



PARKS FOR PEOPLE PROGRAM

Carrawood Park, Carramar Park Art Plan

Final Version

17 June 2021

Prepared for the NSW Department of
Planning, Industry and Environment

**PLACE
PARTNERS**
Placemaking Consultancy

This document is the final version Park Art Plan for Carrawood Park, Carramar. It has been designed to be printed as an A4 landscape double sided document.

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Cover Image: Place Partners

This document acknowledges that Carrawood Park is on Aboriginal land where the traditional custodians have been caring for Country for more than 70,000 years.

We pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land, their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the continued rich culture and heritage of all Aboriginal people on this land.

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Background

This section provides an overview of the Parks for People Program, the role of public art and information regarding the site and park project to help direct artist responses.

Parks for People Program

Parks for People is a major investment into the delivery of exemplary new parks or park upgrades across Greater Sydney. The program aims to improve liveability in communities across Greater Sydney, in addition to delivering social inclusion, environmental and social sustainability and public health benefits.

Place Partners has been engaged by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to deliver a Public Art Strategy for the Parks for People Program and Park Art Plans for new or upgraded parks across Sydney. This Park Art Plan is for Carrawood Park, Carramar, within Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA).

About the Program

In early 2019, the NSW Premier unveiled a \$150 million Strategic Open Space program to secure and improve green space across the Greater Sydney region. Of this \$150 million, \$50 million will be spent across Greater Sydney to create better access to open space. This will be achieved through the creation of new parks, and the embellishment of existing parks, providing greater recreation and open space opportunities for each respective community.

The Parks for People program seeks to improve liveability in communities across Greater Sydney by actioning the Premier's Priorities. Premier's Priority 11, 'Greener public spaces', aims to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10% by 2023. Premier's Priority 12, 'Greening our city', aims to increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by planting one million trees by 2022.



Carrawood Park, Carramar

Program Objectives

The Parks for People Program objectives are to:

- Contribute towards the Greater Sydney Commission's vision of a City in the landscape through achieving the best outcomes for the open space network, community needs and public value;
- Demonstrate the application and measurement of the Premier's Priorities numbers 11 and 12 through creation and access to high quality and green public space;
- Design and deliver open space for the purpose of public recreation that contributes to meeting the documented needs of the local communities such as the community needs as identified in the Greater Sydney Outdoor Survey and Recreation Report and to be adaptable to the future needs of the community;
- Showcase ecological and sustainable design practices that benefit community and demonstrate good biodiversity outcomes;
- Showcase innovation in the design and delivery of inclusive public open space through collaboration with local government and local communities;
- Engage with the community to inform the outcomes of the project by prioritising community involvement in creation of public spaces;
- Demonstrate best practice in the creation of public open space using NSW Government owned and managed land; and
- Hand over the embellished / new open spaces to the relevant councils following completion of the onsite works and prior to opening of the park for public use.

Public Art

Public art in placemaking is an opportunity to build meaningful connections among a diversity of park users, considering a park's location, its history, local culture and community aspirations. Two documents will help guide the successful delivery of public art for the Parks for People Program; an overarching program-wide Public Art Strategy and a Park Art Plan for each park project.

The goal of both these documents is to provide an approach that aligns with the program's ambition and bold vision to deliver open spaces that deliver design excellence and innovation and provide the platform for an integrated program of best practice public art.

Public Art Strategy

The Public Art Strategy defines the overarching opportunities for development and delivery of public art across the Parks for People Program.

It responds to the values of First Nations people as a key component, ensuring the celebration of both Aboriginal and post settlement heritage is incorporated where relevant.

The public art opportunities identified by the Public Art Strategy will also aim to create opportunities for NSW-associated artists through the delivery of the program.

Artists are encouraged to read the Public Art Strategy in full.

Policy Alignment

Public Art in the Parks for People Program is guided by relevant strategic NSW Government documents and over 30 local government policy and strategy documents provided by the eight participating councils. The goal is to ensure alignment of the public art objectives and the delivered artworks in each park with all relevant stakeholders.

Research & Engagement

The Public Art Strategy and Park Art Plans have been informed by engagement with council stakeholders, the lead design teams, local Indigenous and cultural leaders and the wider community.

