'Why urban parks matter in creating healthy and liveable cities'

Western Sydney Parklands – A Decade of Human and Environmental Health Benefits Provided by Australia's Largest Urban Parkland

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Urban Growth + Increased Density

- growth of cities
- >90% of Australians already live in cities
- Sydney to add 1.3 million people by 2031 = 5.9 million
- pressure on urban parks & 'protected areas'
- new urban parks + increased capacity of existing
- integration of sustainable development + biodiversity conservation in urban parks
- multi-disciplinary approach essential







Benefits of Urban Parks

Social/Cultural Values

- physical + psychological health
- recreation opportunities & facilities
- social interaction
- inter-generational activities
- multi-cultural community cohesion
- volunteering
- training / learning

Viable & Sustainable Urban Parks

Economic Values

- employment
- commercial recreation
- tourism
- viable economic model

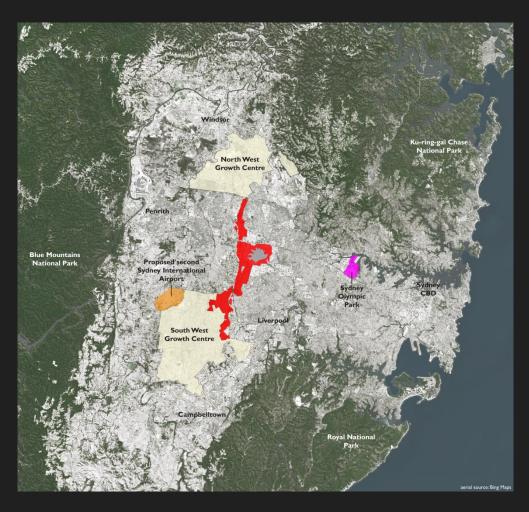
Environmental Values

- biodiversity strategy
- endangered ecological communities
- habitats + corridor connectivity
- air quality + greenhouse gas capture
- water resources + quality
- climate change adaptation



World Parks Congres Sydney 2014

Western Sydney Parklands



- 5,280 ha
- 25 km long
- land assembled over 30+ years
- CPW endangered community
- 2000 Sydney Olympics venues
- 2004 Management Vision
- 2006 Western Sydney Parklands Act
- Parklands Trust
- Plan of Management 2020
- Growth Centres
- Proposed international airport





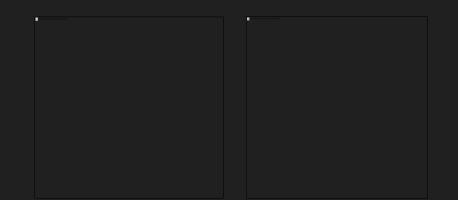
Context

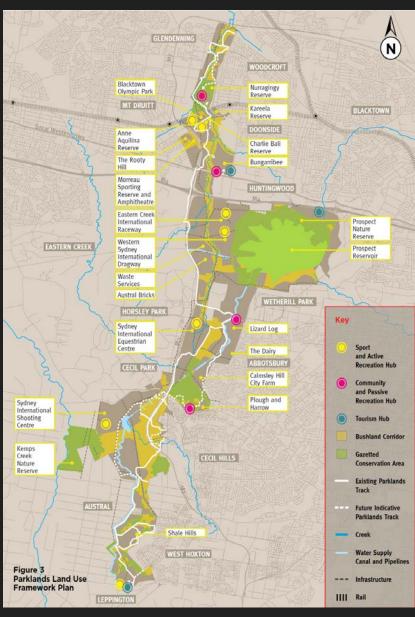
- adjoining residential & employment areas
- 2 million people within 25 minutes of Parklands
- western Sydney population
 = 4 million by 2036
- Eastern Creek corridor
- remnant CPW vegetation
- Prospect Reservoir
- Blacktown Olympic Park
- M7 Motorway



Parklands Vision

- diversity of social + ecological + economic outcomes
- a place for people of all backgrounds to meet, celebrate, learn, play & appreciate the natural environment
- a venue for communities to create a sustainable future on the Cumberland Plain
- ecological & heritage conservation + links
- economically sustainable & creating jobs & wealth for its community







Recreation, Culture & Participation for Wellbeing





Conserving Environment, Heritage & Urban Farming





Economic Management & Partnerships for Sustainability





Health & Liveability Outcomes

- 70% growth in annual visitation to 3.5 million last year
- rising attendance at lifestyle events "Now we don't have to commute to play as well as work"
- recognition of benchmark design for Western Sydney
- over 1000 ha land restoration with 180,000 indigenous plants in the ground
- environmental monitoring underway
- over 100 ha under urban farming & grazing
- a plan for delivery of 8,800 jobs and \$2.2B of positive economic benefits

