

# Riverside Drive & Cook Park

Sandringham, Sydney, Australia



## Client

Rockland City Council  
*While employed at EDAW Sydney*

## Dates

December 1996-August 1997

## Program

1.5 Km Residential Drive Improvements  
Sailing Club  
Bicycle Trail (Bay To Bay Cycleway)  
Beach Nourishment

## Relevance

Recreation & Open Space  
Riparian Restoration  
Street Improvement  
Traffic Calming

## Services

Urban Design  
Project Team Sourcing  
Project Graphics

## Team

MASTER PLANNER  
EDAW Sydney  
OCEANOGRAPHER  
Lawson and Trelor, Pty Ltd.

## Project Challenge

In 1770, at a place approximately eight kilometers east of Riverside Drive, Captain James Cook landed a small party and named the place Botany Bay. While working with EDAW's Sydney office in the mid-90s, a small street improvement/foreshore restoration project new to the office took my attention. Riverside Drive suffered from high-speed traffic, poor maintenance and lack of design, but had community spirit and council backing. Providing a plan that outlined a course of action toward improving both the appearance and function of the place—street and foreshore—that also included community input and consensus was critical. Cook Park at Riverside Drive represents a major opportunity to create a unique riparian corridor along the estuary foreshore of the Georges River. It also provides a high quality passive recreation area with pedestrian and bicycle connection for Council's Bay to Bay cycleway.

## Project Description

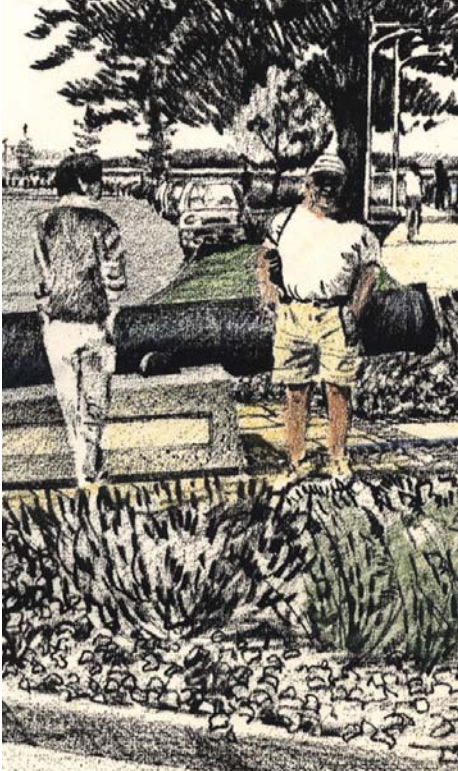
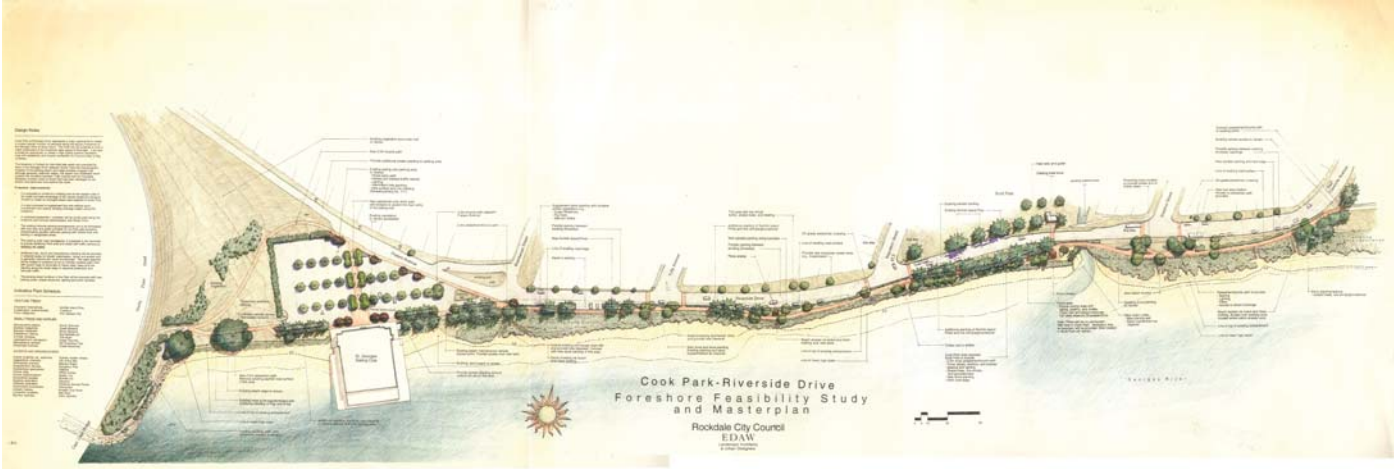
Located 17 kilometers south of downtown Sydney, the 1.5 km long section of Riverside Drive contains single-family homes overlooking the inter-tidal flats which are controlled by flows in the river. Analysis of the beach and edge condition suggested that although relatively stable, the tipped-rock revetment which protects the shoreline has been damaged by toe erosion and sand loss. Unclear parking patterns, bicycle route, and lack of public facilities made for a run-down and uninviting place to view the Georges River and its sailing and boating or access the beach.

## Value Added

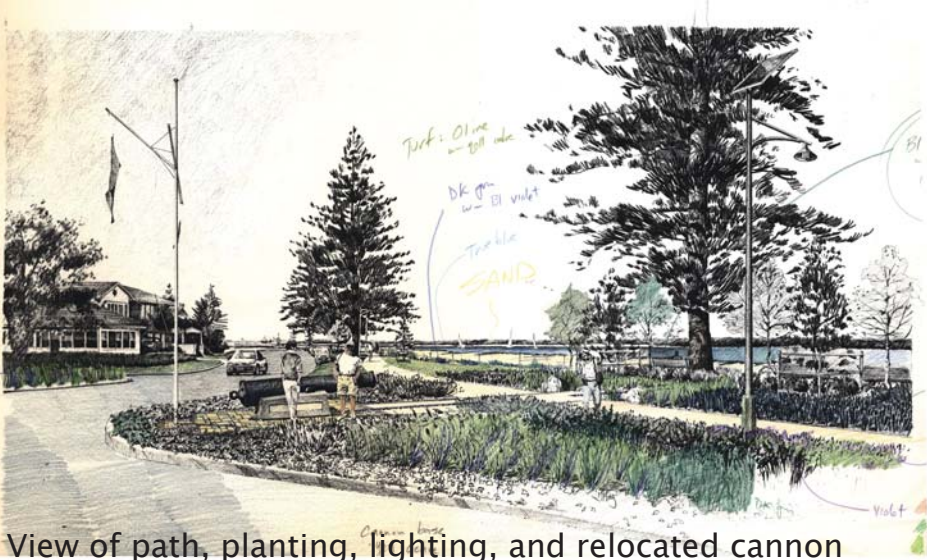
The construction of a new training wall takes advantage of the natural longshore transport of sand to create an enlarged beach area adjacent the park. A combined pedestrian/cycleway connects Sandringham with paths to the south and north. The existing informal parking has been formalized with curb and gutter, and the street narrowed. Additional salt-tolerant native tree, shrub, and groundcover planting has been installed in areas for stabilization, color, accent and shade, and general environment improvement. Trees are placed to maintain sight lines with accent trees to terminate or frame views. Existing street furniture in the park and drive has been replaced, solar street lighting installed, and picnic shelters built near street intersections.

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Detail



View of path, planting, lighting, and relocated cannon



View of picnic shelter toward Botany Bay

John Moynahan Urban Design & Planning