

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY LANDS

(Part 2, Division 2 of the
Local Government Act, 1993)

LAURA STREET RESERVE AND WHARF

Laura Street, Seaforth



Prepared by the
Environmental Services Division

The middle section of the reserve includes a sloping grassed area. It has been cleared of vegetation and is currently mown although so steep as to be virtually unusable for any recreational activity. Adjacent private development has tended to obscure the public footpath and the lack of signage also confuses the visitor to the reserve.

The lower area comprises a sandstone wharf and sea wall which is in generally poor condition. Adjoining the wharf there is presently weed infested bushland. Given the limited flat area on this site, this land is presently largely occupied by dinghies.

1.3 Links to Other Areas and Adjacent Land

The Reserve forms the principal link between the upper area of Seaforth Crescent and the waterfront at Middle Harbour. Adjacent land is primarily private residential development, roadway, and unmade road.

1.4 Reserve History

-

1.5 Available Plans

-

1.6 Leases

Not applicable

1.7 Council File References

R5/40 Laura Street Reserve

2. CONTEXT

2.1 Classification under the Local Government Act, 1993

Classification is part Community Land and part Operational. The category is Park, Natural Area - Bushland and Foreshore.

NB. Classification subject to correction.

2.2 Other Legislation

- Manly Local Environmental Plan 1988
- Zoning: Open Space and Residential.

NB. Zoneing should be amended.

2.3 Reports and Studies

- Landscape Study, 1977
- Recreation Study, 1978
- Landscape Management Plan 1988.

3. STATEMENT OF FUNCTION AND VALUE

3.1 Values and Function of the Land

The Laura Street Reserve has natural and visual value at the local, district and regional level. The Reserve also has local recreational and heritage value related to its prominent position on Middle Harbour. It offers unique views from Seaforth Crescent east over the Spit to South Head.

VALUE AND FUNCTION	SIGNIFICANCE						
	Local	District	Regional	Metropolitan	State	National	International
Natural	■	■					
Visual	■	■	■				
Social	■	■					
Recreational	■						
Cultural							
Educational							
Future Generational							
Heritage	■						

Values and function of the land
Laura Street Reserve

4. MANAGEMENT

4.1 Means of Achieving Objective

The draft plan of management for community land is based on 15 objectives. Those applicable to Laura Street Reserve and Wharf are indicated on the following tables starting on page 5.

4.2 Issues for the Master plan

Issues, Concerns, Opportunities

1. The need for weed removal and bushland rehabilitation.
Response: This is a serious issue for this particular reserve and requires consideration in the preparation of the Master plan.
2. Replanting of grassed areas at the upper and middle levels with indigenous ground covers and shrubs.
Response: This would improve the appearance of the area and reduce the maintenance requirement and be compatible with the bushland character of the reserve. Develop a replanting programme in the Master plan programme.

3. Investigate the cultural significance of the wharf and the potential future use as well as the need for ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the stair and the wharf.

Response: Given the poor condition of these facilities this issue would require consideration as to future resources, within the Master plan.

4. Consultation and involvement of the local community in the future care and management of the reserve.

Response: This would be essential to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

5. Consider redesign of the upper area to provide a viewing area at the point where the pathway is currently situated to take advantage of the unique outlook over the Spit and to South Head.

Response: Consider this in any redevelopment or ongoing maintenance programme for the reserve.

1

OBJECTIVE

Look after our bushland and comply with the legislative requirements of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 - Bushland in Urban Areas.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. Make all persons working in bushland areas aware of the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 - Bushland in Urban Areas and the areas to which it applies.
2. Make all neighbouring residents aware of the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 and seek co-operation to achieve good management of urban bushland areas.
3. Utilise contemporary skills and knowledge of bushland conservation, regeneration and management.
4. Determine the bushland plant community appropriate to the environment.
5. Include actions for the conservation and regeneration of bushland in the Master plan.
6. The Master plan should specifically address encroachment issues including:
Definition of property boundary lines, rubbish removal, exotic weed infestation, drainage issues, including erosion and sediment control.
7. The Master plan identifies areas for replanting with indigenous native plants.
8. Identification and prioritisation of areas requiring regeneration.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Workers in bushland areas are made aware of the Legislation and its responsibilities.
- 2.1 Information is made available to neighbours on the issues relating to urban bushland under SEPP 19.
- 2.2 Follow up inspections confirm good neighbourly practice.
- 3.1 Workers maintain liaison with other practitioners and researchers in the field of urban bushland management.
- 3.2 New skills are disseminated to workers and utilised in day to day maintenance and management.
4. Lists of appropriate plant communities are determined and included in the Master plan.
5. Master plan implemented by workers in urban bushland areas.
6. The Master plan identifies encroachment issues. Confirmation that encroachment issues have been addressed.
7. Progress on areas being regenerated recorded.
8. Priority areas are addressed.

