide additional informal recreation area in north-west corner of the site (opposite Kent Road Public School). Space created by increasing efficiency of current parking area
- Basketball half-court or similar casual sporting facility to provide informal recreation offering to locals, supporting the formal sport usage within the RCSC
- Expansion of the park offerings into the open space bordering Epping Road in the north-east corner of the site. Possible youth facility to be explored (demand / appropriateness etc)
- New picnic shelters located throughout the site to serve a variety of park users and encourage use of different areas of the parks
- Provide additional spectator seating throughout the park
- Provide lighting along the shared paths
- Relocation of the Shrimpton's creek shared path from the flood area and creation of an alternative route
- Possible expansion of the Ryde Sports Community Centre
- The orientation or relocation of the Amenities building to better address sport fields and make use of land form and provide additional storage
- Increase public interaction within the conservation zone along the creek with passive recreation picnic areas

Environment and ecology

Opportunities exist to build on the existing vegetation to provide increased habitat area and improved habitat quality

- Staged weed removal and bush regeneration within the riparian corridor
- Protection and enhancement of existing important ecological areas
- Water sensitive urban design installations such as swales and biofiltration throughout the parks
- Possible macrophyte or wetland areas at major drainage outlets to Shrimptons Creek
- WSUD treatment



DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES ILLUSTRATED



Informal Creek crossing. Stepping stones



Future new amenities building designed to address sports fields and make use of land form



New bridge crossings increase permeability



New path connections respect existing vegetation while providing access



Informal spectators seating



Small shelters create rest spots, sports viewing locations and small picnic opportunities



WSUD to car park



Informal open space relates to play area and extends family-friendly precinct



Informal sports such as basketball half-court increase casual community use



Facilities such as ping pong tables increase casual community use



Informal open space could have playful elements to encourage community use



Playful game elements incorporated throughout parks encourage community use

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation overview

Council engaged Flagship Communications, a specialist stakeholder engagement company, to lead the community consultation process for the development of a masterplan for ELS Hall Park and Booth Reserve, Marsfield and Greenwood Park, North Ryde.

In late 2017, Council undertook the first phase of consultation with the community to determine what stakeholders liked and didn't like about the existing site and what they would like to see at the site in the future. The feedback from this consultation period formed the basis of a draft masterplan, developed by Council. The draft masterplan was presented to the community via Stage 2 community consultation in early 2019.

Stage 1 community consultation

From 15 November to 10 December 2017, Flagship Communications managed a stakeholder engagement period where stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback on the existing precinct and what their thoughts were for the future of the site.

The engagement period was promoted through Council's dedicated Have Your Say page, email, social media and DL flyers to targeted stakeholders and residents and posters in the park.

Stakeholders had many opportunities to provide their feedback including an online survey, stakeholder interviews, intercept surveys and drop-in sessions.

A dedicated phone number and Council's email address were also promoted as methods for stakeholders to provide input to the project.

Council received significant feedback from many stakeholders including local residents, park users and relevant council staff.

A range of methods were used to promote the engagement period and the opportunities for engagement available to stakeholders including:

Method	Stakeholders	Engagement
Drop-in sessions	Two drop-in sessions were held at various times and days throughout the engagement period.	Approximately 60 one-on-one interactions. 275 comments provided by participants
Intercept surveys	Intercept surveys were undertaken around the times of the drop-in centres which coincided with peak usage times of the site.	16 surveys completed
Online survey	Online survey was open to all stakeholders throughout the entire engagement period.	67 surveys completed 100% completion rate of surveys
Stakeholder interviews	Key Council staff members and external stakeholder groups were contacted by telephone or email for feedback.	8 staff members attended meeting to discuss aspirations for the site. 3 stakeholder groups responded (Gladesville Hornsby Football Association, Ryde Panthers Football Club, Pacific Coast Baseball League)

The following key themes were identified during the stage 1 stakeholder engagement process:

THEME 1 | GETTING TO THE SITE

The preferred methods of getting to the site are driving and walking. Limited parking and significant traffic generation in the immediate area are major issues for both site users and surrounding residents.

THEME 2 | THOUGHTS ON THE SITE

The site is well-regarded by the users who wish it to remain available to the whole community. The site is used for both active and passive recreation with respondents enjoying a range of activities the site offers.

THEME 3 | IMPACT TO RESIDENTS

The site is surrounded by low density residential properties however most of the boundary is well screened from adjoining land, except for those properties along the unformed road corridor. The main impacts are generated by traffic, parking and dust.

THEME 4 | SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The site is heavily used for a range of sporting activities and is potentially at capacity. There are competing needs of the various clubs which sometimes cause conflict and maintenance issues. There are mixed feelings amongst the sports clubs on relocating from ELS Hall Park.

THEME 5 | FACILITIES

There is a need for more or improved facilities across the site including shading, seating, barbeques, exercise equipment and better toilet facilities. An improved network of paths and lighting is also highly favourable.

THEME 6 | PLAYGROUND

The playground is considered well patronised, but worn. There is a request for more equipment to be included and for it to be relocated so that it can be seen from the sports fields.

THEME 7 | DOGS

The site is used a lot by off-leash dog owners, however due to the existing fenced off-leash facilities there are relatively few conflicts between dog owners and other users of the site.

THEME 8 | SITE MAINTENANCE

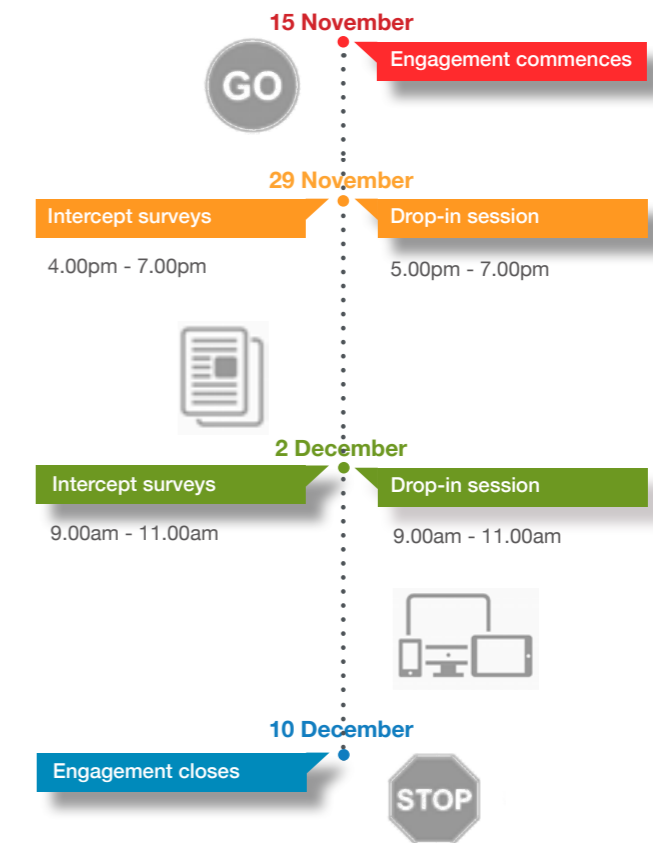
The site is considered to be maintained in an average state. There are maintenance issues with dust and drainage and with over-use of fields with little-to-no down time between sport season change-overs.

