



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Council upgrading Sturt Park and Acacia Park?

Sturt Park and Acacia Park are important assets for our local community, but they are in need of an upgrade so that they are safer, better connected and state-of-the-art.

The Sturt and Acacia Parks Improvement Project will help to future proof and enhance these green spaces, ensuring they remain great, loveable parks well into the future. The improvements will strengthen our connection to the natural environment and ensure that the local community continues to have access to quality active and passive recreation spaces close to where they live.

Why is Council delivering the park upgrades now?

Council received a \$5 million grant from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment under its Precinct Support Scheme. This grant provides an opportunity to undertake major upgrades to parks within the Telopea Urban Renewal Precinct. The funding will be put towards improving Sturt and Acacia parks which are the two key open spaces in the local area.

Is the Sturt and Acacia Park Improvement Project part of the Telopea Urban Renewal Masterplan project?

The Sturt and Acacia Parks Improvement Project is a separate project and not dependent on the timeline or funding for the Telopea Urban Renewal Masterplan. The Telopea Urban Renewal Masterplan project identified the importance of upgrading these large, local green spaces.

For more information on the Telopea Urban Renewal Masterplan, please visit the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website (<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Priority-Growth-Areas-and-Precincts/Telopea-Precincts>) and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services' Communities Plus website (<https://www.communitiesplus.com.au/major-sites/telopea>)

What type of upgrades will be delivered by the Sturt and Acacia Parks Improvement Project?

The Sturt and Acacia Parks Improvement Project is funded by a \$5 million grant from the NSW Government and Council is committed to delivering as many improvements as possible within this budget. Our first round of community consultation on the draft concept designs highlighted the need for improved safety and including elements for many ages and abilities.

Council will continue to work closely with the community to understand the needs, aspirations and priorities for each park. Your feedback on the draft concept designs will help to further shape the park upgrades.

How will my feedback be used?

Your feedback will be considered, together with heritage studies, Aboriginal sensitive areas, drainage concerns, safety and lighting assessments, bushland conservation, and other analysis for the best location of services and infrastructure.

When will the upgrades to the parks be completed?

Construction is expected to commence by early 2021 with completion planned for June 2021. This timeframe is aligned with the commitments made in the Precinct Support Scheme Agreement between Council and the NSW State Government. This timing is dependent on the findings of studies.

How does Council plan to protect and enhance the heritage sites within the parks?

City of Parramatta acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Darug people. For over 60,000 years, the area comprising present day Parramatta has been occupied by the *Burramattagal* people who played a significant role in the parks' current locations including Ponds Creek. Council will be completing a heritage report for the parks during the design phase. The report's findings will be reflected in designs that celebrate, respect and work around the heritage of the sites as appropriate and following Council and State guidelines.

How does Council plan to protect and enhance the natural ecology of the parks, including Ponds Creek?

Part of Sturt Park's heritage value lies in the large Blue Gum Trees that formed the original bushland before Dundas Valley was cleared for farming and housing, and are now critically endangered within the Sydney basin. These significant trees will be protected in the future designs for the park. In line with Council's ongoing commitment to restore urban bushland and waterways, Council aims to protect all significant remaining trees across the park and restore and rehabilitate the Ponds Creek.

Who will be responsible for maintaining the upgraded parks?

Sturt and Acacia Parks will continue to be owned and maintained by Council.