Park Art Plan

This Park Art Plan provides the high level brief for the integration of artwork in Carrawood Park, Carramar. The directions contained within have been developed as a response to site visits, review of relevant documents, community engagement findings and meetings with stakeholders and cultural leaders. They respond to and have been integrated into the concept design developed by the lead design team for Carrawood Park.

This Park Art Plan aims to direct the delivery of an exceptional public artwork at Carrawood Park that will help to realise the Program and Project Objectives and align with the preferences of the Council and the community.

Public Art Principles

The following Public Art Principles provide the foundation for the public art in the Parks for People Program:

1. Deliver design excellence and innovation and demonstrate ecological and sustainability outcomes
2. Respect and respond to Indigenous cultural design principles* and concepts of designing with Country
3. Respond to place through local identity, local stories and history
4. Reflect the local people to generate discussion and empower and encourage community creativity and cohesion
5. Work with community to deliver a new, site-specific public artwork that is unique, engaging, relevant, memorable and robust
6. Collaborate with the lead design team to ensure that art complements and enhances the landscape approach
7. Create opportunities for NSW artists, including opportunities for First Nations and emerging artists
8. Advise on best practice methodology for the selection, commissioning, delivery and care of artworks that provides value for money and is in line with NSW Government Procurement.

Public Art In Fairfield City Council

Fairfield City Council believes that ‘public art is an opportunity to celebrate Fairfield’s vibrant and diverse community’. There is desire to see public art in Carrawood Park that responds to the needs and behaviours of the local community, is integrated and engaging, robust, accessible to all and improves the sense of welcome.

Artists should consider how they respond to the existing local council policy context and stated directions for public art in this project.

Public Art in Fairfield City

Council acknowledges the importance of investment in public art and placemaking in creating a desirable place to live across socio-economic groups. Council supports art that is functional, intriguing, site responsive and high standard, made by engaging local artists/designers/performers.

“Public art is an opportunity to celebrate Fairfield’s vibrant and diverse community, and visually engage with the Centre’s past, present and future.”

Fairfield City Centre
Urban Design Study 2018

Strategic and Policy Context

The following Council documents have been reviewed and considered while preparing this plan.

Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy, 2020-41, 2020

This draft strategy provides the framework for delivering the local community’s growing and changing open space and recreation needs. One of its five strategic directions is ‘Welcoming open space that brings us together’, which states the need to bring delight and rejuvenate open spaces with colour and character. Under this direction is an action about embedding public art by local artists in park upgrades, reflecting local stories and increasing local ownership over open spaces.

Fairfield City Centre Urban Design Study, 2018

This study states that integrating public art into new development will provide a source of delight and inspiration, create a sense of pride in place,



Journey to the west, an installation by Matt Huynh at Cabramatta Station (Fairfield City Council)

promote a welcoming and safe environment for all ages and genders to enjoy, create an attraction and promote a unique sense of place.

Fairfield City 2040 - A Land Use Vision, Local Strategic Planning Statement, 2020

This document puts forth the vision of ‘Shaping a Diverse City’ and identifies five targeted ways for achieving the vision:

- Community wellbeing – healthy & liveable places
- Infrastructure & places – supporting growth & change
- Environmental sustainability
- Strong & resilient economy
- Good governance – advocacy & consultation.

The document identifies that public art is an important avenue contributing to cultural and creative outcomes.



'Dahl'wah' by Clive and Jason Groves, a part of the Warali Wali interpretive Aboriginal artwork project on Prospect Creek cycleway (Fairfield City Council)

Fairfield City Cultural Plan 2011-2016, 2011

The cultural plan puts forth the idea of 'Fairfield Living Museum'. It states, 'we see the whole of Fairfield City as the museum; with a collection that stretches across the city in the places where people gather to celebrate, play, worship and exchange ideas. The great diversity of cultures, traditions and practices of our community contribute to a dynamic collection, in a unique museum-without-walls'. The plan sets four goals:

- Celebrate diversity
- Cultivate creativity and curiosity
- Culture every day in the streets
- Realise our enterprising potential.