THEME 9 | NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

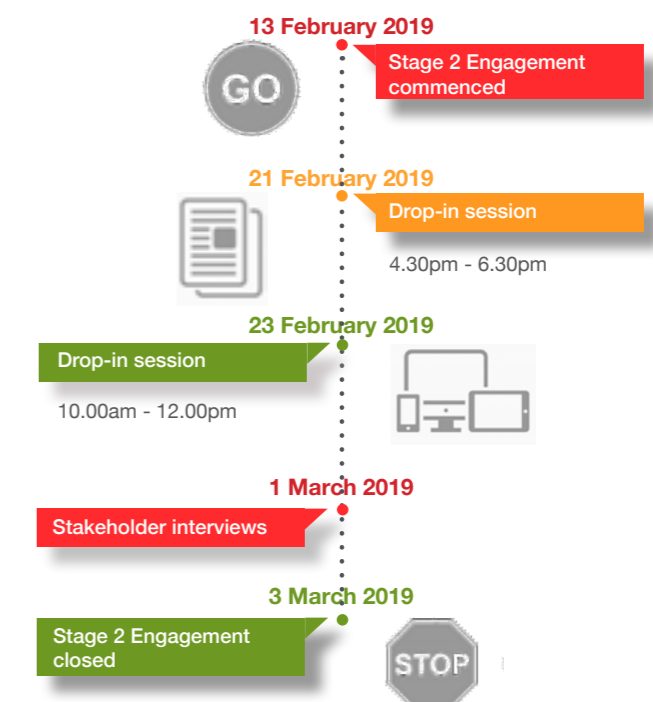
There were many requests for more trees at the site, especially to provide shading. There were also requests to improve the riparian zone along Shrimptons Creek.

Source 'City of Ryde, ELS Hall Park and Booth Reserve, Marsfield and Greenwood Park, North Ryde Masterplan, Community Stakeholder Engagement Report, Stage 1', prepared by Flagship Communications, dated April 2018

Stage 1 engagement timeline



Stage 2 engagement timeline



Stage 2 consultation - Key outcomes

The data collected by Flagship Communications from all the feedback sources throughout the Stage 2 community consultation were collated into the 19 areas of the masterplan in addition to another area dedicated to other comments. Below is their summary of the key consultation outcomes. The consultation report including all aggregated data is included at Appendix B.

SPORTS FIELD 1

The synthetic sports field is well regarded by respondents and well utilised. Many respondents enjoy using the field however some have mentioned that kids tend to get “carpet burn” type injuries when they fall over on the surface and the surface also gets very hot in summer.

SPORTS FIELD 2

The baseball fields are well used and most respondents were generally happy with the current condition of the field. There are requests to increase and improve the existing baseball infrastructure including adding further fencing to protect cars in the carpark from stray balls, new dugouts and scorers facilities and an additional covered batting cage. There is also a request to reposition the previously moved light tower when telecommunications equipment was installed. This tower has been repositioned approximately 8m away from the field and now casts a shadow from the RCSC over the field.

The baseball club also used to have their own clubroom prior to the construction of the RCSC. They now only have a small area for a canteen and toilets. There are not enough toilets with a line up at times to use the amenities. Members of indoor sports teams tend to warm up and practice on the concrete landing overlooking the field which damages the canteen facilities with the basketballs. There is also a request for seating facilities on the concrete landing and some cover to provide players with protection from rain and sun.

SPORTS FIELD 3

There is strong support to keep the turf cricket wicket on this field with some players saying it is the best wicket in the City of Ryde. Both AFL and cricket would like to see the oval being made larger. AFL would like this to allow for more senior competitions and cricket would like to increase their field size which is already restricted by having to move the play boundary in 2m from the fence for player safety.

Formalisation of the spectator seating is supported however respondents would like to make sure that any shading does not restrict the view for spectators.

Cricket would like to see some training net facilities with full astro turf, however this does not necessarily need to be next to the field.

PATHWAY LINKS

The formalisation of pathway links is well supported by respondents.

There were many requests for greater path lighting, especially along pathway connections to car park areas and pathways through the site (ie, from Epping Rd to Kent Rd).

INFORMAL PATHS

There was a strong response against the informal paths along Shrimptons Creek behind Wilson Street properties. Many of the homeowners along this section of the park were against the informal paths near Wilson Street citing concerns about potential vandalism, noise, criminal activity and flooding issues. No comments were given for any other informal pathways identified in the draft masterplan.

NEW BRIDGE CROSSING

Most respondents supported the installation of a new bridge crossing located directly south of

Field 2, identifying the increase in connectivity it will bring to the park

INFORMAL CREEK CROSSING

Most respondents liked the idea of an informal creek crossing, however one respondent noted that if the bridge was to be formalised (rather than stepping stones) it would allow residents who live on the east side of the park to access the park via bicycle.

RECREATION PODS

The recreation pods are supported as a concept however there was opposition to installing them along Shrimptons Creek. One of the main reasons was that some pods were positioned in flood prone areas which could potentially be dangerous for users or result in damage to the pods in high rain events.

SPECTATOR SEATING

The spectator seating, especially around field 3 is supported - especially by those who play formalised sports on this field.

There is an additional request to add cafe style seating behind the Ryde Community Sports Centre which overlooks Field 2.

BBQ/PICNIC HUB

Some respondents suggested moving the amenities block to this space instead where viewing and access to all three fields can be achieved and can incorporate an extension to the Ryde Community Sports Centre which would not impact the existing car park. There is a suggestion to also include bins near these hubs.

FAMILY PICNIC AREA

There is support for the new playground equipment however some respondents mentioned they did not want to see the creation of this new area to be at the expense of the smaller playground areas scattered throughout the park. There is strong support for the learn-to-ride bike path for kids. Some respondents would like to see the older playground equipment retained because it services the older children who visit the site - unlike the new playground equipment.

There is a suggestion to provide a range of seating around the play areas suitable for a diverse range of users (including seniors to socialise and play board games as well as wheel chair users at picnic tables).

FAMILY RECREATION AREA

There is support for this area of the masterplan. Many respondents liked the learn to ride paths and outdoor games facilities (such as table tennis).

OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA

The outdoor fitness area is well supported. Many participants throughout the drop-in sessions were concerned that Council was not going to replace the fitness equipment after the installation of the new playground last year.

DOG PARK UPGRADE

The upgrade to the dog park is well supported - particularly the agility equipment. There were requests to install an additional water fountain, lighting and to increase the height of the fence to reduce the amount of dogs jumping the fence. Also there was a request to consider including a smaller section within the existing enclosure to segregate smaller dogs who may be intimidated by larger dogs in the dog park.

EXISTING INFORMAL CAR PARK

There is support to retain (and if possible expand) the informal carparks. There are also requests to seal the carparks to reduce the adverse impacts of dust on the adjacent properties as well as provide lighting to improve safety and security at night. There is also a request to have the

carparks locked at night. The signs in the Kent Road car park alerting drivers to the additional parking in the informal carparks is considered too small and suggestions were provided to make them larger to encourage more visitors to use the other car parks.

RYDE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE CAR PARK

There is strong support to increasing the parking at this site. There was still a lot of frustration from respondents regarding the lack of parking at the facility. There are safety concerns with the car park and respondents wished the entry road to be widened to improve traffic flow. Respondents also wanted more lighting within the carpark to improve pedestrian safety.

