

4 Management of Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor

4.1 Management objectives

This section of the plan provides the framework for the protection and management of values identified in the Basis of Management.

Vision Statement

The following vision statement has been developed from all information collected for this Plan.

That Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor be managed and improved to protect its natural areas, increase its functionality as a wildlife corridor and to enable community access, use and enjoyment of the open space and unique links created by this group of reserves.

Objectives

An objective has been developed for each of the identified values which along with the Core Objectives for community land (Appendix E) provide management direction and are the basis for the development of the actions in this Plan of Management.

1 Natural Environment

To protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment within the South Creek Open Space Corridor and Dee Why Valley.

2 Land Management

To improve the management of the reserves and resolve the outstanding land ownership and tenure issues.

3 Access, Appearance and Availability

To develop accessible, attractive and inviting open space areas linked by a network of pathways which take advantage of the linear nature of the reserves from Narrabeen to Dee Why and Beacon Hill.

4 Sporting

To manage, maintain and improve the sportsgrounds to meet the needs of the users and local community.

5 Recreational, Cultural and Social

To provide a wide range of enjoyable and safe opportunities for the local community to participate in.

4.2 Action plan

How is the action plan structured?

This section of the plan lists the actions designed to address the issues and protect the values. The specific actions are displayed in table form and have been divided into groups relating to the five values.

Some actions have 'See Appendix B for additional information' in the action description, this means that information which may assist in the implementation of this action can be found in Appendix B.

What do the priorities mean?

The priority of each action has been set according to the relative importance of the action. Undertaking a plan of management is an extensive study into a land area and as a result a very large list of actions is inevitably developed but Council does not necessarily have the resources to undertake all of the stated actions within a given timeframe. For example some are grant dependant or may be funded by community groups.

Therefore it is necessary that we show which actions are the most important and should be implemented. A prioritising system using High, Medium and Low importance has been developed. It has been based on the consultation and research undertaken for this plan.

- **High importance** – Those actions given a high importance which require capital expenditure or other additional funding are to be considered in Council funding processes annually until they can be resourced, incorporated in relevant plans and completed.

Those actions given a high performance not requiring capital expenditure are to be considered for the Management Plan and relevant unit's 'Business Plan' until completed.

Either type of high importance action may be rejected, altered or given another priority rating through a formal review. Additional funding sources may be sought for these actions.

- **Medium importance** – These actions are to be reviewed by the responsible Council Unit each year as to their current importance. This is to take into consideration current directions, available resources and where relevant considered for capital expenditure and/ or placement in the relevant plans.

These actions are those which should be implemented within the life of this Plan unless they are rejected, altered or given another priority rating through a formal review. Additional funding sources may be sought by the relevant unit for these actions.

- **Low importance** – These actions are important and are seen as necessary for the overall management and improvement of the land area but they may not be allocated appropriate resources until they are formally reviewed as being of a higher importance or resources become available for such actions. Relevant units are to consider these actions on an annual basis.

Abbreviations

The groups responsible for each action have been abbreviated within the action plan. The following is a list of abbreviations used:

PR&F	Parks, Reserves and Foreshores
NE	Natural Environment
C&SS	Community and Safety Services
C	Compliance
SP	Strategic Planning
S&P	Strategy and Policy
R,T&W	Roads, Traffic and Waste
P&CD	Property and Commercial Development
CGC	Cromer Golf Club

Ongoing Management Actions

The action plan contains a list of new actions but there are a range of actions which will still occur and are necessary for the management of this area. These have been summarised in section 5.3.

The Action Plan

Table 4.2.1 lists the actions for Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management

The Natural Environment

Objective

To protect, preserve and improve the natural environment within the South Creek Open Space Corridor and Dee Why Valley.

Performance target

To rehabilitate the creeks, control weeds, reduce the impact of flooding and protect and improve the natural bush and habitat areas.