Goal 3 includes a section on public art which says that 'art can lift public spaces, parks and streets to another dimension of meaning and delight. Public art might be a sculpture, or achieving a beautiful pattern with the paving tiles or creating functional art such as street furniture, fencing and community noticeboards. Public art is



Bareena Street Park Environmental Sculptures by Art is an option ([www.http://www.artisanooption.com.au](http://www.artisanooption.com.au))

best when it responds to the unique site and community, and can offer a refreshed viewpoint of local stories'.

Fairfield City Creeklines Engagement Report, Aug 2020

This report summarises the findings of workshops conducted by Fairfield City Council to inform their Open Space and Recreation Needs Study. It reveals the participants' desire to see more public art to improve visual aesthetics in locations such as back fences and pedestrian bridges. The report also identifies opportunities for increased local artist contributions, and for more representative creative and interpretive signage that highlights Aboriginal stories and areas of historical significance along creek lines.

Council Directions

Council Directions provide a synthesis of the review of relevant documents and Council engagement. Artists should consider how to:

1. Respond to and work collaboratively with the local community

There is a desire for art to respond to the needs of the local community. The process of art-making should involve the community in order to create a sense of ownership and connect to different groups.

2. Make art that is integrated and engaging

There is a desire for art to be integrated with functional elements such as seating, playspaces, lighting, signage etc.

3. Employ materials that are robust, easy to maintain and have embedded resilience

Council would like to see art that is robust, easy to maintain and difficult to vandalise

4. Create art that improves the sense of welcome to the park

Council would like to see art being accessible to all and helping to improve the sense of arrival

Carrowood Park, Carramar

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land in Fairfield, the Cabrogal people of the Darug Nation.

Carrowood Park is an 8 ha existing park located to the north and east of Prospect Creek, about 1 km to the south of Carramar Station and town centre. The site is primarily used for sports and play and also has a regional recreational cycling route.

The suburb of Carramar has a high percentage of overseas migrants, particularly those born in Vietnam, China and Iraq.

About Carramar

Carramar is a low-density residential suburb to the east of Prospect Creek. It is located in the Fairfield LGA. In 2016, the suburb had a low socio-economic index (SEIFA) of 813.6 compared to 1018.0 in Greater Sydney. The suburb is a part of a Housing Investigation Area¹ (Fairfield City 2040 - A land Use Vision, Local Strategic Planning Statement, 2020).

“Everyday across our city, when we share, learn and celebrate our creative community cultures, we are Fairfield living museum”

Fairfield City Cultural Plan 2011-2016, Fairfield City Council

Short History

The name Carramar comes from an Aboriginal word meaning ‘shade of trees’. The name of the original community - the Cabrogal people comes from the ‘cobra grub’, an edible freshwater worm harvested from local creeks in the City that was a staple food for the clan.

The first land grant in the area was made by Governor King in 1803. The heritage listed Carramar Station was built in 1924; and in a few years, a post office was opened with an increase in the local population.

People

The current population of Carramar is 3,550 (2016). Its community is very diverse and multicultural, with a high percentage of people of Vietnamese, Chinese and Lebanese ancestries compared to the state average. The suburb has a low median household weekly income of \$926 compared to the state average of \$1,486. Its

population is expected to grow up to 4,227 by 2036² whereas that of Fairfield LGA is expected to rise from 205,700 in 2016 to 264,600 in 2041³.

About the Site

Carrowood Park is an 8 ha existing park located on Quest Avenue in the suburb of Carramar. The vehicular entry to the park is from its northeast corner, between two private residential properties. The park can also be accessed informally from the end of Waterside Crescent, via a regional shared path. The site comprises RE1 Public Recreation and E2 Environmental Conservation zones.

The park enjoys visual access to Prospect Creek along its southern and western boundaries. Beyond Prospect Creek to the south is Lennox Reserve. The northern boundary of the park is flanked by fences of private low density residential lots. To the east are residences, a restaurant and the Hume Highway.

Site Features

Carrowood Park has large sporting fields, an amenities building, a car park and a shared path. The park has shelters with group seating towards its western end.

