

*Berry Reserve
& Adjoining Foreshores*
NARRABEEN

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



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This Plan of Management for
Berry Reserve and Adjoining Foreshores
was prepared by

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Plan of Management provides the framework for managing Berry Reserve and adjoining foreshores. The combined reserve area forms a lineal-shaped corridor of public foreshore open space along Narrabeen Lagoon from The Esplanade in the south to Loftus Street in the north. The reserve contains a largely contiguous strip of foreshore Crown reserve together with smaller parcels of community land, public land owned by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) and other parcels of Crown reserve.

Berry Reserve and adjoining foreshores are an integral component of Narrabeen's open space network. The extended reserve system has a distinctive mix of lake-side settings with natural and cultural values, creating opportunities for a diverse range of recreational activities and experiences. The remnant Swamp She-oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) and foreshore reedlands create an important natural buffer between the lagoon foreshores and adjacent residential and commercial development. Within this landscape context, there is a broad range of community buildings and facilities such as the Tramshed Community Arts Centre, Early Childhood Centre, Lakeside & Berry Hall, Manly-Warringah Kayak Club, a scout hall, boat ramp and playgrounds. Local events such as market-days and Summerfest play a key role in community activities within the reserve. The area also contains important items of cultural significance such as the historic Tram Terminus building and significant tree plantings. As such, the reserve is highly valued by the local community and regional visitors alike. It is this combination of values which confirms the reserve's role as a significant area of public land within Warringah's open space system.

This Plan 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 reserve's location between the lake and the sea;
- combination of natural and cultural features;
- tranquillity and opportunities for quiet reflection and relaxation;
- the sunsets and expansive views over the lake to surrounding bushland;
- a "local place" with a "community focus";
- idyllic setting under the trees and by the lake for markets and festivals;
- cultural heritage, including the Tramshed and the Terminus (bus shelter);
- range of "family based" recreational opportunities;
- easy accessibility for families;
- a safe place for children to play and learn how to ride bikes.

Key values were divided into three major categories as follows:

1. Natural/ cultural setting
2. Heritage
3. Recreation, access & circulation

Through further investigation and evaluation, these values were assigned a significance ranking from local to metropolitan. Environmental quality and heritage values are closely linked with recreational values, opportunities and activities. These values however are affected, and in some instances threatened by inappropriate activities, management practices and development pressures. Many of these threats originate from beyond the park's boundaries (eg. urban pollutants, traffic congestion, private encroachments, exotic weeds, view protection and increasing recreational demands).

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 Berry Reserve and Adjoining Foreshores’ role as a significant natural and cultural asset 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 the Local Government Act (as amended), the Plan establishes the following guiding principles or desired outcomes:

- to establish an appropriate framework for land management of Crown reserve

- and community land;
- ❑ to establish guidelines for assessing development proposals and impacts;
- ❑ to establish guidelines for assessing leases and licenses;
- ❑ to protect and enhance the park's natural/ cultural setting & promote environmentally sustainable management practices;
- ❑ to protect and enhance the reserve's heritage values;
- ❑ to maintain and enhance public access, circulation and linkages;
- ❑ to maintain and enhance the quality of recreational facilities and amenities;

and core objectives (briefly summarised) are confirmed in relation to community land comprising:

- ❑ **a park**
 - to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities;
 - to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and casual playing of games; and
 - to improve the land to promote and facilitate these core objectives.
- ❑ **general community use**
 - to promote, encourage and provide facilities to meet current and future needs in relation to public recreation and individual physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare and development, and in relation to purposes for which a lease, license or other estate may be granted.
- ❑ **a natural area (watercourse)**
 - to manage watercourses to protect biodiversity and ecological values;
 - to restore degraded watercourses provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and casual playing of games; and
- ❑ **an area of cultural significance**
 - to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area for present and future generations by means of scheduled conservation methods.

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 management strategies, as developed in this Plan, are summarised as follows (refer to section 4.0 Management Strategies):-

1. Establish an appropriate framework for land management
 - expand public purpose from “Public Recreation” to “Public Recreation & Foreshore Environmental Protection” with the exception of Wellington Street carpark which is to be changed to “Urban Services”;
 - prepare a detailed land survey of scheduled locations to clarify reserve boundaries;
 - investigate and remove any encroachments within the reserve;
 - investigate Crown reserve “bed of the lake” encroachments and future foreshore linkage opportunities north of Loftus Street to Birdwood Park;

