

# Harbourview Park Plan of Management







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## Woollahra Municipal Council

## **Executive Summary**

Harbourview Park is a small bushland park located within the suburb of Woollahra. It occupies 1.15 hectares within a steep-sided gully just north of Edgecliff Road and west of Bathurst Street. The park was established through an agreement between Woollahra Council and Edward Knox Harkness on 15 October 1900.

This Plan of Management for Harbourview Park has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other applicable legislation. The Park is classified as 'community land' under the Act. Respective areas within Harbourview Park are categorised as being either Natural Area-Bushland, Natural Area-Watercourse, or Park. The Act provides core objectives for each land category, which form the primary rationale for the management of Harbourview Park. The Park also includes land designated as road reserve.

This Plan of Management continues support for the further implementation of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project. This project, based on voluntary participation by members of the local community, has been operational since August 1996. It aims to restore the Park to a bushland community based on the original vegetation that existed in the gully before residential development. The Harbourview Park Bushcare Group, with the support of Council, has been successful in attracting Federal and State funding for the project. The success of the bush revegetation project is shown by the bushland requiring only maintenance rather than primary weed removal.

This Plan of Management is based on values of the Park, which are described as natural, recreational/social, educational/scientific, aesthetic, and historical. Within this context the Plan considers relevant issues, sets objectives linked to a schedule of prioritised actions, and proposes an implementation process linked to performance targets and a process of review.

Short term actions to be implemented are to:

- □ continue to remove exotic plants, and plant replacement trees;
- management of trash racks and drains;
- □ management of the stormwater inlet;
- conduct a bushfire hazard assessment, and implement recommendations in consultation with the community;
- □ repair/replace the retaining wall along Bathurst St;
- □ formalise the lower section of the 'goat track';
- install signage at the playground to remind dog owners about their responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act;
- □ install signage giving directions to Bondi Junction and Russell Street;
- prepare an information package setting out the environmental values of the Park and the success of the bush revegetation program; and
- improve drainage at Russell Street entrance.

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## **GLOSSARY**

Arboreal - tree-dwelling

**Biodiversity** - often interpreted simply as species richness but is more accurately described as 'the variety of life forms, the ecological roles they perform and the genetic diversity they contain'<sub>10</sub>

**Bush Revegetation** – a process by which an ecosystem is restored and maintained primarily through a process of weed removal so that the natural revegetation of endemic plant species can occur.

**Community Land** – The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that all Council land be classified as being either 'operational' or 'community' land. Community land is simply defined as land designated for use by the community.

Fugitive Seed Stock – refers to the possible soil-borne occurrence of viable native plant seed

**Genetic Integrity** – refers to the maintenance of genetic purity within the subpopulations of plant species by avoiding the introduction of plant material from geographically distant origins

**Gross Pollutant Traps** – structures designed to intercept litter within drainage systems at a point from which the accumulated litter is easily retrievable. Acts to partially prevent the pollution of water bodies into which drainage channels discharge

**Interpretation** – refers to a process that uses various media to interpret the nature and significance of a particular resource for an audience that may not have a natural understanding of that resource. In this plan, the interpretation of Harbourview Park involves the presentation of its overall heritage significance and related management issues to Park users and the local community.

**Mesic** – usually referring to dark green soft-leaved plant species with a high content of mesophyll tissue. Such species typically inhabit moist, shady sites on more fertile soils.

**Non-endemic native plants** – plants that are native to Australia but which do not have a natural distribution within the area into which they have been introduced.

**Solar access** – A term used increasingly within urban street tree management that refers to the level of light afforded a property in relation to the position and /or sparseness of nearby tree canopy

**Substrate** - in this context it refers to the material on which mushrooms and related fungi draw their nutrition

## **Acknowledgements**

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#### **Community groups**

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#### **Local residents**

Thank you for the useful contribution of local residents who completed and returned the questionnaire survey which was distributed to local households.

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## **1** INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management is a document that identifies issues affecting public open space, and outlines how a Park or reserve will be used, improved, maintained and managed in the future. A landscape plan typically accompanies a Plan of Management, showing proposed on-the-ground changes to the open space.

### **1.2 Land to which this Plan of Management applies**

This Plan of Management applies to Harbourview Park (the Park), which is approximately 1.15 hectares in area. Refer to Figure 1.1 for the location of the Park.

#### Figure 1.1 Regional context of Harbourview Park



Key features of Harbourview Park include:

- □ remnant and regenerating bushland;
- □ network of steps and walking tracks;
- □ two creeks and a waterfall;
- □ picnic area;
- □ children's playground;
- □ basketball hoop;
- open grassed area; and

□ views of Sydney Harbour from the south-west corner of the park.

Harbourview Park is community land that has been dedicated to Woollahra Council for public open space. As such, the *Local Government Act 1993* applies to its management and to the preparation of this Plan of Management (refer to Section 3.1).

## 1.3 Why prepare a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management is required to ensure that Harbourview Park is managed in a manner consistent with relevant legislative obligations and community expectations, and that the Park is used and maintained appropriately in future. A Plan of Management is also an essential tool for good governance and transparency in government.

This Plan of Management will guide the management of Harbourview Park by Woollahra Council. It follows on from and supersedes a Plan of Management for the Park which was adopted by Woollahra Council on 9 March 2001.

This Plan also provides Council with a framework within which to assess proposed changes to the use and management of the Park, by evaluating such proposed changes against the values identified in the Plan of Management. Decisions can then be made on whether the proposed changes are compatible with the defined values of the Park.

## 1.4 Objectives of this Plan of Management

The key objective of this Plan of Management is to review and update the existing Plan of Management for Harbourview Park in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

This Plan of Management aims to:

- establish the basis for a considered and consistent approach to the management of Harbourview Park; while providing a flexible framework within which Council can respond to current needs and opportunities, as well as to future directions and pressures as demands on the Park may change;
- satisfy the legislative requirements for preparation of a Plan of Management for community land;
- establish a compatible relationship with the broader Council planning framework, including Council's Community Strategic Plan and its other adopted strategies, plans and policies;
- identify the values of the Park to the community;
- reflect the values and expectations of the community and current and potential Park users for future use and enjoyment of the Park;
- assist Council in providing quality open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community;
- □ address issues, particularly in relation to the Park's ecology, creek and drainage, infrastructure, and preferred mix of recreational facilities;
- prepare clear and achievable management strategies to guide the future use, management and enhancement of the Park, based on community expectations and the 'Basis for Management';

- recommend performance measures by which progress towards, and achievement of, the objectives of the Plan can be measured and reported; and
- present a Landscape Concept Plan that illustrates the areas proposed for future improvements.

This plan is a document that regulates the appropriate use and guides the effective long and short-term management of Harbourview Park. It acts simultaneously as a management tool and a public document, setting guidelines for those directly involved in its management whilst informing the community generally of the rationale behind this process. Primarily, the plan sets a five-year strategy for the restoration of a bushland community within Harbourview Park. It is intended that the restoration produces a high level of biodiversity and reflects the original plant community type that existed within the gully before residential development. Accordingly, this plan serves as a guiding document for the continuing implementation of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project.

## 1.5 **Process of preparing this Plan of Management**

Woollahra Council commissioned Parkland Environmental Planners in June 2012 to assist Council in the preparation of this Plan of Management.

The process of preparing this Plan of Management, consultations with the community, and documents produced at each stage, is represented in Figure 1.2.

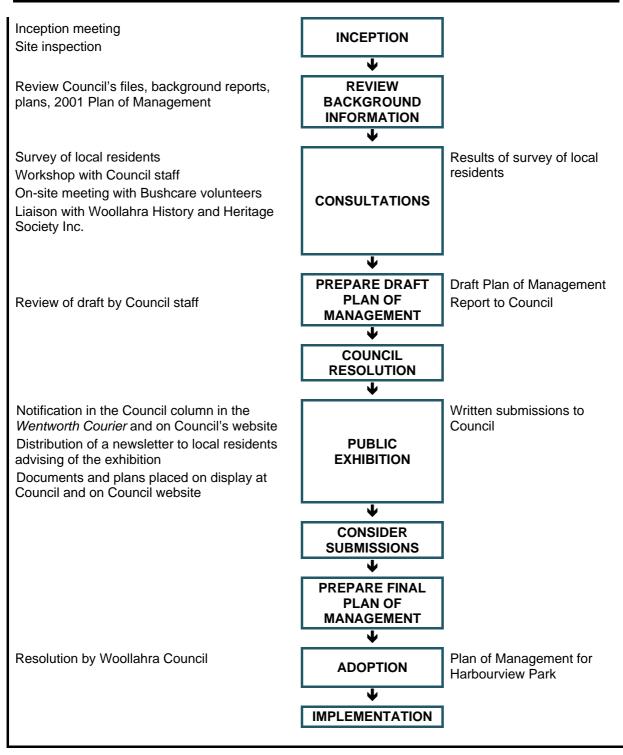
The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that draft Plans of Management are placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, with a further 14 days allowed for written comments.

The preparation of the Plan of Management took into account submissions received during the public exhibition of the draft Plan of Management in October 2013.



Figure 1.2 Process of preparing the Harbourview Park Plan of Management

CONSULTATIONS	STUDY TASKS	OUTPUTS



## **1.6 What is included in this Plan of Management?**

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 1.1.

 Table 1.1
 Structure of this Plan of Management

	Section	What does it include?
1	Introduction	Background to the Plan of Management
2	Description of Harbourview Park	Locational context, ownership and management, history, physical description, facilities, uses, maintenance
3	Planning Context	State government planning legislation, local planning context
4	Basis for Management	Values of the community and users, vision, roles of the Park, management objectives
5	Overview of issues and actions	Discussion of current issues and options, rationale for strategies and actions to resolve issues
6	Action Plan	Landscape Concept Plan, issues, desired outcomes, actions required to implement management strategies, performance targets and measures
7	Implementation and review	Future uses and developments, leases and licences, funding sources, monitoring, review

Requirements of the Local Government Act for the contents of a Plan of Management, and where they can be found in this Plan, are listed in Table 1.2.

#### Table 1.2 Contents of a Plan of Management for community land

Requirement of the Local Government Act	How this plan satisfies the Act
A description of the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management	Section 2
A description of the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management.	Section 2
Categorisation of community land	Section 3
Core objectives for management of the land.	Section 3
The purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.	Sections 3, 6
The purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.	Sections 3, 6
Performance targets.	Section 5
A means for assessing achievement of objectives and performance targets.	Section 5
A description of the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.	Section 6
Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land.	Section 6

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## 2 DESCRIPTION OF HARBOURVIEW PARK

## 2.1 Locational context

Harbourview Park is located in a steep-sided gully just north of Edgecliff Road in the suburb of Woollahra (refer to Figure 2.1).



#### Figure 2.1 Context of Harbourview Park

The park, which is mostly hidden behind residential properties, has one major street frontage at Bathurst Street, with other access points being at the end of Russell Street (off Edward Street), at Magney Street and Robinson Lane (off Edgecliff Road), and via a former 'night soil' lane leading from Bathurst Street.

The park's steep embankments frame a large flat turfed area which extends to the park's northern perimeter. This lower area contains a playground, picnic tables, basketball hoop and a maintenance shed.

The park is traversed by several footpaths and two drainage channels/ natural watercourses.

## 2.2 Land ownership and management

Harbourview Park comprises community land which is owned and managed by Woollahra Council, and Road Reserve. Relevant statutory and spatial information about the Park is outlined in Table 2.1 and shown in Figure 2.2 below.



#### Figure 2.2 Land parcels in Harbourview Park

#### Table 2.1 Ownership and management of Harbourview Park

Item	Details	
Ownership	Woollahra Council, Road Reserve	
Management	Woollahra Council	
Lot / DP No.	Lot 8 DP 3714, Lot 3 DP 185535, Lot 7 DP 3714, Lot 6 DP 3714, Lot 4 DP 185535, Lot A DP 921075	
Area	1.15 ha	
Zoning	6 – Open Space (Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995)	
Classification	Community land	
Categorisation	Natural Area – Bushland, Natural Area – Watercourse, Park	
Use agreements	No leases or licences Casual hire for birthday parties booked through Council's Recreation Bookings Officer.	
Easements	Electricity Purposes C.TVOL.13430FOL.167	
Visitation	Local	

The study area includes land designated as road reserve as shown in Figure 2.2. These areas do not have identifying Lot and Deposited Plan (DP) numbers. They require allocation of resources to maintain them.

The categorisation and inclusion of road reserves in a Plan of Management is not required under the *Local Government Act 1993*. However as road reserves are managed and maintained in the same manner as though they are classified as community land they are included in this Plan.

## 2.3 Cultural history

#### 2.3.1 Indigenous history

The indigenous inhabitants of the local area comprised members of two Aboriginal clans – the Cadigal on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour and the Birrabirragal of South Head and nearby coastal areas. In 1789, approximately 50% of the known local Aboriginal population were killed by disease. Subsequent occupation and clearing of land through land grants and settlement reduced the population of the Aboriginal community within the Sydney area.

The Aboriginal association with Sydney Harbour for fishing and its foreshores for hunting and food gathering is evidenced by the presence of rock engravings, shelters, middens, burials and art within Woollahra Municipality. The Aboriginal association with the land away from the harbour foreshores is less clear. However, a number of sacred/ burial sites exist within the eastern suburbs of Sydney, the exact location of which remains, for spiritual reasons, privileged information kept in trust by the La Perouse Land Council (pers. comm. Williamson 1995).

#### 2.3.2 History of Development

The land on which Harbourview Park is now established was originally part of the Point Piper Estate, which belonged to the Cooper family. Edward Knox Harkness purchased it and surrounding land between 1898 and 1900. Harkness, a local land developer and builder planned to subdivide and develop this land as the Harbour View Estate. He was responsible for (among other projects within the municipality) developing the land around Bathurst Street, Edgecliff Road, Magney Street, Harkness Street, Russell Street and Edward Street. His firm probably built most of the distinctive pseudo-gothic style cottages surrounding the Park, and had some influence in the naming of streets: Harkness, Edward, Magney (who was Harkness's legal representative and a Mayor of Woollahra), and Bathurst (where, according to a descendant he had recently taken a holiday).

Council minutes from 1898 to 1900 indicate that there was considerable discussion about continuing problems with stormwater drainage around this area, which naturally drained to Double Bay and had two small creeks running through it. Council minutes from 1898-1900 also indicate that Harkness built a number of retaining walls and constructed drainage works in and near the Park, sometimes as a result of requests from Council (Convy, 1996). In March 1899 Harkness was given Council's permission to blast rock on the estate to prepare building sites. Following heavy rains in May 1900, torrential stormwater carried large amounts of sand, silt and building material down into surrounding properties and roadways, causing Council to request damages from Harkness. This washaway damaged Harkness's own retaining walls, causing him to lodge his own claims against Council (Broomham, 2001). The washaway also spoiled his plans for an extension to Magney Street winding down the hillside through a bend exiting to Edward Street via the present Russell Street (Bruce Crossin).

Legal discussions over responsibility for the damage led to the creek-affected Harbour View Park being established through an agreement between Woollahra Council and Edward Knox Harkness on the 15 October 1900. The Park's final area consisted of allotments of land, 3, 6, 7 and 20, sold to Council by Harkness, and other land originally dedicated as roadway and easements. As part of the agreement Council pledged to create the park promptly and provide a tarred footpath between Magney Street and Lot 3 and across Lots 6 and 7. Council further agreed to form an embankment along the high side of Russell Street (Broomham, 2001). The Park took its name from Harkness' Harbour View Estate subdivision, which he seems to have chosen for its land marketing appeal. After the Park was established Harkness developed Russell Street, which was completed by 1912.

In November 1902 Woollahra Council appointed Joseph H. Robinson as the first caretaker of the park. Joseph Robinson also operated the Coral Glen Nursery from his home opposite the park at 15 Robinson Lane. John Robinson became caretaker of the park after Joseph's death in 1915 and he continued the Coral Glen Nursery in Robinson Lane until the property was resumed by Council in c.1941.

The history of park management is not well documented, but proposals for improvements to the park were recorded in the Council minutes. In 1913 Council agreed to a proposal to lop trees, clear the watercourse and provide seats and swings. It is likely that path and pedestrian bridge construction was undertaken during the 1930s, at the time of similar work being undertaken in nearby Cooper Park. It is clear however, that vegetation management did not focus on the explicit protection of the gully's remnant vegetation, as evidenced by the planting of Coral Tree (*Erythrina x sykesii*), Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) and Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*). In 1930 tenders were called for the clearing of the park, while other proposals for improvements to the park included a track from Harbour View Lane to the Magney Street steps, a flight of steps from Bathurst Street, other rough tracks and steps, as well as the supply of more seats. Further improvements to the park such as filling and levelling, and the creation of pathways and steps, commenced in 1938.

During the 1970's and 1980's the park became weed infested and overgrown by vine, and only the grassed areas in the valley were accessible. This led to local residents and Council forming a bush revegetation team which commenced operation in August 1996. This team tackled the primary clearance of invasive species, was instrumental in obtaining grants to progress the work, and continues to maintain the Park. The need for a clear Plan of Management to guide the restoration of this park led to community consultation and the preparation of the 2000 Plan of Management which was adopted by Council in October 2000. The grants for work done in 2000 onwards were to give effect to that Plan of Management, and the grants were consistent with the vision laid out to them in the Plan. The largest grant of \$15,000 enabled the whole removal of some 22 coral trees in 2001, after which areas were stabilised and revegetated.

## 2.4 Physical characteristics

#### 2.4.1 Microclimate

A dense tree canopy limits solar access to the park. Generally, the southern slopes of the park receive more direct sunlight than the northern slopes. The open grassed area is exposed to sunlight during the day.

#### 2.4.2 Landform, soils and drainage

Landform and topography

Harbourview Park is roughly triangular in shape, extending 700 metres along its southern boundary, and 600 metres across at its widest point between the ends of Magney Street and Russell Street.

The highest point in the Park is at the Bathurst Street/Harbourview Lane entrance. The topography of the Park is marked by steep-sided and heavily vegetated gullies, through which three natural watercourses drain the upper areas of the Park into the lower grassed area of the Park at the Russell Street entrance.

Extensive sandstone retaining walls support residential properties on the southern and eastern perimeter of the Park from landslip and erosion. Some of these walls were constructed by Edward Knox Harkness and probably date from 1898-1900 (Convy, 1996). A drainage channel constructed with sandstone was built in 1999 with funds from a grant (Port Jackson Catchment Management) to stabilise the upper section of the Magney St drainage channel.