Parts of the park along Prospect Creek have been designated as riparian areas, and areas with biodiversity (Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013). As per due diligence studies, the site has extensive exotic grasslands and critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland. There are dedicated zones for natural regeneration of

native ground covers, shrubs and trees.

Current Uses and Users

Carrawood Park is primarily used for sports. The oval is regularly utilised by school and sporting teams, mid-week and on weekends. The park is home to the Fairfield Patrician Brothers rugby league.

The shared path in the park is a part of a recreational cycle route from East Hills to Fairfield. This is used by recreational cyclists.

Considerations and Challenges

Carrawood Park has large canopy trees with several of them bearing hollows; meaning that they may provide habitat for hollow-dependent fauna species. The entire park occasionally floods. In its western part is a 'disturbance zone', a low point flooding/ponding area.

Along the western boundary of the park is an identified Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) site. The creek edge landscape south of the existing recreation path is an archaeologically sensitive area.

Many refugees and humanitarian entrants settle in the Fairfield LGA each year, with some who may be dealing with multiple complex physical and emotional issues. Consideration should be given to the previous experiences of community members. It should also be noted that the suburb of Carramar has over 69% households where a non-English language is spoken. It is important that art in the park be accessible to all.

About the Planned Park

The upgrade of Carrawood Park includes opportunities such as enhancing the existing picnic areas with new tree planting and shelters, a new activity hub, an outdoor classroom, additional parking, a cluster of fitness equipment, adaptive reuse of the amenities building, inclusion of artworks in combination with story telling, signage and improvements to walkability and accessibility.

Landscape Design Brief

The lead design team has undertaken extensive research to develop the concept design for Carrawood Park.

Artists should review documentation provided by the lead design team and consider an inclusive response to the approach of creating a 'Welcoming Community Parkland'.

For more information on Carramar and Fairfield LGA's community, please visit the below links:

- Carramar - Quickstats [Link](#)
- Refugees in Fairfield - [Link](#)

Project Objectives

In addition to the wider Program Objectives, a set of site-specific project objectives have been developed in collaboration between DPIE, Council and the project team, and should be a focus of the artist response. The Project Objectives for the Carrawood Park project are to:

- Embed the Park as part of the community, cultivating a sense of pride and custodianship amongst users
- Facilitate a wide range of uses for the diverse and changing community
- Provide a safe and comfortable place which offers respite, cooling, and promotes wellbeing
- Improve the environmental conditions of the park with consideration to its role as part of the wider open space network.



Aerial view of site

— Overall site

“Carrawood Park can become a significant destination for the local and wider area by providing a diverse range of activities that cater for all ages and abilities while also promoting and encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle.”

Carrawood Park - Schematic Design Report, Phillips Marler, Feb 2021

Community Engagement

Across the project there have been a number of overarching, as well as public art specific, engagements.

Development of the Park Art Plan has involved an iterative consultation process, with new information becoming available throughout the process. As new inputs became available, the Park Art Plan evolved to reflect a more comprehensive understanding of the stakeholder and community values.

Indigenous Engagement

Engagement undertaken by the lead design team with local Indigenous groups revealed the desire to re-gain and form a strong Connection to Country; Reconnecting the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community to the parkland fostering the natural environment while enabling engaging in and learning about cultural practices.

The following key opportunities were identified:

- Land management of the existing woodland through sustainable ecological practices to re-establish endangered plant communities and protect and create habitats
- Protection of existing significant trees - two scarred trees where identified on site, their protection and retention is an important link to the site for the Aboriginal community.

All integration of indigenous culture will aim to be multi-purpose, functional and accessible by all.

Community Engagement

This Park Art Plan has incorporated the findings of a number of community engagement activities including DPIE surveys and interviews. This research revealed the following priorities for Carrawood Park:

- A comfortable and enjoyable park for everyone
- A dynamic, flexible space that supports informal and formal play
- A green space that supports and integrates the unique natural setting and cultural history.

Continuing engagement

There has been strong support shown from local Indigenous groups, the community and Council for ongoing engagement and potential participation in the public art process. This could occur through more passive feedback opportunities through to active participation through art making or mentoring.

