



SMALL PARKS

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT — 1915

SMALL PARKS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Structure of this Document

This Plan of Management addresses the small parks of Waverley. The plan is divided into six sections.

Section 1: Establishes what a Plan of Management is and outlines the scope and general goals of the plan.

Section 2: Provides background information regarding open space in general and small parks in Waverley and establishes the roles and values of small parks.

Section 3: Identifies and establishes the major issues in relation to management of the small parks.

Section 4: Identifies management objectives in relation to small parks.

Section 5 : Identifies specific actions in relation to management objectives, establishes priorities and performance indicators.

Section 6 : Lists the land included within this Plan of Management.

1.2 The Plan of Management

A plan of management is a document which provides a framework and objectives for the management of land owned or controlled by Council. As part of the Local Government Act 1993, plans of management are required to be prepared for all areas classified by Council as Community Land.

This plan is a product of this requirement as well as being a means by which Council can relate its overall open space management objectives to specific parcels of land. This plan of management identifies issues and objectives and establishes directions for the management of small parks within the Waverley Council area. In addition it establishes a basis for a consistent approach to the management of these facilities.

This plan will be reviewed annually in respect to implementation of programs and every five years in relation to policy and planning issues.

1.3 Aim of the plan

This plan of management is a generic plan prepared to comply with the Local Government Act, 1993 in relation to community land classified as small parks.

1.4 Scope of the Plan

The Local Government Act allows more than one area of community land to be covered by a single plan of management. There are a large number of small parks the Waverley Council area and they share common physical characteristics, functions and management issues.

It was therefore decided that these parks would be addressed by a generic plan of management which provides common policy directions to issues related to land management.

The areas of community land covered by this plan are listed in section 6.1.

In addition there is a significant amount parkland which is a result of road closures. These are not classified as community land and therefore not required to be included in the plan of management, under the Act. However as these closures represent a significant part of local open space provision in Waverley, they have been included.

The road closures and road reservations covered by this plan are listed in section 6.2.

1.5 Council's Open Space Management Goals

This plan of management is closely linked to Council's principal open space management objectives. These objectives provide a consistent framework upon which specific objectives and recommendations outlined in this plan will be based.

The principal objectives for open space which form part of Waverley Council's Management Plan 1995-1998 are :

- ◆ To provide and maintain parks, recreation areas and streetscapes for the benefit of the community.
- ◆ To plan and develop parks and recreation areas to meet community needs and promote environmental values.

Specific management targets that are relevant to small parks are :

- ◆ To maintain open space so that it is clean, attractive and inviting to users.
- ◆ To protect and enhance the natural heritage, cultural aesthetic and environmental values of open space.
- ◆ To upgrade to an approved program for the benefit of the community.
- ◆ To offer various recreational opportunities in response to community need.
- ◆ To ensure that public safety is a priority in open space.

1.6 Community Consultation

This plan of management will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, and a further 14 days will then be allowed to receive submissions from the public. All submissions regarding the plan will be considered by Council prior to the adoption of the plan.

Submissions should be endorsed " Small Parks and Playgrounds Plan of Management and should be addressed to :

Parks and Recreation Section
Waverley Council
PO Box 9
Bondi Junction 2022.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Open Space in General

Waverley is the most densely populated local government area in Australia. A major proportion of Waverley's open space occurs to the coastal edge and there are relatively few medium to large parks which are located internally within the Council area.

A characteristic of open space in Waverley is that there is a large number of parks of a small size within the open space system. In fact over half of the parks in Waverley comprise only 5.5% of the total open space.

2.2 Small Parks in Waverley

Council has 2.65 hectares of community land that has been categorised as small parks. There are 19 parks in this category with an average area per park of 0.139 ha. There are also 2 small parks (total area 0.497) which are Crown Land.

In addition Council has 35 small parks which are not community land, being either closed roads or road reservations. The area of land involved in this category is at present not fully documented however it should be noted that the majority of these areas would be very small, < 0.09 ha.

2.3 Characteristics

Small parks generally consist of grassed areas, planting, pathways, seats and occasionally picnic tables. A number of these areas have children's playgrounds or pieces of play equipment located on them.

They relate strongly to, and tend to serve, the immediate neighbourhood in which they are located. Access to them tends to be primarily by foot.

These areas of land are scattered widely and unevenly throughout the Council area. Their location is a product of historical opportunity, and in the case of road closures, traffic management principles and road alignments, rather than recreational need.

Although this has meant that some areas have relatively less provision of small parks than others it is considered that future increases in small park provision (due to the cost of land acquisition) is likely to be very limited. The exception to this may be the creation of parks through road closures.

