



GREATER  
SYDNEY  
PARKLANDS

# Meeting summary

## Parramatta Park community trustee board Meeting 3, 2024

Tuesday, 3 September 2024

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Venue: 6PSQ, L11 Room 20, 10 Darcy Street, Parramatta

**CTB members:** Stewart Thompson (Chair), Mustafa Agha, Thelmerie Rudd, Cheryl Bates OAM, Mayor Cr Lisa Lake

**GSP staff:** Joshua French, Chief Executive; Jacob Messer, Director Operations, Visitors and Sport; Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager

**GSPT Board:** Michael Rose, Chair

**Secretariat:** Sophie Drysdale

**Apologies:** Mayor Cr Pierre Esber, James Lawler, Benedict Mitchell

Topic	Summary
<b>Welcome and opening</b> Stewart Thompson, Chair, Parramatta Park CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was opened by the Chair who gave an Acknowledgment of Country.</li> <li>No conflicts of interest were declared.</li> </ul>
<b>GSP Financial Sustainability</b> Michael Rose, GSPT Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP) provided an overview of the financial arrangements for the parklands and specifically for Parramatta Park. The focus of the GSPT Board and GSP is to ensure the parks are funded, conserved, maintained and activated for the benefit of the public.</li> <li>The GSPT Chair shared that it is the first time Parramatta Park has received funding for asset renewal, which is a positive outcome for the park.</li> <li>The GSPT Board Chair outlined the upcoming review of the <i>Greater Sydney Parklands Act 2022</i>, required 2 years from the commencement of the Act. This may include an opportunity for the CTB and other stakeholders to provide feedback.</li> <li>The CTB shared the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whether the 'ringfencing' approach to funding in the legislation was proposed by the current government.</li> <li>pleased to learn that projects that have been designed and delivered so that base infrastructure is in place ready for the next phase of staged projects.</li> <li>important that 2-way conversations between the CTB and the GSPT Board continue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Topic	Summary
<p><b>Wistaria Gardens update</b> Jacob Messer, Director Operations, Visitors and Sport, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSP provided an overview of the work on upgrading and maintaining Wistaria Gardens, including information about the 'September in Wistaria' event, the new maintenance contract and the bush regeneration contract renewal.</li> <li>The CTB shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whether the new maintenance contract being consolidated with Western Sydney Parklands and Fernhill Estate is more economical for Parramatta Park.</li> <li>whether similar decisions about prioritising works and projects in Parramatta Park due to funding constraints have been made for other parklands, such as Centennial Park and Moore Park.</li> <li>requested future planning of gardens within Parramatta Park considers the 6 Dharug seasons and includes native species to help tell the story of the park pre-colonisation.</li> <li>suggestion to further cross promote events in Parramatta with neighbouring council areas to increase interest and participation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to consider Dharug seasons and native species and storytelling in future planning for the park.</b></p>
<p><b>CTB member reappointment/recruitment process</b> Jenny Gleeson, Community Engagement Manager, GSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSP provided an overview on the next steps for the CTB recruitment and reappointment process, noting that the current member term expires on 31 December 2024, and that GSP has written to CTB members to seek expressions of interest in reappointment for a second term.</li> <li>GSP advised that a separate letter will be sent to councils to nominate their representative, and that in accordance with the term of reference, a council representative can be either an elected member/councillor, officer or community representative. Where the council representative is either a councillor or officer and they cannot attend, the council may send an observer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Correspondence and questions</b> Stewart Thompson, Chair, Parramatta Park CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CTB asked GSP's position on use of synthetic grass for recreation and whether Parramatta Park has any synthetic grass. GSP advised that Parramatta Park has synthetic surface cricket wickets at the east domain and practice wickets at Mays Hill, Old Kings Oval and Coleman Oval. No synthetic surfaces are currently planned for Parramatta Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GSP to provide update on the <a href="#">NSW Government's synthetic turf study</a> when publicly released.</b></p>
<p><b>Next steps and close</b> Stewart Thompson, Chair, Parramatta Park CTB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next meeting will be held online on Tuesday 19 November.</li> </ul>