RYDE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

There is generally support for the expansion of the facility however with no impact to the existing carpark areas. The YMCA (Sports Centre leaseholder) would like to see more sustainable modifications to the site including LED lighting and for the expansion to include a mixture of additional courts and community rooms and facilities. Users of Field 2 would also like to see additional facilities which may become part of an expansion to the centre (see Field 2 comments above).

AMENITIES BUILDING

There is strong support for a new amenities building (especially in light of the recent destruction of the existing facility through fire). Most respondents liked the boomerang shape to allow greater viewing of Fields 1 and 3. The concept of a two storey facility is generally supported which would help to accommodate the needs from sporting clubs for more space, however there were the occasional comment received that did not support a two story facility.

LAND NOT OWNED BY COUNCIL

The site located adjacent to Kent Road is strongly supported for additional parking space.

The site located adjacent to Epping Road has received a variety of use suggestions including natural space and habitat, activity space for young people, informal and formal walking and cycling paths, parking and more active leisure facilities.

OTHER COMMENTS

Overall the draft masterplan has been well received by respondents. However, there have been some additional suggestions for the site including:

- More filtered water stations (including for dogs) throughout the park
- Inclusion of the existing baseball storage facility
- Outdoor netball and basket ball courts
- Outdoor warm up area for indoor sports users
- More bins
- Greater habitat throughout the site and improved biodiversity
- End of trip provisions such as bike racks
- Way finding signage
- Traffic calming features
- Continue as Alcohol free zones ¹

¹ ‘City of Ryde, ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve, Community Stakeholder Engagement Report, Stage 2: Draft Masterplan Community Consultation’, prepared by Flagship Communications, dated March 2019

MASTER PLAN

The master plan for ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve has been prepared based on detailed site analysis, site investigations, community and stakeholder consultation. The master plan utilises existing facilities and identifies the provision of new or upgraded facilities over the next 20 years to ensure sustainable and efficient use.

Proposals have been developed to maximise the potential of the site area to contribute to the local community and sporting user groups now and into the future, catering for both current and projected future needs.

The implementation of the Masterplan will improve user safety, present opportunities to enhance recreation facilities, increase the diversity of activities within the Park, improve the interface of the Parks with the Shrimptons Creek corridor and enhance the natural environment/sustainability features of the area.



LEGEND

- 01 SPORT FIELD 1
Synthetic sports pitch used by football (soccer), AFL and Ultimate Frisbee
- 02 SPORT FIELD 2
Grass sports pitch used by football (soccer) and Baseball
- 03 SPORT FIELD 3
Grass sports pitch used by AFL, Cricket and Ultimate Frisbee. Fence line realigned to expand playing area.
- 04 AMENITIES BUILDING
New amenities building designed to address sports fields and respond to land form (possible two-storey solution pending feasibility study and further investigations)
- 05 RYDE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE
Possible extension to sports centre (raised over parking) pending feasibility study and further investigations
- 06 RYDE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE CAR PARK
Existing car park widened approximately 2m to increase parking numbers and reduce congestion. Entry and exit remodelled and bus drop-off / pick-up bay installed
- 07 SHARED PATHS
Existing shared paths retained and new lighting provided to improve safety and increase use
- 08 PATHWAY LINKS
New paths established to provide additional recreation opportunities in the park for walking, running and cycling
- 09 INFORMAL PATHS
Gravel pathway connections as secondary pedestrian links
- 10 NEW BRIDGE CROSSING
Replace current bridge to lift level & reduce flood risk
- 11 INFORMAL CREEK CROSSING
Informal crossing (stepping stones) connecting informal paths through natural areas
- 12 PASSIVE RECREATION 'PODS'
Open clearing passive 'recreation pods' with picnic shelters/ tables for small social gatherings
- 13 SPECTATOR SEATING
New spectator seating to sports fields. Terraced solution where levels allow
- 14 BBQ/PICNIC HUB
New BBQ and picnic areas overlooking sports fields
- 15 FAMILY PICNIC AREA
Extension to the play area with large shelters for gathering, BBQ hub, learn to ride loop paths and informal lawn kickabout space

- 16 FAMILY RECREATION AREA
Active recreation hub with ping-pong tables, Tossball tower for children and games markings on hardstand
- 17 OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA
New fitness hub utilising existing shade structure
- 18 DOG PARK UPGRADE
Establish new dog obstacle equipment within existing dog off-leash park
- 19 EXISTING INFORMAL CAR PARK RETAINED
- 20 CREEK REGENERATION
Ongoing weed removal and regeneration of Shrimptons Creek corridor to improve vegetation quality and biodiversity value
- 21 ECOLOGICAL AREA
Protection of existing ecological areas and preservation of biodiversity value
- 22 LAND NOT OWNED OR MANAGED BY COUNCIL
Negotiation seeking community use pending with relevant authority



DETAIL PLAN: FAMILY PICNIC AREA

Legend

- 01 SPORT FIELD 1: SYNTHETIC GRASS
- 02 SPECTATOR SEATING
New terraced spectator seating to sports fields
- 03 EXISTING CONCRETE PATHS
- 04 PATHWAY LINKS
New paths established to provide additional recreation opportunities in the park for walking, running and cycling, including children's cycle loop path
- 05 EXISTING PLAYGROUND
Playground retained in current form
- 06 PICNIC & BBQ HUB
Large shelter with picnic settings and BBQ for community use
- 07 KICKABOUT LAWN
Gently sloped lawn for informal recreation
- 08 FAMILY RECREATION AREA
Active recreation hub with ping-pong tables, Tossball tower for children and games markings
- 09 EXISTING TREES RETAINED
Existing established trees retained in new design
- 10 PLANTED BUFFER
Establish new buffer planting to residential
- 11 SWALE REGENERATED
Swale widened to increase capacity and prevent flooding of field 1. New planting to improve biodiversity value
- 12 OPEN SPACE RETAINED
Existing passive open space within road reservation retained. Adjacent land towards Kent Road is not owned or managed by council. Negotiation seeking community use is pending with relevant authority.



ELEMENTS: FAMILY PICNIC AREA

Picnic & BBQ hub

Two new large shelters are proposed at the interface of the existing playground and the family picnic area to cater for gatherings of various sizes. Each picnic area and shelter would accommodate one BBQ and minimum two picnic table settings to allow for use by multiple smaller groups or large, single groups. Opportunity exists to run a booking system for shelters if desired by council and the local community.

Family recreation area

A new hardstand area has been identified with various family-friendly informal recreation opportunities such as ping pong tables, tossball tower (or similar active games) and pavement marking facilitating games and creative play. The recreation zone is located within the informal grass area, with some separation from existing playground and new shelters to ensure that the area is available to the local community and not overtaken by group gatherings in nearby shelters.

The recreation area may also include textured or raised pavement areas as 'challenges' and features for children cycling or scootering on the loop paths.

Path connections

A series of new path connections are proposed within and around the picnic area to provide loop paths for walking and children's cycling and facilitate connections between the existing playground and new facilities. Path widths reflect path hierarchy and provide various options for circulation around and through the picnic area. Seating is to be provided at various locations around the path network.

Informal lawn

Large areas of informal lawn are retained for community use, facilitating passive recreation and encouraging active pursuits. New areas of planting are provided within and adjacent to the lawn area, with tree planting to provide shade in various locations.