2.4 Roles and Values

As these parcels of land are small, (particularly the road closures and reservations), they tend to have relatively limited potential in relation to active recreational use and function primarily as areas for uses of a "passive " nature.

However most of the small parks have a role to play in meeting some local passive recreation needs . This is particularly the case in those areas not within easy walking distance of the larger parks and the coast.

These areas are of value to the community as they provide convenient, easily accessible, small scale spaces for passive recreation. The smaller areas, although providing limited opportunity for recreation, do have environmental and visual benefits to the community as additional local “ green” spaces within the densely developed Waverley Council area.

Some of these parks play a role as access ways linking areas and providing convenient routes for people .

3.0 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 Recreational Usage

Our small parks provide various opportunities for recreation. Recreational usage is largely of a passive nature, however informal active pursuits such as young children's ball games are common.

Dependent on the size, these reserves can provide opportunities for passive recreation including; walking, sitting in sun or shade, informal play, as meeting places and even picnicking. Another significant aspect is the use made of these Parks by young children (under 12 years of age) particularly where there are playgrounds.

Usage problems can occur to these areas due to their small size and close proximity to neighbouring properties. For example re-occurring problems have been experienced in some areas with older children playing vigorous ball games and resultant noise, and domination of park use to the exclusion of others.

Parking is limited to the neighbouring streets with only service or emergency vehicle access being permitted within the parks. Our small parks should be designed in such a way as to maximise their individual potential and appropriate uses while minimising usage problems.

3.2 Access

By far the main form of access to Waverley's small parks is by foot. However the size, location, and facilities will influence whether some users will arrive by public transport, car or bicycle. For example some small parks due to their special facilities, (eg. Kimberley Reserve playgroup facility), may attract people from a wider area.

Car parking to all areas is limited to the adjacent streets with only service vehicles having direct access to these parks.

Although these parks are located within walking distance of the surrounding residential areas they may still be opportunities to improve access by way of path construction, pedestrian crossings and so on. These opportunities should be investigated.

In relation to this it is acknowledged that many of these parks are used as linkages and access ways for people who are not necessarily using the park in a recreational sense. This should be taken into account in park design.

Small parks with playgrounds should be accessible to people pushing prams and strollers as such users represent a significant component of total users. Accordingly the feasibility of installing pram ramps, and the means to ensuring ease of access for such users should be investigated.

Further, wherever possible Waverley's small parks should comply with Council's Access Policy which aims to ensure that Waverley becomes an accessible community to all people regardless of their abilities/disabilities.

3.3 Landscape Design

Small parks in Waverley are located in a variety of settings, and accordingly each area does have its own unique characteristics, potentials and problems.

Many of these areas would benefit from an evaluation or 'audit' in relation to issues such as demographic trends, access, maintenance, vegetation, park furniture, playground provision and standards, usage problems and opportunities and so on.

In particular vegetation is a significant component of these areas and future planting should take into consideration existing landscape character (for example heritage issues) -as well as the need to improve the aesthetics of the area. An important aspect is shade provision for park users as well as the implications of new plantings in relation to views.

Where investigations and designs are to be produced it is considered essential that the local community be consulted by appropriate means to ensure that community needs are identified and met.

In addition it is also essential that parks operations staff are involved in the planning and design process for parks which they are maintaining.

3.4 Maintenance

In general the parks within this category have relatively simple maintenance requirements.

However as they are many and widely scattered they tend to require a significant amount of Council's staff resources to maintain them satisfactorily.

In large park areas maintenance staff can take advantage of more efficient procedures and systems, for example grass cutting by tractor, automatic watering systems, onsite staffing and so on. In comparison the maintenance of small parks tends to be more labour intensive per unit area of park.

In addition currently the majority of our small parks are maintained by some 12 individual gardeners who work to a 4 week cycle or 'run'.

These gardeners do not have their own transport and therefore the servicing of their runs and their materials and plant needs involves a significant commitment of supervisory staff time.

Therefore it is considered that Council should look towards improving the long term maintenance requirements of these areas as well as their amenity. It is also considered that

the approach to maintaining these parks should be reviewed with a view to moving to a more efficient procedures.

3.5 Park Furniture and Equipment

Small parks have a variety of settings and a range of features, functions. Accordingly park furniture and equipment should be selected to provide for community need in each area.

Types of furniture and equipment occurring in small parks includes; seats, tables, drinking fountains, bollards, fences, lights, signs, litter bins, and playgrounds.

In relation to this issue there is a need to evaluate current provision in this area and plan for the upgrading of furniture and equipment as required.

