

5. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

This section outlines the framework for future management of the Red Hill site and summarises the community vision and values that were identified through the community consultation.

5.1 Vision Statement

"To enhance the bushland setting of the area, create an awareness of the site's cultural and natural environment, provide passive recreational pursuits, recognise the view potential of the area, and provide habitat for birds and animals."

5.2 Values

5.2.1 Natural

The natural attributes of the sites are its main asset. The natural bushland, rock escarpments, and views of the ocean and surrounding areas were elements valued by the local community. The result of this is the preference for passive recreational pursuits and for bushland restoration to be high on the agenda. The community saw the protection of the flora and fauna as being very important. The natural bushland setting was seen as the desired character for all future works on the site. The area acts as an important link to the adjacent Garigal National Park, and was seen as the last remaining bushland area for local children to walk through.



Rock ledge, Golden Grove

5.2.2 Recreational

The recreational values of the sites are strongly associated with the natural and cultural values of the area. It was confirmed at the first community meeting that a sports field was not *desired* at Red Hill. Ideas such as nature walks and environmental interpretation were supported. Public consultation revealed that bushland preservation and natural interpretation/passive recreation were desired outcomes with a priority for better pedestrian links to the surrounding bushland region, Beacon Hill High School, Willandra Road, Oxford Falls, and hence through to Garigal National Park.

Most people did not want to see a substantial increase in visitors and traffic. People were concerned with the steepness of the topography, and the difficulty of the accessibility for children.

5.2.3 *Heritage*

The heritage value of the site is very strong and has regional significance. The site is unique with a diverse array of both Aboriginal and European heritage. Aboriginal heritage is regionally significant, as there are many Aboriginal sites recorded in the surrounding areas. The significance of the high lands to early settlers and explorers, and the relevance of the adjacent Governor Phillip Memorial, are significant elements. The significance of the Aboriginal heritage is an element which could be integrated into the future planning and design. The idea of reconciliation was supported by a majority at the community meetings.

5.2.4 *Visual*

The significance of the Red Hill site's visual prominence and regional significance for views should be recognised. The view of the natural skyline of the Red Hill ridge, when viewed from the North, East and South has been disturbed due to the position of houses. The informal, bush setting was highly valued by the community. The site's 360 degree panoramic view potential was also a highly valued asset.



View to North Head

5.2.5 *Social*

The people attending the meetings valued the sense of community within the area. The social values of Red Hill and Golden Grove areas will be increased by the provision of linking trails between the two areas. The tension between the “old” and “new” residents of the area, which stems from the efforts in the 1980s to try and save Red Hill from development pressures, was evident. The school plays a very strong part in the social community of the area, and is ideally located on the Southern edge of the open space spine. A number of people wanted a children's playground considered, and most groups were concerned with vandalism. There was very strong support for restricting off road vehicles through the area.

5.2.6 *Cultural*

The cultural values of the parks are associated with the environmental education/interpretation of the sites and the Aboriginal and natural features of the area. They are significant in terms of the parks recreational, natural and future generational values.

5.2.7 *Educational*

The educational value of the park spaces is associated with the natural and cultural features. The involvement of the High School in revegetation works and in heritage and cultural interpretation programs was considered a priority. The open spaces will play a significant role in terms of education and will offer the school students opportunities for utilising future trails.

5.2.8 *Intrinsic*

The essential values of the site are its bushland setting, rock escarpments, sensitive creek systems, diverse vegetation, spectacular panoramic views, and cultural and historic past.



View to Collaroy



View to Narrabeen Lakes

5.2.9 *Future Generational*

The future generational values of the open spaces are derived from all the values discussed above. Natural values such as creek habitat, flora and fauna; cultural values including European and Aboriginal elements; and educational values of environmental and cultural interpretation will all have significant future generational value.

5.3 Significance of the Values

The range of significance of the individual values of Red Hill and Golden Grove Parks was evaluated following the community meetings. The sites, for the purposes of this evaluation, have been addressed in terms of the linkages they provide to the broader open space systems around them.

Table 3. Significance of the values of the Red Hill and Golden Grove parks.

Value	RANGE OF SIGNIFICANCE					
	Local	District	Regional	Metropolitan	State	National
1. Natural	*	*	*	*	*	*
2. Social	*	*	*			
3. Recreational	*	*	*	*		
4. Educational	*	*	*	*	*	*
5. Heritage	*	*	*	*	*	*
6. Visual	*	*	*	*		
7. Cultural	*	*	*	*	*	*
8. Future Generational	*	*	*	*	*	*

It is concluded that the significance of these sites is derived from the Natural, Social, Recreational, Educational, Heritage, Visual, Cultural and Future Generational values, which are all of metropolitan importance. Five of these rank as having State and National importance.

5.4 Roles of the Area

The main roles that the two parks play are:

5.4.1 *Bushland Backdrop*

The open space bushland spines throughout the Golden Grove area provide a natural backdrop and strong landscape interface between the residential developments. The spaces are currently under utilised due to the lack of a developed trail system with defined access nodes.

5.4.2 *Connectivity*

The role of the open space is to provide a buffer as described above, but also to provide connectivity between the park spaces and facilities. That is, between the houses and the school, and between the houses and the bus stops; and to provide links to the surrounding bushland areas, including Garigal National Park and Oxford Falls.

5.4.3 *Viewing asset*

The area provides regional and national interest in terms of viewing potential of the site. It is the highest part of the Warringah Local Government Area and affords 360 degree views.

5.4.4 *Environmental education*

There are many opportunities presented throughout the site for natural, cultural and environmental interpretation.

5.4.5 *Recreational trails*

The open spaces are key to the development of a comprehensive, linking trail system, offering recreational trails and commuters' trails.

5.4.6 *Heal the wounds*

The parks need to address ways of “healing the wounds” from the past, ie from the efforts to stop the Red Hill development.

5.4.7 *Aboriginal heritage conservation*

Although no Aboriginal sites were found within the study area during the investigations, there are many sites of national significance within the surrounding areas which require careful consideration in terms of access, avoiding development pressure and vandalism. Should any developments within the subject sites require the disturbance of soil or vegetation from or adjacent to rock platforms, a representative from the MLALC should be present and any relics found should be recorded by an archaeologist.



An area previously damaged by fire, Golden Grove.



View across to Beacon Hill High School

5.5 Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes need to address and enhance the values and roles as outlined. They are:

- Community ownership of the project.
- An enhanced bushland setting.
- Comprehensive links between developed areas, bushland areas and facilities.
- A range of recreational and commuter trails.
- Upgrading of play facilities within the area, with a natural focus.
- A scheme which responds to the viewing potential of the site.
- A scheme which brings the community together.
- A scheme which recognises the Aboriginal heritage of the area.
- A predominantly passive recreation approach.

5.6 Guiding Management Principles

The report by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) on “Cities of the Twenty-first Century” (1995) provided a framework for future development in the region and guidelines for future open space. The three principles which were highlighted in the document were:

- Equity
- Efficiency, and
- Environmental quality.

More specifically, these principles translate into the following objectives which arose during community consultation:

- Preserve the natural environmental qualities of the area.
- Manage and protect the Red Hill & Golden Grove Parks for future generations.
- Ensure that the Parks remain accessible to all people, provide areas for social interaction, and environmental education.
- Create a safe, healthy and attractive environment.
- Manage the parks within the broader perspective of the regional integrated open space system.
- Promote ecologically sustainable principles.
- Provide equity of appropriate recreational opportunities to suit the environmental constraints of the site.
- Minimise impact on the local community from recreational uses and users.

These principles were used throughout the development of this plan to compare issues and to test objectives and strategies.