

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing Jamieson Park, (including the southern section of parkland east of South Creek). This park, designated as a Significant Area by Warringah Council, has a distinctive natural setting of bushland adjacent to Narrabeen Lagoon. The park comprises Crown land (with Council as trustee) and public land owned by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP). Overall, the park has significant environmental, biodiversity and scenic values creating a diverse range of opportunities for recreational activities. Its significant values have been recognized in the Crown land's reservation for public purpose "for recreation and promotion of study and the preservation of native flora and fauna". The DUAP land is equally important in terms of public purpose and this area also contains items of cultural heritage significance. As such, the park plays a vital role in Warringah's open space system and is highly valued by the local community.

This Plan aims to satisfy the requirements of both the Crown Land Act 1989 and Local Government Act 1993 (as amended for Community Land Management 1998). It takes a values-based approach to land planning and management, identifying the park's key values, role and purpose so that these assets may be protected and enhanced. The park's significant qualities, its environmental sensitivity and susceptibility to changing uses and impacts are all defining criteria for the way in which this land must be managed. Issues will come and go but the values which make this park what it is are potentially far longer lasting. However, these values can be easily lost, damaged or diminished so it is important to ensure their protection for the enjoyment of this generation as well as for generations to come.

Warringah Council's approach in facilitating this process and providing opportunities for extensive consultation has significantly improved understanding of these values and issues amongst stakeholders and the broader community. This Plan has provided a forum for this discussion and process through a public meeting and workshop, Council meetings, distribution of the community issues discussion paper, Council's Steering Committee meetings, meetings with key stakeholders, letters/ submissions to Council and articles in the local press.

Basis for Management

In concurrence with this community consultation, the Plan has further investigated and defined the park's values, its role and purpose in the context of being a Significant Area. Through the process of community consultation, the following key values were identified, namely:

- ☐ the park's natural setting and tranquillity beside Narrabeen Lagoon;
- ☐ outstanding natural and scenic beauty;
- ☐ its natural bushland values and low-key park development;
- ☐ valuable and threatened habitat values;
- ☐ significant flora and fauna values;

- ☐ easy public access;
- ☐ opportunities for a broad range of recreational uses (land & water-based).

Key values were divided into four major categories as follows:

1. Natural Setting
2. Environmental/ biodiversity
3. Heritage
4. Recreation/ access & circulation

Through further investigation and evaluation, these values were assigned a significance ranking. These values are affected, and in some cases threatened, by a broad range of activities, management practices and development pressures, many of which originate from beyond the park's boundaries. In effect, the park is a lineal foreshore corridor with an extensive perimeter exposed to adjoining plateau development. A broad range of negative environmental impacts continue to affect the park's management and all of its significant values. Furthermore, the park's recreational impacts are added to these extraneous pressures.

The issues and threats to identified values were assessed and analysed. This exercise provided opportunities for developing a co-ordinated planning framework which will help to ensure the protection of the park's identified values, its role and purpose. The vision statement, as developed in section 3.0 Basis for Management, encapsulates these values, provides guiding principles and addresses the fundamental expectations of the community as follows:

“To maintain and enhance Jamieson Park’s role as a “significant natural area” in the Warringah open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the environmental, recreational, educational and social needs of the present community and future generations”.

Management Strategies

In accordance with this vision statement and requirements of both the Crown Lands Act and Local Government Act (as amended), this Plan establishes the following guiding principles or desired outcomes:

- ☐ to protect and enhance the park's natural setting and its scenic, environmental, heritage and recreational values;
- ☐ to promote ecologically sustainable management practices;
- ☐ to establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts;
- ☐ to establish guidelines for assessing leases and licenses;
- ☐ to protect and enhance public access, recreational linkages, facilities and settings;

and core objectives are established in relation to community land comprising:

- ☐ a natural area (including bushland, wetland, watercourse and foreshore);
- ☐ a park; and
- ☐ an area of cultural significance.

The Plan tables desired outcomes and core objectives and includes a description of the means of achievement (management actions), means of assessment (of the actions) and

priorities for implementation. Key actions of the management strategies, as developed in this Plan, are summarised as follows (refer to section 4.0 Management Strategies):-

1. **Biodiversity Management**
Address critical biophysical data gaps and shortfalls (including a quantitative faunal/ threatened species survey). Enhance opportunities for faunal corridors (ie. bushland links to Garigal National Park and South Creek corridor). Continue to control feral animal populations. Promote integrated weed management/ bush regeneration and rehabilitation linked to improved catchment management. Continue community-based environmental education programmes and assist community groups in seeking funding for approved environmental projects. Introduce low-impact visitor education within the park (eg. interpretive signage). Implement objective monitoring of biophysical data (eg. university involvement) and mechanisms for adjusting the strategy.
2. **Catchment Management**
Investigate opportunities for an improved local catchment management strategy which specifically targets ridge-line development and its associated impacts (ie. urban run-off, altered hydrology, nutrient loading, localized track flooding, “die-back” and weed invasion of the park. Major stormwater lines as well as the large number of private residential drains are the focus of this integral part of the strategy. Catchment management is identified as a priority one issue requiring further investigation, and where appropriate, application for grant funding.

