

# McGirr Park Recreational Upgrade

## Landscape Concept

December, 2022

eXimiadesign

Prepared for:  
Liverpool Council







--- Park boundary

=== Project boundary

McGirr Park is a large suburban park, located at the junction of Cartright Ave and Maxwells Ave in Cartwright west of the Liverpool CBD. Situated in the low density residential neighbourhood of Miller, the park is bounded by Cabramatta Avenue in the north, Cartwright Avenue in the east, Mawson Drive in the south and Powell Park in the west. The park is transected by Cabramatta Creek and its associated littoral vegetation. An existing pedestrian bridge over Cabramatta Creek connects the proposed playground site with a large sporting field to the south west.

McGirr Park contains significant community infrastructure housing Liverpool PCYC, McGirr Park Tennis Academy and Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre. Locally it is an open space for organised sport, passive recreation and play, and is a key recreational space within Miller.

The proposed site is close to an existing bus route and is to be connected to an existing footpath linking the site SE to NW. The proposed site is close to food amenities.

The park's existing facilities are connected to the usability of the tennis court and PCYC and do not provide free public access, apart from two small picnic shelters overlooking the tennis court. A new carpark has recently been built to service the tennis court and will provide parking space and a 'front entry' for the proposed playground.

Liverpool City Council wishes to transform under-utilised sections of the park into welcoming recreation spaces, providing play and exercise opportunities for children and teenagers of all levels of ability. Associated shelters, seats and picnic settings will cater for the needs of parents and carers.





KEY

- 01. Good visibility from main road.
- 02. Park vehicle entry and PCYC art plaza. Opportunity to expand and formalise as park entry.
- 03. Parking. Degraded west of PCYC. Consider safety with parking adjacent future playground.
- 04. Pedestrian stair park access.
- 05. 2 x existing picnic shelters.
- 06. Rear of tennis courts / obscured open space. Rear facade of amenities building uninviting / discontented to open space. Good 'kick around' space.
- 07. Existing sandstone log 500mm high retaining wall.
- 08. Raised ground 500mm to cap contaminated soil beneath.
- 09. Existing mature canopy Eucalypt provides good landscape qualities and shade.
- 10. Existing overhead power lines, and poles to be retained.
- 11. Existing copse of ornamental Pear trees, sunken below raised ground.
- 12. Park perimeter path. Degraded condition. Sunken location below retaining collects debris and hides from view. Cracks and upheaval occurring. Provides management edge to bushland.
- 13. Park entry off bridge.
- 14. Desire line to existing footbridge. Good potential for playground location.
- 15. Existing footbridge - nice creek views.
- 16. Fence boundary to Cabramatta Ck.
- 17. Narrow 'through link' behind PCYC, eroded bare soil surface.
- 18. Opportunity to connect to existing carpark.
- 19. Weed infested garden bed.
- 20. Open space hidden behind St Therese. Suggested Ninja Warrior course location.
- 21. Potential future Cabramatta Ck walk connections to broader open space.
- 22. Western entry / less formalised.
- 23. Koppers log barrier.
- 24. Exposed perimeter security barrier to St Therese.
- 25. Residential cottage out of place and blocks Cabramatta creek recreational spine opportunities and links.





- KEY
- 01. Existing art plaza adjacent PCYC entry. Opportunity to expand to create new park entry.
  - 02. Existing vehicle access boom gate to be retained.
  - 03. Existing picnic facilities adjacent tennis courts + significant Eucalypt in lawn providing strong landscape setting and broad shade.
  - 04. Existing park sign.
  - 05. Rear / unsightly aspect of tennis court amenity building.
  - 06. Tennis court entry plaza cove finish coloured concrete.
  - 07. Existing stepped access off Cartwright Avenue west edge of tennis courts.
  - 08. Existing tennis court furniture - Astra Furniture.
  - 09. Existing perimeter access path, sunken below 500mm sandstone log. Leaf litter and fallen branches trapped. Old path, cracked concrete etc. Currently caps contamination and edges bushland.