#### **Geology and soils**

The original soil of Harbourview Park is derived from the underlying Hawkesbury sandstone. Sandstone outcrops are evident in the Park.



Harbourview Park is underlain by the Newport soil landscape, which is characterized by shallow sandy soils which have very high soil erosion hazard, localised steep slopes, very low soil fertility, and non-cohesive topsoil (Chapman and Murphy, 1989).

Typically, soils produced by sandstone parent material are infertile and slightly acidic and generally support the typically dry sclerophyll 'hard-leaved' vegetation of the Sydney area. These soils are largely deficient in the elements Phosphorus and Nitrogen. If present in higher concentrations than which occur naturally, these elements can be phytotoxic to members of some plant families (e.g. Phosphorus in Proteaceae), and may encourage the establishment and rapid growth of many weed species which is capable of displacing native vegetation. Within Harbourview Park this has occurred to the point of the almost total exclusion of remnant vegetation.

Urban soils can be loaded with unnaturally high levels of Phosphorous and Nitrogen through the introduction of dumped garden refuse, imported soil, sewage overflows and leaks, detergents and dog faeces, all of which are either deposited on-site or arrive via uncontrolled stormwater flows. The soils within Harbourview Park show evidence of these impacts. The topography and small size of the park and its proximity to residential development suggest that the original soil profile, at least on the park's perimeter, would have been affected by 'cut and fill' practices during the period of initial development. Similarly, altered drainage patterns would have caused erosion, sedimentation and affected soil chemistry. The latter is supported by the result of soil tests (Landarc Landscape Architects, 1995) showing an elevated pH level and moderate to high phosphate level at three sites within the park.

#### Hydrology and drainage

Harbourview Park has an extensive stormwater catchment of approximately 63 hectares, which extends to Oxford Street within the commercial district of Bondi Junction, to the north by View Street, to the east by Flood Lane, to the south by Ebley Street, and to the west by Nelson Street. The main land uses in the catchment are commercial and residential.

Four drainage lines discharge into the park: two entering below Magney Street, one below Harkness Street and the other below the Bathurst Street pedestrian entrance. The drain is fed by two major drains entering th,e Park. The two drainage/creek channels within the Park associated with these discharge points are mostly natural, with large stabilised landscaped sandstone boulders lining the channels.

Urban development has resulted in a dramatic increase of impermeable surfaces (such as roads, footpaths, buildings, kerb and gutter) within the park's catchment, resulting in significantly greater stormwater volumes as compared to the period preceding development. This water flow is capable of causing erosion, sedimentation and nutrient loading. Such impact has a long history - Council minutes from 1898 to 1900 indicate a considerable amount of discussion about continuing problems with stormwater drainage within the 'Harbour View Park Estate No. 2'. 'The area was a natural drainage area to Double Bay and had a small creek running through it, and with heavy rains, large amounts of sand, silt and building material washed down onto surrounding properties and roadways' (Convy, 1996).



Watercourse from Harbourview Lane.



Trash rack



Magney Street drainage line

Stormwater exits the park through two pipes commencing at headwalls at the base of each drainage channel. Trash racks have been installed at each pipe entry, which are aging and require replacement. They operate generally as a deterrent to public entry rather than as fully functional trash rack. The Magney Street channel is choked with leaves and sediment. Stormwater leaving Harbourview Park discharges eventually into Double Bay and Sydney Harbour. In March 2008 at the junction of Rowe Street and Edgecliff Road a Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) was installed by CDS installations at a major drain which carries a significant

proportion of water flow to the Bathurst Street drain. Volunteers and staff that work in the park report that that rubbish has significantly decreased in the Bathurst Street channel. Stabilisation with indigenous vegetation at this headwall has been beneficial controlling erosion.

Problems persist today with the uncontrolled pumping of silt-laden water from development sites, and the illegal dumping and accidental spillage of chemicals within the catchment. Whilst in-park treatments can mitigate erosion potential, actual pollution events when sighted should be referred to Council's Rangers.

Stormwater collects at the Russell Street entrance when water overflows Bathurst Street channel and in heavy rain, resulting in a waterlogged, muddy area. Improved drainage from this area into the stormwater channel is required.

#### 2.4.3 Flora and fauna

#### Flora

#### **Original vegetation**

Based on the topography, aspect and soil type of Harbourview Park, the original vegetation would have probably have comprised Shrubby Open Forest on the park's upper slopes, with the likely occurrence of rainforest and related mesic species in the lower gully area. Tree species present were probably similar to those that occur in nearby Cooper Park. These species could have variously been Smooth-barked Apple (*Angophora costata*), Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), Coast Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*), Sydney Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), Scentless Rosewood (*Synoum glandulosum*), Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*), Lilly Pillies (*Syzigium* sp.) and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*).

The understorey in the lower gully area probably comprised ferns, wet sclerophyll and other related mesic species. The understorey on the upper slopes may have comprised elements of coastal heath, shrubs typical of dry sclerophyll forest and native grasses.

#### **Existing Vegetation**

The Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project has been operational since 1996. Works undertaken for this project have been responsible for the removal of significant amounts of weeds in the whole Park.

A list of tree species in Harbourview Park is in Appendix A. The current palette of plant species chosen for revegetation, based on probable original species in the Park, is in Appendix B.

An native canopy that was previously planted before 1996 dominates and comprises Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), originating from the rainforests of the New South Wales north coast and Queensland, Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*), Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Cheese Trees (*Glochidion ferdinandii*) and Casuarina (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*).

The entire area of the bushland in Harbourview Park has received primary and secondary removal of weeds and has been extensively planted, which still requires ongoing weeding and planting. Indigenous vegetation planted by volunteers after weed removal include a

canopy consisting of Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium australe*), and Old man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*).

There are several known indigenous remnant (or recent colonising) plant species occurring within the park, *Oplismenus imbecillis* and *Microlaena stipioides* (both grasses), *Cayratia clematidea* (climber) and *Hypolepis muelleri* (Fern).

In the context of a bushland community it is important to make note of the presence and potential presence of related life forms such as mushrooms and related fungi within the Park. Allowing for the provision of suitable substrate for such species in the form of dead and dying plant material. Tidying of some dead scrubs occurs for aesthetic and workplace safety issues, however timber from fallen trees and other dead and dying material are left which are all part of a comprehensive approach to the conservation of biodiversity.

Exotic species include Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Willow Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), Outeniqua Yellowwood (*Afrocarpus falcatus*) and Chinese Lantern (*Abutilon x hybridum*).

The trunk of a rare local planting of a gargantuan Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) remains in the Park.

The occurrence of one exotic weed species, the Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) have been reduced due to bush revegetation. All Coral Trees (*Erythrina X sykesii*) have been removed. Four large Camphor Laurels remain and wait to be removed.



A broad range of exotic garden escapes and weed species that were present throughout the understory have been removed by Bushcare Volunteers since the last Plan of Management. These species include Large Leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Small-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica*), Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Palm Grass (*Setaria palmifolia*), Wild Tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*), Angel's Trumpet (*Datura* sp.), Tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis syn T. albiflora*), Crofton Weed (*Ageratina adenophora*), Mist Flower (*Ageratina riparia*), Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parquii*), Veldt Grass (*Ehrarta erecta*), Potato Vine (*Acetosa sagittata* syn *Rumex sagittatus*) and Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*).

Many of the weeds aforementioned very rarely appear in the park now as they are removed at an early stage of growth. Weeds that are present and are persistent problems include Veldt grass (*Eharta erecta*), Summer grass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*), Pink-wood sorrel (*Oxalis articulata*), Cobblers Pegs (*Bidens pilosa*), Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*), Fleabane (*Conyza sp*), Thickhead (*Crassocephalum crepidioides*), Galinsoga (*Galinsoga parviflora*), Celtis (*Celtis sinensis*), and Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*). The only large canopy weeds left are four Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) which are to be removed in stages.

#### Fauna

Harbourview Park presently provides refuge for a restricted number of animal species which have been recorded in the Park, including:

- □ Mammals: Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) and foxes (feral) (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Birds: Noisy Miner (Manorina melanocephala), Rainbow Lorikeet (Trichoglossus haematodus), Eastern Rosella (Platycerus eximius), Crimson Rosella (Platycerus elegans), Laughing Kookaburra (Dacelo gigas), Grey Butcher Bird (Cracticus torquatus) Australian Raven (Corvus coronoides) and Tawny Frogmouths (Podargus stirgoides).
- □ Reptiles: Eastern Blue-Tongued Lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides* ssp. *scincoides*) and the Gully Skink (*Saproscincus* sp).
- Amphibians: Brown-striped Frog (*Limnodynastes peroni*). Identified formally by Council Staff mid-1990s.
- □ Invertebrates: including insects and various forms of soil microfauna.

#### 2.4.4 Fire regime

Fire is a natural and necessary part of the Australian landscape, particularly of the dry sclerophyll forest typical of remnant vegetation in Harbourview Park. Fire risk can be minimised and fire used as a beneficial tool to ensure the revegetation of bushland, rather than fire being feared as a threat.

As plantings of indigenous vegetation are now mature and seeding, the use of controlled burning, such as pile burns, can be used to encourage increased biodiversity and ecological health.

No prescribed burns and other fires have occurred in Harbourview Park.

### 2.5 Visual assessment

In many areas of the Park visitors are almost enclosed by vegetation and are somewhat unaware of the urban environment which surrounds the Park. This is in part a consequence of the topography of the Park which is marked by steep sided and heavily vegetated gullies. Sight-lines to residential buildings on the southern boundary are dominated by sandstone retaining walls.

The bushland sections of the Park are focused on the two creeks which transect the Park. The creeks, particularly the Bathurst Street channel, form key visual elements because they draw the interest of the visitor and suggest a pleasant line of exploration. This accounts for the placement of formal and informal pathways in close proximity to the creeks.

The level grassed area near the Russell Street entrance contrasts with the urban bushland sections of the Park.

Panoramic views of Woollahra with glimpses of Sydney Harbour are available from Robinson Lane, and the Magney Street entrance.





Retaining wall

Lower grassed area



View from Magney Street entrance

## 2.6 Access, parking and circulation

#### 2.6.1 Access to the Park

Harbourview Park is accessible by pedestrians, cyclists, motor vehicles, and by public transport.

Harbourview Park is an element of Woollahra's network of walking routes, being located close to halfway along a walking route between Bondi and Double Bay. Harbourview Park is also close to the Regional Recreation Trails Framework (Hassell, 2005) Sub-regional trail 4.38 between Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach.

Harbourview Park is easily linked to the bike network in Woollahra and Waverley in all directions by various main and local bicycle routes, both off-road and on-road.

Harbourview Park has five public points of pedestrian entry; from Russell Street and from the lane between Russell Street and Bathurst Street (north), from Magney Street (south), from Robinson Lane (west) and from Harbourview Lane at the southern end of Bathurst Street (east). These access points are considered sufficient and effective.

The main vehicle entry point is off Russell Street. A gate at this point restricts vehicle access to maintenance and emergency vehicles.

Bus stops within one block of the park are on Edgecliff Road (route 200 between Chatswood, North Sydney, City and Bondi Junction), and along Manning Road (Route 327).

#### 2.6.2 Internal circulation

#### **Pathways**

Harbourview Park contains paved and unpaved pathways and steps which link park access points with areas within the park.

In the bushland areas of the Park, there is very little opportunity for walking routes to be taken other than those established by the formal paved pathways, or by frequently used but informally developed desire lines. One such informal path is known as the 'goat track', which extends along the steep southern gully between the Bathurst Street/Harbourview Lane entrance and the turfed area.

A concrete bridge crosses the Magney Street drainage line.

Hand-railing within the Park is constructed of tubular galvanised steel.



#### Lighting

Limited artificial lighting is associated with pedestrian access within the Park.

The pathway and steps between Magney Street and Russell Street are lit for use as a thoroughfare at night. This lighting has recently been upgraded.

Additional lighting is not proposed. It is unsafe and undesirable to encourage general access to the Park at night, and it is not cost effective to install lighting throughout the Park generally.

#### Access for people with disabilities

Harbourview Park's steep topography renders access to many areas, particularly the bushland and central pathway, difficult for people with physical disabilities. Nonetheless, vehicular access from Russell Street into the grassed picnic area is possible for people with disabilities, with Council permission.

## 2.7 Use of the Park

Harbourview Park provides a range of recreation opportunities based on its natural setting.

Recreational pursuits undertaken in Harbourview Park include walking, relaxing, Bushcare, reading, playing casual ball games, practising of relaxation techniques, children's play, basketball practice, picnicking, social interaction, bird watching, dog exercise, and general appreciation of the park's natural elements.

Groups use the park for birthday parties and resident Christmas parties.

Dogs are permitted in the Park on a leash at all times as long as they are not within 10 metres of the playgrounds.

A small Bushcare group is active within the Park on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Prohibited uses are communicated to Park visitors by signage. Such activities are depositing rubbish, using motorised vehicles, playing golf, camping, smoking near the playground, and any activity that would damage the park or cause nuisance to other Park users.

## 2.8 Condition of land and built structures

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a Plan of Management that applies to just one area of community land (in this case Harbourview Park) must include a description of the condition of that land and any associated buildings or improvements. The use and condition of land and built structures in Harbourview Park are outlined below.

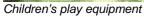
#### Table 2.2 Condition of land, buildings and improvements in Harbourview Park

Feature of Harbourview Park	Condition
Land	
Land area as site for bushland restoration	Low degree of weed infestation. Approximately 100% of potential 0.8 hectares regenerating and on maintenance. Only small persistent self-seeding weeds exist.
Grassed informal area	Good condition – regularly maintained
Buildings/ Improvements	
Park maintenance shed	Good condition, adequate for intended purposes (tool and equipment storage, and office)
Concrete steps between Russell Street	Structurally sound.
and Magney Street	Hand railing in good repair
Concrete pathway leading from Bathurst	Structurally sound, but some repair required

#### HARBOURVIEW PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Final

Street	
Concrete footbridge with hand railing	Structurally sound
over Magney Street drainage channel	
Treated pine steps to Bathurst Street	Structurally sound with decomposed granite inlay, but
nightsoil lane	some repair required
Treated pine steps form lawn to	Structurally sound, but some repair required
Bathurst Street concrete pathway.	
'Goat track'	
Play Equipment	Very good. Upgraded in 2009
Picnic tables/seats (3)	Good
Basketball hoop	Fair
Seats (various locations)	Very good
Interpretive and regulatory signage	Very good
Path lighting	Very good
Two sandstone block headwalls	Structurally sound
Four taps connected to mains	Good
Trash racks	Adequate, but require cleaning and replacement









Maintenance shed



Information signage

## 2.9 Maintenance

#### 2.9.1 Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project

Since August 1996 Woollahra Municipal Council has facilitated a community-based bush revegetation project within Harbourview Park.

The aim of the Harbourview project is to reintroduce a high level of local native biodiversity to the Park. This will complement other nearby areas of remnant or restored bushland such as Cooper Park, Trumper Park, Gap Park, Parsley Bay Reserve and Nielsen Park (National Parks and Wildlife Service), which are also subject to revegetation programs. This has important implications for the coordination of regional conservation strategies such as:

- the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 which aims to ensure the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained as an outstanding natural asset and as a public asset of national and heritage significance for existing and future generations.
- □ Total Catchment Management (TCM): an initiative that aims to ensure environmental integrity despite multiple land use within hydrological catchments.
- Greenweb: an initiative of the Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and previous Sydney Metropolitan CMA to protect and extend urban wildlife corridors.

Volunteer effort has re-established a native plant community within the gully area below Magney Street. This commitment to environmental care has been fuelled by the enthusiasm and participation of local community members. Since the project's inception, more than 30 community members have contributed more than 5,000 hours to the revegetation of a bushland environment within Harbourview Park. They have been guided in this effort by Council staff skilled in natural area management.

The success of this project can be measured by the bushland in Harbourview Park no longer requiring primary revegetation. However, ongoing maintenance will be required. The results of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project are an example for other bushland areas.



The involvement of the local community with the maintenance and management of open space is consistent with objectives of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Woollahra Community Strategic Plan. The success of five applications for grant funding (three Federal, one State and one Local) by the Harbourview Park Volunteer Community Group has ensured financial support for restorative work covering approximately 80% of the park's area. Grants received for works in Harbourview Park are listed below.

Table 2.3	Grant history for Harbourview Park 1999-2013
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Year	Project	Amount \$	Completion	Source
1999	Magney Street Creek Stabilisation	5,000	August 2000	Port Jackson Catchment Management Trust
1999/ 2000	Bush Revegetation Project	15,100	June 2004	Natural Heritage Trust
2001	Bathurst Gully	5,100	June 2004	Natural Heritage Trust
2004	Area 5 Western perimeter	7,472	July 2005	-
2006	Informative signs	2,000	Mid 2007	Woollahra Council Community Environment Grant

Council's Bushcare Liaison Officer provides direction and support for a small volunteer Bushcare group on Thursdays and on Saturday mornings. Focus areas for maintenance are the edges of the Park, and particularly weed hotspots according to need. Tasks include planting, hand weeding and target weeding.

#### 2.9.2 Other maintenance activities

Other maintenance activities undertaken by Council staff in Harbourview Park are:

- □ 'duty of care' tasks involving checking for hazards and picking up litter weekly;
- □ herbicide spraying;
- □ rubbish removal via the vehicle entry point at Russell Street;
- □ lawn mowing and maintenance;
- D path clearing, pruning, blowing and maintenance; and
- □ playground maintenance.

## 2.10 Financial management

Income for capital works and maintenance of Harbourview Park comes from Council sources or from grants for which Council and other groups have applied.

Maintenance of Harbourview Park is funded entirely by Woollahra Council. Funds allocated to Harbourview Park are for Council Officer time and expertise, capital costs of infrastructure upgrades, and for materials such as plants and Bushcare tools.

## **<u>3 PLANNING CONTEXT</u>**

## 3.1 Introduction

This section outlines the legislative and policy framework applying to Harbourview Park. Full versions of the legislation outlined below is found on-line at <u>www.legislation.nsw.gov.au</u> and <u>www.austlii.edu.au</u>. Woollahra Council's website is <u>www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au</u>.

The planning context of Harbourview Park is shown in Figure 3.1. The legislation most influencing use and management of Harbourview Park are the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. A summary of other relevant legislation and planning documents is in Appendix C.

