



Edmondson Regional Park

Statement of management intent

Acknowledgement of Country



The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges that Edmondson Regional Park is part of the traditional Country of the Dharawal and Dharug people.

Introduction

This statement outlines the values, issues and key management directions for Edmondson Regional Park (the park). This statement, together with relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) policies, will guide the management of the park until a plan of management has been prepared. The NPWS *Managing parks prior to plan of management policy* states that parks and reserves without a plan of management are to be managed in a manner consistent with the intent of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and other relevant legislation, existing park management policies and other relevant manuals, procedures and guidelines.

This statement of management intent was first published in 2016 and updated in 2025.

Management principles

Under section 30H of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, regional parks are reserved to protect and conserve areas in a natural or modified landscape that are suitable for public recreation and enjoyment. Regional parks are managed to:

- provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment in natural or modified landscapes
- identify, interpret, manage and conserve the park so as to maintain and enhance significant landscape values
- conserve natural and cultural values
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with conservation of natural and cultural values

- provide for sustainable use (including adaptive re-use) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to conservation or natural and cultural values.

Context

Edmondson Regional Park is located 40 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD, in the suburbs of Edmondson Park and Denham Court (Figure 1). It is located on the Cumberland Plain within the NSW Sydney Basin Bioregion. The park lies within the administrative areas of Liverpool City Council, Campbelltown City Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council. This land is culturally significant to the Dharawal and Dharug people.

Sections of the park were part of the Ingleburn Army Camp, which operated from the 1940s to the 1990s. This was the first purpose-built infantry training camp for the Second World War and played a major role for training during other conflicts including Vietnam and Korea. In 2009, these lands were transferred from the Australian Government to the NSW Government for the creation of open space and the protection of biodiversity, specifically Cumberland Plain Woodland, which is a critically endangered ecological community.

Since European settlement, and more recently due to urban development, there has been a large reduction in the geographic distribution and ecological function of Cumberland Plain Woodland. Due to the historical use of the park as an army camp, remnant stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland were protected from development in this area, while much was lost in a wider landscape that has been extensively developed.

Edmondson Regional Park (146 ha) is comprised of:

- the Cabramatta Creek precinct (48 ha) reserved in 2015
- three areas acquired by the NSW Government in 2024 – Ingleburn precinct (55 ha), Maxwells Creek North precinct (36 ha) and Maxwells Creek South precinct (6 ha) – that are intended to be reserved as additions to the park (known as Part 11 land).

The park is adjacent to the suburb of Edmondson Park to the north, Bardia to the south, Denham Court to the west and the Hume Highway to the east. Campbelltown Road bisects and borders sections of the park. Cabramatta Creek and Maxwells Creek flow through the park.

The park is located within the 800-hectare Edmondson Park Precinct of Sydney's South West Growth Centre, which includes approximately 8,000 new dwellings, a new town centre with associated services including transport corridors and community facilities, a heritage precinct, parks and sporting facilities, and schools.

The park protects natural, cultural and landscape values while also providing a visual backdrop to the Edmondson Park urban area. The park has potential to offer opportunities for a range of recreational activities and urban respite in a natural forested setting.

