



Parramatta City lies in a riverine valley defined by ridges to the north and south. The main city centre sits between the river and the railway line. This was the part of the city to be first settled and surveyed. The raised railway line and sunken river create breaks in the north south views. The most continuous views are those along the flat ground and straight streets in the east west streets, George Street, Macquarie Street, Phillip Street and Hunter Street.





The main structure of Parramatta City was set out in the early 1800's. The terrain and the river created the flat area south of river where the Georgian Grid was laid out that still exists today. The location of the railway line in 1865 reinforced this geography. The majority of retained heritage buildings are from this time.





Parramatta City has important large scale parklands to the east and the west as well as the river foreshore parkland within the cultural precinct. There is currently very little public space in the central precinct, with Church Street Mall providing the major existing space. This is proposed to change when Civic Place Square and a Riverbank Square are built. Addionally there is a proposal to connect these spaces with a new civic link axis. There is some provision for additional fine grain pocket parks and the like within the lanes network as it is expanded and upgraded.





The figure ground plan shows the extent of building definition to streets and public spaces and the building grain. At the beginning of the 21st century, Parramatta has considerable variety in the solid to void relationship as well as the grain of the buildings. Church Street has the most consistent grain. The large number of at grade car parks erodes the physical form of the city centre, as does the general lack of consistency in the scale and type of buildings within city streets.









The arts and cultural uses currently are clustered along the north south spine of Church Street. The riverfront is currently underutilised as a cultural and recreational resource. Some dining establishments are extending along Phillip Street to capitalise on views to the river and there is potential to extend the night time uses in this east west direction. Parramatta Park is currently underutilised as a great recreational/cultural resource in close proximity to the city centre. Improved access and address could assist this.





The commercial, civic, government and educational uses are concentrated to the north of the station and away from Church Street, including the specialised Justice Precinct to the north-west of the city. A smaller government office hub is developing south of the station, which could be further enlarged by the Auto Alley area, currently used mainly for car sales. The city houses several schools.

Westmead, one of Australia's pre-eminent biomedical precincts, is located approximately 2km to the north-west of the city, and includes significant involvement with the University of Sydney. The University of Western Sydney Parramatta and Rydalmere campuses are located approximately 2km north-east from the city centre.







100 200m URBAN DESIGN UNIT June 2012



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Parramatta City Centre – Access and Transport 1 Street Hierarchy



The Parramatta City street network dates from the original Georgian street grid. Long east-west streets run through the heart of the city and are generally flat with expansive views. North-south streets run across the contours, under the railway overpass and across the river, have truncated views and can be less comfortable for pedestrians. Due to the large areas of parkland to east and west of the city centre, the north-south streets currently provide greater accessibility out of the city. There is also a fine grain pedestrian network of lanes, arcades and through site links that improves pedestrian permeability. A city ring road has been proposed to retain through traffic from the city core and is partially complete, requiring further improvements to signage and signals to operate.





Parramatta Station is the 4th busiest in the City Rail network on weekdays. Parramatta is well served by bus routes connecting to (list the bus routes here). The main vehicular access routes are along Church Street from the north, along Victoria Road from the northeast and along the M4 and Parramatta Road from Sydney City and to Penrith. There are a large number of at grade car parks in the very heart of the city. The longterm plan is to relocate these to the city edge and to free up these major city sites for commercial and development activities.





Space Syntax undertook this analysis in 2006. Parramatta City is compact with major uses and recreation opportunities located within 5 to 10 mins walk from the Transport Interchange. Pedestrian activity centres around the Interchange, Church Street retail strip and the commercial core. From the Interchange, there is a bias towards the north-east in pedestrian numbers as this is where the larger office buildings are concentrated, as well as cultural foci such as Riverside, Eat Street and the ferry wharf. These figures have not been updated since the loop bus, the metro buses, and the Justice Precinct have been installed which could alter the numbers somewhat.





Space Syntax undertook this analysis in 2006. It shows the importance of the various streets in the city hierarchy from point of view of their ability to connect into the local city network. The Red streets provide the highest degree of accessibility to the rest of the city centre. Within the city, Church Street and George Street are the most important streets for local accessibility in a north south and east west direction respectively.







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Parramatta City Centre - Change Mapping 2 Major Urban Renewal Sites





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Parramatta City Centre – Public Domain 1 Existing Pavement Survey 2011





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Parramatta City Centre - Public Domain 2 Existing Street Tree Survey 2011

