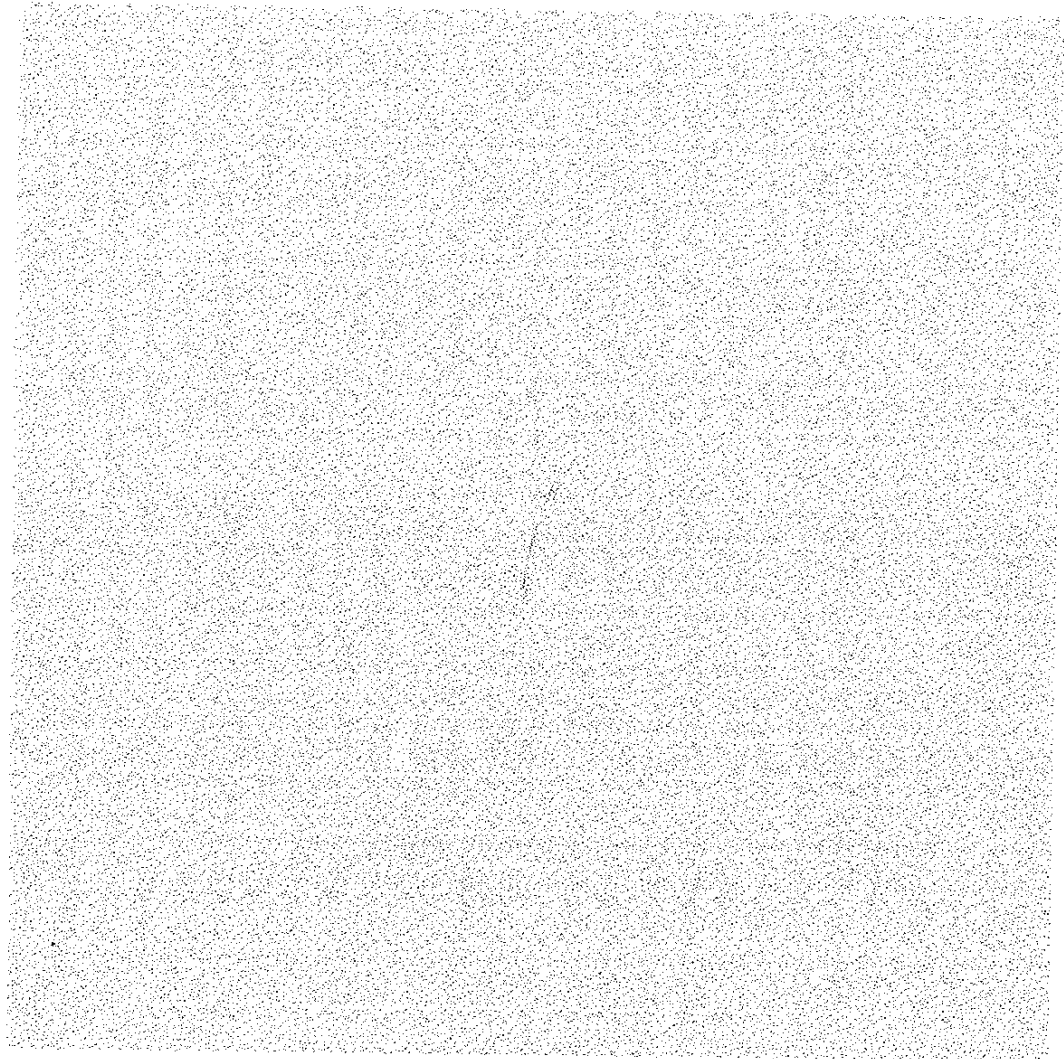


**PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**  
**1996**

**REGIONAL PARKS**



**WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**FINAL DOCUMENT AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL**  
**AT ITS MEETING 25 MARCH, 1996**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In June 1993, the Local Government Act (1993) was enacted. The Act includes specific requirements relating to the preparation of Plans of Management for Community Land.

Plans of Management will regulate the use and management of the land. They do not replace existing legislation/systems relating to the approval of activities and development.

Woollahra Council is currently preparing Plans of Management for all its community land. Due to the large number of open spaces within the Woollahra Municipality, Council has incorporated areas sharing a similar function into a single plan, as permitted by the Act.

This Generic Plan covers all community land categorised as Parks - Regional. This category basically denotes parks with a metropolitan and regional catchment. The following three areas are covered by this classification:

- \* **Johnston's Lookout, Vacluse**
- \* **Forsyth Park, Vacluse**
- \* **Wallenberg Reserve, Woollahra**

## 1.2 Aims

The primary aim of this report is to develop a Generic Plan of Management to comply with the Local Government Act (1993) in relation to Parks - Regional within Council's area.

This plan addresses management issues common to all of the regional parks and establishes a framework for future action. Although the report seeks to cover the range of situations featured in regional parks, every attempt is made to recognise the individuality of particular areas.

## 1.3 Corporate Goals

Corporate goals of the strategic land management program in relation to Parks - Regional are:

- \* To ensure the preservation of open space as a community resource for public access

and recreation.

- \* To establish a regional co-ordinated approach to the management of open space.
- \* To encourage community participation in the management of open space.
- \* To satisfy district and regional needs for recreation facilities.

## 2 HISTORY

### 2.1 *Johnston's Lookout*

Johnston's Lookout was established as public open space on 24 November 1915. It comprises Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Old Vacluse Estate, owned by W. C. Wentworth. The reserve takes its name from William Johnston, Mayor for Vacluse during the periods 1903-1906 and 1911-1912. Johnston was also known as a campaigner for local improvements in Watsons Bay, notably for the resumption of Parsley Bay as a public reserve.