The strategy stresses the importance of creating a “partnership” with the RSL War Veterans Retirement Village to address key objectives. It aims to provide significantly enhanced controls on overland flow patterns, reduction in the use of fertilizers/ pesticides through education, connection to sub-surface drainage lines, introduction of sedimentation ponds/ swales, planting and gross pollutant traps. The strategy outlines opportunities for re-direction of flows and nutrients to constructed freshwater wetlands within the reclamation area, substantially enhancing a broad range of environmental and recreational values.
3. **Weed Management/ Bush Regeneration**
The strategy emphasizes opportunities for integrated weed management, bush regeneration and rehabilitation within the umbrella of improved local catchment management. The long term sustainability and cost effectiveness of the existing bush regeneration programme is directly linked to catchment management. In the interim, contract work should continue within identified priority areas (ie. associated with main visitor use areas/ tracks and Swamp Mahogany Forest which is priority one conservation significance). Ensure structural/ species composition diversity and avoid practices which lead to further ecosystem simplification. Introduce improved objective monitoring and assessment (see biodiversity management).
4. **Bushfire Management**
Implement a co-ordinated strategy which integrates the objectives of the Rural Fires Act 1997 and the Warringah - Pittwater Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (refer to Appendix V - Bush Fire Risk Management), site access and egress requirements and protection of public safety/ property whilst providing for the park’s significant environmental and biodiversity values. The management strategy emphasizes co-operation, liaison and flexibility. It promotes open, community consultation and an inter-disciplinary approach to fire management and hazard reduction.

Continue to consult and liaise with NSW Rural Fire Service to ensure flexibility in determination of fuel-free and fuel-reduced zones. Opportunities for improved management are based on specific site characteristics. The proposed actions within fuel reduced/ fuel free zones include removal of weeds and accumulated soil/ building waste from sandstone outcrops, mulching, appropriate native, non-contiguous planting.

5. **Establish guidelines for assessing development and lease proposals**
Ensure consistency with Crown policy, Council's adopted policy and the Draft LEP's Principles of Development Control. Specific criteria for assessment of any proposed development, leases/ licenses or commercial activities are scheduled in the Plan.

6. **Heritage**
Investigate options for protection, management and interpretation of cultural heritage (ie. ruins of jetty associated with James Wheeler estate). Conduct a review of possible indigenous heritage sites within the park.

7. **Public access, recreational linkages, facilities and settings**
Proposed actions are divided into major use areas as follows:

Main Carpark/ Picnic, BBQ Area, Sailing Club & the "Cascades":

- ☐ investigate options for visitor dispersal into reclamation area;
- ☐ enhance broad accessibility opportunities;
- ☐ complete asphalt pathway/ bikepath link to Berry Reserve (including short loop circuit track through reclamation area);
- ☐ develop an integrated system of signage (ie. identification, interpretive and directional) and upgrade recreational facilities (ie. electric BBQ's, picnic shelters for groups, low-key lighting to carpark area);
- ☐ review traffic/ visitor management (eg. "short-stay" Pay & Display);
- ☐ review catchment management issues affecting viability of the Sailing Club facilities and ensure flexibility in permitting appropriate uses. Investigate options for adaptive re-use of the building;
- ☐ implement the recommendations of the Safe Warringah Strategic Plan;
- ☐ continue to maintain recreational facilities, public amenities and open space to a high standard;
- ☐ address public safety/ repair erosion damage at the "Cascades" and provide site hardened access including a timber viewing deck.

Reclamation Area:

- ☐ significantly enhance recreational opportunities in reclamation area;
- ☐ western paddock re-grading/ rehabilitation measures;
- ☐ construct asphalt multi-use, short-circuit loop track through the eastern paddock, including pedestrian bridge widening over lower creek;
- ☐ upgrade foreshore linkages to main bush track;
- ☐ investigate opportunities for freshwater wetland construction in western paddock and the need for an alternate bush track (subject to catchment management);
- ☐ upgrading of recreational facilities (ie. relocation of picnic settings to shaded foreshores/ new shelter facilities for large groups);
- ☐ implement a co-ordinated approach to recreational facilities design;
- ☐ additional planting with locally indigenous species;
- ☐ protection of western spit habitat values;
- ☐ review and monitor recreational activities which may threaten values;

- ☐ no unleashed dogs in this area in accordance with Council policy.

Main Bush Track:

- ☐ reinforce low-key opportunities for recreational corridor linkages:
 - Dee Why Lagoon - South Creek - Berry Reserve
 - bridge crossing at South Creek linking to western shoreline and Garigal National Park
- ☐ provide minimal site hardening to the main bush track (ie. primarily compacted decomposed granite with timber decking/ boardwalks over low wet areas/ creek crossings);
- ☐ improve sight-line management to avoid user group conflicts;
- ☐ investigate opportunities for constructing a timber boardwalk through wetlands/ Swamp Oak Forest providing a direct foreshore link on public land.

South Creek Open Grassed Area:

- ☐ minimal enhancement of recreational opportunities to provide a rest point (eg. picnic tables/ seating);
- ☐ install entry signage (ie. locational/ directional and interpretive);
- ☐ rehabilitation/ buffer planting and protective fencing to enhance vital core habitat and reduce multiple tracking in this area;
- ☐ promote recreational linkage opportunities.

Action Plan

These management strategies form the basis for which Jamieson Park's values can be managed and protected on a sustainable basis, whilst meeting the needs of the present community as well as for future generations.

Performance measures and priorities for action have been assigned accordingly. The landscape masterplan identifies the physical locations and relationships of proposed actions within the park. These are based on a five-year capital works programme which includes responsibilities for tasks, costings and completion dates (refer to Works Schedule and Opinion of Probable Landscape Construction Costs and Summary Sheet in section 4.0 Management Strategies).