- 10. Existing sewer pit and power line alignment.
- 11. Existing power pole and meter box.
- 12. Connection through to bridge across Cabramatta Creek.
- 13. Cartwright Avenue street verge footpath.
- 14. Weed infested landscape adjacent east boundary of PCYC.
- 15. Bare earth terminating carpark west of PCYC.
- 16. Bare earth to southern link behind PCYC.
- 17. Good opportunity to use park space adjacent Cartwright Avenue.
- 18. Western park entry off Cabramatta Avenue.





An exciting new playspace for the Miller local community.

Part of Cabramatta Creek's recreational open space suite of offerings.

Clarify and create new connections.

Safe and accessible.

Minimised maintenance burden.

Improved visual quality.





EVERYONE CAN PLAY

The design for McGirr Park Recreational Upgrade has been informed and guided by the general principles contained in “EVERYONE CAN PLAY, A Guideline to Create Inclusive Playspaces” by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Considering the key principles of “Can I Get There?”, “Can I Play?”, and “Can I Stay?”, design decisions have been made to ensure that McGirr Park is accessible by all, caters to the play and recreational needs of the broadest possible range of users and provides ample shade and facilities so that users and carers are comfortable to stay for as long as they wish.

ACCESSIBILITY

Universal access has been incorporated into the public domain through graded pavements and walkways of nonslip material to ensuring all age groups and degrees of mobility can access site amenities comfortably. Accessibility throughout the site provides:

- Clear points of entry to playground area,
- Accessible pathways to playground,
- New ID signage in accord with LCC CBD Wayfinding & Signage,
- Access gates able to be operated by an adult using a wheelchair or mobility device,
- No barriers to access,
- More legible pathways as an alternative to the existing sunken edge path behind the perimeter sandstone retaining wall, and
- Connections between existing facilities.

INCLUSIVITY

The design aims to provide a range of elements and adaptable play opportunities for people of different sizes, abilities and ages, including:

- Flexible use spaces,
- Basic supporting elements of the playspace (gates, furniture and pathways) have been universally designed,
- Interesting and varying play opportunities that to interest a wide range of users,
- Informal and imaginative play opportunities that encourage creativity,
- Sensory focused and natural elements, like music, sand and water,
- Conformance of equipment, fall zones and surfacing with relevant Australian standards,
- Quiet points for rest and passive interaction,
- Equipment is designed so adults can fit in or under,
- Associated facilities that can be utilised by all playspace users, and or general visitors to the park,
- Centralised gathering points with seating and shade to promote social interaction and carer respite,
- Multiple seating options with sufficient circulation space,
- Picnic and barbeque facilities in accessible locations, and
- A passive lawn area for rest and quiet play.

CONNECTEDNESS

The design seeks to connect to its surrounding community through,

- Being visible from Cartwright Avenue inducing use,
- Offering opportunities for community gathering and play,
- Connecting existing site facilities e.g. Tennis Court to PCYC,
- Connection to the existing carpark, and
- North / South park connections across Cabramatta Creek.

SAFETY

The playspace has been designed considering user safety as follows:

- Locate the play area in a visible, prominent location within the park,
- Provide clear views into the space from surrounding areas,
- Induce usage through creation of a welcoming community place that people find comfortable and secure,
- Maintenance of clear sight lines to all play equipment pieces from pathways and seating to ensure comfortable supervision,
- Provision of boundary enclosures to ensure a secure environment, and
- Provide lighting to ensure safe passage through areas at night.

MATERIALITY & URBAN ELEMENTS

The design seeks to:

- Incorporate a mix of urban and natural materials to provide a sensory experience that ties into the surrounding environment,
- All urban design and landscape materials are to be robust, hard wearing, non slip, easily cleaned, and low maintenance,
- Apply materials in a way that creates a unique sense of place whilst complementing the surrounding urban context and contributing to the sense of public domain continuity, and
- Select complimentary colours of natural and earthen tones to connect with the backdrop of Cabramatta Creek forest and generate a unique sense of place / avoid standard primary colours.

Detailed design of elements such as paving, furniture, fencing and lighting will be developed further during detailed design.

LIGHTING

Lighting of external spaces will be provided to ensure access points are well lit, improving visibility and the sense of safety. Lighting of the Public space will ensure safe levels of illumination for movement, whilst considering the impact animals. Unobtrusive lighting will be incorporated where appropriate to enable night time staff usage. Public domain lighting will ensure adequate levels of illumination for nighttime events and will be delivered in an artful way to express key features of the design – architectural façade elements, landscape features, and wayfinding signage. Solar luminaires are to be incorporated.