Furniture and equipment selected should be of appropriate and consistent style(s) enabling maximum usage and amenity while minimising maintenance.

All playgrounds occurring within small parks are to be managed and maintained in accordance with the Waverley Council Draft Playgrounds Plan of Management.

3.6 Leases and Licences

In relation to our small parks there is one community building, (located at Kimberley Reserve), which is subject to a lease/ licence agreements and is on land classified as “community “ under the Local Government Act.

This building is currently used as a children’s playgroup facility and also for general community use and occasional private use, (such as children’s parties) during daylight hours.

In relation to this facility this plan authorises that leases or licences be established by Council which provide for optimum use of the building for community purposes or occasional private purposes, while preserving residential amenity.

In relation to small parks in general this plan authorises that leases or licences can be established by Council for public or private purposes providing they are consistent with the major purpose of these areas (for general passive recreation), and that the residential and environmental amenity of these areas is maintained.

3.7 Community Participation

It is important that local communities be informed and involved In the management and development of their local small parks. Opportunities to involve the community in the design process should be identified as part of this process and initiatives by residents to upgrade and or maintain their local parks should be encouraged provided these initiatives

are consistent with this plan.

4.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

4.1 Small Park Management Objectives

Specific objectives have been developed based on legislative requirements, Council's corporate objectives in relation to open space, community needs and expectations, known management issues and the characteristics and potentials of these parks themselves.

These are:

- ◆ To manage these parks for public recreation;
- ◆ To maintain small parks so that they are clean, attractive and inviting to users;
- ◆ To provide opportunities for a variety of passive recreational uses;
- ◆ To ensure that public safety is a priority in small parks;
- ◆ To upgrade small parks on a planned basis within budgetary limits to ensure a high quality recreational environment is achieved;
- ◆ To involve the community and Council parks staff in the design process for park upgrades;
- ◆ To identify and meet community needs and expectations in relation to small parks;
- ◆ To ensure that small parks in Waverley are developed and managed in a manner consistent with Council's Access Policy.

These objectives together with the identified management issues have been used to prepare the action plan in section 5.0.

5.0 ACTION PLAN

The following categories are used to define priorities within the action plan

ST	Short Term	-	Carried out within 2 years
MT	Medium Term	-	Carried out within 2- 4 years
LT	Long Term	-	Commenced within 4 years
OG	Ongoing	-	Continuing work over the life of this Plan of Management
C	Commenced	-	Action has commenced
COM	Completed	-	Action completed

5.1 ACTION PLAN TABLE

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	CONSIDERATIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	PRIORITY
Recreational usage of small parks	To manage Council's small parks to provide for a range of appropriate recreational opportunities and a high level of use.	<p>Ensure activities occurring in small parks are compatible with their function as passive recreational areas.</p> <p>Provide a range of appropriate facilities and environments for users of small parks.</p>		<p>Level of use for passive recreation. Annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use of small parks.</p> <p>Level of user satisfaction with existing facilities. Annual requests for improvements to facilities. User surveys.</p>	OG
		Investigate opportunities to upgrade selected parks and improve recreational amenity.	A priority list of possible recreational facility improvements should be developed in conjunction with a "design audit" and related costings identified.	Increase in number and quality of facilities in selected small parks. Increase in level of usage Where improvements implemented.	MT

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	CONSIDERATIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	PRIORITY
Access to and through small parks.	To improve access to Councils small parks in a manner consistent with Council's Access Policy and user needs.	Investigate opportunities to improve access for park users.	Consider pedestrian crossings , park entry design, pram ramps, park and street footpaths, (existing and needed), location and type of facilities.	Investigations complete, opportunities identified.	ST
		Investigate improvements to access for park users. Develop priorities and works program.		Facilities constructed to works program.	MT/OG
Design of Small Parks	To improve the aesthetic, functional and environmental quality of Council's small parks	Audit existing parks in relation to current design. Identify problems, opportunities and priorities.	This would form part of a larger investigation of issues identified in the usage, access and maintenance areas.	Investigations complete, opportunities and priorities identified.	MT
		Produce designs for selected parks to agreed program.	Community and operations staff involvement needed.	Designs completed to program.	MT
		Develop works program.	Implementation depends on funding.	Improvements implemented to program and designs.	MT