Artists should consider how they could respond to this interest.

Community Values

The following Community Values identified through the Visioning stage community engagement synthesise what themes the community would like to see for public art at Carrawood Park. Artists should aim to respond to and respect these local community values regarding art that could:

1. Protect and connect with nature, local flora and fauna
2. Encourage a celebration of cultures, community and diversity
3. Narrate stories from local history, including the First Nations history and culture.

Site Images

These images are provided to illustrate the existing conditions on the site.



View to the football field and amenities building from the shared path in Carrawood Park



View to the north showing grassed areas in the park and a continuous fence along private residential lots



One of the iconic trees in Carrawood Park



Southern boundary of Carrawood Park enjoys connections with Prospect Creek



Shelters with group seating



Amenities building in the park near the sports fields



The disturbance zone in the park has a different character, comprising fallen trees and soil covered with wooden chips



Carrawood Park, Carramar Park Art Plan

This section provides the high level directions for artwork within this park. It forms part of the Artist Brief.

Directions for Artists

The following pages provide the direction for artist responses to the project site. The curatorial theme has been drawn from research and engagement with Council and community and refined through collaboration with the lead design team to ensure conceptual alignment.

There are a multitude of local stories and narratives that could be told through public art on this project site. The selected curatorial theme has been defined through an iterative process and does not aim to limit the artist's response to place and community values, rather refine and direct it towards a shared vision for the park.

Artists are asked to respond to the curatorial principles, the curatorial theme and the design concept for the new park, and consider information regarding typology, scale and locations.

Engagement Process

Artists will be invited to join a long list of suitable candidates for each park. A shortlist will then be invited to respond to this Park Art Plan. Artists must be willing to participate in a collaborative process to ensure artworks are integrated into the park landscape design or infrastructure and that outcomes are aligned with the wider requirements of the project. This approach will require an ongoing engagement with the lead design team.

Curatorial Principles

There are two overarching curatorial principles that artists are encouraged to incorporate in their response; to respect and consider the opportunity of working closely with the local community to share their place and cultural narratives and to consider how public art can help community embrace change and new ideas.

Stories of the Community

The local community around Carrawood Park and Fairfield has high levels of cultural diversity. This park and the artwork it contains provides an opportunity to respect and preserve precious community and cultural histories, tapping into rich and varied local stories and heritage.

The opportunity is to include and reflect the community as a whole, respecting our Australian First Nations communities as well as a growing culturally diverse population.

Embracing the New

Different groups may see public space through different cultural lenses and many may also have had limited contact with each other or the wider community.

Carrawood and its community, like many others as Greater Sydney grows, is constantly in a state of change - both internally and from external forces. Change of any kind can be challenging, however creativity, innovation, engagement, and collaboration can assist communities to transition from the past to the future and advance the stories and ideas of both older and young people, including those new to the area.

Curatorial Theme - Celebrating Diversity

Artists are invited to respond to the curatorial theme of 'Celebrating Diversity'.

Celebrating Diversity in the context of the Carrawood Park should consider how to respond and connect to the rich and diverse cultural backgrounds of the local community, their values and interests.

This theme encourages artists to consider how their artwork could help connect with the community, share their stories and build connections across cultural divides.



Illumination

This park is situated on Cabrogal land and has been used for a variety of purposes including housing and now parklands.

Embracing the theme of Celebrating Diversity, art could help illuminate the history and heritage of the park from the perspective of First Nations and the local people.

Place narratives that could be explored:

- First Nations stories and relationship to the land
- Connecting new communities to each other and the history of the site
- Rich cultural fabric of the community

Wellbeing

There is much evidence to support the value of public green space for both mental and physical wellbeing.

The theme of Wellbeing invites artists to help reveal and celebrate the generous and restorative powers of the natural world for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Place narratives that could be explored:

- Nature as provider
- Health and wellbeing
- Exercise and movement

Connector

Art can be a point of connection, either an opportunity for community involvement in the planning and making of an artwork or an invitation to more interaction with the park and its amenity.

The theme of Connector encourages artists to consider how to involve local people, build community ownership in the park and strengthen connections with each other.