FIELD #1

Key proposals

- Maintain existing synthetic grass surface
- Install overland flow path to capture excess runoff during storm events and channel it around the pitch towards Shrimptons Creek, protecting the cork infill of the synthetic turf
- Build new amenities building to replace building destroyed by fire (February 2019). Amenities building to provide improved facilities addressing field #1 as well as orienting towards field #3
- New goal storage area adjacent to synthetic surface, allowing goals to be stored outside of playing surface
- New spectator seating utilising tiered arrangement where natural slop allows
- Small shelters with seating providing outlook over the field



Legend

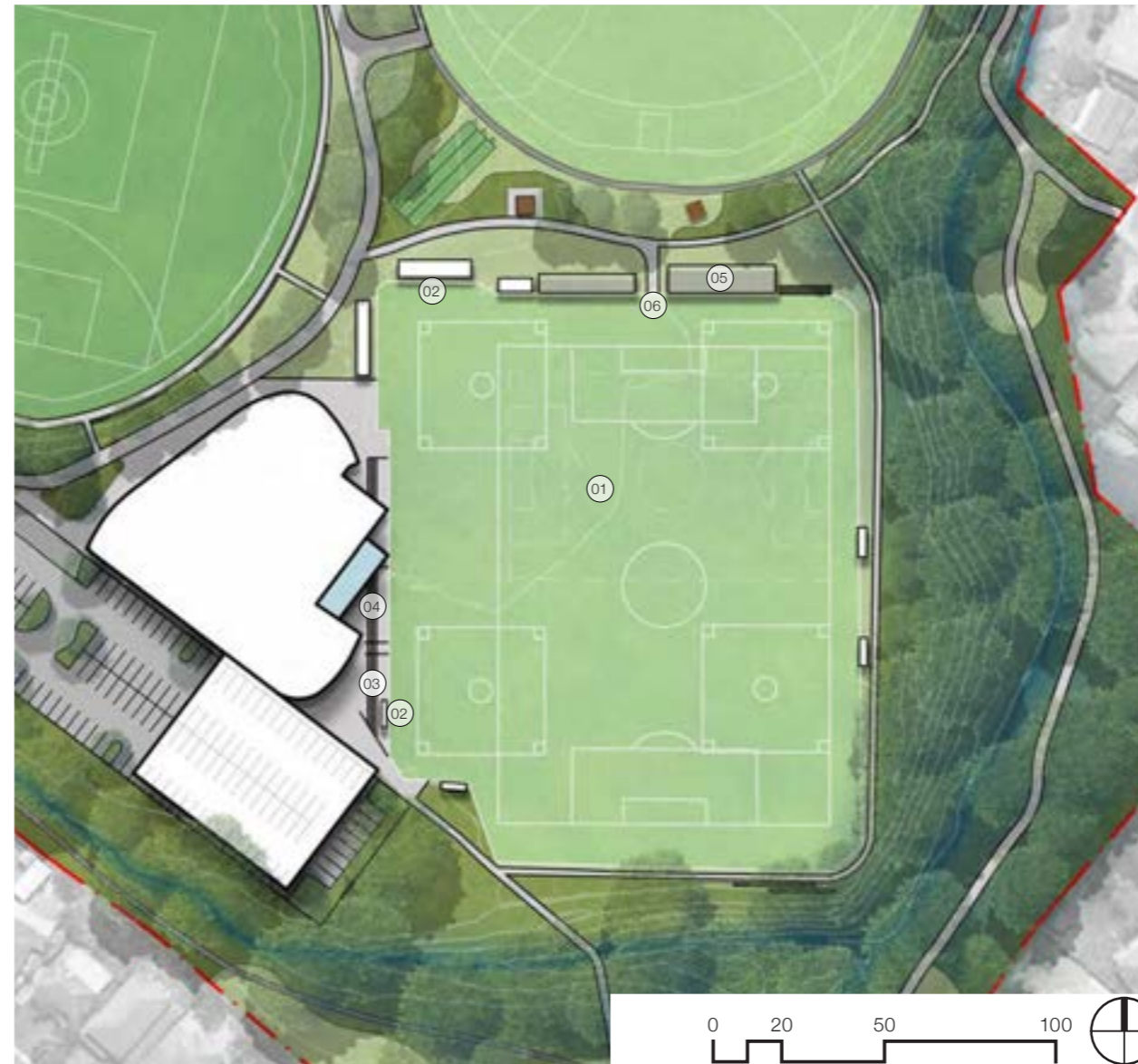
- 01 EXISTING SYNTHETIC GRASS SURFACE
- 02 NEW AMENITIES BUILDING
- 03 GOAL STORAGE AREA
- 04 NEW SPECTATOR SEATING
- 05 SMALL SHELTERS & SEATING OVERLOOKING FIELD
- 06 OVERLAND FLOW PATH



FIELD #2

Key proposals

- Retain existing grass surface playing fields for all current club user groups
- Install new batting cage/s
- Upgrade dugouts for players
- Provide shade and seating to spectator area adjacent to field
- Maintenance vehicle access to be provided from adjacent field #3



Legend

- 01 EXISTING NATURAL GRASS SURFACE
- 02 UPGRADE DUGOUTS
- 03 IMPROVED SPECTATOR SEATING
- 04 SHADE AND SEATING TO CONCRETE SURFACE
- 05 NEW BATTING CAGE/S
- 06 MAINTENANCE VEHICLE ACCESS



FIELD #3

Key proposals

- Maintain existing natural grass surface
- Expand playing area by 1.5m in east-west direction and 3m in north-south direction to provide following playing field areas:
 - + Cricket 109m diameter field plus 3m safety zone
 - + AFL 135m length, 110m width plus 3m safety zone (current size 127m x 106m)
- New cricket practice nets opening onto field
- Improved spectator seating
- Storage for maintenance equipment specific to cricket wicket
- Storage for AFL goals post during off-season
- Improved linkages to new amenities building near field #1. Amenities building to include amenities facilities specific for field #3



Legend

- 01 EXISTING NATURAL GRASS SURFACE (ENLARGED)
- 02 NEW AMENITIES BUILDING
- 03 CRICKET PRACTICE NETS (3)
- 04 NEW SPECTATOR SEATING
- 05 SMALL SHELTERS & SEATING OVERLOOKING FIELD
- 06 INFORMAL PATHWAY AROUND FIELD
- 07 MAINTENANCE / EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS
- 08 MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT STORAGE



NEW AMENITIES BUILDING

Key proposals

A new amenities building is to be constructed in the vicinity of the existing building destroyed by fire in early 2019. The building is to accommodate the following uses.