- continue negotiations for purchase of RTA land, including the historic Tram Terminus building.
- 2. Establish guidelines for assessing development and lease proposals**
- ensure consistency with Crown policy, LGA requirements including core objectives for community land, Council's adopted policy and the Draft LEP's Principles of Development Control. Specific requirements for assessment of any proposed development, leases, licenses or other estates are scheduled in this Plan;
 - subject to scheduled requirements, this Plan authorises the granting of leases for the Manly-Warringah Kayak Club, Scout Hall and boat ramp (the Boatshed);
 - subject to this Plan's scheduled requirements, investigate licencing/ permits for market-days and other special events.
- 3. Protect and enhance the reserve's natural/ cultural setting and promote environmentally sustainable management practices**
- staged removal of exotic trees and replacement with locally indigenous species, in particular Swamp She-oaks;
 - promote natural regeneration and re-vegetate shoreline with locally indigenous reedland/ wetland species;
 - continue to improve controls on litter and pollutant discharge with inflatable booms/ nets and catchment swales on stormwater lines and ensure appropriate maintenance;
 - investigate opportunities to further rationalize stormwater outlets;
 - continue public environmental education/ liaison programmes including park signage and interpretive material;
 - balance screening to adjoining developments with protection of views;
 - ensure consistency with proposed adjoining development and reserve's management objectives.
- 4. Protect and enhance the reserve's heritage values**
- continue to improve public education in heritage protection including brochures and interpretive signage;
 - investigate conservation methods for better protection, management and interpretation of built heritage (Tram terminus) including alternate uses, upgrading, improved integration within reserve and removal/ modification of accretions such as the amenity block;
 - further investigate significant trees, schedule in Council's Draft LEP and implement appropriate tree management strategy.
- 5. Maintain and enhance public access, circulation, linkages/ recreational facilities and amenities**
- Generally,
- maintain community and family-based focus for passive recreation;
 - improve quality of public access, recreational linkages and circulation;
 - ensure protection of foreshores and reedlands and monitor impacts;
 - monitor pedestrian/ bikepath for user group conflicts and assess need for widening;
 - rationalize and develop consistent signage system throughout reserve;
 - provide additional louvred-fixtured bollard lighting;

- maintain facilities and open space to a high standard.

Actions are summarised and divided into major use areas as follows:

Wellington Street Foreshores

- widen public foreshore access to a minimum of 1.4 metres and provide durable surface between Albemarle and Loftus Street;
- investigate opportunities to extend public foreshore access to Birdwood Park and North Narrabeen Beach;
- reinforce link between the northern and southern foreshores;
- remove garden escapes/ exotic weeds and replace with Casuarinas;
- screen visually obtrusive elements through appropriate landscaping;
- continue to monitor condition of popular foreshore areas;
- install bench seating, picnic tables, litter bins and signage.

Commercial Centre Lakeside

- improve visual amenity/ integration of main carpark within reserve;
- investigate “Pay and Display” options for carparks;
- improve and upgrade public amenities, recreational and picnic facilities;
- replace wood fuel BBQs with electric BBQs;
- remove redundant play equipment;
- investigate options to re-invigorate space between the tram terminus and shops for local teenagers/ youth, including upgrading linkages and provision of innovative structures/ modules for 12-17 year age group;
- limit spatial extent/ numbers of stallholders and allocate stall-holder parking;
- monitor seasonal impacts of market-days and ensure sustainability. Re-turf area annually.
- investigate options to re-focus buildings and recreational opportunities to the lake-side. Encourage new commercial developments to address lake-side frontage.

Main Children’s Playground

- enhance recreational linkages to playground;
- provide expanded interactive opportunities/ equipment for 0-5 year age group.

The Boatshed/ Ramp & Beach

- monitor catchment management issues which directly impact on the long-term viability of the Boatshed facilities;
- upgrade seating, picnic tables/ seating and litter bins;
- maintain and enhance low-key recreational facilities and setting;
- partially screen adjoining townhouse development with Swamp She-oaks whilst protecting residents’ views.

Scout Hall

- encourage and promote broader community access to the building and its facilities;
- investigate options for improved access/ modifications to building and improve visual amenity of “bora-ring”.

Lakeside Road Foreshores

- upgrade facilities/ amenities including playground equipment targeting 6-12 year age group;

- investigate opportunities to construct new amenities block;
- stage removal of exotic trees and replace with Swamp She-oaks;
- address pedestrian safety and risk management issues at intersection to Lakeside Road and Mactier Street;
- investigate opportunities for public foreshore access;
- improve recreational linkages with Jamieson Park.

Action Plan

These management strategies form the basis for which Berry Reserve and adjoining foreshores' 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 targets, measures and priorities for action have been assigned accordingly. The landscape masterplan identifies the physical locations and relationships of proposed actions within the reserve (refer to the key diagram and figures ES 1, ES 2, ES 3 and ES 4). 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).