Means of assessment

- Regular assessment of natural area condition
- Regular fauna survey/observations

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Weeds	1. Expand the weed eradication and prevention program for noxious tree and shrub species along both the South Creek and Dee Why Creek riparian zones and within the reserves. This should be undertaken following an assessment of the area and the development of a staged program. Additional information regarding weed management is also listed in the South Creek Floodplain Risk Management. See section 5.5 and Appendix B for additional information.	High	NE
Bush, endangered communities and habitat	2. Continue to identify and develop restoration action plans for those areas with endangered communities and remnant habitat potential.	High	NE
	3. Undertake an assessment of each corridor to identify additional areas for bush and habitat restoration and develop an action plan for each area.	High	NE
	4. Restore habitat in Dee Why Park and St Matthews Farm as proposed in the Local Habitat Strategy (2007) and supporting documents.	Medium	NE
	5. Re-stabilise the banks of Dee Why Creek and consider replacing the concrete base (half pipe) with a more natural creek line in conjunction with the Local Habitat Strategy and Floodplain Risk Management Plan and Study.	Medium	NE

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
	6. Consider the declaration of additional reserves as 'Wildlife Protection Areas' through the appropriate process. In particular McIntosh, South Creek Reserve and South Creek Foreshore are to be considered as areas where cats should not be allowed. Dee Why Park is to be considered for declaration as a 'Wild Life Protection Area' area once the additional habitat areas are established.	Medium	NE
Flooding	7. All actions aimed at reducing flooding risks in the South Creek and Dee Why catchment areas listed within the relevant Floodplain Risk Management Study and Floodplain Risk Management Plans are to be considered and where appropriate implemented. See section 5.5.	Priorities in the plan	NE

Table 4.2.1 Actions for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management – Natural Environment

Land Management

Council Objective

To improve the management of the reserves and resolve the outstanding land ownership and tenure issues.

Performance Target

To improve management of the reserves, address maintenance requirements, resolve outstanding tenure issues and ensure the formation of a continuous open space strip within each corridor.

Means of Assessment

- Regular assessment of reserve condition
- Regular assessment of community opinion, behaviour and complaints (eg via the community survey)
- Management control of identified land

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Maintenance	8. Undertake an annual assessment of the maintenance requirements of the reserves taking community expectations and Council resources into consideration.	High	P,R&F
	9. Undertake an environmental impact assessment regarding the removal of the weir and pumping station in South Creek Foreshore. If recommended to remove these structures appropriate access to the reserve is to be provided prior to the removal.	Medium	P,R&F
Tenure	10. Obtain control of the Roads and Traffic Authority land (next to Multi Use Access Pathway) through gazetting the land as public land under Section 159 of the Roads Act 1993. Once under Council's control develop and implement a 'Protection and Restoration Plan' to ensure the preservation of the wetlands in this area.	High	P&CD
	11. Obtain control of the land zoned as open space reservation in Councils current LEP owned by the Department of Planning and RTA land between Lidwina and Tyagarah Reserves and those parcels owned by the Department of Planning in Wabash Reserve.	High	P&CD
	12. Reclassify a portion of 54 Willandra Road as community land to ensure an adequately wide corridor of open space along South Creek.	High	SP
	13. Liaise with Cromer Golf Club on a regular basis to improve overall management and usage of this land. Where relevant consider involving the Crown in these discussions.	High	P,R&F CGC

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
	14. Investigate obtaining control of the South Creek Foreshore land and the creek bed. This is to consider pursuing trusteeship of this land.	Medium	P&CD
	15. If trusteeship of South Creek Foreshore is acquired establish a lease, licence or similar agreement with Cromer Golf Club regarding the future use of the land. This has been authorised in section 5.6.	Medium	P&CD
	16. Pursue the closure and reclassification of the section of Waroon Road adjacent to the northern side of St Mathews Farm to enable the development of further facilities complementary to the sportsground and surrounding open space.	Medium	P&CD
	17. Investigate and where relevant rezone those land parcels reserved as Drainage Reserve to open space.	Low	SP
Encroachment and dumping	18. Develop and implement a program aiming to reduce the incidence of residents dumping and encroaching on public land. This may include increased surveillance and regulatory action as required.	High	C NE
Dogs	19. Consider trialing an unleashed dog area on Fields 3 and 4 at Cromer Park for restricted weekday hours (i.e. 10 pm to 8am). The trial is also to monitor the impact that this activity may have on the vandalism and antisocial behavior issues in this area. See Appendix B for additional information.	Low	C PR&F
	20. Place dog litterbins and signs noting appropriate dog management behavior at a number of locations through out the corridors.	Medium	C PR&F

Table 4.2.1 Actions for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management - Land Management

Accessibility, Appearance and Use of the Reserves

Council Objective

To develop accessible, attractive and inviting open space areas linked by a network of pathways which take advantage of the linear nature of the reserves from Narrabeen to Dee Why and Beacon Hill.