Place narratives that could be explored:

- Gathering or meeting place
- Play and participation
- Nature and recreation

Landscape Integration

The design and delivery of the park is a collaborative and iterative process with a number of different stakeholders and contributing creatives and professionals.

Discussions with the lead design team have identified potential locations for art in Carrawood Park including the main pedestrian entry on Quest Avenue and the playspace. There are opportunities elsewhere, and artists may also respond to other locations in the new park.

Artists should consider how:

- Proposed artworks could contribute to the overall objectives of the park project
- Selected artwork concepts will be developed in collaboration with the lead design team to ensure they are aligned with agreed design directions, documentation requirements and budgets
- Artworks will contribute to park legibility, wayfinding and differentiation of areas within the park



Legend

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Inclusive play with nature & water elements, informal seating and connections to picnic areas and active hub B Picnic area with large multi-use shelter C Active hub set amongst trees with parkour and bouldering D Grassland regeneration area E Woodland regeneration area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F Nature discovery trail with planting G New pedestrian paths with nodes and seating areas H Informal picnic area / kick-about I Existing vehicle access and parking with minor improvements J Interpretation and seating area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Planting buffer with shrub and groundcover planting L Vehicle and main pedestrian entry with wayfinding signage M Potential future pedestrian / cycle path connection to Waterside Crescent N Potential future fenced dog off-leash area (Council initiative) |
|--|---|--|

April 2021 Concept Plan, Phillips Marler



Sketch of the proposed playspace (Source: Phillips Marler)



Main pedestrian entry on Quest Ave (Source: Phillips Marler)

Typology

The budget for this project suggests that an integrated approach may provide the most opportunity for artists, by collaborating with the lead design team to embed artworks into the planned infrastructure.

The uniquely diverse community with a variety of cultural backgrounds and ways of expressing themselves is an opportunity in itself. Artists are encouraged to engage with the local community in the development and even fabrication of artwork that will help build a sense of ownership.

Two typologies have been identified as potentially suitable for artworks in Carrawood Park: graphic and play based.

Super graphic art at arrival

Creating a visible welcome and encouraging visitors to explore further could be an opportunity for public art. To maximise a sense of belonging and connection, graphics would ideally be based on research and engagement with the local community including First Nations and newly arrived peoples.

Art integrated in play

A new play area may provide the canvas for the integration of an artwork that is interactive and engaging. This might take the form of ground plane work, play or fitness equipment conceived in collaboration with the lead design team, colour enhancement to existing infrastructure or a standalone sculptural form.

Reference Images

These images are included for inspiration and to provide examples of the range of artists and artworks that are working with similar themes.



Studio A. *Midnight Zoo*. City of Sydney Creative Hoardings program, 2021. Artists: Emily Crockford, Lauren Kerjan, Thom Roberts and Phillip Sidney.

This graphic work is a good example of locally inspired subject matter that is accessible to a broad cross-section of the community. It was made collaboratively between four artists and is based on birds and animals from the nearby and much-loved Taronga Zoo in Sydney.



Jonathan Jones. *untitled (maraong manaóuwi)*. 2020. Site-specific installation in the courtyard of Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney. [BF]

There is the potential for substantial enhancements to the built fabric of the park including new paths and shelters. Artists could work with the lead design team to incorporate artwork onto or into these structures.



Jane Cavanough. *Parramatta Park Playground*. Parramatta. 2019.

This artwork integrated with play elements in Paperbark Playspace, Parramatta Park includes paintings on glass representing fauna and discoverable items relating to convict and early colonial heritage such as convict love tokens



Fiona Foley. *Redfern Park Playground*. Sydney, 2008.

Comprising play equipment based on the forms of native nuts and mangrove seeds, a water feature and colourful letters spelling out 'Biami', the name of an important Aboriginal ancestor creator figure, the playground was planned in close association with the landscape design team for the Redfern Park upgrade.



Mikala Dwyer. *A Lamp for Mary*. Surry Hills, Sydney. 2011.

Light also represents optimism while also providing amenity and safety. A hybrid form that borrows from the design vernacular of both street lights and domestic lamps, this artwork responds to stories of place while offering a sense of hope for the future.