Addressing field #1:

- Two change rooms, one for home teams, one for away teams
- Two referee's rooms including toilet and shower
- Accessible WC
- Public toilets, including ambulant facilities
- Sports storage for use by sporting club

Addressing field #3:

- Two change rooms, one for home teams, one for away teams
- Referee's room including toilet and shower
- Accessible WC
- Public toilets, including ambulant facilities

Common facilities:

- Canteen / kiosk and BBQ area
- Canteen store room (lockable)
- Council maintenance staff room (tea & coffee facilities)
- Council maintenance equipment storage

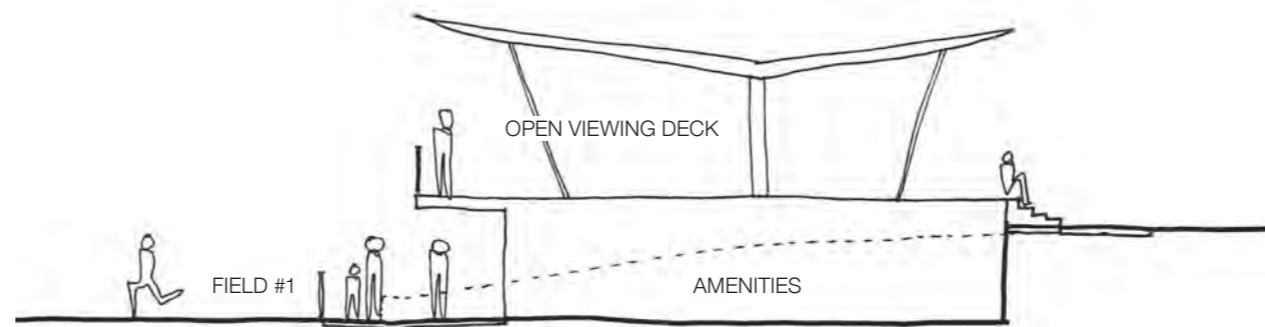
The design is suggested to be a two-winged building with varying floor levels to address the different sports field locations. Varying floor levels in association with the existing ground levels will allow the building to step up the slope and ensure the building sits in the landscape sympathetically. Levels changes may make it possible to install an elevated viewing deck over the ground floor facilities facing field #1. If feasible, the covered spectator area will provide additional shade and weather protection for spectators, allowing use in all weather conditions.



Baker Park amenities by Phillips Marler - single storey amenities building built into adjacent embankment



Aberfeldie Park Pavilion by JM Architects - two-storey building constructed into slope and providing access from both sides



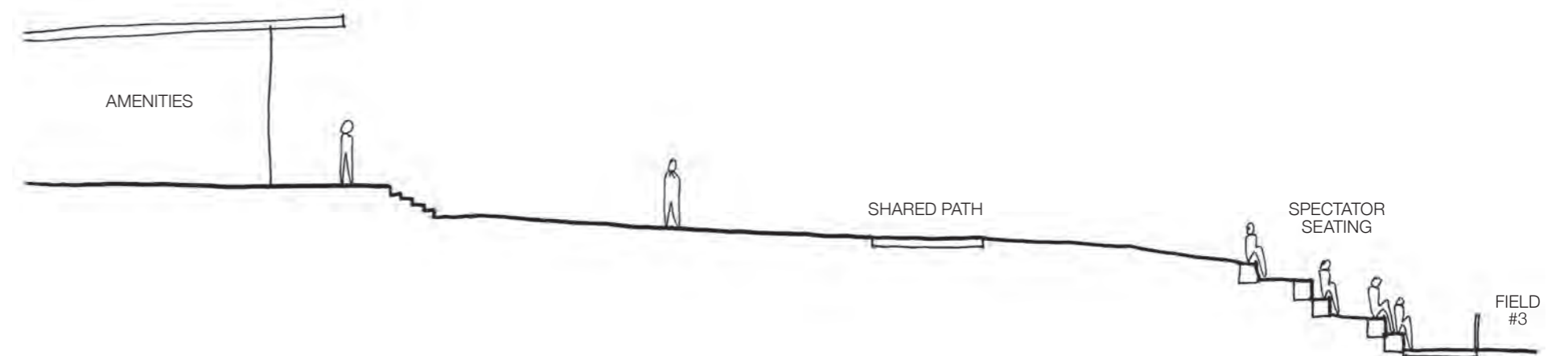
Section 01 - Amenities building and Field 1



Seaforth Oval amenities - sporting amenities, canteen and store at field level with club rooms and viewing deck above

Legend

- ① WING 1: ADDRESSING FIELD #1
- ② WING 2: ADDRESSING FIELD #3
- ③ COMMON CANTEEN / KIOSK / BBQ AREA
- ④ ELEVATED VIEWING DECK OVER GROUND FLOOR
- ⑤ OVERLAND FLOW PATH BETWEEN BUILDING & PITCH



Section 02 - Amenities building and Field 3

RYDE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Key proposals

- Maintain existing building with minor improvements including lighting upgrades
- Possible new extension to facility over existing on-grade car park. Any new building to include the following:
 - + Maintain current car parking numbers
 - + Consider elevated design
 - + Maintain vehicle access to field #2
 - + Provide minimum 2 multi-use sports courts
- Access and arrival to RCSC to be upgraded



Queensland University of Technology Sportsfield car park by Conrad Gargett - elevated sports field over car park under



Queensland University of Technology Sportsfield car park by Conrad Gargett - elevated sports field over car park under



Laurier Brantford YMCA Athletics Complex by Cannon Design - elevated sports facility



Gold Coast Aquatic Centre by Cox Raynor Architects - elevated sports facility

RECREATION PODS

A series of recreation pods are proposed throughout the parks to provide informal recreation spaces for the local community. The pods are located in different environments, with varying relationships to other facilities. Some pods will serve primarily passive park users, whilst some will be primarily used by those associated with formal sports.

Each recreation pod is to be provided with the following as a minimum:

- One picnic setting
- Turf break-out space for passive and informal recreation

A recreation pod may also be provided with the following:

- Additional picnic setting/s
- Shade structure. Some locations may not require shelters due to anticipated use levels or existing shade provision.
- BBQ facilities - only for use in suitable locations with proximity to other facilities and located away from neighbouring residents.



Picnic setting in informal open space - The Crescent, Parramatta Park by Context



Informal open space - Lane Cove National Park



Small park shelter with picnic setting in informal open space - Rouse Hill Regional Park



Informal open space divided into intimate areas with planting design - Ballast Point Park by McGregor Coxall



Picnic setting in informal open space - The Crescent, Parramatta Park by Context



Park shelter with picnic setting in informal open space - Ryde Park by GroupGSA

LAND NOT CURRENTLY OWNED OR MANAGED BY COUNCIL

The two land areas at the eastern and western extremities of the master plan area have been identified for possible future use by council as part of the recreation offering provided by ELS Hall Park, Greenwood Park and Booth Reserve. These portions of land are not currently owned or managed by council. Both areas form part of the priority Open Space Corridor identified by the Greater Sydney Commission in the North District Plan.

Council is currently undertaking discussions with relevant land owners seeking to achieve community use for these areas. As part of the master plan document, we have identified possible future uses for these areas should they become available for community use.

- ① FORMAL CAR PARK
Adelphi Road informal car park replaced with formal car park access from Kent Road. Opportunity for shared use with Kent Road Public School at drop-off and pick-up times
- ② PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
Adelphi Road informal car park replaced with open turf area for passive recreation. Opportunity for management options for overflow parking during large events (gala days etc)
- ③ MOUNTAIN BIKE / BMX
New mountain bike / BMX track utilising landform
- ④ SKATE/SCOOTER PARK
New skate/scooter park with associated facilities including shade structure, ping pong tables, drinking fountain and seating
- ⑤ MULTI-USE COURT
New multi-use court with two basketball half-courts and one futsal / mini-soccer half court for casual community use
- ⑥ PARKING
Small parking area to facilitate access and use
- ⑦ NEW BRIDGE CROSSING
New pedestrian and cycle bridge to link youth area with Booth Reserve and Shrimptons Creek shared path
- ⑧ SHARED PATH
New shared path with lighting linking Epping Road cycle path and Shrimptons Creek shared path
- ⑨ INFORMAL PATHS
Gravel pathway connections as secondary pedestrian links
- ⑩ PASSIVE RECREATION 'PODS'
Open clearing passive 'recreation pods' with picnic shelters/tables for small social gatherings



YOUTH ZONE

BMX / mountain bike facility

New BMX and MTB facility utilises existing landform to provide riding challenge. Design may include pump and/or jump tracks of varying difficulty to allow for use by a variety of ages and skill levels. Tree planting for shade and shelter.