Performance Target

To provide a network of pathways throughout the area, increase awareness and use of the reserves and improve accessibility and availability of space for the community.

Means of Assessment

- Regular assessment of reserve condition
- Regular assessment of community opinion, behaviour and complaints
- Level of use of reserves for recreational activities
- Access provided through the reserves

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Open Space	21. Integrate 245 Fisher Road into Dumic Place Reserve and prepare a consistent and integrated landscape plan which aims to develop Dumic Reserve as a community park with a shared pathway through to the Multi Use Access Path and Cromer Park. The plan should outline the provision of furniture, pathways, natural shade, entrance points and bins etc. See Appendix B for additional information.	High	PR&F
	22. Consider the provision of furniture, shade trees, barbeques adjoining pathways, children/youth spaces, natural shade, lighting, plantings, signage, public art, accessibility, entrance points and bins in all reserves which aims to creates a sense of identity, character and improves the safety, access and usability of the reserves.	Varies per reserve – see section 5.7	PR&F
Tracks	23. Complete the network of shared pathways (suitable for bikes and pedestrians) throughout the corridors to create a comprehensive recreation and transit system. The system is to include two main networks from Narrabeen Lagoon; one leading to Dee Why and the other to Beacon Hill. It is also to include the upgrade of all existing main trails within the shared network system to ensure they meet appropriate standards. See Appendix B for additional information.	High	PR&F RT&W

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
	24. As per DA 2003/0856 Cromer Golf Club is to develop a shared pathway through South Creek Foreshore and link it to South Creek Reserve land south of the golf club. It is important that the safety of the pedestrians/ cyclists is to be considered as part of the planning and construction of this track. Council is to be involved in the planning and development of this track.	High	CGC PR&F
	25. Develop new and up grade any secondary pathways which link to the shared pathway network system or facilities in the reserves to ensure access to and through the reserves. This is to include the upgrade of all existing main trails within the shared network system to ensure they meet appropriate standards. See Appendix B for additional information.	Medium	PR&F
	26. Where appropriate provide a low impact track in McIntosh and Towradgi Reserves ensuring preservation of the natural environment in these areas. Investigate the need and suitability for the development of a shared pathway in the northern end of Towradgi Reserve on the western side of the creek adjacent to Willandra Village.	Low	PR&F
Access	27. Investigate and develop an appropriate crossing over or under the Sydney Water pipe in Tyagarah Reserve. This is linked to action 23.	High	PR&F
	28. Identify and develop two main entry points to South Creek Foreshore. This could include an entrance from Toronto Ave and a bridge entry from South Creek Reserve. This is linked to action 23 and 24.	High	PR&F
	29. Remove the concrete block in Tyagarah Reserve and plant suitable grass and plants to extend the open space. This is linked to action 23.	Medium	PR&F
	30. Consider the development of boardwalks through the wetland areas in Wabash Reserve and Multi Use Access Path. This can be linked to action 23.	Low	PR&F NE
Signage	31. Erect appropriate compliance, directional and interpretative signage in all reserves to ensure safe usage, access and clear open space boundaries. The signage is to be consistent through out the corridor.	Medium	CGC PR&F

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Parking	32. Undertake a parking study for Dee Why Park aiming to identify opportunities for additional parking spaces when the sportsground is in use. The study is to include community consultation and take into account the current parking situation and the natural and geographical constraints of this area. A car park, bridges and pathways are authorised in section 5.7 should the development of this facility be seen as appropriate. See Appendix B for additional information.	High	RT&W PR&F
	33. Reconfigure and expand the car park at Cromer Park utilising available space within the Park boundaries and take into consideration the other developments proposed for the reserve.	Medium	RT&W PR&F
	34. Investigate the possibility of developing partnerships with local businesses and facilities regarding alternative weekend parking opportunities for sporting competitions and events. This action could be considered within action 32.	Medium	RT&W PR&F
	35. Increase the number of parking spaces at St Matthews Farm by extending the current formal parking area and increasing the number of positions on Grover Avenue. The formal car park is currently on Road Reserve and can be expanded however as per Action 16 the road closure and classification of this land is to be undertaken once the parking is developed.	Low	RT&W PR&F
	36. Develop formal car parking at various sections along South Creek Road adjacent to South Creek Reserve in conjunction with a shared cycle/walking track along the entire area. This is linked to action 23.	Low	RT&W PR&F
Lighting	37. Assess the need for lighting for all car parks and track areas and where relevant install appropriate lighting.	Medium	RT&W PR&F
Reserve names	38. Undertake the process to formally assign names to Multi Use Access Path, the major areas of Dee Why Park and include 245 Fisher Road into Dumic Place Reserve. Appropriate signage is to be erected when names have been clarified.	Medium	P&CD PR&F