## 3.2 Key legislation applying to Harbourview Park

#### 3.2.1 Local Government Act 1993

#### Introduction

Harbourview Park comprises land owned by Woollahra Council, which is classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This land must be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* for community land are that it:

- must have a Plan of Management prepared for it, which sets out guidelines for use and management of the land. Until a Plan of Management is adopted, the nature and use of the land must not change;
- □ must be kept for the use of the general community, and must not be sold; and
- □ cannot be leased for a period of more than 30 years.

The preparation and contents of this Plan of Management are in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.* 

The requirements of the Local Government Act for community land that is the subject of a Plan of Management are outlined in Table 3.1 below.

## Figure 3.1 Planning context of Harbourview Park

COMMONWEALTH	Legislation Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Disability Discrimination Act 1992			
NSW	Legislation Local Government Environmental Planning and A (SEPP 19 – Bushland ir Sydney Regional Environmental Plan – Protection of the Environment Roads Act 19 Companion Animals Noxious Weeds A	Plans NSW State Plan Policies, strategies, codes NSW Invasive Species Plan NSW Biodiversity Strategy Planning for Bushfire Protection Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code		
SYDNEY	Draft Metropolitan Strategy	r for Sydney to 2031	Green Web - Sydney	
REGIONAL	Central Syc Central Subregiona		Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA Region Catchment Action Plan Weed Management Strategy	
WOOLLAHRA				
Corporate	<b>Integrated planning and reporting</b> Woollahra 2025 – our community, our place, our plan Deliverv Plan			
Strategic	Land use Woollahra Local Environmental Plan Development Control Plans	Environment State of the Environment Report Register of Significant Trees	<b>Open space / recreation</b> Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy	
Implementation	Capital works and maintenance	Programs Policies Tree Management Policy 2011 Commercial Fitness Training Activities on Public Open Space Access Policy and Action Plan 2010-13 Casual Park Hire Procedure		

## Table 3.1Requirements of the Local Government Act for community land<br/>management

Requirement of the Local Government Act	How this plan satisfies the Act
The Plan must describe the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management	Section 2
The Plan must describe use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management.	Section 2
All community land must be categorised.	Section 3
Categories must be mapped if more than one category applies to community land.	Figure 3.2.
The Plan must contain core objectives for management of the land.	Section 3
The Plan must specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.	Section 3, 6
The Plan must specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.	Section 6
The Plan must describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.	Section 6
The Plan must include performance targets.	Section 5
The Plan must contain means for assessing achievement of objectives and performance targets.	Section 5
Council must exhibit the draft Plan for 28 days and give at least 42 days for the making of submissions.	
Any amendments to a draft Plan must be publicly exhibited in the same way, until the Council can adopt the draft Plan without further amendment.	
A Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate over community land if it is expressly authorised in a Plan of Management	Section 6

#### Categorisation

Under Section 36(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- □ Natural area (further categorised as either bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore).
- □ Sportsground.
- Park.
- □ Area of cultural significance.
- General community use.

Community land in Harbourview Park was categorised as Natural Area-Bushland, Natural Area-Watercourse and Park in 2001. The land to which these categories apply is not proposed to change. The guidelines for and a map of these categories in Harbourview Park are shown in Figure 3.2 and outlined in Table 3.1.

The Act identifies core objectives for management of each category of community land, which are also set out in Section 4. Council must manage the community land according to these core objectives. Any additional Council objectives must comply with the core objectives established within the Act. The significance of the prescribed core objectives is to ensure that any activities or uses of the land are consistent with the core objectives for that category of land.



## Figure 3.2 Categorisation of community land in Harbourview Park

Park		
Natural Area - Bushland		
Natural Area - Watercourse	÷	Road Reserve

### Table 3.2 Guidelines for categorisation of community land

Category	Guidelines	
Natural Area	If the land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under section 36(5) of the Act.	
Under Section 36(5) of the Act, Natural Areas are required to be further categorised as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore based on the dominant character of the natural area.		
Natural Area:	Land that is categorised as a natural area should be further categorised as bushland if the land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation:	
Bushland	(a) is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or	
	(b) although not the natural vegetation of the land, it is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality.	
Natural Area:	Land that is categorised as a natural area should be further categorised as a watercourse if the land includes:	
Water- course	(a) any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and	
	(b) associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the <i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948</i> or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> .	
Park	Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	

#### Leases, Licences and other Estates

Leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. Leases and licences may be granted in respect of natural areas under Section 47B of the *Local Government Act 1993*. No leases or licences apply to Harbourview Park, nor are any proposed.

#### 3.2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and landuse planning in NSW through:

- State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). SEPP No. 19 (Bushland in Urban Areas) is relevant to Harbourview Park.
- Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) now deemed SEPPS. The deemed SEPP which applies to Harbourview Park is Sydney Harbour Catchment 2005.
- Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). The Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995 applies to Harbourview Park.

The EPA Act also sets out processes for approving development applications for structures and works on public and private land in the Woollahra local government area.

## 3.3 Local planning context

#### 3.3.1 Planning framework

Woollahra Council's planning framework guides this Plan of Management as follows:

- Woollahra 2025, Council's Community Strategic Plan, which sets overall objectives and performance targets for activities, budgets and other issues relating to open space and recreation management.
- □ The Woollahra Local Environmental Plan and various Development Control Plans govern uses of and development of facilities within Harbourview Park.
- Policies and plans including the Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006), Tree Management Policy 2011, and Register of Significant Trees.

#### 3.3.2 Zoning and planning controls

#### Local Environmental Plan

Under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Harbourview Park is zoned 6 – Open Space. This zone applies to public or private land used or intended to be used for recreational purposes. Land within this zone may also be used for community facilities.

The relevant objectives of the 6 – Open Space zone are to:

identify existing publicly and privately owned land used or capable of being used for recreational purposes; and □ increase the provision of public open space within the Council's area to meet the needs of the population.

The LEP identifies development in the 6 – Open Space zone that requires Council consent. Developments which may be carried out in the Park under the zoning are listed below.

#### Table 3.3Zoning table for 6 – Open Space zone

Without development consent	With development consent	Prohibited
Bushfire hazard control Drainage Maintenance of gardens and structures Development pursuant to, or approved in accordance with, an adopted Plan of Management under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> applicable to the subject land.	<ul> <li>Development for the purpose of:</li> <li>Community facilities</li> <li>Recreation areas<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Recreation facilities</li> <li>Roads</li> <li>Uses or buildings associated with development in the zone without development consent</li> <li>Utility installations (other than gas</li> </ul>	Any other development.
	holders or generating works)	

When assessing such applications, Council will refer to this Plan of Management as well as the LEP and other relevant legislation.

#### **Development control plans**

Woollahra Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) – Exempt and Complying Development established the development type, location and criteria for exempt and complying development within the meaning of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Under this DCP, the following items are exempt from development approval (subject to exempt development criteria):

- □ landscape works on public land;
- □ filming and photographic shoots;
- $\hfill\square$  events; and
- □ street and park furniture, including lighting.

#### 3.3.3 Recreational needs assessment and strategy

The Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006) outlined strategies that will affect the provision, management and maintenance of recreational facilities and open space within the Park. Relevant recommendations include:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The definition of 'recreation area' in the LEP means a children's playground, or parks and gardens, or an area used for sporting activities or sporting facilities, or an area used to provide recreation facilities which promote the physical, cultural or intellectual welfare of persons within the community. Such facilities may be provided by Council or a body of persons associated for the purpose of physical, cultural or intellectual welfare of persons within the community. Recreation areas do not include marinas, racecourses and showgrounds.

- investigate options for installation of youth-friendly infrastructure, such as half-court basketball facility, tennis practice rebound wall, and basic skate elements. Harbourview Park incorporates a basketball hoop;
- investigate opportunities to improve public safety in parks through improving path surfaces, lighting, amd opportunities for casual surveillance of open space areas, particularly linear trails; and
- develop additional brochures promoting key linear trails.

More detail about legislation, plans and policies relating to Harbourview Park is in Appendix C.

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# **4 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT**

# 4.1 Community values

#### 4.1.1 The Woollahra community

At the 2011 Census, the community in the suburb of Woollahra had the following relevant key characteristics:

- □ total population of 7,180 people, which had declined by 1.5% since 2006;
- a higher median age (40 years) than the Australian population (37 years). Woollahra has an age structure dominated by younger adults aged 25 to 39 years (25% of the population). People aged 65 years and over comprise 20% of the population. School-aged children 5 to 19 years comprised 12% of the population, with a notable relatively low percentage of 15 to 19 year olds. Pre-school aged children comprised about 6% of the population;
- dominated by small households without children. Single / lone person households (36%), couple families without children (27%) and group households (7%) comprise more than two-thirds of households. Households with children comprise 30% of households (22% couples with children, and 7% one parent families);
- were born in Australia (61%). Residents born outside Australia were mainly from English-speaking countries of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, USA and Ireland;
- live in a flat/unit or apartment (47% of occupied dwellings), followed by medium density townhouses and semi-detached houses (36% of dwellings), followed by separate dwellings (16%);
- high income. The median household weekly income in Woollahra is \$2,173, compared to \$1,234 in Australia;
- fully own or are purchasing their dwelling (57%), or are privately renting their dwelling (36% of dwellings); and
- own at least one vehicle per household (78% of households).

# 4.1.2 Values of parks

Micromex Research (2004) undertook a study to assess community attitudes towards the current provision of Council services and facilities, needs of the community, and values placed on Council services and facilities.

Of the 34 Council services and facilities considered, Parks and Recreation received the second highest community satisfaction rating. The Woollahra community view Parks and Recreation areas as being of high importance, and residents are highly satisfied with them. Sporting fields and facilities were identified as being of relatively lower importance than parks and recreation areas, but they also received a high satisfaction rating.

#### 4.1.3 Community values of Harbourview Park

#### Introduction

By understanding the reasons why the community and users value Harbourview Park, the role that the community expects the Park to play in the future may be determined. Also, as the Plan of Management is based on protecting and enhancing the community's values, management actions and outcomes that are based on these values are recommended.

Using values as the basis of the Plan of Management ensures that this plan will be valid longer than one based on simply addressing issues. Issues-driven Plans of Management can quickly become out of date. Values change at a much slower pace than issues. Values may remain constant for up to a generation, therefore once values are documented, issues can easily be dealt with as they arise consistent with the values. New issues that arise over time very often cannot be dealt with easily unless a new Plan of Management is prepared.

#### Values of Harbourview Park

The community have expressed how Harbourview Park is important or special to them when the 2001 Plan of Management was prepared, and at various times during consultation undertaken in recent years. The survey of local residents in 2011 (Appendix D) showed that local residents saw the following as important features or aspects of the Park (in descending order):

- □ Vegetation
- □ Open space, grassed areas
- □ Bushcare
- Dogs allowed at all times on a leash
- □ Park lighting
- □ Pathway network
- □ Park furniture
- □ Playground.

Drawing these consultations together, the community values Harbourview Park for different reasons, as outlined below.

#### Table 4.1Values of Harbourview Park

Value	Explanation
Natural	Harbourview Park constitutes an island of natural bushland within an urban landscape, which is traversed by natural watercourses in a gully landform. The Park is a green, vegetated contrast to surrounding residential and commercial development in Bondi Junction and Woollahra, and as such provides opportunities for solitude and a bush experience. The Park provides habitat for flora, fauna and other life forms. Bushcare activities are appreciated.
Recreational / social	The Park offers opportunities for social interaction, together with settings and facilities for unstructured and informal recreation activities particularly walking, relaxing, children's play, picnics, and exercising dogs.
Educational / scientific	Harbourview Park provides an 'outdoor classroom' for environmental studies by primary, secondary and tertiary students. The park is particularly valued as a site for studying the ecology of flora, fauna and other life forms in restored bushland within an urban context.

Value	Explanation
Aesthetic	The aesthetic value of the Park follows from the naturalistic beauty of its bushland setting, and views of Sydney Harbour which are available from the south-west corner of the Park.
Historical	The Park is a reminder of the early period of European colonisation and a mostly lost community of local flora and fauna and as a record of early 20 <sup>th</sup> century landscape development.

# 4.2 Objectives and principles for managing Harbourview Park

# 4.2.1 State government objectives and principles

Community land must be managed in accordance with the core objectives for the relevant category. The core objectives for categories of community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* are in Table 4.2.

#### Table 4.2 Core objectives of categories of community land

Category	Core objectives
Natural Area	provide for the restoration and revegetation of the land, and
	conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and
	maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state or setting, and
	provide for community use and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
	assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Natural Area – Bushland	ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
	protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
	promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
	restore degraded bushland, and
	protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
	retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.
Natural Area –	manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the in stream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
Watercourse	manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
	restore degraded watercourses, and
	promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

Category	Core objectives
Park	encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.
	provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.
	improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

# 4.2.2 Local objectives

#### **Community Strategic Plan**

This Plan of Management is consistent with the vision formulated by Woollahra Council in 'Woollahra 2025 ...our community ... our place ... our plan':

"Woollahra will be a great place to live, work, and visit where places and spaces are safe, clean and well maintained.

Our community will offer a unique mix of urban villages with a good range of shops, services and facilities.

We will make the most of the natural beauty, leafy streetscapes, open spaces, views and proximity to the water and the city."

The Woollahra community value and want to see the following in the future:

- □ village atmosphere
- □ improved infrastructure
- well maintained environment
- well planned neighbourhoods
- Iocation
- open space, local parks and leafy green streetscapes
- community activities and facilities
- □ community safety
- environmental sustainability
- traffic and transport
- Council leadership.

Relevant goals of Woollahra 2025 are set out below.

	Goal	Goal for 2025	Key challenges
Community well being	A connected and harmonious community	Woollahra will be a community where people care for each other, have a sense of belonging and can contribute meaningfully to their local community and neighbourhood through participation in community life.	Diverse community
	A supported community	Woollahra will be a place where people have access to a range of effective and diverse social services and programs that meet the changing needs of our community.	Meeting increased demand for sport and recreation programs and social activities. Community safety.
	A creative and vibrant community	Woollahra will be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to life-long learning opportunities, cultural and community activities. We will support local creativity, cultural pursuits and creative talents.	Cultural activities. Local history and heritage.
Quality places and spaces	Liveable places	Woollahra will be a community with accessible, integrated and well maintained public places and open spaces. We will have clean and well maintained infrastructure and community facilities. It will be a safe and attractive place with high quality public and private facilities and amenities.	Community and recreation facilities. Aging infrastructure. Natural areas and vegetation.
	Getting around	Woollahra will be a place where it is easy to get around, easy to access our foreshore, our recreation facilities, our green open space and our public and private institutions. We will also have easy access to the city and its wide range of services and facilities, and be able to access public transport, walking and cycling routes within our area.	Parking. Roads and footpaths.
A healthy environ- ment	Protecting our environment	Woollahra will be a place where the natural environment will be protected and conserved from adverse impacts, to preserve our vegetation and wildlife habitats.	Environmental impacts. Biodiversity. Bushland. Pollution.
	Sustainable use of resources	Woollahra will reduce energy and water use, reduce emissions and develop adaptation actions that will reduce the impacts of climate change. We will minimise waste generation and encourage resource recycling.	Climate change, including sea level rise. Waste disposal. Water.

#### Table 4.3 Relevant goals of the Woollahra Community Strategic Plan

#### **Local Environmental Plan**

One key aim of the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995 is to provide for an appropriate balance and distribution of land for commercial, retail, residential and tourist development and for recreation, entertainment and community facilities.

The LEP sets out a series of objectives, of which a number directly relate to the management of Harbourview Park as follows:

#### Public and private open space, recreation and tourism

- provide for open space which will meet the requirements of the population and which will be developed in sympathy with the existing natural environment of the area of Woollahra;
- allow for contributions towards the provision and embellishment of public open space and recreation facilities; and
- **D** provide for a diversity of open space types and recreation opportunities.

#### Landscape

- promote the retention of trees and the planting of suitable new trees in appropriate locations; and
- □ protect and enhance the environmental quality of the area of Woollahra through the appropriate management and conservation of the existing pattern of vegetation.

Where possible, the intent of these objectives as set out in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan will be translated into the new principal Local Environmental Plan.

This Plan of Management addresses each of these objectives through setting specific objectives within the Action Plans in Section 5.

# 4.3 Future roles of Harbourview Park

The Park is largely used by local residents, as well as people from elsewhere in Woollahra. As such, the Park will be managed for a local catchment.

The roles of Harbourview Park are:

- a reminder of the history of Woollahra in the 1800s and 1900s;
- an open space and bushland in the midst of a high density residential area;
- □ an informal recreation area for passive recreation activities;
- a place for local children, young people and families to play informally;
- D publicly-accessible vantage points from which to view Sydney Harbour; and
- □ a pedestrian linkage and thoroughfare.

# 4.4 Vision for Harbourview Park

Council's corporate goals, community and user values, and the desired outcomes of the community for the Park have culminated in a vision for the future of Harbourview Park. The vision is:

# 'A park setting of predominant bushland character, providing recreational opportunity and exhibiting a high level of endemic biodiversity that is restored and maintained through the active on-site participation of the local community'.

Sections 5 and 6 outline specific management strategies and actions to achieve the above vision and objectives for the Park, consistent with the community's values.

# 4.5 Objectives for Harbourview Park

The key management objectives for Harbourview Park are to manage the Park primarily as a natural area and as a low-key recreation area.

In relation to the park as a natural area, the significant bush revegetation which has occurred will be maintained. Locally indigenous species will be planted to replace removed weeds. Exotic species with low seed potential will be retained.

The Park will be managed for low-key recreation for a local catchment. No major developments in the Park are proposed.

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# 5 OVERVIEW OF ISSUES AND ACTIONS

This section includes a discussion of key issues applying to Harbourview Park and proposed actions to address those issues. This information is the basis of the Action Plan and landscape concept plan in Section 6.

# 5.1 Natural

# 5.1.1 Vegetation

#### **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is often interpreted simply as species richness, but is more accurately described as 'the variety of life forms, the ecological roles they perform and the genetic diversity they contain'. This variety in the natural world and the pleasure it brings to human experience contributes to the significance of biodiversity. Biodiversity helps maintain natural ecosystems providing clean water and air. The conservation of biodiversity locally contributes to its conservation at broader scales.

Biodiversity can be interpreted as a simple measure of environmental health in that a rapid (ie. over a number of decades relative to geological time) loss of species diversity within an area indicates the occurrence of threatening processes, usually in the form of human-induced impacts.