Multi-use sports court

An informal multi-use court is suggested for the youth zone, incorporating two basketball half-courts and one futsal/mini soccer half court. An informal court arrangement allows for multiple small groups to utilise the same space, playing independently or joining to create larger games on a non-standard court.

Opportunities exist to apply strong, graphic finishes to the court surface, making the hardstand area a creative canvas for local artists. Collaboration between council and local artists to create a bespoke solution for the site may encourage community engagement and create a strong sense of ownership and pride in the facility.

Skate / scooter facility

Two skate/scooter riding areas have been proposed within the youth zone, allowing the design to cater to varying skill levels and types of riding. The detailed design should include street-style, bowl and transition facilities, appealing to a variety of ages and skill levels.



01 MOUNTAIN BIKE / BMX
New mountain bike / BMX track utilising landform

02 SKATE/SCOOTER PARK
New skate/scooter park with associated facilities including shade structure/s, drinking fountain and seating

03 MULTI-USE COURT
New multi-use court with two basketball half-courts and one futsal / mini-soccer half court for casual community use

04 ACTIVE RECREATION POD
Gathering area with ping pong tables, shelter and seating for games

05 AMENITIES BUILDING
Small amenities building to facilitate community use

06 PARKING
Small parking area to facilitate access and use

07 PATH CONNECTION (AND NEW BRIDGE CROSSING)
New pedestrian and cycle path to link youth area with Booth Reserve and Shrimptons Creek shared path via new bridge crossing

Informal sports court and strong graphic art - Monash University Caulfield Campus Green by Taylor Cullity Lethlean

Informal sports court and strong graphic art - Monash University Caulfield Campus Green by Taylor Cullity Lethlean

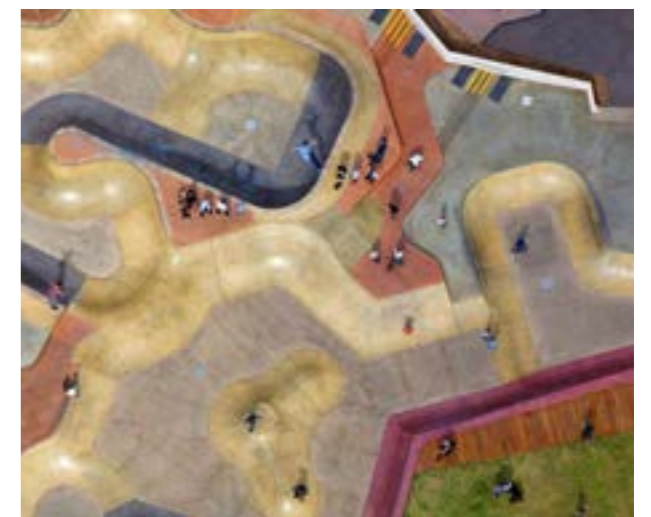
Strong graphics applied to sports court surface - Basketball court in Alessandria by Gue



Street style and transition skate/scooter park appeals to children of all ages - Coastwatchers Youth Space by Convic



Street style and transition area with strong graphics - Onslow Skate Park by Convic



Skate park bowl and transition area with strong graphics - St Kilda Skate Park by Convic

CIRCULATION

Proposed bridge

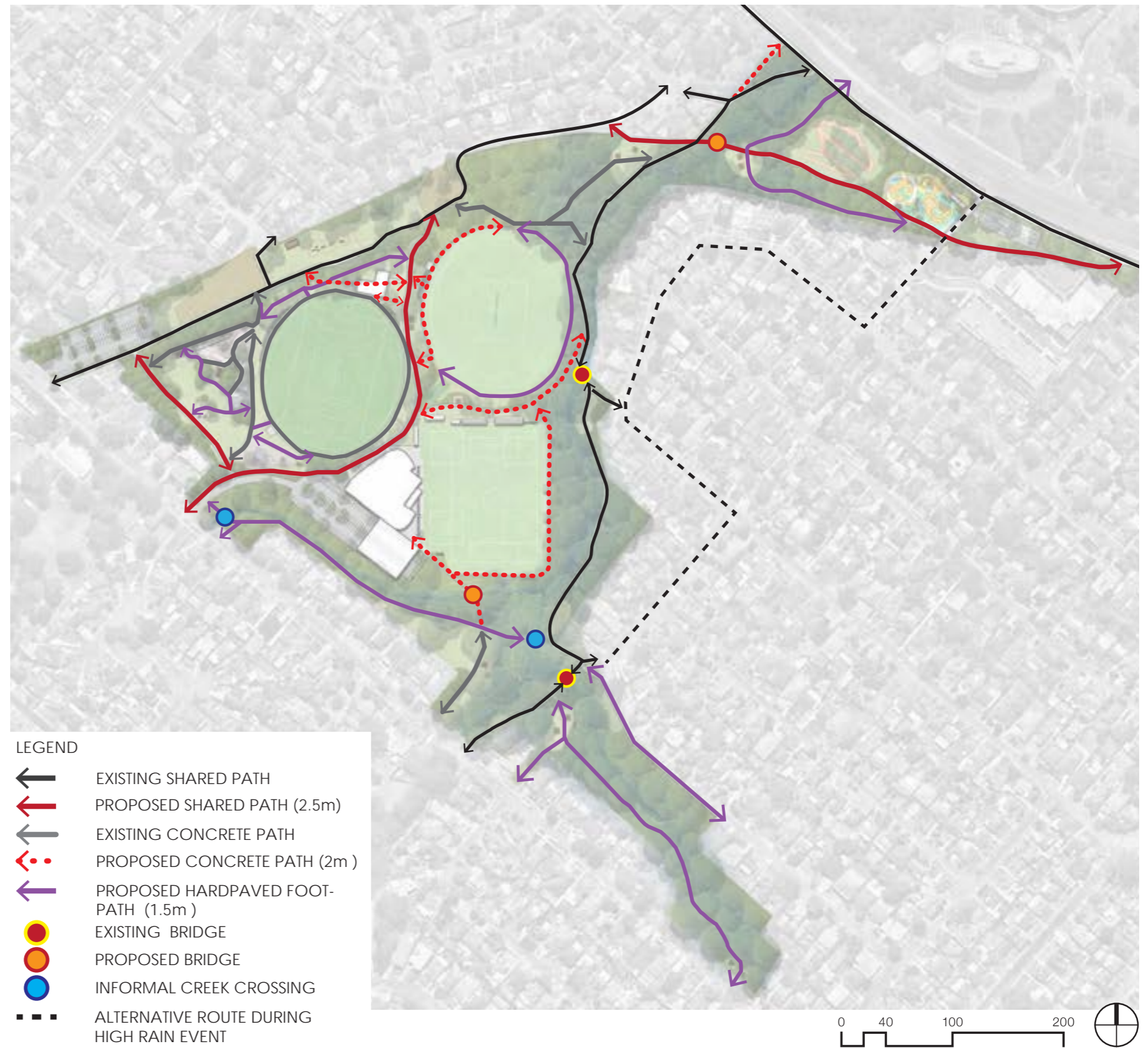
A new pedestrian bridge crossing is proposed over the small tributary creek running into Shrimptons Creek near field 2 to improve access and circulation. Installation of the new bridge is intended to be located in areas of high weed infestation in preference to areas of native vegetation. Revegetation works would be carried out in association with install works. The installation of a new bridge should not create barriers for fish movement within waterways.

