



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

Outdoor Public Spaces Operational Management Plan

Summer 2021-22

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1. Background

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and on 11 March 2020, it declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic.

In response, the Australian Federal, State and Territory governments have developed a series of measures to deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences. Specifically, the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research has made a number of Orders, under section 7 of the Public Health Act 2010. These Orders can be amended frequently and will be regularly reviewed by Waverley Council to ensure compliance.

Waverley Council has responsibility, in conjunction with NSW Police and other agencies, in helping to manage public spaces in order to keep people COVID-safe and to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Public Health Orders and health advice affecting public spaces

This plan will be implemented in line with the relevant health advice from the NSW Government and the directions contained in the latest Public Health Orders affecting Council's management of its outdoor public spaces. These may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Health advice recommending physical or social distancing. Physical or social distancing means reducing the close physical contact we have with people and staying 1.5 metres away from people we don't live with. People living in the same household do not need to be 1.5 metres from each other.
- Limits regarding the maximum number of persons that may be allowed on a premise, where the definition of premises includes Council's beaches and parks.
- Limits regarding the maximum number of persons that may participate in an outdoor public gathering.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Summer 2021-22 Outdoor Public Spaces Operational Management Plan is to help Council manage beaches and open spaces in a COVID-safe way over summer in line with Public Health Orders and health advice.

This Plan outlines Council's overall response and identifies the potential restrictions which Council may be required to implement to ensure compliance with the Public Health Orders.

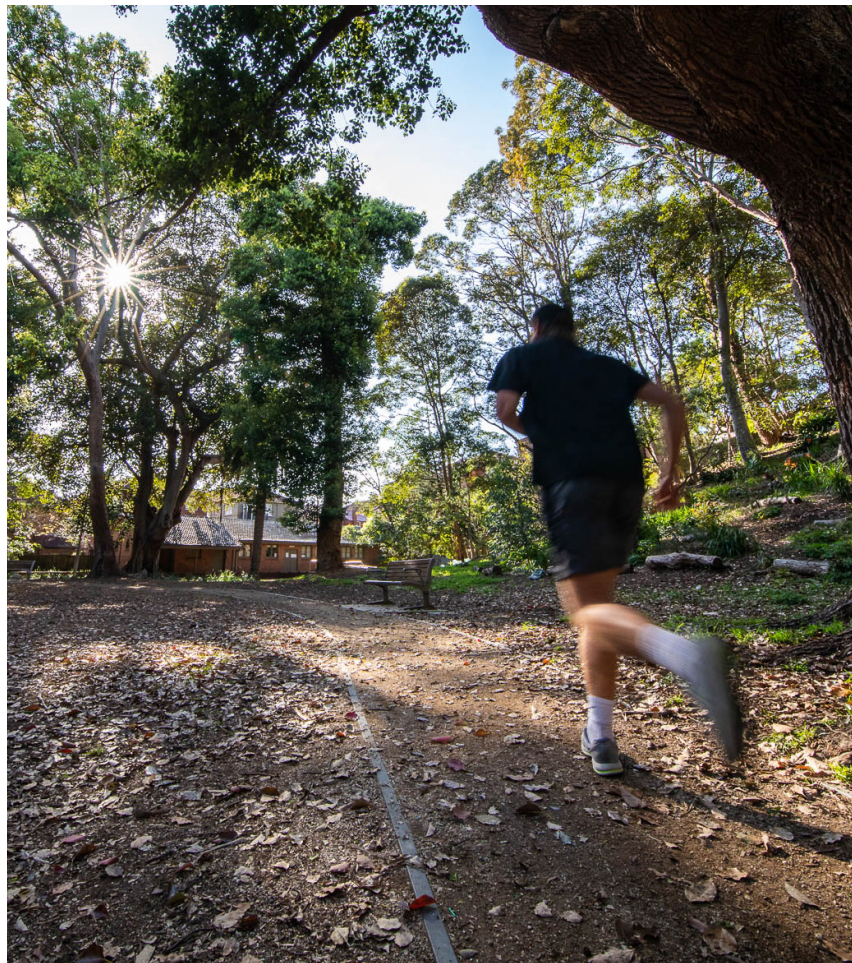
The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Promote the wellbeing of our community through the enjoyment of outdoor public spaces.
- Ensure compliance with the Public Health Orders and to support government public efforts to keep people safe.
- Ensure effective communications and collaboration with relevant agencies (NSW Police, NSW Health, Transport for NSW, Surf Life Saving NSW) and neighbouring councils.
- Support staff/volunteer safety and wellbeing.
- Establish defined escalation protocols and actions.

3. Scope

This Plan outlines the arrangements for the management of outdoor public space across the Waverley Council local government area, including Council's beaches, parks and coast walk, during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an operational plan that is subject to review on an ongoing basis based on changes to Public Health Orders, experience and other changes in context and circumstances. The Plan is intended to be read in conjunction with the Waverley Council COVID-19 internal operating procedures which provide details on its implementation.