Habitat destruction and the fragmentation of bushland have been major contributors to the loss of species within the area now occupied by Harbourview Park. The restoration, and ongoing protection and enhancement of native biodiversity are therefore key outcomes of the program of bush revegetation in the Park. Ideally, this will be based upon management options that minimise the effects of, or totally negate, threatening processes and capitalise on opportunities to maintain and increase the level of biodiversity. Such opportunities within the bush revegetation process potentially include weed removal, stormwater management, use of fire, planting, and habitat creation.

#### **Bush Revegetation**

Bush revegetation is the central theme of this Plan of Management. Importantly, Section 6 of this Plan presents actions to continue implementation of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project. This project, based on voluntary participation by members of the local community, has been operational since August 1996 and aims to restore to the park a bushland community based on the original vegetation type that existed in the gully prior to residential development. Being an isolated pocket will never become self-sustainable and will always require human input to manage natural processes.

#### **Weed Infestation**

Weed infestation within the Park stems directly from the impacts of residential development and resource extraction. Impacts have derived from operations associated with vegetation clearing, house construction, altered drainage patterns, increased stormwater volumes, and associated changes in soil structure and chemistry. Many weed species were introduced originally into the Park's catchment as horticultural plants on private property.

Weed infestation is the most visible indication of native plant community degradation. Weeds compete with native plants for light, moisture, nutrition and space. Weed removal therefore is the primary requirement for the restoration process ahead of revegetation through planting or revegetation of a fugitive seed stock.

Primary weed removal involves the initial clearance of weed including both herbaceous and woody shrub and tree species and is followed by maintenance weeding which targets regrowth in these areas. Initial weed removal may be selective depending on the temporary requirement to maintain shade and soil stability in some sites.

Labour input in the long term is the single most important requirement for the success of the revegetation process. The ongoing removal of weed regrowth, particularly during the establishment period of planted native species, is crucial. It is expected that per hectare maintenance times will decrease as the native plant community establishes. However, some level of maintenance will always be necessary considering the presence and dispersal ability of weed species on both private and public land within the park's catchment and the threat of the dumping of garden refuse on the Park perimeter.

Techniques utilised in the weed removal process will be consistent with current industry bush revegetation methods based on sound ecological principles, the application of which will be assured by on-site qualified Council staff. The only herbicide in use by volunteers is glyphosate, commonly known as Roundup Biactive©'. Council's the Bushcare Officer also uses Starane © and Fusillade ©.

#### **Exotic Trees**

Coral Trees (*Eyrthrina x sykseii*) and Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) are generally regarded as woody weeds within the bushland context. They displace, compete with, and prevent the revegetation of, native plant species. Coral trees are prone to limb failure and are therefore of limited suitability within public areas. Their removal was particularly important because they suffer major branch and trunk failure with the potential to compromise the safety of park users. All Coral Trees were removed as part of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project.

Camphor Laurels which contribute significantly to the present vegetation will be removed in a staged effort as replacement native tree species in revegetated areas have achieved significant structure and character. Smaller Camphor Laurels which do not contribute significantly to structural amenity will be removed in a shorter time frame.

Ultimately, there will be recombinant landscape (native /exotic) elements within the canopy of Harbourview Park with the retention of the Jacarandas (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), and the non-endemic native Brush Box (*Lophostemon cofertus*).

Tree removal will be undertaken by either Council's Tree Pruning staff or qualified contractors.

#### Planting

The creation of a bushland environment within Harbourview Park has resulted primarily from planting. Natural revegetation potential is limited due to the long period of vegetation degradation, the low number of remnant species, and the Park's geographical separation

from other natural areas that would potentially serve as natural sources of plant propagative material. In areas such as Harbourview Park planting has served to reintroduce a level of native plant diversity, initiated the production of a native seed bank, and helped to suppress the occurrence of competing weed growth.

The planting palette (Appendix B) for the Park's bush revegetation project has been devised taking account of:

- □ the probable original plant community type that existed in the gully;
- □ the availability of material propagated from locally sourced plant material;
- the likely impact that altered hydrology and soil conditions would have on establishment success; and
- □ the variation in structural growth habit between species that would contribute to the creation of habitat for fauna.

At present, the palette contains 41 species comprising a mixture of trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Choosing locally sourced propagative material is important in terms of ensuring the genetic integrity (in the event of pollen transfer and seed dispersal) of plant populations within close proximity, such as those found within Cooper Park. All vegetation planted in the park has been sourced from within natural areas in the Woollahra Council LGA, and through native plant nurseries from eastern suburbs provenant stock.

Soil testing was conducted at just three sites. Moreover, it is likely that there are many pockets of low phosphorus levels within the Park away from drainage areas and residential perimeters.

#### Habitat creation

The sustainability of animal populations depends on a number of variables, of which habitat size is one of the most important. Accordingly, Harbourview Park will always be limited in its ability to sustain animal populations because it is a fragment of a once much larger area of continuous native vegetation. Nonetheless, within a given area, the quality of animal habitat is supported primarily by plant species diversity, variability of vegetation structure and variability of plant species age classes. Accordingly, revegetation will concentrate on the staged establishment of plant species exhibiting a variety of growth forms. This will ensure a structural component conducive to the provision of habitat for fauna.

The removal of mature trees as part of vegetation clearance in the period before residential development has resulted in a loss of tree hollow habitat in Harbourview Park. Arboreal mammals and certain bird species (eg. Rosellas, Lorikeets and Kookaburras) depend on such hollows. The lack of tree hollow habitat can be partly addressed through the construction and placement of possum and bird boxes. Construction of possum boxes may relieve the pressure on nearby residential 'roof habitat'.

#### **Community participation**

Community participation has been the primary source of labour for the undertaking of the Harbourview Park Bush Revegetation Project. Since the project's inception in 1996, an average of 15 hours per week of volunteer time has been made available. The regenerating area of the Park is not increasing; it is 100% under maintenance now. A small increase of volunteer hours will be required to maintain the stability of the restored bushland community into the future.

This has been and will continue to be carried out with the active on-site involvement of local community volunteers under the supervision of Council staff skilled in natural area management. Currently, Bushcare activities take place between 10am and 2pm on Thursdays and Saturdays of each week. New volunteers are always welcomed and training is provided on-site. More information is available through Council's Bushcare Liaison Officer.

# 5.1.2 Fire

Fire has played a significant role in the evolution of Australian flora and fauna. Fire produces specific responses in respect of plant seed germination and establishment, and vegetative reproduction. The resulting age class and diversity of species produces a vegetation structure and food resource that holds habitat implications for the sustainability of animal populations. In this way, fire regimes defined by fire type, intensity, frequency and season of occurrence have had a major influence on the relative distribution and abundance of species within native plant and animal communities. Urban development and the resulting fragmentation of bushland have led to the alteration of these fire regimes, and consequently the alteration of species composition in these communities.

The management of fire in bushland on urban fringes must address the often mutually exclusive objectives of protecting life and property whilst promoting and sustaining biodiversity. Hazard reduction burns must be conducted with sufficient intensity and in the appropriate season to maximise plant species diversity.

No large fire has occurred in Harbourview Park. Hazard reduction burning, using controlled pile burns, could be a useful management tool in Harbourview Park because a sizeable native seed bank has established as part of the Park's bush revegetation program. Any use of conservation fires should be conducted in consultation with the local community and a fire ecologist to determine size, placement, intensity, season, and the likely outcome for plant species diversity. The involvement of the NSW Fire Brigade, and the Catchments Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, would be required.

The exclusion of fire from Harbourview Park may restrict the long term maintenance of plant species diversity in the absence of active replanting over time.

# 5.1.3 Stormwater management and soil erosion

There are specific problems associated with stormwater flows that enter and pass through Harbourview Park (Section 2). Large volumes of stormwater cause erosion and siltation and deliver nutrient loads and other pollutants (both visible and dissolved) to the Park. The physical disturbance of soil in conjunction with changes in soil chemistry compromise the ability of native vegetation to establish and remain established. Moreover, this type of disturbance supports weed establishment and infestation.

Trash racks at the base of each drainage channel are not effective in preventing smaller objects from passing into inflow pipes that discharge eventually into Sydney Harbour. They are also a safety concern for children. The placement of sock-type gross pollutant traps (GPTs) or similar at the top of the drainage channels would result in more effective collection and prevent visible pollution over the length of the drainage channels in the Park.

In 2005 a study of stormwater water quality was carried out by Britton and Partners who reported to Council as part of its Environmental Levy Program with options for stormwater management in Harbourview Park. The report covered options to intercept pollution being

carried to Port Jackson via the Bathurst Street Channel. In March 2008 at the junction of Rowe Street and Edgecliff Road a Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) was installed by CDS installations at a major drain which carries a significant proportion of water flow to the Bathurst Street drain.

# 5.2 Recreational / social

# 5.2.1 Access

#### **Entry points**

There are five pedestrian entry points to the Park, and a vehicle access point at Russell Street. These entry points will be retained, and no additional formal entry points are proposed.

The preferred points of entry need to be formalised with Woollahra Council parks signage and landscape treatment which aids visitor orientation. This would ideally include a simple map and/ or the opportunity to engage in an interpretive experience.

Informal access points should be discouraged through appropriate signage and informal barriers.

#### **Pathways**

A safe and rational system of paths within the Park is conducive to its use as a thoroughfare to and from Bondi Junction, and as a site for contemplative recreational use.

An upgrade and rationalisation of the park's pathways was undertaken 10 to 15 years ago. Other necessary path repair will be undertaken when the need arises.

No further paths are proposed as this would lead to excessive fragmentation of the Park's bushland area.

Residents requested that pathways are maintained to their current standard, with pruning of branches which overhang pathways.

#### Access for people with a disability

Harbourview Park's topography makes access via the Magney Street and Bathurst Street entrances difficult for people with a physical disability. Nonetheless, level access off Russell Street allows easy movement for people with disabilities into the Park's main turfed/picnic area. From this point, the majority of the Park's natural elements can be enjoyed and picnic and play structures used. Any interpretive program developed for the Park should be mindful of making the experiences it offers accessible to people with a disability, including those with sight and hearing impairment.

# 5.2.2 Recreational facilities

#### **Playground Equipment**

The children's play equipment in Harbourview Park was upgraded in 2009 in accordance with Australian standards AS/NZS 4422 relating to playground surfacing and AS/NZS 4486.1 relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of playgrounds.

Residents requested maintaining the play equipment, replacing failing equipment, and fencing the playground to separate dogs and children.

#### Youth recreation facilities

The Woollahra Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006) identified gaps in provision of some youth recreation facilities in Woollahra.

The present placement of a basketball hoop adjacent the Park's Russell Street entrance is inappropriate. It does not complement visual amenity within this part of the Park, and would be better suited at the southern end of the turfed area away from residences. Its removal should also be considered given the little use it receives.

#### Park furniture

Park furniture consists of seating, tables and rubbish bins.

Local residents considered that the provision of park furniture is adequate. Existing park furniture will be maintained. Replacement of park furniture will be reviewed at the end of its life.

# 5.2.3 Park hire

Woollahra Council hires out parks and reserves for organised activities such as weddings, wedding photographs, film shoots, social gatherings and sporting events. It is important that the undertaking of any such appropriate activities in Harbourview Park is low-key and does not compromise the core management objectives for any identified land category.

# 5.2.4 Companion animals

There are strongly divided opinions on the appropriate level and type of control that companion animals, particularly dogs, should be afforded by their owners in public open space. Woollahra Council has adopted a zoning approach (4 categories) in an attempt to accommodate this diversity of community opinion. Within Harbourview Park, dogs are permitted in all areas if leashed at all times (Category B).

Problems associated with dog exercise in Harbourview Park include:

- unleashed dogs interfering with the leisure experience of other park users, particularly children in the playground and on the grassed area;
- uncollected dog droppings; and
- disturbance of plantings in revegetation areas.

Accordingly, there needs to be increased enforcement of the dog control categories by Council's Ordinance Officers, coupled with the appropriate provision of signage in key areas. In the absence of rangers enforcing penalties for the transgression of dog control legislation, then appropriate behaviour by many dog owners cannot be expected. Additionally, interpretive treatment addressing the community values underlying dog control legislation may result in an increase in voluntary appropriate behaviour by dog owners using Harbourview Park.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires that Councils promote responsible animal ownership through environmental initiatives. Placing simple interpretive signs within the Park encouraging dog owners to retrieve and dispose of their dog's faeces in an appropriate manner, and not allowing dogs within 10 metres of the playground, will be undertaken. It is not considered appropriate that bag dispensers for dog faeces collection be installed in Harbourview Park due to their susceptibility to vandalism. Rather the responsibility of bag procurement and bag carrying should rest with the dog owner.

# 5.3 Educational / scientific

# 5.3.1 Education

The use of Harbourview Park for educational purposes adds value to primary conservation objectives and should be permitted and, where possible encouraged. Preparation of an information package centred on the success of the bush revegetation project in the Park would also be beneficial. Importantly, provision should be made to ensure that any activities associated with the Park's educational use do not compromise the integrity of the Park's natural elements.

# 5.3.2 Interpretation

Interpretation generally is undervalued as a management tool in open space management. An adequate system of interpretation has the potential to enhance visitor satisfaction and strengthen the park's role as an educational resource. Importantly, this would serve to encourage community awareness and understanding of and support for the conservation rationale that underlies the management of the Park's bushland area. Similarly, an interpretive program would provide an opportunity to promote conservation values generally, and encourage park users and local residents to adopt appropriate behaviour in relation to preserving the integrity of the Park's natural elements.

Interpretative techniques may variously involve the establishment of an information shelter, informative talks offered by members of the Park's volunteer group, media releases and the production of pamphlets describing the Park's history and bushland context. Any interpretive initiative should be developed and undertaken collaboratively between Council Officers and members of the Harbourview Park Volunteer Community Group.

# 5.3.3 Signage

Signage in public open space is required for visitor orientation, interpretation, regulation of appropriate use, and ensuring visitor safety. Woollahra Council has developed a unified approach to all parks and open space signage which ensures a consistency of style, construction and location based on principles of user perception and effectiveness across the

local government area. Interpretive signs exist at Russell Street, Magney Street and Bathurst Street entrances.

# 5.3.4 Media

General community support for Harbourview Park's Bush Revegetation Project is vital to its continuing success. The group is promoted by the HarbourView Resident Group, and by Woollahra Municipal Council via their website, newsletter and media releases as part of their Bushcare Program. The primary intention of this action is to encourage both community support and participation. Currently, interpretive signs are located at each of the three main park entrances giving a brief history of the project and inviting the community's participation.

# 5.4 Aesthetic

#### 5.4.1 Solar access

The level of solar access afforded perimeter properties in relation to the present distribution of canopy is an issue for some residents. The placement of planted tree species with a tall, shading habit will be undertaken in such a way that ensures that desired levels of solar access are not compromised.

Similarly, appropriate levels of light will be maintained within the Park's lower turfed area.

General tree maintenance will be undertaken in a way that ensures a safe park environment.

# 5.4.2 View to Sydney Harbour

A view of Sydney Harbour is possible from the Magney Street entrance. Greater opportunities for enjoying that view would be desirable.

# 5.5 Historical

The history of Harbourview Park is interesting, and is communicated to Park visitors by interpretive signage near the Russell Street entrance.

# 5.6 Management

# 5.6.1 Vandalism

Vandalism here is broadly interpreted to include human behaviour that degrades any part of the Park's fabric. This may include behaviour that is not intentional in respect of the damage it causes.

Vandalism in the Park is usually represented by the placing of graffiti on built structures such as the maintenance shed, concrete drain below Harkness Street and signage, the defacing of park furniture, the indiscriminate breaking of glass bottles, uncontrolled access into

sensitive bush revegetation areas, the taking of vegetation, littering, and dumping of rubbish, garden refuse and mulch.

The individual motivations of vandalism are complex, but within the context of this Plan the most practical response is one which concentrates on site-based design and placement solutions to reduce the opportunity for vandalism. If this extends to site hardening it should be done sympathetically in relation to the character of the Park environment. A continuous improvement approach should be adopted in respect of a situational response to vandal behaviour whereby the success of certain anti-vandal treatments is evaluated over time, and if proven inappropriate then modified until a desirable outcome is achieved. Woollahra Councils Graffiti Removal Programme has proved effective in minimising graffiti by enabling quick removal of graffiti.

Additionally, there is scope for the use of interpretive techniques to combat the probably nonintentional vandalism of over-the-fence dumping of garden refuse on the Park perimeter and the trampling of vegetation by Park users.

# 5.6.2 General maintenance and minor landscaping

General maintenance consists of turf, tree and playground maintenance sweeping of path between Magney Street and Russell Street and rubbish removal. This work will continue to be rationalised in order to improve general amenity whilst reducing maintenance times. Presently this work is undertaken by Council staff whilst bush revegetation is undertaken by the Park's volunteer group.

If any minor landscaping work is undertaken in the Park it will be consistent with the core objectives for each identified land category.

#### 5.6.3 Road reserves

Approximately 50% of Harbourview Park is Road Reserve, and is not legally community land owned by Council. Although managed by Council as if it is community land, it would be desirable for the road reserve to be classified as community land.

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# 6 ACTION PLAN

# 6.1 Landscape Concept Plan

The Landscape Concept Plan for Harbourview Park is presented in Figure 6.1. The Landscape Concept Plan prescribes the areas proposed for future improvements following the Action Plan that are proposed to be implemented to achieve the objectives and desired outcomes for the Park.

# 6.2 Action Plan

# 6.2.1 Introduction

The management actions to resolve the management issues (consistent with the community's values of the Park) from Section 4 and to implement a landscape concept plan over the next 10 years are presented in the following tables. The actions are grouped according to the values of the Park. An extra table addresses management issues that apply to the Park as a whole.

Table headings are explained as follows:

Strategy – objective to be achieved through the action(s).

Action – specific task required to resolve the issue.

