

Belmore Park upgrade (cont')

Park layout and condition

Belmore Park is a 2.1 hectare public open space on the eastern edge of Chinatown. Located directly opposite Central Station on Eddy Avenue, the park is bounded on its eastern and western edges by high embankments that support road, light rail and heavy rail, which create significant barriers for park access.

Entry to the park is limited to Eddy Avenue in the south and Hay Street in the north. Due to its proximity and configuration, Belmore Park is closely associated with Central Station and functions as an open space forecourt to the station, although the park itself pre-dates the railway.

The centre of the park is a valley between the two embankments on its eastern and western edges, which ramp up from Hay Street to meet the abutments of the bridges over Eddy Avenue. The park itself also gradually falls from Eddy Avenue down to Hay Street, responding to the elevational difference of about 4 metres between the two streets. The path system consists of two avenues running north-south through the park, connected by three diagonal paths.



Heritage



Existing topography



Visual connection to Central Station



Belmore Park upgrade (cont')

Park use

Due to its proximity to Central Railway Station, Belmore Park is regularly used for public rallies, either within the park or as a meeting point for marches. The park is also a regular venue for organised events, particularly the Chinese New Year Festival in keeping with its historical associations with Chinatown.

In 2019, intercept surveys were conducted of 102 park visitors between February and March. Of the users surveyed, 72% of them visited the Belmore Park at least once a month and 76% of them walk to the park. Satisfaction with maintenance provision has risen dramatically since the 2008 survey. Visitors were generally happy with the horticultural quality with many park users expressing the need for better provision/servicing of toilets, drinking fountains and more seats / park furniture and other facilities to activate the park. Suggestions for improvement also included better / enhanced lighting at night to improve the sense of safety.

Although though the population of homeless people sleeping in the park has decreased in recent years Belmore Park and its surrounding public domain has been a location where people sleep rough.