DRAINAGE

The landscape design proposal requires civil engineering review and design to ensure anticipated over-land and drainage flows continue to move across the site and into the adjacent Cabramatta Creek. Their remains a flooding risk with raising of levels behind St Therese School.



# CONCEPT SITE MASTER PLAN



## KEY

- 01. Proposed playground.
- 02. Proposed Ninja Warrior Course.
- 03. Proposed open lawn on raised ground with gardens, access and seating opportunities at each end.
- 04. Upgrade existing car parks.
- 05. New park entries with concrete pavement and raised seating planters.
- 06. New footpath connection along school boundary.
- 07. Improved access behind PCYC.
- 08. New path connection from Cartwright Avenue south to playground.
- 09. Existing tennis courts and amenities building.
- 10. PCYC court.
- 11. St Therese School.
- 12. Michael Wenden Cottage leased until 2024.



0 10 20 30 40 50 100m  
scale 1:1000



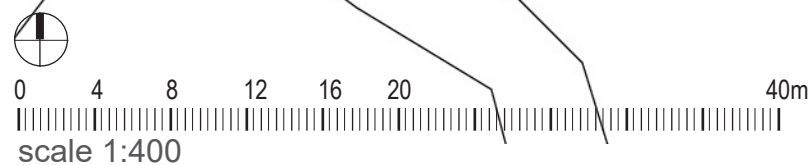






#### KEY

01. Existing carpark.
02. Existing boom gate maintenance access.
03. Existing footpath and bollards.
04. New entry 'plaza' collocated with PCYC blade art installation. Raised planter with signature tree.
05. Sandstone log surround lawn seating nook.
06. Extend stone log seating across existing sunken garden and existing trees as a small 'balance' bridge element for child's play.
07. Retain 'sunken garden' around perimeter of PCYC to ensure an overland flow path water escape to drain the PCYC. Relocate existing stone log retaining wall elements and bank garden down to existing levels.
08. Bridge access across sunken garden.
09. Timber balance beams across sunken garden.
10. Lawn terrace with stepped access down to new access path behind PCYC.
11. Expand existing concrete ramp up to lawn level from lower path to encourage 'through link' access movement to McGirr Park west.
12. Existing lower path retained.
13. Existing bridge across Cabramatta Creek.
14. Existing path converted to indigenous riparian vegetation. Existing stone log wall retained.
15. Picnic and BBQ shelter.
16. Existing kick-around lawn retained.
17. New path connection to Cartwright Ave behind tennis courts.
18. Existing tennis court.
19. Existing tennis court picnic shelters.
20. Existing mature Eucalypt. Relocate stone logs. Mulch surface retained.
21. Power line easement maintenance vehicle access. Engineered concrete pavement, grass and groundcover planting landscape access.
22. Low growing native grass planting beds, trafficable if necessary.
23. Indicative fill mounds for dealing with excavated material - if required. Connect via stone log path. Concrete top 'lookouts'
24. 'Skyblocks' multiplay structure set in softfall, softfall mound, slide, lawn and gardens with associated seating beneath shade sail.
25. Spidernet play.
26. 'Swing-room'. Multi-swing with various seating options.
27. Accessible carousel beneath shade sail.
28. Rock climbing play beneath shade sail.
29. Indicative light posts.
30. Indicative Bin Store.
31. Indicative Water Refill Station.
32. Stepping stones through low planted garden.







Indicative image only. To be developed during Detailed Design phase.





Indicative images only. To be developed during Detailed Design phase.



























- KEY
- 01. Transition down from existing raised lawn via stair flight.
  - 02. Concrete pathway at existing ground level to maintain drainage flows to rear of PCYC.
  - 03. Existing trees along rear PCYC boundary to be retained.
  - 04. Existing tree to be removed for construction of GPT.
  - 05. Proposed GPT.
  - 06. Hardstand turn around for GPT maintenance truck access.
  - 07. Existing trees to be retained.