Should council reach agreement with land owners to establish community use of the land in the north-eastern corner of the site fronting Epping Road, an additional pedestrian/cycle bridge crossing would be proposed here providing access across Shrimptons Creek. Detail design would be carried out to ensure that impacts on native vegetation and the waterway itself are minimised.

Informal creek crossings

Three new informal creek crossings are proposed in the master plan, two over Shrimptons Creek near Kent Road, and one over the tributary creek near the main park entry on Kent Road. The informal crossings are intended as stepping stone pathways for pedestrian use, minimising impact on the waterways through minimal excavation and structural works. Positioning of stepping stone would allow water to flow between and around the stepping stones, overflowing and possibly covering the path in flood events.

Informal creek crossings must not impact upon the seasonal movements of fish including eels along Shrimptons Creek. Removal of aquatic or shading vegetation should be kept to a minimum to allow of appropriate shade/cover for aquatic species.



PATHWAYS & LINKS

Shrimptons Creek shared path

The Shrimptons Creek shared path is to be retained, with flood resilience improved where possible. The existing bridge crossing near Trevitt Road is to be investigated for feasibility of lifting the bridge level to reduce flooding frequency and maintain a connection between ELS Hall Park and Trevitt Road during minor flood events.

An alternate shared path route to be used during flood events utilises the existing street network along Leslie Street, Trevitt Road, Parklands Road and Whiteside Street. This connection provides a safe route when portions of the Shrimptons Creek path may become inundated due to flood.

New shared paths

A series of new shared paths are proposed within the master plan area to link the existing Kent Rd-Scott St and Shrimptons Creek shared paths. The increased permeability will improve pedestrian and cycle connections and allow for increased movement both throughout the park and also between neighbouring residential and commercial areas.

New footpaths

A series of new footpaths are proposed throughout the site to create additional pedestrian links and facilitate movement and permeability around the site. Footpaths are proposed in two widths, establishing a hierarchy within the park network and reflecting anticipated user demand.

Primary paths are generally 2m wide concrete paths. Secondary paths are generally 1.2m wide in either concrete or asphalt depending on location.



Existing Shrimptons Creek shared path and bridge crossing. Bridge proposed to be replaced and lifted to improve flood resilience. New lighting to be provided along pathway.



New concrete pedestrian paths create new path links and loops for increased permeability and ease of pedestrian circulation



Kent Rd to Scott St shared path. New lighting proposed to increase safety and usage



Typical connecting pedestrian path throughout park



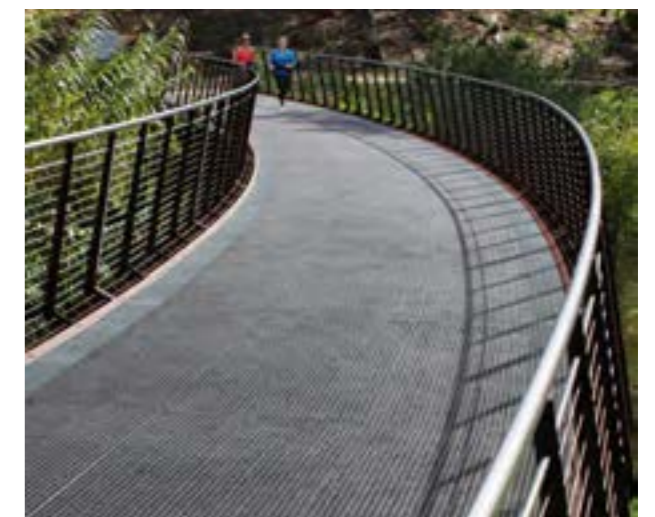
New bridge crossing precedent



Existing Shrimptons Creek informal crossings retained. Connecting tracks discouraged



New informal creek crossing precedent image (Sydney Park by Turf Design) - paths connect to either side



New bridge crossing precedent, River Torrens bridge, Adelaide by Oxygen

ECOLOGY ACTIONS

Threatened ecological community

Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) has been mapped in the north-west corner and is in low condition (see Figure 1)

- Provide interpretative signage identifying key ecological facts about STIF
- Avoid installation of tracks or structures in areas of higher quality STIF
- Avoid fragmentation of STIF habitat and consider opportunities to enhance connectivity between patches including revegetation works
- Undertake active bush regeneration program to reduce weeds and plant characteristic species of STIF grown from local seed stock (a list of appropriate species is provided)
- Avoid changes to shadowing from buildings or alteration of hydrological flows which may impact upon species assemblage and weed incursions in remaining STIF patches
- Implement appropriate sediment and erosion control measure prior to and during on-ground works

Connectivity

The riparian vegetation acts as an important vegetative corridor which forms a stepping-stone corridor for dispersal of fauna species across City of Ryde and into Lane Cove National Park.

- Avoid fragmentation of habitat of installation of structures which may prevent movement of fauna or fauna species
- Enhance fauna habitat through installation of habitat features and natural regeneration or revegetation opportunities

There are several threatened fauna species which utilise Shrimptons Creek vegetation occasionally or as a corridor to other vegetation patches.

- Establish connectivity of vegetation patches especially for less mobile fauna species
- Provide small pockets of fauna habitat away from human interaction such as pedestrian tracks and artificial lights
- Enhance fauna habitat through installation of appropriate habitat features such as; logs, nest boxes, rocks, cluster planting and appropriate flowering resources
- Consider revegetation works using native species from a broad spectrum of flowering times to enhance foraging resources throughout the year

Weed management

There are two ecological communities located within the study area – Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest and Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest which contain significant weed incursions (see Figure 1)

- Encourage areas of native resilience to regenerate naturally through weed removal
- Enhance structural diversity, species diversity and complexity through planting canopy, midstorey and ground layer, with an emphasis on maximising diversity of locally native species
- Increase connectivity of riparian corridor by increasing the width to 10 – 20 m through revegetation where possible
- Enhance flora species diversity and resilience through revegetation using characteristic species of the two ecological communities grown from provenance seeds
- Prioritise weed removal from areas of native resilience before tackling significant weed blooms



Figure 1: City of Ryde vegetation mapping based on Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH 2016) vegetation mapping

- Identify key areas for primary, secondary and on-going maintenance works and ensure adequate funds are available before undertaking works.
- Provide mapping of current weed incursions and provide key management actions to target weeds and revegetation works
- Create microhabitat for fauna species by planting shrubs and grasses in small clusters
- Create stick piles, logs and rocks for fauna habitat
- Consider installation of fauna habitat by installing fallen logs, artificial microbat nest boxes and large rock boulders
- Plant local native species which are tolerant of periodic inundation along the riparian corridor
- Reduce erosion of banks by reducing water flow and revegetate banks to prevent erosion
- Consider application for special grants which may fund weed removal and revegetation works
- Utilise volunteer opportunities, school participation and community planting days