Priority - importance or urgency of the action, rated as:

Short term□Safety issues in which there is a high probability of serious injury occurring.Completed by years 1-2□Work needed to ensure the essential function of the Park is not compromised.Medium term□Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing Park assets.Completed by Years 3-4□Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or poor circulation and access.Long term□Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.Completed by Year 5□Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.Ongoing□Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of Management.		
years 1-2Image: Work needed to eliminate or reduce severe environmental problems, such as erosion or water pollution.Medium termImage: Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing Park assets.Completed by Years 3-4Image: Work required to resolve a conflict between user groups.Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or poor circulation and access.Image: Work saimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.Long termImage: Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Completed by Year 5Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.OngoingImage: Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of	Short term	Safety issues in which there is a high probability of serious injury occurring.
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Medium termImage: Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing Park assets.Completed by Years 3-4Image: Work required to resolve a conflict between user groups.Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or poor circulation and access.Image: Description of the park.Long termImage: Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Completed by Year 5Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.OngoingImage: Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of	years 1-2	Work needed to eliminate or reduce severe environmental problems, such as
Completed by Years 3-4Image: Series prediction of the solve a conflict between user groups.Image: Work required to resolve a conflict between user groups.Image: Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or poor circulation and access.Image: Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.Image: Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.Image: Works aimed at reducing overall basis for the life of this Plan ofImage: Works aimed at reducing overall basis for the life of this Plan of		erosion or water pollution.
Years 3-4Image: Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or poor circulation and access.Image: Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.Image: Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.	Medium term	Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing Park assets.
Long term       Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.         Completed by Year 5       Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.         Ongoing       Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of	Completed by	Work required to resolve a conflict between user groups.
Long termImage: Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.Long termWorks aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Completed by Year 5Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.OngoingAction to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of	Years 3-4	Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions such as noise, or
Long termImage: Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.Completed by Year 5Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.OngoingImage: Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of		poor circulation and access.
Completed by Year 5Image: Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.OngoingImage: Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of		Works aimed at enhancing public enjoyment of the Park.
Year 5         Ongoing <ul> <li>Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of</li> </ul>	Long term	Works aimed at improving the general quality of the Park.
<b>Ongoing</b> Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of	Completed by	Works aimed at reducing overall maintenance costs.
•••	Year 5	
Management.	Ongoing	Action to be carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of
		Management.

**Responsibility** – section within Council, or another organisation responsible for implementing the action.

Responsibilities within Council for implementing actions are:

TS Technical Services Division

- CS Community Services Division
- PD Planning and Development Division

**Cost** – capital costs of each action where appropriate.

**Performance target** – the desired outcome in implementing and achieving the action.

**Means of assessment** – how the achievement of the performance target can be measured and assessed.

#### Figure 6.1 Landscape Concept Plan



# 6.2.2 Natural

Table 6.1Natural actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Vegetation						
Maintain and enhance native plant and animal biodiversity.	Continue to implement the Harbourview Park bush revegetation project.	Ongoing	TS	-	Resident involvement in bush revegetation project.	Volunteer hours devoted to Bushcare. Feedback from residents.
	Continue program of bush revegetation by removing and controlling weeds.	Ongoing	TS	-	Annual increase in weed- free/regenerating area. Reduction in distribution of weeds.	Annual report including a map of regenerated areas. Photographic record.
	Identify and mitigate all threatening processes to bushland in the Park.	Ongoing	TS	-	Maintenance of plant and animal species diversity.	Species list
Maintain a landscape consisting of endemic tree species in Harbourview Park.	Remove exotic trees (Camphor Laurels, and Chinese Lanterns) from Harbourview Park.	Short	TS	\$20,000	Camphor Laurels and Chinese Lanterns removed. Increase in weed free area and revegetation area	Observations.
	Plant trees to replace the exotic trees.	Short	TS	-	Replacement trees planted. Survival of replacement trees.	Observations.
	Plant and maintain endemic tree species according to the plant palette for Harbourview Park.	Ongoing	TS	-	Endemic tree species established and maintained. Endemic tree species listed in plant palette.	Annual report. Photographic record.

Ensure the genetic integrity of remnant plant populations.Collect, store and propagate seed from locally occurring plant species.OngoingTS-Record of species. Seed stored and propagated.Nursery redEnhance native biodiversity and suppression of weed through appropriate planting.Use plant material collected from within the Park or provided by Council's nursery.OngoingTS-Record of species. Seed stored and propagated.Planting redVolunteer managementOngoingTS-Increase in number of people involved in Bushcare program.Diary entries Annual repuProvide opportunities for community involvement in the Park's bush revegetation activities.Provide on-site training in bush revegetation for interested community members.OngoingTS-Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Annual repuHabitat creationConsider habitat in native and weed- affected landscapes during bush revegetation work.OngoingTS-Vegetation structure that supports habitat is maintained.Annual repu	assessment
Lindrod nation biodiversity and suppression of weed through appropriate planting.within the Park or provided by Council's nursery.Solution of the Park of the Park's bush revegetation activities.Promote the volunteer Bushcare program.OngoingTSIncrease in number of people involved in Bushcare program.Diary entries Annual repuProvide opportunities for community involvement in the Park's bush revegetation activities.Promote the volunteer Bushcare program.OngoingTS-Increase in number of people involved in Bushcare program. Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Diary entries Annual repuProvide on-site training in bush revegetation for interested community members.OngoingTS-Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Habitat creation structure providesConsider habitat in native and weed- affected landscapes during bushOngoingTS-Vegetation structure that supports habitat isAnnual repu	ords
Provide opportunities for community involvement in the Park's bush revegetation activities.Promote the volunteer Bushcare program.OngoingTS-Increase in number of people involved in Bushcare program. Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Diary entries Annual repu- Annual repu- NongoingProvide on-site training in bush revegetation for interested community members.OngoingTS-Increase in number of people involved in Bushcare program. Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Diary entries Annual repu- NongoingHabitat creation structure providesConsider habitat in native and weed- affected landscapes during bushOngoingTS-Vegetation structure that supports habitat isAnnual repu- List of faun-	ords
for community involvement in the Park's bush revegetation activities.program.program.Annual repu Bushcare program. Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Annual repu Point Annual repu SectionProvide on-site training in bush revegetation for interested community members.OngoingTS-Increase in annual hours contributed by volunteers.Annual repu sectionHabitat creation structure providesConsider habitat in native and weed- affected landscapes during bushOngoingTS-Vegetation structure that supports habitat isAnnual repu List of faum	
revegetation for interested community members.       contributed by volunteers.         Habitat creation       Consider habitat in native and weed- affected landscapes during bush       Ongoing       TS       Vegetation structure that supports habitat is       Annual republication	
Ensure vegetation structure habitat in native and weed- structure provides affected landscapes during bush Ongoing TS - Vegetation structure that supports habitat is List of faun-	ərt
structure provides affected landscapes during bush List of faunt	
wildlife corridor. Fauna surveys.	
Stormwater management	
Reduce the impacts of gross pollutants inClean the trash racks.Short, ongoingTS ongoing-Gross pollutant traps 	e report.
the creeks on water quality and visual Clear leaves and sediment from the central drain.	e report.
quality.Place a cover over the stormwater inlet.ShortTS\$20,000Cover installed.	
Replace trash racks Medium TS \$30,000 Replacement of trash Engineering	report.

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
					racks.	
Minimise nutrient loading, erosion, sedimentation and poor drainage associated with	Finish minor stabilisation above the creek embankment in the upper part of the Magney Street drainage channel.	Medium	TS	\$2,000	Creek embankment stabilised. Reduction in sediment entering the creek channel.	Engineering report. Water testing before and after stabilisation.
uncontrolled stormwater flows.	Install a pipe connection to the discharge point in the Magney Street drainage channel.	Medium	TS	\$6,000	Pipe connection installed and tested.	Engineering report.
	Address drainage of water into the stormwater channel at the Russell Street entrance.	Medium	TS	\$10,000	Decrease in saturation in recreational areas at the Russell Street entrance.	Site inspections and works reports.
Water quality						
Ensure good water quality in the Park's	Carry out water quality testing in the creeks.	Ongoing	TS	-	Water testing carried out.	Water quality reports.
creek and drainage system.	Report all pollution events to Council ordinance officers.	Ongoing	TS CT	-	Reduction in frequency of pollution events.	Written records.
	Discourage dogs swimming in the creek.	Ongoing	TS CT	-	No instances of dogs swimming in the creek.	Observations. Reports to Council.
Soils						
Minimise the impacts of landslip.	Liaise with property owners in Bathurst Street to repair/replace retaining wall.	Short	TS	\$100,000	Retaining wall repaired or replaced. Resident contribution.	Engineering report.
Minimise soil erosion.	Apply soil stabilisation techniques in areas of erosion.	Ongoing	TS	-	Reduction in soil erosion.	Observations.
Fire						
Ensure safe fuel loads next to surrounding properties. Maintain and enhance species	Conduct a fire hazard assessment.	Short	TS	-	Involvement of NSW Fire Brigade and Catchments Branch of the Department of Primary Industries. Report from plant	Report to Council

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
diversity in bushland through an appropriate fire regime.					ecologist / fire specialist. Decision on fire hazard and ways to address the hazard.	
	Implement the recommended fire regime (if applicable).	Ongoing	TS	-	Consultation with local community. Supervision by NSW Fire Brigade.	Documentation of fire control measures.

# 6.2.3 Recreation / social

# Table 6.2Recreation / social actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Pathways						
Ensure a safe and functional path system through the	Formalise the unmade lower section of the 'goat track'. To be sympathetic to the natural character of the Park	Short	TS	\$10,000	Completion of work. No injuries to path users.	Observations Feedback from path users
bushland. Ensure safety of	Upgrade the path to the nightsoil lane to be sympathetic to the natural character of the Park	Medium	TS	\$5,000	Completion of work. No injuries to path users.	Observations Feedback from path users
people using pathways.	Carry out general repairs to the Park's system of paths as necessary.	Ongoing	TS	-	Paths repaired.	Diary entry.
Entry points						
Rationalise and formalise a system of Park entry points	Review maps and signage at key entry points.	Ongoing	TS	-	Review completed. Maps and signage replaced if desired.	Report to Council
Provide orientation in a pleasant setting at	Apply appropriate horticultural and and/or bush revegetation treatment to	Ongoing	TS	-	Improved visual amenity at access points.	Annual report Photographic record

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Park entry points.	entry points.					
Access for people wit	h disabilities					
Allow for and/or provide access to and	Provide an accessible pathway to the information signage.	Short	TS	\$5,000	Pathway constructed.	Annual report
in the Park for people with disabilities where practical.	Respond positively to requests from people with disabilities for vehicle access to the lower grassed area.	Ongoing	TS	-	Requests responded to. Vehicular access granted.	Park diary entry
Children's play						
Improve the safety and amenity of the	Install additional seats at the playground.	Medium	TS	\$4,000	Additional seats provided.	Positive feedback from Park users.
Playground for children and carers.	Upgrade the playground.	Medium	TS	\$80,000	Playground upgraded. Positive feedback from park users.	Works program.
	Consider fencing the playground.	Medium	TS	\$10,000		
	Inspect trees near the playgrounds.	Ongoing	TS	-	Tree inspection completed.	Report from arborist.
	Remove any unsafe branches and trees.	Ongoing	TS	-	Unsafe branches and trees removed. No incidents involving unsafe branches and trees.	Reports to Council.
Picnic facilities						
Improve the amenity of the picnic area for users.	Provide a picnic table at the bottom of the steps from the nightsoil lane.	Ongoing	TS	\$7,500	Picnic table installed.	Observations of use of picnic table.
Youth recreation facil	ities					
Cater for the recreation needs of young people.	Relocate the basketball hoop within the lower grassed area away from residences.	Medium	TS	\$10,000	Opportunities identified. Appropriate facilities installed.	Positive feedback from Park users and residents.
Companion animals						
Minimise conflicts	Install a sign at the playground	Short	TS	\$2,000	Sign installed.	Register of complaints

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
between companion animals and other park users.	regarding dog owners' responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act.				Reduction in conflicts between children and dogs.	
Ensure a safe and pleasant park free of animal faeces.	Maintain signage encouraging dog users to collect and dispose of their dog's faeces.	Ongoing	TS	-	Minimal complaints and observations of faeces.	Observations. Register of complaints
	Regular and effective patrol by Council Ordinance Officers.	Ongoing	CT TS	-	Increase in compliance with companion animal regulations.	Observations. Patrol reports.
Lighting						
Ensure safe night- time access to the Magney Street- Russell Street stairs, while keeping the remainder of the Park dark at night to discourage use.	Maintain adequate lighting between the Magney Street and Russell Street entrances.	Ongoing	TS	-	Paths and stairs visible at night.	Annual report

# 6.2.4 Educational / scientific

#### Table 6.3 Educational / scientific actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Education and interp	retation					
Increase community awareness, under- standing and support for the Park's bush revegetation program.	Prepare an information package highlighting the Park's environmental values and the success of bush revegetation.	Short	TS	\$3,000	Information package prepared. Increased understanding by community and Park users.	Distribution of information package on request. Park user survey and feedback.
Encourage use of the Park as an environmental education resource.	Facilitate access to the bushland and watercourses for educational purposes. Respond positively to enquiries.	Ongoing	TS	-	Record of educational visits and enquiries.	Park diary entry. Feedback from education organisations. Written records. Results of testing.
Signage						
Improve wayfinding for park users.	Provide directional signage to and from Bondi Junction and Russell Street.	Short	TS	\$5,000	Signage installed.	Observations

#### 6.2.5 Aesthetic

#### Table 6.4Aesthetic actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Views						
Take advantage of views to Sydney Harbour.	Install additional seat at the location where the view of Sydney Harbour is possible.	Medium	TS	\$3,000	Seat installed. Increase in number of people enjoying the view.	Observations.

# 6.2.6 Historical

#### Table 6.5Historical actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Interpretation						
Encourage community interest in the history of the park.	Review historical information provided on signage in the park, and update if required.	Low	TS	-	Review completed.	Report produced

# 6.2.7 Management

#### Table 6.6Management actions

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Road reserves						
Change the status of road reserves in Harbourview Park from road reserve to community land.	Formally close the road reserves. Transfer the road reserves into Council ownership, or gift the land to Council. Classify the former road reserves as community land. Categorise the former road reserves.	Long	TS PD	-	Road reserves are community land in Council ownership.	Land title documents. Council's Land Register
Vandalism						
Reduce damage to the Park caused by vandalism.	Adopt a continuous improvement approach to the mitigation of damage caused by vandalism within the Park.	Ongoing	TS	-	Reduction in or absence of damage associated with vandal behaviour.	Maintain record in Park diary

Strategy	Action	Priority	Respons- ibility	Capital cost \$	Performance target	Means of assessment
Encroachment						
Reduce the impacts of encroachment of	Monitor properties bordering the Park for evidence of any encroachments.	Ongoing	TS	-	Encroachments identified.	Observations
residential properties on the bushland.	Actively pursue the removal of any encroachments.	Ongoing	TS	-	Encroachments removed.	Report to Council
Waste management						
Minimise the need for vehicles to traverse the Park.	Relocate the waste bins closer to Russell Street. Include a recycling bin.	Medium	TS	-	Waste bins relocated. Recycling bin installed.	Observations. Positive feedback from the waste contractor.
General maintenance						
Ensure efficient and effective general Park maintenance.	Undertake minor landscape upgrades.	Ongoing	TS	-	Minor landscaping undertaken as required.	Positive comments from Park staff and Park users.

# 7 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

# 7.1 Management

Woollahra Council will continue to manage Harbourview Park.

# 7.2 Permitted future uses and developments

# 7.2.1 Introduction

It is not possible to forecast every activity or structure that may occur in Harbourview Park in the future. New activities, developments and structures may be proposed in response to a proposal for use of the Park, or because funding or another opportunity becomes available, or to address a need or management issue that may not be evident when preparing this Plan of Management.

In principle, activities in the Park will be low-key, and developments and structures will be minimised consistent with a natural area setting. Such activities and developments/ structures will be consistent with those set out below.

Area	Present Use and Purpose, Scale and Intensity of Permitted Use	Purpose of any further development
Bushland	Low intensity recreational use. Resource to be protected, conserved, rehabilitated and transmitted to future generations.	Activities associated with bush revegetation project
Watercourses (including bridges and other structures)	Small channels carrying water from catchment delivering the outflow to Sydney Harbour. Not used for recreational purposes.	Structures associated with the stormwater management
Picnic areas/ turfed area/ play area	Small scale venue for picnics and children's play. Low key area for relaxation and exercise	Improvement of children's play area

#### Table 7.1 Permissible future uses and developments

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council must expressly authorise proposed activities and developments on community land. Such authorisation in a Plan of Management gives 'in principle' support for certain activities to proceed to the development assessment stage. However, this Plan does not in itself imply or grant consent for these activities.

After a Plan of Management is adopted Council may only assess applications for small-scale activities or developments on this land as it is the land owner. Any Development Applications, proposed works and major management issues would be advertised widely for information and to invite comment.

Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of activities and structures in the Park are outlined below.

# 7.2.2 Legislation

Legislation relating to permissible uses and developments in Harbourview Park is in Appendix C.

Any proposed use of Harbourview Park must be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives for categories that apply to the Park under the *Local Government Act* 1993 (refer to Section 3).

#### 7.2.3 Permissible uses, structures and developments

#### **Permissible uses**

#### Introduction

The use of Harbourview Park for a variety of passive and informal recreational activities, where they are an ancillary function of and do not conflict with the conservation of natural processes and values, will be encouraged. Any activities that interfere with the amenity and biological diversity of the natural area will be discouraged and prohibited as necessary.

Activities that are permitted within Harbourview Park should be consistent with:

- □ The objectives and management principles of this Plan of Management (Section 1)
- □ The objectives for management of the Park (Section 4)
- □ Relevant legislation and statutory instruments (Section 3)
- □ The core objectives for the community land categories (Section 3)
- □ The zoning under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (Section 3)
- □ Community values of the Park (Section 4)
- □ Community objectives for the Park (Section 4)
- □ The future roles of the Park (Section 4)
- □ Proposed future uses of the Park (Section 7)
- □ Additional guidelines for assessing future uses and developments (Section 7).

#### Use of land zoned for open space

The *Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995* allows various activities to occur without development consent in the 6 - Open Space zone. Development consent may be granted for some other activities, and all other developments are prohibited (Section 3).

The LEP sets out in general terms what types of developments are permissible with or without consent within the 6 - Open Space zone, and provisions for conservation of heritage items. All proposed uses, development and building works in this Plan of Management need to be permissible under the applicable Local Environmental Plan, and assessed if required

through a Development and Building Application process consistent with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This Plan of Management would be an important supporting document for the required development and building applications for the proposed works.

Any Development Applications, proposed works and major management issues will be advertised to residents for information and to invite comment.

#### Permissible activities

Examples of permissible activities in Harbourview Park are listed in Table 7.2 below.

In general, permissible activities do not:

- □ unreasonably impact on local residents in terms of noise and parking;
- unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of the parkland by other Park users;
- result in physical damage to the Park; and
- □ unreasonably exclude any section of the community.