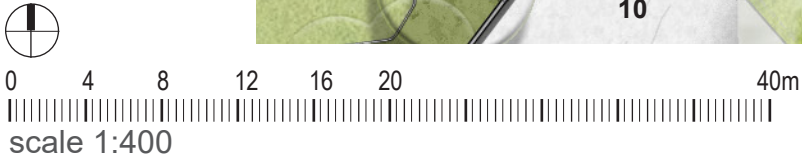


NINJA WARRIOR AND UPGRADED CARPARK



KEY

- 01. Entry plaza. Concrete pavement, raised seating planters, and tree cover.
- 02. Existing stormwater drainage inlet pit to be retained. Sunken garden surrounds to ensure inflow.
- 03. Existing carpark entry retained.
- 04. Existing PCYC pick up / drop off drive.
- 05. Ninja Warrior course with soft fall surfacing beneath.
- 06. Raised planters with additional bleacher terrace seating for Ninja Warrior spectators.
- 07. Reconfigured carpark to incorporate new parking spaces fronting onto Ninja Warrrior course. Flush with adjacent footpath incorporating wheelstops and bollards.
- 08. Car turn around end bay with removable bollards for maintenance vehicle access.
- 09. Tree grove plaza, terrabond gravel permeable tree pits set within permeable pavement.
- 10. GPT maintenance truck vehicle access path.
- 11. Existing trees to be retained.
- 12. Indicative Bin location.
- 13. Indicative water refill location.