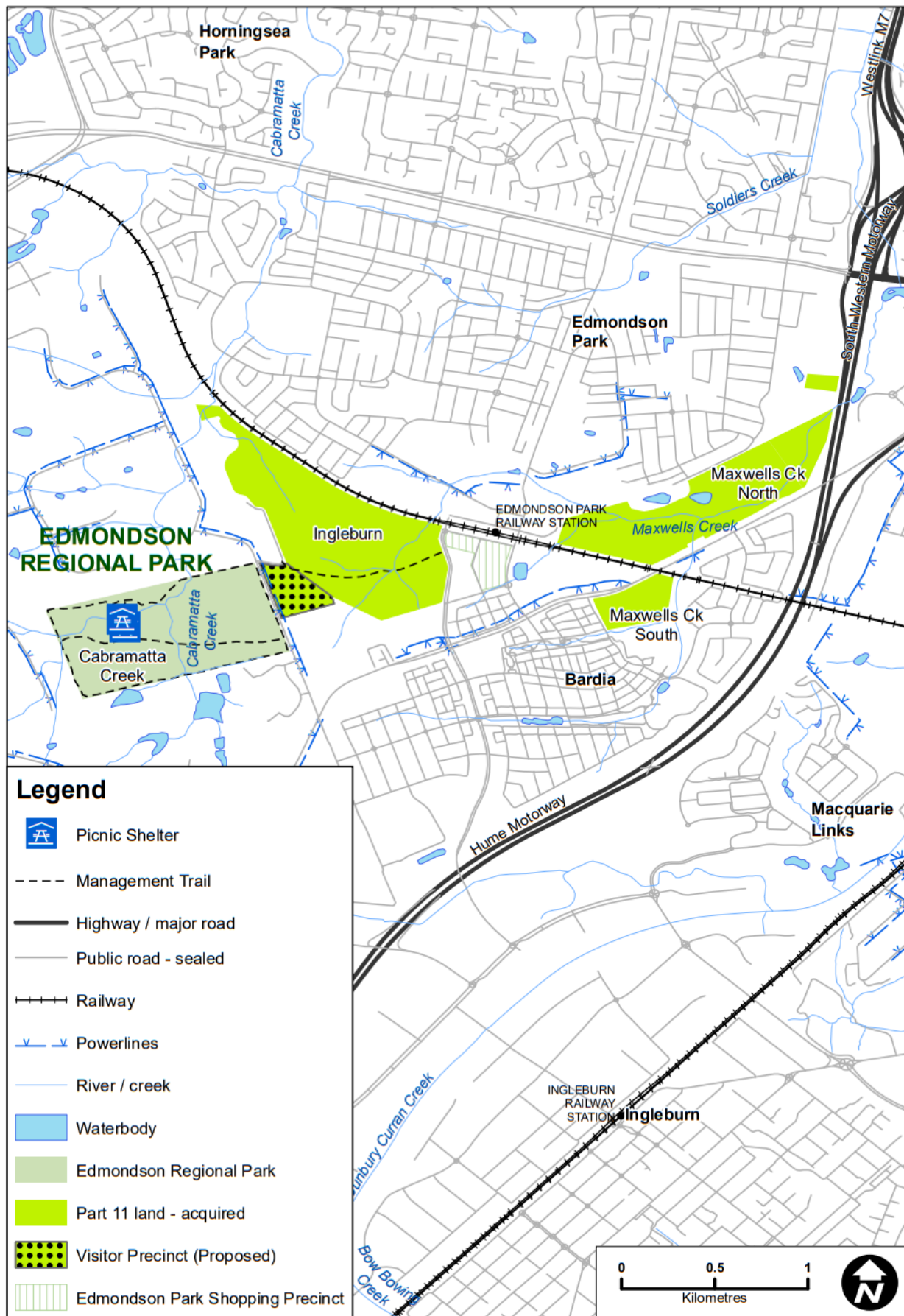


Figure 1 Map of Edmondson Regional Park and the surrounding area

Values

- The park and surrounding lands are significant to the Dharawal and Dharug people. The park protects cultural heritage and provides opportunities to connect with Country. This is particularly important in Western Sydney as many of the natural and cultural landscapes have been cleared and disturbed.
- A number of Aboriginal archaeological sites have been recorded in the park, providing evidence of land-use by Aboriginal people. There are likely to be more sites that have not yet been recorded.
- The park protects 3 threatened ecological communities listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* :
 - Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion
 - River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions
 - Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The woodland is also listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) as critically endangered Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest. The park protects 65% (79 ha) of the Cumberland Plain Woodland remaining within the Edmondson Park Precinct.
- Thirteen threatened animal species have been recorded in the park and there are likely to be more as extensive surveys have not yet been conducted in the park. Threatened species that have been recorded include:
 - Cumberland Plain land snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*)
 - swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)
 - little eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*)
 - little lorikeet (*Parvipsitta pusilla*)
 - powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*)
 - varied sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)
 - grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
 - eastern coastal free-tailed bat (*Micronomus norfolkensis*)
 - eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*)
 - southern myotis (*Myotis macropus*)
 - greater broad-nosed bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*)
 - little bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus australis*)
 - large bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*).
- An additional 10 threatened plant species have been recorded within 5 kilometres of the park, as the area is a hotspot for threatened species. No threatened plant species have been recorded in the park; however, the following species likely occur in the park:
 - downy wattle (*Acacia pubescens*)
 - native pear (*Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora*)
 - spiked rice-flower (*Pimelea spicata*).
- The park provides suitable habitat for 9 native animal species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act including the grey-headed

lying-fox and the swift parrot. These species use woodland areas for foraging and are likely to benefit as restoration of treeless and disturbed areas improves habitat suitability.

- The area was the site of Ingleburn Army Camp and is a historic site and place of remembrance for generations of service personnel who passed through it during training. There are no registered historic heritage items in the park, however there are remnants of a parade ground and a military heritage precinct neighbouring the park.
- People use the park for walking, exercising, picnicking and nature appreciation. The park may be used by locals for the appreciation of nature, education and awareness of Aboriginal culture and the site's past use as an army camp.

