NSW’s first ‘green track’ will be delivered as part of the Parramatta Light Rail project, with around one kilometre of grass and shrubs to be planted along the alignment.

The NSW Government will deliver Australia’s greatest quantity of ‘green track’ as part of the Parramatta Light Rail project. Green track, which involves planting grass or shrubs between and beside light rail tracks, makes the light rail easier to embed in existing local landscapes and will see it beautifully integrated into the public domain. Parramatta Light Rail will feature up to one kilometre in total of green track across three zones: Cumberland Hospital, Robin Thomas Reserve and Tramway Avenue.

Countries including France, Portugal and Spain have embraced grass track as an aesthetic and a sustainable urban design solution. Not only does green track look good; it contributes to increased biodiversity, noise reduction and urban cooling – a positive result for those who live and work in the western Sydney heat. Transport for NSW has partnered with Western Sydney University to understand how green track will perform here. Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 will connect Westmead to Carlingford via Parramatta CBD and Camellia, and is expected to open in 2023. For more information, visit parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/news/green-track-parramatta-light-rail.
New bike path at Telopea

A new underpass at Adderton Road, Telopea, will be built as part of the Parramatta Light Rail project, giving pedestrians and cyclists safe passage under the busy road. The underpass complements the future Parramatta Light Rail active transport link – a shared walking and bike riding path to be built running between Carlingford and Alfred Street in Parramatta.

The path will make getting around more enjoyable for cyclists and pedestrians, with connections to local shops, parks, community facilities and public transport, including the Parramatta Light Rail when it opens in 2023. The active transport link will be accessible from the existing Parramatta Cycleway at Rydalmere, and will connect to all Parramatta Light Rail stops between Parramatta and Carlingford.

Get ready for Stage 2!

With Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail well underway, planning has turned to Stage 2, which will connect the Parramatta CBD to Ermington, Melrose Park, Wentworth Point and Sydney Olympic Park. Contractors have been engaged to undertake site investigation work, test ground conditions and identify existing underground utility services such as water, telecommunications, gas and electricity, so you may see some hi-vis activity in these areas in the coming months. Questions? Jump on our website or call our 24-hour community hotline on 1800 139 389.

Timber treatment

The timber from 13 trees, along with some sandstone kerbing, has been given to the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, owners of the state heritage-listed Parramatta Gaol, for repurposing in artworks and historical displays. The camphor laurel trees – a highly invasive evergreen tree classified as a weed – were removed from outside the Gaol as part of Parramatta Light Rail road works, and will be replaced with at least 13 trees of an Australian native species, with further assessment underway to determine if more can be planted.
3500 new trees for Parramatta

The first of more than 3500 new trees have been planted as part of the Parramatta Light Rail tree planting program, with more on the way!

One hundred and twenty new trees - including crepe myrtle, spotted gum, brush box and magnolia trees - have now been planted in Westmead and North Parramatta to kickstart a broader planting program of new trees, landscaping and bushcare works that will help to offset any trees removed as part of construction of the new light rail.

The Parramatta Light Rail Tree Planting and Neighbourhood Improvement program, in partnership with the City of Parramatta, will see at least 2500 new native and exotic trees planted in streets, parks and reserves. Separately, Transport for NSW expects to plant a further 1000 to 1500 trees across the project. The new trees provide shade, improve air quality and make streets significantly greener. For more information, visit parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/trees.

Enjoy Game Day on Eat Street!

Are you heading to Parramatta’s new Bankwest Stadium to check out some of the upcoming action? Thanks to Parramatta Light Rail’s ‘Enjoy Game Day on Eat Street’ campaign, game-goers can receive special discounts and deals at the popular ‘Eat Street’ dining district (defined as Church Street Parramatta, between George and Palmer Streets) as well as some surrounding streets to celebrate game days until July. Special offers at more than 30 local eateries (on game days only) are part of Transport for NSW’s ‘Activate Parramatta’ plan to support local businesses ahead of and during construction of the light rail.

A number of retailers and accommodation providers have also joined the campaign, including hotels, men and women’s fashion stores, sporting goods and outdoor activity shops.

For more information on the great discounts and deals available and a list of participating businesses, head to activateparramatta.com.au.

To find out what’s on at Parramatta’s new Bankwest Stadium and for ticketing information, visit bankweststadium.com.au/whats-on.
Construction update

Work is underway on the $2.4 billion Parramatta Light Rail that will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia and is expected to open in 2023. Underground site investigations along the 12-kilometre alignment of the Parramatta Light Rail are ongoing, with a huge amount of progress made across Westmead and Parramatta CBD, and from Camellia up to Carlingford. These critical site investigations will continue in coming months and are essential for locating and identifying underground services and utilities, ensuring safe construction of the new light rail. We thank the local community for their patience. Get in touch if you would like to discuss these works or preferences for work hours by calling 1800 139 389.

A city is born

In 1938, the same year Parramatta celebrated its 150th anniversary, the NSW Parliament officially declared Parramatta ‘a city’. A Sydney newspaper reported Parramatta’s elevation from suburb to city a grand birthday gift from the state government. Seen as a true coming of age, the news kicked off two weeks of birthday celebrations. Then-Mayor William Irwin, always passionate about the possibilities of Parramatta, was considered instrumental in bringing about the change.

Parramatta celebrates becoming a city during its 150th birthday celebrations in 1938. Source: City of Parramatta Council Archives.

What’s next?

Mid 2019
- Site investigation works continue
- Enabling road works continue
- Remediation works continue in Camellia
- Westmead road widening works begin

2020
- Eat Street construction works begin
- Major construction begins across the alignment

2023
- Commence Stage 1 operations