Prohibited activities listed are likely to disturb vegetation and habitat and so are not permitted in Harbourview Park under any circumstances.

#### **Organised activities**

All applications for use of the Park for temporary organised activities such as weddings, photography, film shoots and social gatherings, would be subject to Council's standard conditions, approval processes and booking fees. A temporary licence in the form of a Park Hire Approval would be issued by Council as part of the approval process prior to the Park being used for these activities. Fees are listed in Council's annual Community Strategic Plan.

#### **Commercial activities**

Commercial activities in Harbourview Park may operate with Council approval if they:

- do not impact on the natural values of the Park;
- □ enhance recreational opportunities;
- □ support or complement permissible activities and developments;
- do not unduly impact on other Park users; and
- pose no threat to public safety.

Proposals for commercial activities should be considered on their specific merits. Conditions should apply in each case to ensure the above requirements are met.

Permissible structures and developments

Woollahra Council's objective is to provide and maintain, within budget, natural areas of high quality and minimal but appropriate amenity, aesthetic and landscaping facilities to maximise benefits for all users and to minimise ecosystem disturbance. Council will consider providing facilities catering for an appropriate range of passive recreational activities compatible with the nature and function of natural areas, the objectives of this Plan of Management, and the zoning under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan.

Permissible uses	Permissible with restrictions	Prohibited
Bush fire hazard reduction by NSW Fire Brigade	Barbecues	Camping
Bush revegetation and	Clearing of vegetation for views or	Circuses and carnivals
rehabilitation	for any other purpose	Collection of fauna and
Celebrations – family gatherings, parties	Commercial or organised activity with Council approval	flora, rocks, soil, timber (alive or dead), or leaf litter
Ceremonies – weddings, baby naming etc.	Dog exercise (on-leash at all times, not within 10 metres of the	Consumption of alcohol
Children's play Community events	playground, waste picked up and disposed of in a bin)	where indicated by ordinance regulations
Community use	Easements to private property:	Dumping of rubbish,
Corporate functions and promotions	temporary or permanent access across the Park where appropriate and in compliance	including garden waste Golf
Delivering a public address or speech	with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and other	Horse riding
Education	relevant legislation and policy.	Hunting
Emergency purposes, including	Strict controls on vegetation and	Lighting fires by the public
training, when the need arises	land management may be imposed.	Mountain bike riding
Engaging in a trade or business	Filming subject to Council	Sporting activities

#### Table 7.2 Examples of permissible and prohibited activities in Harbourview Park

Community avanta	disposed of in a bin)	ordinance regulations
Community events Community use	Easements to private property:	Dumping of rubbish,
Corporate functions and	temporary or permanent access	including garden waste
promotions	across the Park where appropriate and in compliance	Golf
Delivering a public address or	with the requirements of the Local	Horse riding
speech	Government Act 1993 and other	Hunting
Education	relevant legislation and policy. Strict controls on vegetation and	Lighting fires by the public
Emergency purposes, including training, when the need arises	land management may be	
Engaging in a trade or business	imposed.	Mountain bike riding
Environmental education	Filming, subject to Council approval	Sporting activities including field archery
Environmental management and		с ,
monitoring	Fitness training – personal, group	
Exercise	Food and beverage outlet – mobile	
Flora and fauna surveys	Games or similar activities	
Functions (small-scale)	(except those likely to damage	
Gardening	property or to injure or cause	
Habitat creation	nuisance to another person)	
Informal ball games	Hosting of special events (eg.	
Landscaping works	guided bushwalks) that do not	
Nature study including	conflict with conservation aims	
birdwatching	Motorised vehicle access (except	
Painting, sketching	authorised maintenance and emergency vehicles)	
Photography (private, commercial)		
Picnics	Pest control (invertebrate and vertebrate)	
Playing musical	,	
instruments/singing for fee/reward	Reclamation, filling or draining of any land which results in loss of	
Running / jogging	or disturbance to natural habitats	
Sitting / relaxing	Smoking, except within 10 metres	
Social gatherings (small, family, friends, neighbours)	of the playground	

Storage of park materials, machinery Walking / walking dogs Water harvesting and retention	
Water testing and stream monitoring	

Section 6 and Figure 6.1 outlined the scale and extent of proposed physical works in Harbourview Park.

Table 7.3 lists examples of permissible and prohibited structures and developments in Harbourview Park.

Table 7.3	Permissible and prohibited structures in Harbourview Park
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Permissible structures / developments	Permissible with restrictions	Prohibited
Access for people with disabilities Barbecues (fixed and portable) Boardwalk Bollards Bridges Children's bicycle track Children's bicycle track Children's play equipment Drainage / irrigation structures Environmental facilities/protection works Exempt and complying development Fencing Gross pollutant traps or similar Habitat creation / improvement works Observation platforms Park furniture Picnic tables/shelters Portable toilets Public utility undertakings other than gas holders or generating works Recyclable waste storage Sculpture and public art Seating Shade structures Sheds or similar for activities directly related to the park (park management, equipment storage etc.) Signs (directional, interpretive) Water tanks / storage structures	Advertising (outdoor) consistent with Council policy and SEPP 64 Amusement devices Community facilities Community gardens (on land categorised as 'Park') Drainage works: only where complementary to the natural drainage patterns on the land, and where essential to protect tracks, roads, services, or other facilities on the land. Lighting: where essential for public safety and the protection of assets while not affecting nocturnal animal habitat. Consider solar lighting options to improve sustainability and reduce energy costs. Pathways: formal paths or surfaces in high use areas where need identified to reduce wear and damage to environment. Radio and telecommunications devices: prohibit installation if possible, and consult with authorities on design, siting and installation of low impact facilities if required. Retaining walls Seating: selective placement of seating only along walking tracks and in lookout areas where suitable for rest points and views. Telecommunications towers Underground pipes, conduits and other connections Utility installations	Camping Food and beverage outlets such as kiosks – permanent Golf Roads Vehicle parking

Specific improvements and additions to facilities in Harbourview Park will be undertaken in accordance with an approved schedule of works, as funds permit.

Easements over Harbourview Park will be permitted where appropriate for stormwater control, dispersal and flood control subject to Council approval and in compliance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. A summary checklist/application form prepared in consultation with Council's solicitors will ensure all easement applications comply with the relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation and policy. A bond will be imposed to protect the natural areas and associated assets. All costs associated with the easement application and construction, and any legal fees will be borne by the applicant.

#### **Development applications and approvals**

Proposed development and building works in Harbourview Park which are consistent with this Plan of Management (excluding activities permitted without development consent) would be subject to development and building applications in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan. This Plan of Management would form an important part of the required development and building applications and approvals for the proposed activities and works.

All approved activities requiring development consent would be subject to Council's standard conditions, approval processes, and booking fees if relevant. A temporary licence in the form of an activity would need to be issued by Council as part of the approval process prior to the Park being used for such activities.

Approvals for development works in Harbourview Park will be granted where endorsed by Council and the wider community, and when necessary approvals from other organisations have been obtained.

#### 7.2.4 Scale and intensity of future uses and development

The scale and intensity of future uses and development in Harbourview Park is dependent on:

- □ the nature of the approved future uses and developments;
- □ any landscape masterplan for the Park;
- □ the carrying capacity of the Park; and
- □ approved development applications.

The scale and intensity of any permitted development should be consistent with an approved landscape masterplan for the Park. Physical impacts of activities and uses should be regularly monitored.

The benchmark for the scale and intensity of future uses and developments permissible in Harbourview Park will be disturbance and damage to the natural bushland. Review of permissible activities and developments will occur if monitoring shows a deterioration from the present condition of the bushland resuling from those activities or developments.

Any works within Harbourview Park shall be undertaken to minimise disturbance to the natural bushland, and other impacts. Such measures include:

- encouraging use of buffer zones for development works on private property adjoining natural areas;
- □ incorporating pollution control measures into drainage systems to minimise debris, nutrients and other chemicals entering the waterway;
- □ using and retaining on-site resources wherever possible;
- □ using materials which are visually sympathetic to the natural environment;
- □ leaving acid sulphate soils undisturbed wherever possible;
- □ disposing of waste material should be disposed of off-site and in a manner not affecting the natural vegetation or that encourages the spread of weeds; and
- □ restoring areas following works to the maximum extent.

Service and utility suppliers will be encouraged to comply with the guidelines of this Plan, and to undertake community consultation where essential services are required.

Structures require regular inspections and maintenance to keep them in a functional condition and to protect the safety of users.

Leases and licences over the Park may be granted and are authorised under this Plan of Management if they consistent with the legislation and guidelines set out in Appendix C.

Physical impacts of activities and uses should be regularly monitored. Wear and tear caused to the Park by various activities, conflicts between users, and the impact of future developments should be regularly monitored. Corrective management action should be taken if any activities or developments impact on the Park, or cause conflicts between users, or between users and residents.

Any proposed use of the Park that requires consent from Council will be subject to a Development Application or Activity Approval with appropriate conditions imposed.

Facilities and structures require regular inspections and maintenance to keep them in a functional condition and to protect the safety of users.

# 7.3 Funding sources

### 7.3.1 Introduction

Funding is integral to implementing this Plan of Management. There are a number of approaches that Woollahra Council can take in funding the implementation of this Plan of Management.

Grant funding for park improvements have been received from:

- □ the Port Jackson Catchment Management Committee (a statutory body under the *Catchment Management Act 1989*)
- Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust.
- D Woollahra Council Community Environment Grant

### 7.3.2 Council funding

#### General

The implementation of this Plan of Management is achieved through its linkage with Council's Community Strategic Plan, operational budgets, and capital works programs.

Funding arrangements for Harbourview Park need to address recurrent costs of management and maintenance, together with capital costs for new facilities or upgrading works. Council currently funds management and maintenance costs through its annual budget allocation, and uses capital funds and Section 94 funding for capital and non-recurrent works.

Staging of works will need to occur because Council cannot meet the cost of every single item of work proposed at one time, due to other financial commitments throughout the local government area. Actions listed in the Action Plans have been prioritised, which will assist in preparing forward work programs and annual budgets. This Plan will therefore provide direction for future works in the Park.

#### **Section 94A contributions**

Council currently enters into planning agreements, or levies contributions or works in kind from developers towards the cost of upgrading facilities, including open space, to meet the needs of new development.

#### **Partnerships**

There is an opportunity to develop further partnerships with residents, local community groups and interested people in relation to Park improvements and ongoing management, such as through the Bushcare program and perhaps by sponsorship from local businesses.

#### **Rental income**

Income from the reserve may be generated from fees for hiring the Park for appropriate activities such as photography or filming which are approved by Council.

#### 7.3.3 Other sources of funding

#### Grants

Several Commonwealth and State government grants are available to assist with works in parks such as Harbourview Park. While not exhaustive, the following list gives an indication of the range of available grant programs through which improvements to the Park consistent with its size, natural features, local catchment and intended uses could be funded.

#### Table 7.4 Potential sources of grant funding for Harbourview Park

Grant	Organisation	Purpose
Commonwealth		

Grant	Organisation	Purpose
Caring for Our Country:	Depts of	Projects related to water saving and efficiency,
Community Water Grants	Sustainability, Environment,	water recycling, and water treatment.
Caring for Our Country: Community Action Grant	Water, Population, and Communities; and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Support local activities such as tree planting, revegetation, dune rehabilitation, field days, improving land management practices, and recording and use of traditional ecological knowledge.
Caring for our Country: Community Coastcare Program		Protect and rehabilitate coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats. Enhance community skills, knowledge and engagement with indigenous Australians, volunteers and coastal communities.
State		
Environmental Trust: Lead environmental community groups program	Office of Environment and Heritage	Provides administrative funds for environmental organisations that work with their communities to conserve the environment.
Environmental Trust: Environmental restoration and rehabilitation program	Office of Environment and Heritage	Funds projects that restore or rehabilitate degraded areas, or protect important ecosystems and habitats, prevent or minimise future environmental damage, and enhance the quality of specific environmental resources.
Environmental Trust: Environmental education program	Office of Environment and Heritage	Supports projects that increase commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.
Environmental Trust: Environmental research program	Office of Environment and Heritage	Funds projects managed by educational institutions and government agencies that research local solutions to environmental problems and ways of operating that are less harmful to the environment.
NSW Industry and Investment	NSW Weeds Action Program	Aims to reduce the impacts of weeds under the NSW Invasive Species Plan. Regional Weed Action Program to help local weed authorities and other stakeholders to develop partnerships to effectively target weeds, identify and stop new weeds early, and community involvement in weed management.
Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme	NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing	Encourages larger registered clubs in NSW to contribute to the provision of front-line services and community projects.
Estuary Management Program	Sydney Catchment Management Authority	Stormwater upgrade projects.
Restoration and Rehabilitation Program	Environmental Trust (NSW)	Restoration of degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems. Protection of important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna.

# 7.4 Implementation of this Plan of Management

Once Woollahra Council adopts this Plan of Management, it is obliged to implement it and follow its direction. Any changes in the plan must be exhibited publicly.

Council must only allow activities, uses or developments that are provided for in, or consistent with the intent of, the Plan of Management.

Performance indicators and methods of review in achieving recommended actions appear in the action plan tables in Section 6.

Implementation of this Plan of Management will be monitored at least annually with the preparation of annual performance standards and capital works programs. Performance standards and works programs for administration, maintenance and upgrading works are revised each year to meet allocated budgets and works priorities determined in Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Funding for management of the Park will be sought from a range of government, Council, corporate and community sources on an ongoing basis.

# 7.5 Reporting

Council will report on the progress of implementing this Plan of Management in the following ways:

- □ recognising key works in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework;
- including achieved and proposed actions in its annual State of the Environment Report;
- □ when preparing capital works and maintenance budgets; and
- provide information flyers and newsletters to adjoining residents, Bushcare volunteers and other stakeholders.

# 7.6 Review of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is intended to be reviewed and updated within five years, ie. by 2018, with a major review by 2023. The plan should be updated to reflect changing community and Council priorities and issues, to take into account changes in legislation or Ministerial directions, and to recognise completed actions. Review of this Plan of Management should also take into account the outcomes of periodic reviews of Council's strategic and operational plans. Five-yearly reviews should involve consultation with the community, with their comments incorporated into the review process.

The Action Plan tables have a shorter life and therefore require more frequent reviews and updating. The Action Plan tables should be reviewed and revised yearly in accordance with Council's budgets, Capital Works Program, State of the Environment reporting, and changing priorities.

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# **APPENDIX** A

**VEGETATION OF HARBOURVIEW PARK** 

Native Tree Species of Harbourview Park
Acacia longifolia
Acacia ulicifolia
Acacia suaveolens
Acacia elata
Acacia terminalis sub species teminalis
Acacia implexa
Acacia parramattensis
Acmena smithii
Angophora costata
Alocasia sp
Adiantum aethiopicum
Asplenium australasicum
Banksia integrifolia
Banksia serrata
Brachychiton acerifolius
Callicoma serratifolia
Callitris rhomboidea
Casuarina glauca
Ceratopetalum apetalum
Ceratopetalum gummiferum
Correa alba
Correa reflexa
Crinum pedunculatum
Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Cyathea cooperi
Cotula australis
Commelina cyanea
Calytrix tetragona
Darwinia fascicularis subsp. fascicularis
Dianella caerulea
Dichelachne crinita
Dodonaea triquetra
Doryanthes excelsa
Doryanthes palmeri
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Eucalyptus rossii
Eucalyptus saligna
Eucalyptus haemastoma
Eucalyptus nilularis
Eragrostis sp
Ficus rubiginosa
Ficinia nodosa syn Isolepis nodosa
Geranium solanderi
Glochidion ferdinandi
Grevillea sericea
Gahnia sieberiana
Hardenbergia violacea
Hibbertia scandens
Hibiscus tiliaceus
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# APPENDIX B

PLANTING PALETTE FOR HARBOURVIEW PARK

### Harbourview Park Planting Palette

Species <sup>1</sup>	Growth Habit <sup>2</sup>
Acacia longifolia	В
Acacia ulicifolia	В
Acmena smithii	Т
Acacia terminalis	В
Angophora costata	Т
Aotus ericoides	В
Callicoma serratifolia	Т
Casuarina glauca	Т
Correa reflexa	В
Darwinia fasicularis	В
Dianella caerulea	В
Dichelachne crinita	G
Dillwynia retorta	В
Dodonaea triquetra	В
Doryanthes excelsa	В
Eucalyptus botryoides	
Eucalyptus globoidea	Т
Eucalyptus piperita	Т
Eucalyptus robusta	T
Eucalyptus sieberi	Т
Gonocarpus teucroides	G
Goodenia bellidifolia	G
Hardenbergia violacea	G
Hibbertia scandens	G
Hibiscus tiliaceus	В
Isolepis nodosa	G
Kennedia rubicunda	G
Kunzea ambigua	В
Lambertia formosa	Т
Leptospermum continentale	В
Leptospermum trinervum	В
Melaleuca thymifolia	В
Melaleuca armillaris	В
Melaleuca nodosa	В
Omalanthus nutans	В
Petrophile pulchella	B
Synoum glandulosum	T
Themeda australis	G
Tristaniopsis laurina	
Viola hederacea	G
Xanthosia pilosa	G
	<b>~</b>

#### NOTES:

- Seed is sourced from locally occurring endemic plant material.
   Growth Habit: T = Tree; B = Bush/Shrub; G = Groundcover

# APPENDIX C

PLANNING CONTEXT OF HARBOURVIEW PARK

# 1 Commonwealth legislation

### **Disability Discrimination Act 1992**

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* is a Commonwealth Act that aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including access to premises. The Act also aims to promote recognition and acceptance in the community that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

The Act covers a range of areas including sport and recreation, and access to premises. The Act requires that people be able to access any building which the public is entitled to enter or use through the primary entrance used by the general public. It further requires that people should have access to any services and facilities provided in those buildings.

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1997 also makes it unlawful to discriminate on the ground of disability.

# 2 State government legislation

### **Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

### Introduction

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA Act) establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and landuse planning in NSW through State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) – now deemed SEPPS – and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). The EPA Act also sets out processes for approving development applications for structures and works on public and private land in the Hurstville local government area.

#### State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* made provision for the preparation of the State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19-Bushland in Urban Areas, in 1986.