The Plan has been developed taking into account consultation with key internal and external stakeholders including Waverley Council's Crisis Management Team, Councillors, local Surf Clubs, LGNSW, neighbouring councils, NSW Police, Transport for NSW and NSW Health.





4. Outdoor Public Spaces – Monitoring & Escalation

4.1 Outdoor Public Space Capacity

Council's assessment of public outdoor space capacity takes into consideration the relevant Orders and health advice on social distancing.

Council has determined a practical limit for assessing allowable numbers to maintain social distancing guidelines, public gathering restrictions (where applicable) and to allow for easy movement of people. On the beaches Council needs to ensure safe and easy movement of Lifeguard Services patrol vehicles and police patrols (including vehicles, bikes and police horses). In the parks, there is additional infrastructure such as seating, trees and BBQ areas which take up some of the available space. As such a conservative approach to assessing capacity has been taken in our planning and is subject to change based on changing circumstances and ongoing risk assessments undertaken by Council officers at any time.

4.2 Escalation Levels

The escalation levels under this Plan will be determined and implemented in accordance with the minimum restrictions under the prevailing Public Health Orders and Council's Operations Manager will consider the need for and risks associated with each level of escalation.

Additional factors such as weather and crowd behaviour will be taken into consideration when implementing each of the stages. In some circumstances, this means that the restrictions in place across Council's beaches are stricter than the restrictions under the Public Health Order to ensure public safety and compliance with government health advice and Public Health Orders.

Council will work with Police and other agencies to manage parks and open spaces and will provide open communication to the public on crowd capacity with the support of external agencies such as Transport for NSW.

If crowds in public spaces remain consistently high, Council may implement a variety of measures including further time limited parking restrictions or closing access to parking in certain areas.

Level	Escalation	Response
No PHO restrictions in place - Standard Operating Procedures for all services		
1	Normal Operations Limited Restrictions and/or low visitation determined/impacted by PHO/weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal access applies • Outdoor public spaces open for all activities • Ambassador/Ranger presence as required for education/general compliance matters • COVID-safe communications (incl. staff FAQs, VMS boards, signage, and media) focused on education
2	Crowd Monitoring Monitor capacity/outdoor gathering limits as determined by the PHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal access applies • Outdoor public spaces open for all activities • COVID Ambassadors encourage spacing in beaches & beach parks through education & crowd management • Normal Ranger patrols for general compliance matters • Operations Manager holds regular briefings with key services incl. police, lifeguards & compliance • Beach numbers actively monitored with escalation plan in place to communicate with transport & police • COVID-safe communications (incl. staff FAQs, VMS boards, signage, and media) to include capacity information as required
3	Increased Restrictions Measures introduced to manage capacity/outdoor gathering limits/increased visitation as determined/impacted by PHO/weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach and/or Coast Walk escalation plan enacted with temporary managed access where required (beach & coast walk visitors remain, no new entry) • COVID Ambassadors stationed at access points • Increased Ranger patrols to assist with compliance matters • Escalation to police as required • Additional measures including car park closures, management of picnic huts and BBQs implemented as required • COVID-safe communications (incl. staff FAQs, VMS boards, signage, and media) to include info re. increased restrictions as required
Heightened Restrictions – response determined by PHO and/or liaison with NSW Police		

5. Communications Approach

Council will provide timely and accurate communications across a range of channels. This includes digital, website, social, print and signage and any other platforms that will increase the effective engagement of the community in key messaging.

All communications will be in line with Public Health Orders and government health advice and will be aligned with key messaging from the relevant authorities. Where possible, Council will include general COVID-safe messaging in its communications material. See Appendix 1 for an example.

Council will contribute to regular debriefing and forward planning meetings with relevant inter-agencies and neighbouring councils as required.



6. Consultation

Waverley Council works in partnership with the NSW State Government, NSW Police, and neighbouring councils in providing a multi-agency response to the pandemic. This Plan has been developed taking into account consultation with the following key stakeholders.

External Stakeholders:

- NSW Police
- NSW Health
- Transport for NSW
- LGNSW
- Mayors & GMs from neighbouring Councils
- Coastal Safety Group
- Surf Clubs in the Waverley LGA
- Surf Life Saving NSW

Internal Stakeholders:

- Mayor & Councillors
- Waverley Council staff

7. Review of Plan

This Plan will be reviewed regularly as required throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure consistency and compliance with the relevant Public Health Order restrictions and to promote public safety. Members of the public may provide feedback about this document by emailing info@waverley.nsw.gov.au.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

As per public health orders please exercise individually or in pairs



- ✓ Remember to socially distance, and avoid congestion
- ✓ Be mindful of hygiene
- ✓ If unwell get tested, and please go home
- ✓ Please also check in with this QR Code, and check out when you leave.





COVID-19 UPDATE

Face masks required in some venues



WINTER IN WAVERLEY

Remember to socially distance at least 1.5m



COVID-19 UPDATE

Construction pause