Table 4.2.1 Actions for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management - Accessibility, Appearance and Use of the Reserves

Sportsgrounds

Council Objective:

To manage, maintain and improve the sportsgrounds to meet the needs of the users and local community.

Performance Target:

To improve management and planning for sportsgrounds, improve the management and provision of ancillary facilities and provide additional opportunities for use by the community.

Means of Assessment:

- Regular assessment of reserve and facilities condition
- Regular assessment of community opinion, behaviour and complaints
- Level of use of reserves for recreational activities

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Development	39. Develop new and improve existing facilities at each of the three sportsgrounds to enable them to better meet the needs of the sporting groups and community. Section 5.7 lists the specific developments and improvements authorised under this plan.	See Table 5.1.1	PR&F
	40. Develop a landscape plan for Dee Why Park, Cromer Park and St Matthews Farm to guide development. This is to consider the provision of a variety of facilities including natural shade, spectator mounding and seating, lighting, sporting equipment, barbecues, landscaping, amenity buildings, seating, additional recreational facilities and signage as well as providing direction on the overall look and appearance of the reserve. The actions in this plan are to provide a basis of what is to be included but further consideration of the overall layout of each sportsground is required. The Master Plans in section 4.3 provide the outline to assist this action and additional consultation with sportsground users is to be considered.	Medium	PR&F
	41. Consider the development of all weather surface facilities at Cromer Park; this may include the development of both Futsal courts and full sized soccer fields. Any such development is to be included in the detailed landscape Plan as listed in action 40. All management arrangements and agreements must be discussed and negotiated prior to construction. The development of the facility is authorised as per section 5.7.	Medium	PR&F

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
	42. Investigate the need and suitability of building a second storey club / community facility on top of the southern amenity building at St Matthews Farm.	Low	PR&F
Management	43. Investigate the most appropriate method to form a barrier for balls entering the creek at Dee Why Park. This should be considered as part of the landscape plan for the park.	High	PR&F NE
	44. Encourage sporting clubs who share a reserve to form a ground management committee to address current and future issues. Council will provide a single point of contact for liaison with the Committee.	Medium	PR&F
New sportsfields	45. Negotiate with the local schools within Collaroy, Wheeler Heights, Cromer and Dee Why regarding increasing community use of their sportsgrounds and facilities.	Medium	PR&F
	46. Review the configuration of all three fields to ascertain if further fields could fit into the current space. This is particularly important for Dee Why Park if the Campbell Parade end of the field is utilised for junior sport.	Medium	PR&F
	47. Investigate the requirements to bring Campbell Parade fields up to playing standard for junior sport. This is to consider the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Appropriate installation of a slit drainage system or similar – The configuration, location and number of grounds – Any resulting environmental impact The results are to be considered and a decision implemented. See Appendix B for additional information.	Low	PR&F
Neighbourhood relations	48. Develop and implement an education and awareness program which aims to improve the relationship between sports users and local residents.	High	PR&F
	49. Work with the relevant sporting communities to reduce the negative impact that sports use has on the local areas. This is to consider negotiating specific measures to ensure good neighbour behaviour.	High	PR&F
	50. Investigate and install measures to decrease noise and other sports related issues along the western side of Field 1 at Dee Why Park, this is to consider mounding, plantings and alternative fencing.	High	PR&F

Table 4.2.1 Actions for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management - Sportsgrounds

**Recreation, Cultural and Social,
Council Objective**

To provide a wide range of enjoyable and safe opportunities for the local community to participate in.

Performance Target

To increase the opportunities for community participation and involvement in embellishment of the reserves and to ensure the development of safe and inviting spaces.