While large tracts of land have been set aside on the outskirts of Sydney in National Parks, concern has been expressed at the decline in both quality and quantity of bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. It is fortunate that a small portion of Sydney's natural bushland has been retained on public open space. SEPP 19 was designed to ensure that these areas are protected and preserved, and further urban bushland areas are retained in the Sydney Region. The Policy does not apply to land administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests of NSW, other statutory authorities, or privately owned bushland.

Under SEPP 19, bushland means land on which there is vegetation that is either a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or, if altered, is still representative of the structure and floristics of the natural vegetation. Section 8 of SEPP 19 applies to bushland zoned or reserved for public open space.

SEPP 19 generally aims to protect and preserve bushland in urban areas because of its natural heritage value, aesthetic value, and value as a recreational, educational and scientific resource.

The specific aims of SEPP 19 are to:

- a. Protect the remnants of plant communities which were once characteristic of land now within an urban area.
- b. Retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration which will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.
- c. Protect rare and endangered flora and fauna species.
- d. Protect habitats for native flora and fauna.
- e. Protect wildlife corridors and vegetation links with other nearby bushland.
- f. Protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.
- g. Protect bushland for its scenic value and to retain the unique visual identity of the landscape.
- h. Protect significant geological features.
- i. Protect existing landforms, such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores.
- j. Protect archaeological relics.
- k. Protect the recreational potential of bushland.
- I. Protect the educational potential of bushland.
- m. Maintain bushland in locations which are readily accessible to the community.
- n. Promote the management of bushland in a manner which protects and enhances the quality of the bushland and facilitates public enjoyment of the bushland compatible with its conservation.

SEPP 19 states that Plans of Management shall be consistent with the aims of the Policy. In respect of the bushland to which it applies, a Plan of Management should describe and analyse the bushland, and specify measures to be taken to:

- implement the specific aims of the Policy;
- □ enable recreational use of the bushland;
- reduce hazard from bushfire;
- □ prevent degradation of bushland; and
- □ restore and regenerate degraded areas of bushland.

SEPP 19 also sets out matters that a consent authority must consider when assessing development within areas zoned for urban bushland or in an adjoining area.

### **Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003**

The *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* provides for the establishment of Catchment Management Authorities (CMA).

The Act also sets out requirements for the preparation of Catchment Management Plans and annual implementation programs.

### Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

This act aims to protect the environment in New South Wales from air, water and noise pollution through implementation of policies, licences, audits, notices and conditions.

### **Noxious Weeds Act 1993**

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* allows for an invasive plant which has a detrimental impact on human or animal heath, the environment, or agriculture to be declared noxious. The main intent of the Act is to restrict the spread of weeds and to protect landholders from weed invasion.

Weeds may be declared noxious within a specific local government area, or across New South Wales. The decision to declare a plant as a weed can be revised as weed categories change over time.

Noxious weeds present in Harbourview Park must be controlled according to the provisions of the Act.

Public authorities must control noxious weeds on land it controls, and prevent weeds from spreading into adjoining properties.

Under the Act Woollahra Council is authorised to require land occupiers to control noxious weeds on a property. When an occupier fails to control weeds, Council may issue a notice for control of the weed. If an occupier fails to comply with the notice, Council may enter the property and destroy the weeds. Council may also issue a penalty notice or prosecution for offences under the Act.

### **Companion Animals Act 1998**

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Act, dogs in public places must be on a lead under the effective control of a competent person, except in a declared off-leash area. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play areas, food preparation / consumption areas, and recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by the local authority. If a dog defecates in a public place, the dog owner must remove and dispose of it in a rubbish receptacle. The Act also outlines restrictions on domestic cats.

# 3 State government plans and policies

### **NSW State Plan**

#### **NSW 2021**

NSW 2021: *A plan to make NSW number one* sets the Government's agenda for change in NSW. Key goals for 'Environmental and Communities' include:

'Protect our natural environment' (Goal 22)

'Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments' (Goal 23)

'Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities' (Goal 24) 'Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities' (Goal 27).

### NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015

The NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015 (Department of Primary Industries, 2008) is whole-of-government approach to managing invasive species in NSW to reduce the threat on the State's biodiversity and agriculture. It aims to prevent new weed incursions, contain existing weed populations, and adaptively manage widespread weed species. Goals of the Plan are to:

- □ exclude: prevent the establishment of new invasive species;
- □ eradicate or contain: eliminate or prevent the spread of new invasive species;
- G effectively manage: reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species; and
- **c**apacity: ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species.

These goals aim to deliver specific measurable outcomes and actions that will support the NSW targets for natural resource management as identified in the NSW State Plan.

### **NSW Biodiversity Strategy**

The goals of this strategy are to protect the native biological diversity of NSW, and to maintain ecological processes and systems. It aims to ensure the survival and evolutionary development of all species, populations and communities of plants and animals.

### **Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code for NSW 2006**

The purpose of this Code is to provide a streamlined environmental assessment process for use by issuing and certifying authorities in determining bush fire hazard reduction certificates. Environmental assessment of bushfire hazard reduction must have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and environmental planning and assessment considerations.

### Roads Act 1993

Land defined as unmade roadway is not subject to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* or *Crown Lands Act 1989*, but is subject to the *Roads Act 1993*.

The *Roads Act 1993* sets out rights of members of the public to pass along public roads, establishes procedures for opening and closing a public road, and provides for classification of roads. It also provides for declaration of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and other public authorities, such as Councils as roads authorities, for both classified and unclassified roads. The Act also confers certain functions (such as carrying out roadwork) on the RMS and other roads authorities.

# 4 METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES

### Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031

Two objectives are relevant to the outcome 'A Liveable City' for Sydney to 2031:

- create socially inclusive places that promote social, cultural and recreational opportunities; and
- deliver accessible and adaptable recreation and open space.

### Green Web – Sydney

Green Web – Sydney is a Sydney-wide initiative of Regional Organisations of Councils to establish a green web of native vegetation and habitat corridors. Such corridors would provide links between fragmented sections of urban native bushland as well as to protect, conserve and enhance the remaining bushland in the Sydney region (Seidlich, 1997; SROCs, 2009). Large open space areas can make a significant contribution to these ideals without undue impact on their existing use or conflict with core objectives for such use.

# 5 Sydney Metropolitan CMA Region (Now HNCMA)

### **Catchment Action Plan**

The *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* requires all Catchment Management Authories to prepare a Catchment Action Plan (CAP).

The CAP for the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment (2009) sets out the strategic role and operation of the SMCMA; and management targets for the catchment in terms of biodiversity, aquatic systems, land systems, and community capacity.

# Weed Management Strategy for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Region 2007-2011

The Weed Management Strategy for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Region 2007-2011 (SMCMA, 2007) aims to build on current weed management guidelines and recommendations, many of which have been identified by Council staff, State agency staff, volunteers and professional bush regenerators.

The Strategy recognises that effective, long term weed management by Councils, agencies and landholders consists of removing weeds as well as other methods. The Strategy recommends:

- □ reviewing weed management priorities across the SMCMA region;
- □ directing funding and allocation of resources towards higher priorities; and
- co-ordinating on-ground work across land management boundaries and according to available resources and priorities.

# **6 SYDNEY HARBOUR CATCHMENT**

### Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005

#### Introduction

The deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) consolidates the provisions of the former SEPP 56 (Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Tributaries) and SREP 23 (Sydney and Middle Harbours). The Development Control Plan for Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways accompanies the deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment).

Although there is reference in the deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) to environmental planning instruments, environmental studies, and master plans for specific significant sites, there are no specific requirements for the preparation of Plans of Management.

The deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 aims to establish a balance between promoting a prosperous working harbour, maintaining a healthy and sustainable waterway environment and promoting recreational access to the foreshore and waterways.

The deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 establishes a set of planning principles that are to be taken into consideration by Councils in the preparation of environmental planning instruments, contains a set of matters for consideration for the Foreshores and Waterways Area and contains heritage provisions to conserve and protect those heritage items in the waterway and within the land-water interface that are not covered by Council's planning instruments. Sections specifically relevant to this plan are set out below.

#### Aims and objectives

The deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 controls planning and development in the Sydney Harbour catchment. With respect to the Sydney Harbour catchment, the deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 aims to:

- ensure the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained as an outstanding natural asset and as a public asset of national and heritage significance for existing and future generations;
- □ ensure a healthy, sustainable environment on land and water;
- achieve a high quality and ecologically sustainable urban environment;
- □ ensure a prosperous working harbour and an effective transport corridor;
- encourage a culturally rich and vibrant place for people;
- □ ensure accessibility to and along Sydney Harbour and its foreshores; and
- ensure the protection of, maintenance and rehabilitation of watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands, remnant vegetation and ecological connectivity.

The objective of the deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) is to provide a clear set of planning principles to protect the natural assets of Sydney Harbour, ensure appropriate use of foreshore land, and encouraging public access to and along the foreshores. These principles need to be considered when preparing environmental planning instruments, development control plans, environmental studies and master plans under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The planning principles for the Sydney Harbour Catchment include to:

- protect and improve hydrological, ecological and geomorphological processes affecting catchment health;
- maintain and, where possible, restore the natural assets of the catchment for their scenic and cultural values and their biodiversity and geodiversity;
- consider the cumulative environmental impact of development within the catchment;
- achieve the targets of the Water Quality and River Flow Interim Environmental Objectives for Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River Catchments, while being consistent with the guidelines in Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters;
- protect the functioning of natural drainage systems on floodplains, and comply with guidelines in the Floodplain Development Manual 2005;
- D protect and enhance the visual qualities of Sydney Harbour;
- □ increase the number of viewing points accessible to the public;
- □ improve the water quality of urban runoff, reduce the quantity and frequency of urban runoff, prevent the risk of flooding, and conserve water;
- achieve the objectives and targets in the Sydney Harbour Catchment Blueprint;
- protect and rehabilitate developed land from current and future urban salinity processes, and prevent or restore land degradation and reduced water quality resulting from urban salinity; and
- avoid or minimise disturbance of acid sulphate soils resulting from development.

Issues such as foreshore access, visual and natural environments, recreation and maritime industrial uses are subject to performance-based criteria and guidelines which aim to:

- □ protect ecological communities within the areas covered by the deemed SEPP (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005;
- ensure that the scenic quality of the area is protected and enhanced;
- provide site planning and design principles for new buildings and waterside structures within the area; and
- identify potential foreshore access locations in the area.

#### **Draft Central Subregional Strategy**

Woollahra is in the Central Subregion of the Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031.

# 7 Local planning context

Strategic planning

#### Woollahra Community Strategic Plan 2010 to 2025

Woollahra 2025 – our community ... our place ... our plan - together with the five-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan outlines Woollahra Council's objectives, and strategies and actions to achieve those objectives.

The theme 'Quality Places and Spaces' include the bushland areas. The plan recognises that public places such as bushland and natural areas are highly valued for recreation and their intrinsic natural qualities, their variety and the facilities on offer, as well as the water views from these parks.

Key challenges, strategies and actions regarding Goal 5: Liveable Places related to 'Quality Places and Spaces' are outlined below.

#### Council priorities relevant to bushland parks in Woollahra

	Key challenge	Strategy 2025	Delivery Program Priorities 2009-2013	Operational Plan Actions 2010-11
		Quality F	Places and Spaces	
		5	Liveable Places	
and facil	open spaces. We	will have clean and w	ible, integrated and well mai vell maintained infrastructur ce with high quality public a	e and community
	Providing accessible community and sporting	Enhance local community, cultural and recreation facilities to become	Implement a prioritised program of improvements to community and recreation facilities.	-
	facilities, public places and open spaces.	more attractive, integrated and accessible.	Implement major upgrades to recreation facilities.	-
5.2 5.7	Maintaining, renewing and upgrading aging infrastructure,	Provide and maintain safe, clean serviceable public infrastructure	Implement the infrastructure maintenance programs for all classes of public infrastructure.	-
including stormwater drainage and seawalls.	including roads, footpaths, parks, open space, stormwater drains and seawalls.	Complete annual condition surveys and prepare 5 year and annual Capital Works Program for all classes of public infrastructure.	Implement the infrastructure maintenance programs including restoration following utility works.	
	Renew and upgrade ageing public infrastructure including roads, footpaths, storm- water drains and seawalls.	upgrade ageing public infrastructure including roads, footpaths, storm-		Undertake scheduled maintenance and cleaning of stormwater pits and pipes, and stormwater quality improvement devices.
		Implement the Infrastructure Capital Works Programs for renewal for all classes of public infrastructure.	Implement the Infrastructure Renewal and Stormwater Capita Works Programs.	
5.3	Preserving and improving access to natural areas.	Provide attractive, accessible, connected and safe parks, sports- grounds, foreshore areas and other	Ensure Plans of Management for public open spaces are updated periodically and reflect community needs and aspirations.	-
		public spaces.	Implement a prioritised	Implement staged

Key	challenge	Strategy 2025	Delivery Program Priorities 2009-2013	Operational Plan Actions 2010-11
			program of improvements to public open spaces.	actions arising from the Recreational Needs Assessment.
			Implement major upgrades to open spaces.	-

### **Development control planning**

#### Woollahra Local Environmental Plan

#### Context of land in this Plan

Under the Woollahra Local Environment Plan 1995 (WLEP), Harbourview Park is zoned 6 Open Space (General Recreation).

At the time of preparing this Plan of Management, Woollahra Council is preparing a new principal local environmental plan based on the standard instrument developed by the NSW government. The new LEP is expected to be finalised in 2012.

#### Relevant objectives of the Woollahra LEP

Objectives of the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995 for open space, recreation, tourism, landscape and harbour foreshores are set out below.

<b>Relevant objectives of Woollahra</b>	Local Environmental Plan
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Aspect of LEP		Objectives
Public and private open	1.	provide for open space which will meet the requirements of the population and which will be developed in sympathy with the existing natural environment of the area of Woollahra,
space, recreation	2.	protect and promote public access in the inter-tidal zone of the foreshore of Sydney Harbour,
and tourism	3. 4.	provide for a diversity of open space types and recreation opportunities; and allow for contributions towards the provision and embellishment of public open space.
Landscape	1.	protect and enhance the natural landscapes throughout the area of Woollahra,
	2.	promote the retention of trees and the planting of suitable new trees in appropriate locations,
	3.	control or minimise the impact of future development upon natural features such as significant trees or stands of trees, ridgelines or land within view of any waterway,
	4.	protect and enhance the environmental quality of the area of Woollahra through the appropriate management and conservation of the existing pattern of vegetation; and
	5.	protect the native flora and fauna.

Where possible, the intent of these objectives as set out in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan will be translated into the new Principal Local Environmental Plan.

#### Development control table

Important provisions are contained within the Development Control Table for the 6 – Open Space zone under the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995. Zone No. 6 – Open Space will be replaced by the RE1 Public Recreation zone when the new LEP is gazetted. These provisions for the open space zone are included in the table below.

### **Development Control Table for Open Space Zone**

DEV	ELOPMENT CONTROL TABLE - ZONE No. 6 - (OPEN SPACE)		
Description of the	The Open Space Zone applies to public or private land used or intended to be		
zone	used for recreational purposes. Land that is within this zone may also be used		
	for community facilities.		
Objectives of the	The objectives are:		
zone	a) To identify existing publicly and privately owned land used or capable of		
	being used for recreational purposes,		
	b) To identify areas which are reserved for future public open space:		
	In the case of land edged red and marked with the letter 'L' in red,		
	being local open space, and		
	In the case of land edged red and marked with the letter 'R' in red, being regional approximations.		
	being regional open space, c) To increase the provision of public open space within the Council's area to		
	meet the needs of the population,		
	d) to enable development for the purpose of public and private recreation and		
	community facilities sympathetic to the environmental characteristics of the		
	land and surrounding areas; and		
	e) to protect the visual and environmental attributes of the foreshores.		
Development	Development for the purpose of:		
which may be	Bushfire hazard control;		
carried out			
without	Maintenance of gardens and structures.		
development	Development pursuant to, or approved in accordance with, the plan of		
consent	management adopted under Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the		
	Local Government Act 1993 and for the time being applicable to the		
	subject land.		
Development	Development for the purpose of:		
which may be	Child care centres; child care centres;		
carried out only with development	<ul> <li>clubs (other than clubs registered under the <i>Registered Clubs Act 1976</i>);</li> <li>community facilities;</li> </ul>		
consent	$\square$ recreation areas <sup>2</sup> ;		
consent	<ul> <li>recreation facilities;</li> </ul>		
	$\square$ roads;		
	<ul> <li>uses or buildings associated with development permitted in the zone</li> </ul>		
	without development consent;		
	utility installations (other than gasholders or generating works).		
Development	Any other development not listed above.		
which is			
prohibited			

In assessing such applications, Council will refer to this Plan of Management as well as the LEP and other relevant legislation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The definition of 'recreation area' in the LEP means a children's playground, or parks and gardens, or an area used for sporting activities or sporting facilities, or an area used to provide recreation facilities which promote the physical, cultural or intellectual welfare of persons within the community. Such facilities may be provided by Council or a body of persons associated for the purpose of physical, cultural or intellectual welfare of persons within the community. Recreation areas do not include marinas, racecourses and showgrounds.

#### **Development Control Plan for Exempt and Complying Development**

Woollahra Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) – Exempt and Complying Development established the development type, location and criteria for exempt and complying development within the meaning of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Under this DCP, the following items are exempt from development approval (subject to exempt development criteria):

- □ landscape works on public land;
- filming and photographic shoots;
- events; and
- □ street and park furniture, including lighting.

### **Needs planning**

#### **Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy**

The Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (Stratcorp, 2006) did not make any specific recommendations for Harbourview Park.

A survey of users of parks, reserves or foreshore areas in Woollahra undertaken for the Strategy revealed:

- 91% of respondents had visited a park, reserve or foreshore or foreshore area in the past year. 70% visit at least once a week;
- the main reasons for using parks, reserves and foreshore areas are walking / jogging for exercise (62%), a place to sit and relax (18%), barbecue/picnic (16%), family outing (14%), and walking the dog (13%);
- the quality and distribution of parks, reserves and foreshore areas were rated 'good' or 'very good'; and
- over three-quarters of people suggested that Woollahra's parks, reserves and foreshore areas met their needs.

Harbourview Park offers many features that Woollahra residents seek in using parks and reserves, such as a path system, good maintenance, shade, places to sit and relax, good provision of trees and gardens, location close to home, accessibility, grassed areas, peace and quiet, bins, areas for informal activities, pleasant surroundings/views, and safety. Such features particularly appealed to older people in the local government area.