Narrow riparian corridor and weed incursion to tributary creek near Kent Rd car park



Shrimptons Creek weed incursion

Community education

Educate the local community of the benefits and importance of the ecosystem within Shrimptons Creek and adjacent lands and provide steps on how local community can help protect and enhance the bushland

- Install interpretative signs educating local community on the significance of the vegetation and fauna species
- Encourage local community planting days and advertise volunteer bush regeneration activities
- Utilise media coverage to advertise important ecological works conducted in the area and educate community on significance of vegetation in the area

Stormwater harvesting and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

Explore options for rainwater and stormwater harvesting to minimise demands on potable water for irrigation and building services. Consider WSUD system design to improve water quality before water enters Shrimptons Creek

- Investigate options for a stormwater harvesting system to collect, treat and re-use stormwater from the local area for irrigation of sports fields
- All new buildings and structures to implement rainwater harvesting and reuse for flushing toilets
- Explore designs for WSUD systems to capture nutrient rich run-off from sports fields and direct it to biological treatment areas to reduce nutrient load before entering adjacent waterways

Energy consumption

Install energy-saving measures to reduce system demand and encourage sustainable transport

- Install photovoltaic (PV) cells to current and future buildings for power generation
- Consider installation of dedicated car share parking bays within car park areas
- Consider installation of dedicated electric car parking bays and recharge station/s
- Facilitate active transport options by improving connectivity and providing bike parking



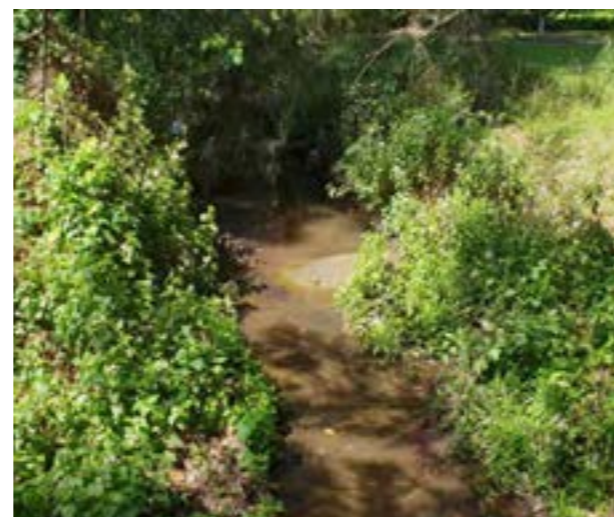
Narrow riparian corridor and established trees to tributary creek near Kent Rd car park



Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest



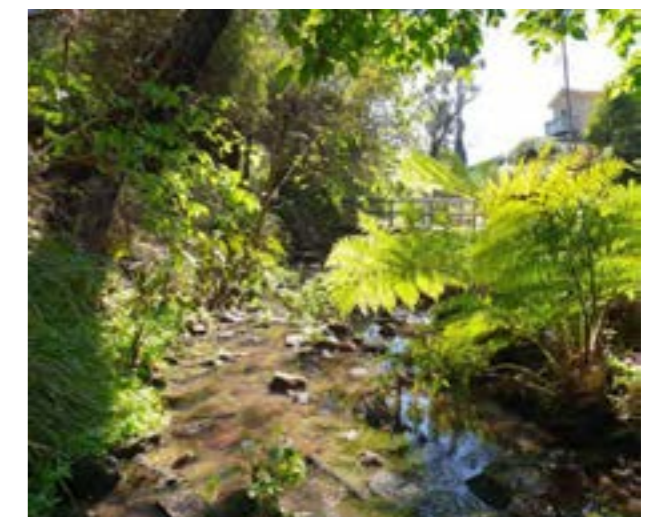
Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest



Shrimptons Creek weed incursion



Bank erosion to Shrimptons Creek corridor



Shrimptons Creek corridor

LIGHTING

Path Lighting

Post-top lighting is proposed to key shared and pedestrian paths within the precinct to enable and encourage safe use after dark. General principle for lighting include:

- Light specification to minimise light spill beyond pathways, particularly into residential properties
- Light specification to minimise uplighting and light spill into the sky

Additional considerations need to be made for lighting within or adjacent to sensitive ecological areas such as the Shrimptons Creek corridor. Over lighting has known negative impacts on foraging and nesting for fauna long term and can render habitat space unusable in tight corridor spaces. Lighting should consider light spill, luminosity and consider dimming and timer options suited to areas along the creek prior to installation via an assessment.

Provisions include:

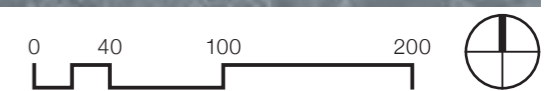
- Preference for installation of lights close to the ground to prevent shine into adjacent bushland
- Use dim or lower lighting levels if possible
- Direct light spill away from main bushland areas
- Consider use of timers to dim or turn off lights after certain hours
- All lighting within or adjacent to ecological areas to be subject to investigation prior to installation

Sports Lighting

Lighting to all sports fields is to be evaluated and upgraded as lights become unsuitable for desired uses or reach the end of their useful life expectancy.

Car park Lighting

Lighting is to be provided to all car parks to improve safety and enable use of sports fields and other park amenities at night. Car park lighting is to be designed to minimise light spill into adjoining residences and may include provision for dimming after certain hours.



STAGING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Stage 1 (1 - 5 years)

- Amenities building replacement to serve field 1 and field 3
- Field renewal field 3
- Floodlighting to field 3
- Lighting to Shrimptons Creek shared path
- Car parking renewal (Adelphi Road car park)
- Fitness area replacement
- Cricket nets to field 3
- Spectator seating to field 3

Stage 2 (6 - 10 years)

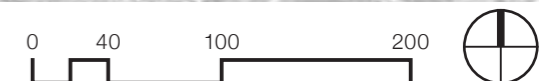
- Stormwater upgrades
- Creek regeneration works, stage 1 - Shrimptons Creek from Kent Road to Wilson Street, including tributary creek running parallel Kent Road / ELS Hall Park car parking area
- Creek regeneration works, stage 2 - Tributary creek running parallel Wilson St (through EEC)
- Expansion of Kent Rd car parking area
- Family recreation area stage 1 - Two large shelters with associated picnic tables, hardstand and BBQ facilities
- Field 1 upgrade works including new spectator seating and site furniture
- Field 3 upgrade works including circulation path, storage building and expanded playing surface
- Dog park upgrade

Stage 3 (11 - 20 years)

- Family recreation area stage 2 - New path network, family recreation facilities and additional planting
- New passive recreation pods including shelters and seating
- Field 2 upgrade works including new spectator seating, improved player facilities, new shade structure, batting cage, maintenance access and circulation paths
- Creek regeneration works, stage 3 - Shrimptons Creek corridor from Wilson St to Trevitt Road, including new bridge crossing near Trevitt Road connection point
- Creek regeneration works, stage 4 - Shrimptons Creek corridor from Trevitt Road to Epping Road

Possible future works (no timeline)

- Expansion of Ryde Community Sports Centre with elevated structure over Kent Road car park
- Youth area including skate area, multi-use court, BMX/MTB track and small car park
- New car park accessed from Kent Road and return of Adelphi Road car park area to recreation space





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