## CONCEPT

### NINJA WARRIOR COURSE





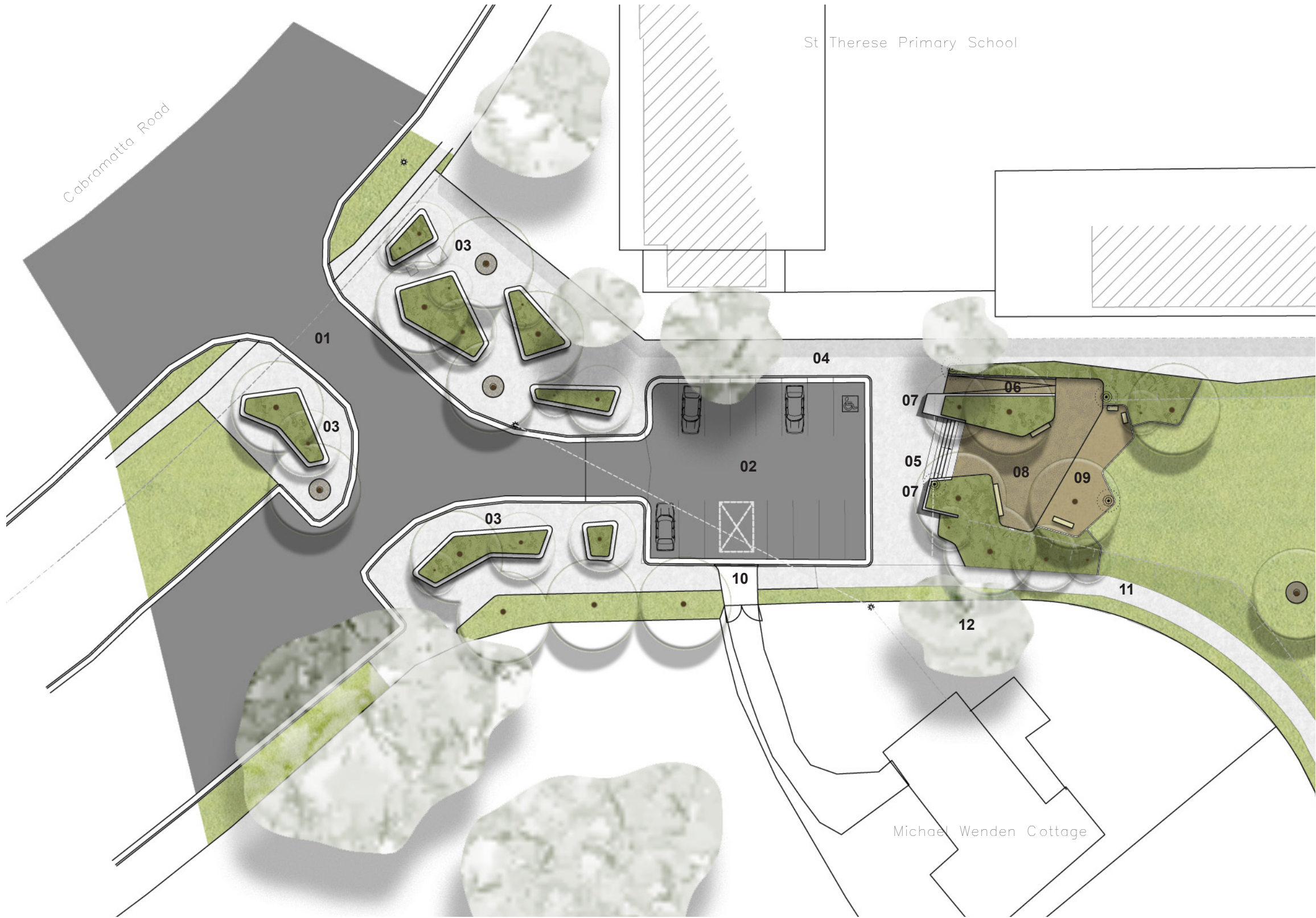


- KEY
- 01. Central 500mm raised kick around lawn space.
  - 02. Ramp up.
  - 03. Steps up.
  - 04. Low brick retaining walls 500mm.
  - 05. Brick upper terrace paving.
  - 06. Gravel zone with casual seating beneath tree planting.
  - 07. Planting areas.
  - 08. New 'through-link' along St Therese Boundary.
  - 09. Tree planting in lawn. Mulch surface brick edged tree pit.
  - 10. Existing path retained.
  - 11. Banked lawn back down to existing ground level.
  - 12. Indicative light poles.

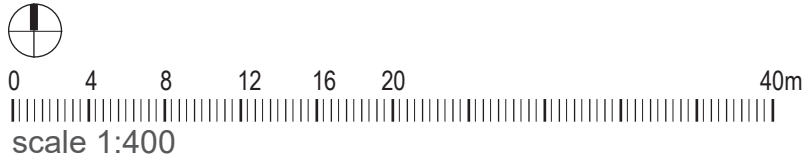




WESTERN ENTRY AND CARPARK



- KEY
- 01. Existing carpark entry off Cabramatta Road retained.
  - 02. Upgraded existing carpark.
  - 03. Concrete paved entry 'plaza' spaces with raised garden seating walls, and tree pits.
  - 04. St Therese boundary 'Through-link' path.
  - 05. Paved threshold and stair entry to upper park.
  - 06. Ramp access to upper park.
  - 07. 500mm high brick retaining walls and seating plinth to flank stairs.
  - 08. Brick paved terrace with seating, gardens and tree planting.
  - 09. Gravel seating beneath shade trees.
  - 10. Existing carpark entry to Michael Wenden Cottage retained.
  - 11. Existing path.
  - 12. Existing trees





ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY POWER POLE  
INDICATIVE MAINTENANCE ACCESS

KEY

- 01. Power lines shift alignment past the mid park post to connect with street pole.
- 02. Existing boom gate entry off carpark retained.
- 03. Indicative flat/level vehicle access route. Maintenance vehicle to pass over concrete, lawn and garden. All surfaces to be engineered for vehicle load e.g. thicken concrete and reinforce, engineer garden edges, Geoweb reinforced lawn and garden where trafficked. Garden zones within easement to include native 'self healing' grass species only, e.g. Themeda australis, Dianella sp. Themeda being able to regenerate by seed if damaged and Dianella by rhizome.
- 04. Traffickable native grass garden beds flush with adjacent lawn.
- 05. Existing large / nature Eucalypt to be retained with sunken garden below.
- 06. Proposed trees held outside easement.
- 07. Large lawn area turn around and pole access.

NOTE:

Access zone designed to allow 11m truck access for maintenance to power poles.

Authority requirement:

*"No play structures permitted in zone. Surface may be a combination of concrete or gravel path with slight undulations. some areas may be planted with low, hardy vegetation that may be driven upon when access is needed".*



0 5 10 25 50m  
scale 1:500