The Needs Assessment found that unmet recreation needs that could be satisfied in Harbourview Park include furniture to support informal recreation and passive enjoyment of parks and open space.

Woollahra residents indicated their top priority for funding of sport, recreation or open space projects over the next 10 years is parks maintenance (16% of people surveyed), followed by

requests including planting shade trees (5%), improving foreshore areas (5%), and clean up rubbish / more bins around (3%).

### **Operational planning**

#### Policies

Council's Commercial Fitness Training Activities on Public Open Space Policy encourages orderly use of parks for fitness training, and to minimise adverse impacts on park users and adjoining residents. Commercial fitness trainers granted permission to use Council's parks must adhere to conditions of use.

Other Council policies such as the Access Policy and Action Plan 2010-2013 and Park Hire Policy set out guidelines for park uses and improvements which apply to Harbourview Park.

The Woollahra Tree Management Policy 2011 sets out principles, guidelines, criteria and maintenance considerations for management of public trees. It also contains guidelines for selection of park trees.

#### State of the Environment Report 2009/2010

This report outlined Council's recent environmental initiatives.

# APPENDIX D

LOCAL RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

# HARBOURVIEW PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

# Local resident survey results

# **INTRODUCTION**

A survey of households in the vicinity of Harbourview Park in Woollahra was undertaken in September 2011 to obtain local residents' views about the park and possible enhancements to the park.

A questionnaire (refer to Appendix A) was distributed to 220 letterboxes of residences within several blocks of the park on 12-13 September 2011. The distribution area is shown below.



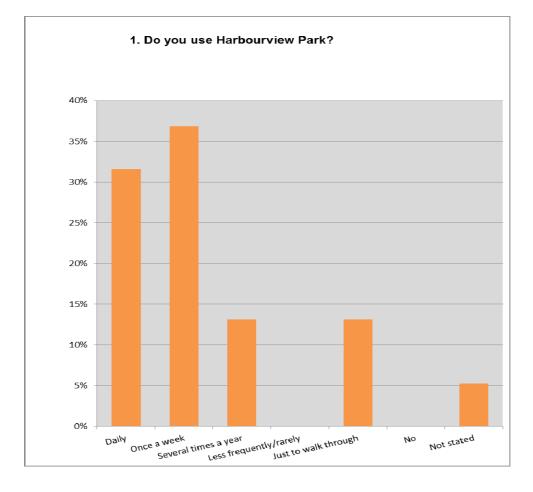
Notices about the survey were placed at the three entries to the park, and on Council's website and in the *Wentworth Courier* on 14 September.

Residents were given two weeks to complete the form before the closing date of 30 September 2011. Residents could return the completed the completed survey to Council by post, fax or email.

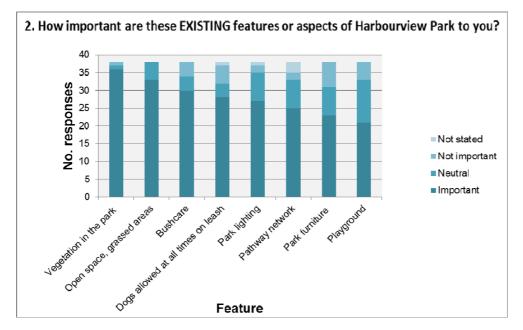
38 completed questionnaires were returned to Council, representing a response rate of 17%. The combined results of the survey are shown below.

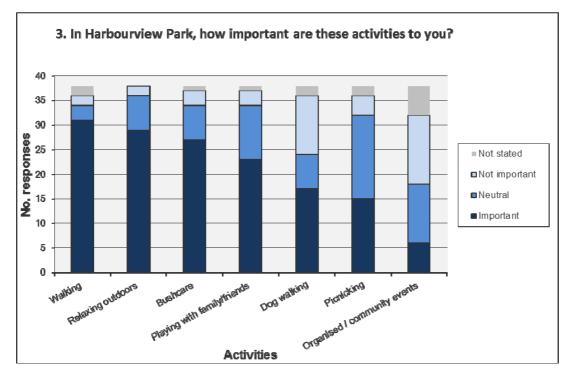
# 2 SURVEY RESULTS

# 2.1 Use of Harbourview Park



# 2.2 Importance of existing features of Harbourview Park

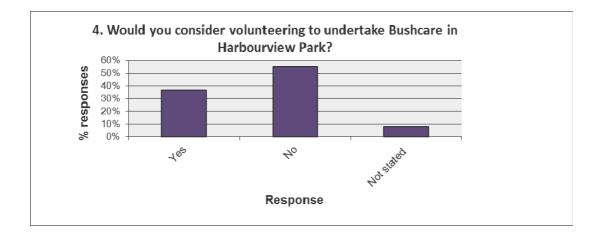




### 2.3 Importance of activities in Harbourview Park

A street Christmas party is held in the park every year.

### 2.4 Volunteering for bushcare

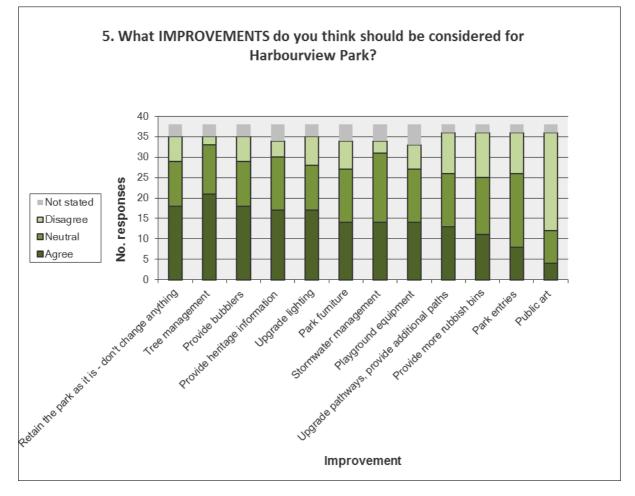


### Additional comments about volunteering for Bushcare are listed below.

Comments	No. responses
Reasons for not volunteering for Bushcare	
Too busy at this stage in life. Maybe one day.	1
No time.	1
Regular worker for many years, but now too old.	
Reasons would volunteer for Bushcare	

Comments	No. responses
Have been a Bushcare volunteer. Would be prepared to do so again if there is a satisfactory Plan of Management to follow which specifically refers to the items for which funding is likely to be requested.	1
Positive comments about Bushcare	
Bushcare do a good job.	1
Congratulations to the Bushcare volunteers for the splendid work they have carried out over a number of years. Their endeavours need more Council support, not more concrete and lights.	1
The Bushcare volunteers have done an excellent job of restoring the original vegetation - eucalypts, tree ferns etc. Clearing the park of weeds like morning glory and exposing the sandstone rocks has made a huge difference to the ambience of the park.	1

# 2.5 Improvements to Harbourview Park



Comments relating to these improvements are set out below.

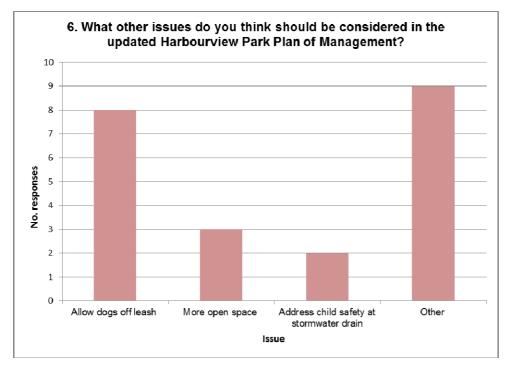
#### HARBOURVIEW PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Final

Comments	No.
	responses
Retain the park as it is - don't change anything	
No additions or new structures, for example barbecues or weather shelters. Specifically exclude those structures in the Plan of Management.	3
Maintain this beautiful park as it is	1
Tree management	I
Remove Camphor Laurels and other exotics selectively and progressively. The 6 remaining	3
Camphor Laurel trees are large, and will require significant resources and funds for their planned removal and replacement with more appropriate plantings.	5
Remove some dead trees and branches	2
Remove some trees to open up air space	1
Plant trees that grow large. Do not take these large trees out. Replace these large trees like	1
the pine which was removed with trees that grow tall and majestic (not gums).	I
Fell the Monterey Pine tree down to ground level. This tree was previously felled for safety.	1
Bushcare volunteers did a great job ridding the park of exotic trees etc. but some of their original planting has now made slopes inaccessible. Apart from the playground/picnic area of the flat northern area of the park, the remainder of sloping areas can be described as 'jungle' and will require extensive management.	1
Attract trees aligning the concrete stairway, maybe Jacarandas, something to create a 'cute lane lined with trees' effect from Russell Street to Magney Street.	1
The park is up to a standard that requires little maintenance, and instead requires proper design. For example, removal of large Weeping Fig replaced with small shrubs is not an appropriate design.	1
Bubblers	1
Heritage information	
Heritage information provided is interesting and should be retained.	1
Lighting	
Maintain lighting	2
More lighting. The park generally feels a little too enclosed to feel very comfortable and safe.	1
Lighting needs some community consultation to see if the cost is justifiable, if it is needed, etc.	1
Direct park lighting on to the steps / footpath, but not allowing light spill over the park as occurs now.	1
Park furniture	
Maintain park furniture in a reasonable condition	3
Provide one more table	1
Remove some of the picnic tables. There are too many for the size of the park and are not ever used.	1
The concrete platform under the middle table is too high to blend in to the grass area.	1
Stormwater management	
Clean out trash racks in the park.	1
Restore the steel grate.	1
The water runoff is eating away at the Bathurst Street hillside, which needs proper	1
maintenance and collection of useful sandblocks for park edging etc.	
Construct a drain under the path at the entrance to the park. The entrance area dams up with rain. Mud everywhere.	1
Entry from Russell Street needs to have gravel as it becomes muddy after rain.	1
Maintain and restore the sandstone wall.	1
Playground equipment	
Maintain playground equipment	2
Replace failing equipment due to wear and tear, including the playground equipment	1

#### HARBOURVIEW PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Final

Comments	No.
	responses
The quality and standard of excellence is only a poor cousin when compared to the playground facilities at Centennial Park near Oxford Street and Moore Park Road entrance at Paddington and near the café. The use of sandstone etc. is poor and reflects no thought and quality. The park has plenty of sandstone lying around some of which has already edged the playground area.	1
When it rains, water often collects in small pools on the plastic blocks of the climbing equipment near the monkey bars.	1
Relocate the tall part of the climbing equipment (where the slide is), which visually blocks the lovely view of the 'waterfall' which we used to have, to where the rocker and bullrider are.	1
Fence the playground equipment, or insist on parent supervision of children in the park.	1
Fence the playground as dogs tend to run near kids and also do their dog business there. Dog owners do not acknowledge the 'no dogs within 10 metres of children's playing area' rule.	1
More playground equipment	1
Pathways	
Improve pathways	1
Maintain footpaths to a reasonable standard, consistent with the park setting ie. present standard. Pathways should not be engineered into vast concrete tracts.	1
Existing pathways are adequate, but the path on top of the slope on the southern side needs minor maintenance.	1
More pruning of pathways, because they get very overgrown	1
Retain the tracks through the bush.	1
Rubbish bins	
One rubbish bin is enough	1
Park entries	
Approaches to the park kept safe and child friendly	1
Public art	
The expense of public art would be better spent on providing quality in the playground facilities.	1

# 2.6 Other issues regarding Harbourview Park



Other issues	No.
	Responses
Allow dogs off leash	8
Dogs are okay off the leash if they are small or not intimidating to young children, and should not defecate near the play equipment.	
Please allow dogs to run freely in the park.	
Dogs should be allowed off leash.	
A space for dogs to run without a leash.	
Areas for dogs to run free.	
Dogs to be allowed off leash before 8.30am and after 5pm. Preferably all day. The park is mostly empty early in the mornings and late afternoons, so dogs off leash would not a be a problem. I walk my dogs there most days.	
Don't allow dogs off leash	1
Given the small size of the park it is impossible for any dog using the grass area to be kept 10 metres away from the children's play equipment. Harbourview Park is unsuitable for use by dogs. Lough Park is nearby and much more suitable. Dog owners regularly leave dogs to roam free off their lead, which is troublesome in a small park. There is often a conflict between young children playing on the grass and dogs racing up to them. We have witnessed a number of children being traumatised by this. If it is essential to allow dogs into the park as a thoroughfare they should be required to keep to the pathways, as the whole of the rest of the park is essentially a children's play area to get between the climbing equipment and the swings.	
More open space	3
More open space with more vegetation control. The park generally feels a little too enclosed to feel very comfortable and safe.	
Space for families.	
The small grassed area has been whittled away over the years with additional picnic tables and the playground equipment which doubled in area compared to Council's original proposed plans. The remaining grass is unkempt, uncared for and generally not mown. The only way Council can provide more grassed areas is to cut down some trees?	
Child safety at stormwater drain	2
Childproof the area around the entrance and the stormwater channel	
Fence off the stormwater drain so children can't fall or climb into it. A lot of primary and preschool aged children are using the park which is great. It is good for them to be able to explore the park without constantly hovering adults. The drain area is a worry.	
Other issues	9
Council disregards the historical significance and the beauty of the park and its architectural surrounds when approving building developments. Recent developments approved for 5 and 7 Edwards Street have included footpath crossovers. Safety considerations for the approaches on foot to Harbourview Park were ignored, considering Russell Street is the only street access to the park.	
Exclude provision of facilities for mountain bike or BMX type bikes.	
Harbourview Park is too small to either walk or walk the dog, when Centennial or Cooper Parks is a better option. Similarly, Centennial Park is a better option for picnicking or playing with extended family groups. Harbourview is too small and not very private when two groups are involved. Invariably one party will commandeer the three tables and naturally exclude the others.	
The naming of Harbourview Park may need changing now that there are no harbour views available from most of the park. Two seats at the end nearest Magney Street used to provide harbour views but do not now.	
The Plan of Management may need to give priority to the flat area of the northern end of the park, depending on Council resources available.	
The park should be maintained on a user pays basis. There seems to be a large birthday party in the park every Sunday usually by non-Woollahra ratepayers. More interpretive signage could be beneficial.	
Regular patrols at night by park rangers and police. The park is so close to Bondi Junction but is so well hidden it may attract undesirable activity.	

Other issues	No. Responses
The little concrete slab bridge across the drain on the southern (Magney Street) side needs side rails to make it safer.	

### 2.7 Additional comments regarding Harbourview Park

This remnant piece of bushland is unique in the eastern suburbs for its small scale and delicate ecology.

It is important to retain this beautiful little park in its present state. The 'bushland' feeling in the park must be maintained as it is a unique little park.

The park should be maintained as a relatively quiet area for peaceful use and enjoyment.

The gentle scale of the park could easily be destroyed by overdevelopment, though well meaning. The park works well now and caters for younger children on the play equipment and children's parties on the weekend. Boisterous games and activities should be discouraged as they intimidate other groups in such a small footprint.

The park is an important community resource.

The park is perfect as it is after so much bush revegetation. It is a small, very peaceful enclave in a busy city. Don't change a thing please.

The park should be left substantially as it is now, and its existing features well maintained. Good work has been done to open it up, remove exotic species etc. I do not favour further 'development'.

Harbourview Park is fantastic, particularly the pathways and the grassed area.

Preserve the tranquillity of the area.

The park is a lovely sanctuary, but is often devoid of people/families which is disconcerting. With young kids we often use a park as a place to (vaguely) connect socially with other families, and have hardly seen any. I wonder if it is about lack of visibility of the park, signage, or the play equipment isn't visible from the street?

Harbourview Park is a small natural oasis that provides solitude for people to relax and read. This is especially important as the busy commercial area of Bondi Junction is only 5 minutes walk away.

Harbourview Park should remain as it is. The grassed areas should not be covered with more concrete and pine bark. If people want large picnic areas there are facilities close by at Cooper Park.

# Appendix A

Survey questionnaire



# *'Have your say'* HARBOURVIEW PARK, WOOLLAHRA

Woollahra Council is reviewing the 2001 Harbourview Park Plan of Management (PoM). The PoM will assist Council in meeting the needs of the community and enhancing the existing facilities of Habourview Park over the next 5 years and beyond. As part of the process, interested members of the community are being invited to contribute. This consultation process will help guide the development of the PoM. Please tick or fill in the box next to the items that most closely reflect your opinion.



#### Please return the questionnaire to Council by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The General Manager Fax: 93917044 Woollahra Municipal Council PO Box 61 DOUBLE BAY NSW 1360

Email: records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au (subject Harbourview Park)

Further information: Caitlin Moffat, Open Space Planning Projects Officer, Ph: 9391 7180

#### Do you use Harbourview Park?

No	Yes, but just to walk through	Daily	Once a week	Several times a year	Less frequently / rarely
		•		0	

#### How important are these EXISTING features of Harbourview Park?

Feature / Aspect	Important	Neutral	Not important
Open Space, grassed areas			
Dogs allowed at all times on leash			
Park furniture			
Park lighting			
Vegetation in the Park			
Playground			
Bushcare			
Pathway network			
Other, please specify			

#### In Harbourview Park, how important are these activities to you?

Activity	Important	Neutral	Not important
Walking			
Dog Walking			
Relaxing outdoors			
Playing with Family / Friends			
Picnicing			
Bushcare			
Organised events			
Other, please specify			

Harbourview Park is maintained by Bushcare Volunteers, would you consider volunteering to undertake Bushcare in Park?

Yes	No		

#### What IMPROVEMENTS do you think should be considered in the future for Harbourview Park?

Improvements	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Upgrade pathways, provide additional paths			
Park Entries			
Park furniture			
Provide bubblers			
Provide more rubbish bins			
Public Art			
Provide heritage information			
Upgrade lighting			
Retain the park as it is, don't change anything			
Stormwater management			
Playground equipment			
Tree management			

What other issues do you think should be considered in the updated Harbourview Plan of Management

Other, please specify		

Do you have any additional comments?

Optional. Please provide your contact details.	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION The supply of personal information is voluntary. If personal information is not provided Council may be limited in dealing with a submission. Submissions, summaries of submissions, and/or names and addresses of people making submissions may be included in publicly available reports to Council or Committee Meetings.

Please note that, in accordance with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW), you are advised that all submissions received by Council in relation to any matter will be placed on the appropriate Council file and may be disclosed to Councilions, Council Officers, consultants to Council or members of the public. Pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) the Council may be obliged to allow inspection of its documents, including any submissions you may make.

Thank you for your comments and time