Issues

- Weeds pose a significant threat to the park's threatened vegetation communities and the habitats they provide to native and threatened animals. Heavy infestations of the weed African olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) occur in the park and pose significant threat to Cumberland Plain Woodland.
- The following weeds pose a major threat to the park's natural values as they form a dense ground layer that can smother native plants and prevent reproduction:
 - lantana (*Lantana camara*)
 - bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)
 - mother of millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*)
 - boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)
 - privet species (*Ligustrum* spp.)
 - blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).
- Feral animals pose a significant threat by grazing on palatable plants and preying on native and threatened animal species. Feral animals recorded on park include rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), feral goats (*Capra hircus*) and foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- The vegetation within the park has been fragmented by past vegetation clearance which has diminished the parks effectiveness as an area for the conservation of flora and fauna.
- Fragmented and cleared areas in the park pose an issue if they are not revegetated and rehabilitated as this can prevent landscape connectivity and the conservation of threatened species. Remaining stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland are often severely fragmented and isolated, which can lead to less genetic diversity and vertebrate animals in the community.
- There has been a history of trail-bike riding and 4-wheel driving in areas that are not suitable or authorised for vehicle access. This has caused damage to vegetation and important habitats. There has also been a history of rubbish dumping and vandalism in the park.
- The park is surrounded by urban development, which can lead to edge effects. Household rubbish can blow into the park and increased stormwater run-off can enrich the soil nutrient loads within the park and encourage the spread of weeds.
- Soils within the park are particularly prone to erosion. Exposed areas, such as management trails and gullies, pose an issue as they can lead to increased sediment run-off into watercourses, which can cause silting and impact water quality.

Key management directions

- Fire management will be guided by strategies and bushfire risk management plan treatments consistent with strategic fire management planning and relevant legislation.
- The protection of Cumberland Plain Woodland will be guided by the conservation agreement for long-term survival and recovery of threatened biodiversity. Key directions include prioritising the control of African olive.
- Weed control and feral animal management programs will be guided by the conservation agreement and in accordance with the NPWS policies and procedures. Work will complement the Local Land Services Greater Sydney regional strategic weed and pest animal management plans that focus on priority pest animals, such as feral goats and rabbits, and state priority weeds, such as African olive.
- The recovery of previously cleared and modified areas contributes to conservation of natural values within the park. Recovery will be guided by the conservation agreement, under which 9 hectares of treeless and disturbed areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland must be rehabilitated and restored.
- NPWS will continue to build knowledge about park values and threats to support future management, which may include extensive flora and fauna surveys.
- NPWS will continue to consult with Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations and custodial families to ensure the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of their Country, which includes Aboriginal sites, places, and cultural and natural values.
- The large urban interface and impact of development adjacent to the park will be managed by working with neighbouring land managers and authorities, by avoiding disturbance to soil and vegetation within the park, and by encouraging ecologically sensitive practices for stormwater design and management.
- NPWS will continue to liaise with adjoining neighbours and conduct site visits to deter unauthorised access and activities within the park. Gates, bollards and fencing may be installed where needed to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.
- Management trails will be maintained to provide access for management, walking and for future opportunities, such as cycling. Trails that are not required for management or recreation purposes will be closed and rehabilitated.
- The assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage, environmental and heritage values will be undertaken before any management activities, operations and intrusive works that present a risk to park values are carried out. Risks to these values will be avoided and managed.
- Environmental repair and threat management programs, such as erosion mitigation measures, feral animal and weed management, and activities arising from threatened species requirements, will be guided by NPWS policies and procedures.
- Non-intrusive works will be undertaken where this is necessary to protect cultural heritage items from further deterioration, to ensure the safety of visitors, to protect wildlife or to prevent damage to park assets.
- Part 11 land will be reserved and managed to enhance biodiversity and habitat values. This will enhance landscape connectivity, rehabilitate and restore natural values and support the regeneration of disturbed areas by undertaking weed management and additional planting of native trees as necessary.
- Greater use of the park will be encouraged by providing better access and information for visitors, including education and interpretation of significant values on site. This will

support connection to nature, and mental and physical health, which will be increasingly important as the surrounding population and demand for outdoor recreation increases.

- Opportunities to use and enjoy the park, including more active recreational pursuits, such as cycling, will be provided in some of the new additions to the park. Visitor infrastructure may be provided to support better access within a proposed visitor precinct, including a car park, amenity block, picnic shelter and barbeques.
- NPWS will encourage the community to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the park by promoting and raising public awareness of its special values.
- The park's land-use history, including use as an army camp, will be considered in the ongoing use and management of the park and to protect any significant historic heritage.

More information

For additional information or enquiries about any aspect of this park or this statement, contact the NPWS Cumberland Area Office on (02) 4580 2740 or at npws.cumberland@environment.nsw.gov.au.

The following links also provide more information:

- [Commonwealth Government conservation agreements webpage](#)
- [Cumberland Plain Woodland critically endangered ecological community listing](#)
- [Edmondson Park Precinct conservation agreement](#)
- [LLS Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2024–2028](#)
- [LLS Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023–2027](#)
- [NPWS fire management strategies](#)
- [NPWS park management policies](#)

Legislation

- [NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#)
- [NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)
- [Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#).

Disclaimer: This is a statement of intent to guide the management of the park prior to the development of a plan of management. Any statements made in this publication are made in good faith and do not render the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water liable for any loss or damage. Provisions in the final plan of management may vary from those identified in this document as a result of new information and community consultation. The map in this statement is intended to show the park's location and basic features only and is not suitable for use when navigating to or exploring within the park.

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