Means of Assessment

- Regular assessment of reserve condition
- Regular assessment of community opinion, behaviour, complaints and incidents
- Level of use of reserves for recreational activities

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
Safety and Security	51. Investigate vandalism and security at the reserves and develop a series of strategies to reduce antisocial behaviour and crime (where appropriate use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles). If relevant security cameras or other security measures are to be considered at any venue where there is considerable and costly damage on a regular basis.	High	PR&F C&SS
	52. Consider enclosing the amenity building and other possible security measures at Dee Why Park to discourage antisocial behavior at night in that area.	Medium	PR&F
Education	53. Develop and implement a community education plan or a series of various residential education programs which aim to reduce the human impact on the creeks and reserves as well as attempting to increase the sense of ownership of this area. Topic areas could include: rubbish dumping, domestic animal management, encroachment, habitat protection, plantings, riparian zones and illegal dumping. The involvement of schools and other relevant groups is also to be considered.	High	NE C
Community facilities	54. Develop a "learn to ride" bike area at Cromer Park. This is to cater for young children on bikes/ vehicles as well as provide opportunity for adventure rides around the park for older children. Usage guidelines, appropriate signage and other related amenities such as seating and shade is to be developed and installed.	Medium	PR&F C&SS

Topic	Actions	Priority	RESP.
	55. Consider opening the amenities buildings along tracks and recreational facilities during daylight hours.	Medium	PR&F
	56. Upgrade the four playgrounds as per the recommendations and priorities set in the Playground Strategy (August 2007) to meet Australian Standards. Each of the playgrounds should be different from the other and provide different play experiences throughout the corridor.	Medium	PR&F
	57. Develop the southern end of Lidwina Reserve on Willandra Road into a picnic area with scattered furniture and plantings for additional shade. Provision of car parking and barbecues is to be considered.	Low	PR&F
	58. Develop the northern end of Wabash Reserve on Toronto Avenue as an open space area suitable for the playing of casual sports and recreational activities. This development must take into consideration the flooding risks of this area.	Low	PR&F NE
	59. Consider the installation of a fitness circuit within at least one of the reserves or along a section of the track.	Low	PR&F
	60. Consider the development of a youth recreation facility at St Mathews Farm on the South Creek Road frontage utilizing available space between the mound and road. An investigation as to the most appropriate facility type is to be undertaken and all relevant factors considered.	Low	PR&F C&CS
Neighbours/ volunteers	61. Develop additional programs aimed at attracting and inviting local residents/ volunteers to be involved in the ongoing care and embellishment of this area.	Medium	NE
	62. Develop stronger relationships with the various retirement villages, sporting groups and community facilities adjacent or local to this area regarding gardening practices, encroachments, rubbish dumping, potential volunteering opportunities and other relevant topics.	Medium	PR&F NE C&SS
	63. Liaise regularly with Willandra Village and Dee Why Gardens addressing all relevant matters including reserve borders, plantings, pathways and access to the adjacent reserves.	Medium	PR&F NE

Table 4.2.1 Actions for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management – Recreation, Cultural and Social.

4.3 Master plans

The Master Plans has been developed as a visual representation of the actions listed for each of the reserves in this plan of management. All relevant actions which can be represented on a map have been shown however their presence on the master plans does not reflect their priority nor does it provide any of the details regarding their implementation, this information is listed under the relevant action or sections in this plan and should be referred to for further information.

The master plans illustrate a **possible** layout and location of various facilities and actions within the reserves. Final configuration is dependant on the appropriate planning and investigation processes, some of which have been set out in this plan.

These maps have been developed using data derived from Council Geographic Information System and have been developed for the purposes of managing Council's open space only.

Some typical section drawings have been provided to visually represent the action, these have not been prepared to scale.

There are master plans for the following:

- McIntosh Reserve
- Towradgi and Birinta Reserves
- Lidwina Reserve and typical section drawing 1
- Tyagarah Reserve
- Wabash Reserve
- South Creek Reserve, South Creek Foreshore (south) Reserve and typical section drawing 2 and 3
- South Creek Foreshore Reserve (north)
- St Matthews Farm Reserve and typical section drawing 4
- Domic Place Reserve and typical section drawing 5
- Cromer Park and typical section drawing 6 and 7
- Multi use Access Path and typical section drawing 8
- Dee Why Park and typical section drawing 9
- Path Network