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	CONSIDERATIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	PRIORITY
Maintenance of small parks	To maintain small parks so that they are clean, attractive and inviting to users	Carry out regular maintenance of small parks		Maintenance undertaken to agreed standards, programs and budget..	OG
		Prepare a maintenance program for all components of maintenance	Should include performance indicators and standards to be achieved.	Program prepared and performance indicators achieved	ST
	Review maintenance structures and procedures for small parks		Review undertaken	C/ST	
	Review selected parks in relation to maintenance /design issues		Review undertaken	ST	
	Implement findings of procedures and design reviews.		Findings implemented	ST/MT	
	ensure that public safety is a priority in small parks	Formulate an inspection program to identify all potential hazards	Will be part of maintenance procedures within ongoing cycle.	Program formulated and implemented	C

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	CONSIDERATIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	PRIORITY
Park Furniture & Equipment	Provide park furniture for small parks which is attractive, functional and appropriately located and which meets user needs	Compile an inventory of existing park furniture in small parks.	Should include type, condition, location, appropriateness, etc	Inventory completed	ST
		Develop a consistent palette of appropriate park furniture	Signage investigation undertaken. Investigations into other types of furnishings needed.	Appropriate park furniture installed	O
		Identify need for additional and/or new park furniture.	Should be part of an integrated approach to evaluation and design of our small parks.	See Design Audit	
Playgrounds in small parks	To ensure playgrounds in small parks are safe, attractive, stimulating and functional.	All playgrounds occurring in small parks managed as established in the Playgrounds Plan of Management.		Playgrounds managed and maintained to Playgrounds Plan of Management .	C/O

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	CONSIDERATIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	PRIORITY
Leases and Licences	To establish leases and licences appropriate to small parks	Review and redraft existing leases and licences to ensure compatibility with this plan.		Existing leases and licences reviewed / re-drafted where appropriate.	ST
Community Participation	To encourage local community participation in the design and development of small parks.	Identify opportunities and procedures to involve and encourage community participation	Community consultation through local Precincts and by notifying immediate residents during the design process.	Opportunities and procedures identified and implemented as an ongoing process.	C/OG
		Encourage feedback on the quality of facilities and level of service	Ongoing consultation with Precincts, ongoing small user surveys by Council staff.	Feedback program implemented.	OG
Monitoring of Plan of Management	Plan of Management reviewed and updated as required.	Review Plan of Management implementation and performance annually. Review and update policy and planning issues after 5 years.		Reviews implemented plan objectives achieved within time - frames.	OG

6.0 LAND INCLUDED IN THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

6.1 Community And Crown Lands

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	AREA	COMMENTS
Blair St. Reserve	Community Land	Cnr. Blair St & Glenayr Ave	0.0345ha	Has playground.
Bondi Reserve	Community Land	Bondi Rd, Bondi	0.1010ha	
Brighton Blvde. Reserve	Community Land	Brighton Boulevard, Bondi	0.0550ha	Links Brighton Blvde. with Ramsgate Ave.
Caffyn Park	Community Land	Victory Street, Dover Heights	0.6475ha	Has playground, good views to west.
Clemenston Park	Community Land	Ebley Street, Bondi Junction	0.850ha	Currently under redevelopment.
Daley St. Reserve	Community Land	Council St, Bondi Junction	0.0316ha	
Eora Park	Community Land	Hollywood Ave, Bondi Junction	0.1200ha	New park, construction completed 1995.
Francis St Reserve	Community Land	Francis St, Bondi	0.0805ha	Links Francis St with Edward St.
Fingelton Reserve	Community Land	Waverley Crescent, Bondi Junction	0.2023ha	Has small playground.
Garrarra Reserve	Community Land	Ramsgate Ave, Bondi		
Gilgandra Reserve	Community Land	Gilgandra Road, Bondi	0.0480ha	Sydney Water land.
Jessie Street Reserve	Community Land	Murray Street, Waverley	0.0330ha	
Kimberley Reserve	Community Land	Military Road, Dover Heights	0.4097ha	Has playground and community building
Macpherson Park	Crown Land	Macpherson St & Arden St , Waverley	0.3130ha	Has a small playground.

NAME	SIZE	COMMENTS
Gibson St Reserve	0.0854ha	Has small playground.
Glen St Reserve	0.0417ha	Road reservation.
Hal Lashwood Reserve	0.0480ha	
Hewlett St Closure	0.1650ha	
Liverpool St Reserve	0.0800ha	
New Street Closure	0.0548ha	
O'Donnell St Community Reserve	0.0685ha	Has playground.
Palmerston Ave Closure	0.0420ha	
Scarborough Cres Closure	0.1800ha	
Scott St Closure	0.0620ha	Small playground.
Seven Ways	0.0400ha	
Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve	0.0890ha	
Six Ways		
Tipper Ave		
Tower St Reserve		