3

OBJECTIVE

Integrate local drainage needs into park design and bushland management and the means of achieving the objective.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. The preparation of the Master plan should include consultation on neighbourhood drainage requirements and design proposals where appropriate.
2. Utilize contemporary skills in the design of multi-function drainage areas eg. sediment detention basins.
3. Ensure all drainage designs address: bushland maintenance; erosion; siltation and pollution controls; flooding issues; penetration for water table improvement and compatibility with recreational and aesthetic interests.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Drainage issues included in the preparation of the Master plan.
2. The drainage designs reflect current knowledge on drainage issues.
3. Drainage issues are addressed in park design and bushland management; and reviewed in relevant reviews of environmental factors.

4

OBJECTIVE

To include heritage conservation and cultural identity matters in design criteria when designing and maintaining our reserves.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. All actions proposed in the Master plan should comply with the statutory heritage provisions of Manly Local Environmental Plan 1988 and Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 23 - Sydney and Middle Harbours.
2. Make all persons working in the reserves aware of the particular heritage, conservation and cultural value of the reserve as identified in various studies and listings.
3. Works in cultural reserves should maintain the particular identified character of the reserve unless there is community agreement for an alternative approach. Application of the principles of the Burra Charter are relevant here.
4. The Master plan should adhere to the principles and standards in the Manly Identity Programme in respect to furniture, signage, colour, etc.
5. Aboriginal heritage sites should be recorded in relevant Master plans, where appropriate.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Compliance with statutory provisions achieved.
2. The Master plan includes information on heritage, conservation and cultural matters. These are disseminated to workers.
3. Designs should be consistent with particular identified character of each reserve.
4. The Manly Identity Programme principles and standards are adhered to.
5. Aboriginal heritage sites are included in the Master plan, where appropriate.

7

OBJECTIVE

To manage all open space land in a flexible manner and ensure that local needs are met.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. Liaise with the local neighbourhood when assessing future facilities for reserves to determine needs which may include play areas, dog areas, toilets, picnic and barbeque area and space for ball games.
2. Include identified needs in the Master plan.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Liaison with local groups undertaken during the planning process.
- 2.1 Identified needs if assessed for compatibility, demand and availability of resources.
- 2.2 Appropriate facilities included in the Master plan.

8

OBJECTIVE

Provide a major open space connection between harbour and ocean foreshores, creek and lagoon edge, and the national parks.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. Provide appropriate paths and signage in each applicable reserve.
2. Identify the walkway route in each applicable Master plan as one particular function for that reserve.
3. Work to bring private land on the harbour foreshores into the connection, either by public ownership or other agreement.
4. Liaise with National Parks and Wildlife Service to obtain connections into national park lands.
5. Publish a guide to the circuit walkway once the connections are substantially in place.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Paths and signage installed as required.
2. Publicise linkages.
3. Master plans include walkway function and location.
 - 3.1 Continue negotiation with private land holders.
 - 3.2 Land brought into public use within a reasonable time preferably for inclusion in Project 2000.
4. Connections with national park lands obtained within reasonable time by the Year 2000.
5. A guide published and distributed.

12

OBJECTIVE

Encourage local participation in design, development and management.

MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE

1. Continue liaison with local Precinct Committees and other groups prior to undertaking works in reserves other than day to day maintenance.
2. Continue where appropriate to hold on site gatherings with neighbours and other relevant groups or individuals as part of any exercise to plan the future form and use of a reserve.
3. Continue with joint Council and community maintenance and improvement teams like the C-Scheme for particular reserves and projects.
4. Consider inviting neighbourhood groups or individuals to be directly involved in ongoing planning and management of reserves.
5. Publish guides and educational pamphlets to Council's reserves and the activities available therein, possible topics being harbourside access, botanic gardens walk, circuit linear park and North Head Walk.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Evidence of liaison undertaken to the satisfaction of local groups without undue delay and inefficiency for Council programmes.
2. On-site meetings held where appropriate.
3. Joint Council and community works teams continued and expanded.
4. Confirm efforts to invite neighbourhood groups or individuals to directly participate in on-going planning and maintenance of reserves.
5. Guides and educational pamphlets published providing information on Council's reserves.

13**OBJECTIVE****Provide for user health, safety and enjoyment.****MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE**

1. Determine any necessary control on undesirable activities.
2. Determine any necessary control on dogs within reserves. Dog toilet areas provided if necessary.
- 3.1 Production of competent designs for reserves prior to major works being undertaken.
- 3.2 Inclusion of local neighbourhood and user groups in future design and management of reserves.
- 3.3 Refer to the design guidelines in the Manly Landscape Management Plan 1988, Section 2.1.7. when preparing designs or undertaking works.
4. Regular assessment of maintenance needs to ensure minimum public safety risk from the facilities.
5. Consider the provision of additional activities where permitted and consistent with other objectives in order to increase recreational opportunities.
6. Make facilities and access to reserves generally suitable for those with mobility impairments.
7. Ensure that leases and licences include adequate provisions to minimise public risk as well as insurance cover.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Undesirable activities controlled.
- 2.1 Park users not threatened by dogs.
- 2.2 No scattered dog excrement within reserves.
- 3.1 Greater public use of reserves and reduced vandalism.
- 3.2 Local community needs are being met when consideration is given to this objective.
4. Minimum accidents from use of facilities.
5. Additional activities provided after consideration.
6. Facilities and access to reserves generally suitable for those with mobility impairments.
7. Leases and licences include adequate provision to minimise public risk as well as insurance cover.