### 2.2 *Forsyth Park*

Forsyth Park was established in June 1913 when Lots 47-48 of the Tivoli Estate were subdivided to form a public open space. The park was named after Adam Forsyth, Mayor for Vacluse in 1913. Forsyth Park, like other parks in Vacluse from the same era, was established because of its spectacular views of Sydney Harbour.

### 2.3 *Wallenberg Reserve*

Wallenberg Reserve is a road island located on the corner of Queen Street and Edgecliff Road, Woollahra. In April 1985, the reserve was dedicated to Raoul Wallenberg, who helped save thousands of Jews from Nazi death camps during World War II by deporting them to Sweden. A monument was erected to commemorate Wallenberg's actions.

### 3 EXISTING SITUATION

#### 3.1 *Johnston's Lookout*

Johnston's Lookout is located between New South Head Road and Hopetoun Avenue. Covering an area of 2,440 square metres, it consists of sandstone rockeries that are densely vegetated with native shrub species. The reserve is Crown Land controlled by Council.

Johnston's Lookout is used primarily for passive recreation activities. Commanding views of Sydney Harbour make the reserve an ideal vantage point for harbour viewing. Johnston's Lookout is highly visible when viewed from the harbour, adding significantly to the visual amenity of the foreshore area. Its facilities include seating and litter bins. Street lighting is the only lighting currently available.

Recent improvements to the reserve include upgrading and repositioning of seats, weed eradication and new signage in 1990-1991.

#### 3.2 *Forsyth Park*

Forsyth Park is located at the corner of Bayview Hill Road and New South Head Road adjacent to Rose Bay Convent. The park consists of a steep embankment running parallel to Bayview Hill Road and a grassed observation area off New South Head Road. It covers an area of 960 square metres. The park is Crown Land controlled by Council.

The park is used predominantly by tourists for harbour viewing. Like Johnston's Lookout, Forsyth Park can be viewed from the harbour, and contributes significantly to the overall aesthetics of the harbour foreshore area. Facilities provided for users include a grassed viewing area, seating, lookout plaque and shaded sitting area. Street lighting is the only lighting currently available.

The park was upgraded in 1989 to cater for the large numbers of tourists arriving to experience the unique view of Sydney Harbour.

#### 3.3 *Wallenberg Reserve*

The reserve is located at the junction of Queen Street and Edgecliff Road, Woollahra. It contains a monument to Raoul Wallenberg, positioned in a grassed area surrounded by informal native tree plantings. The reserve is used for passive recreation purposes including sitting, resting, reading and quiet reflection.

The reserve is 150 square metres in area and is Council owned.

## 4 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

### 4.1 Values and Roles of the Parks

Woollahra Council has formulated management objectives for regional parks which reflect the values of the parks, and the role that each park assumes within Woollahra's open space system. The community value of a park is defined by the reasons that local and non-local visitors use and enjoy that park. These values help to identify the role that a park should play as a community resource.

The values and roles of the parks, as shown in **Table 1**, will inform future strategies and actions for each park.

**Table 1 - Values and Roles of the Parks**

Park	Value	Role
Johnston's Lookout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Recreational</li>   <li>* Aesthetic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Venue for passive recreation, mainly sitting and harbour viewing.</li>   <li>* Provides a rest stop for pedestrians and people waiting for buses.</li>   <li>* Increases the visual amenity of the harbour foreshore area.</li> </ul>
Forsyth Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Recreational</li>   <li>* Tourism</li>   <li>* Aesthetic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Venue for passive recreation, predominantly harbour viewing and sitting.</li>   <li>* Major venue for tourists seeking impressive views of Sydney Harbour.</li>   <li>* Increases the aesthetic value of the harbour foreshore area.</li> </ul>



Wallenberg Reserve	* Recreational  * Memorial	* Venue for passive recreation - sitting and viewing.  * Venue with significance to Jewish community. Also a valuable memorial site for the general community, allowing a space for quiet reflection and contemplation.
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## 4.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The overall management objective for regional parks is to maintain, enhance, and where necessary, upgrade existing park features and facilities to maximise use. No major change of use is projected for any of the three parks.

This overall management objective is reflected in the specific management objectives formulated for each regional park. These objectives are intended to provide long-term direction for park management.

### 4.2.1. *Johnston's Lookout*

Johnston's Lookout should continue in its role as a venue for passive recreation, providing ideal harbour views and a rest area for pedestrians and travellers. The overall management objective is to preserve the park as an attractive public lookout by maintaining good harbour views and ensuring that the area is clean and safe. Council should be mindful of protecting the lookout's aesthetic/visual values, and maintaining the park as a pleasing landmark visible from the harbour.

### 4.2.2. *Forsyth Park*

Forsyth Park should continue in its role as a passive recreation and tourist venue. The overall management objective is to maintain and enhance existing features and facilities in accordance with this recreation demand. It is important that Forsyth Park be recognised for its role as a public harbour viewing site. The park is a significant landmark visible from the harbour and should be preserved as a site of aesthetic value.

### 4.2.3. *Wallenberg Reserve*

Wallenberg Reserve should continue to fulfil its role as a passive recreation venue with significance to the Jewish community. The overall management objective will be to maintain the monuments and facilities of the reserve to provide a visually attractive, clean and safe memorial space for the community.

## 5 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This section incorporates management issues identified by park staff and issues raised by park users and local residents. These are grouped under the following headings.

### 5.1 *Cleanliness, Safety and Accessibility*

All parks should be kept clean and safe for public use. Safety considerations will feature in the purchase, installation and layout of all facilities, such as lighting and pathways.

Where necessary, public access to parks should be expanded by improving disabled access.

### 5.2 *Views and Vistas*

The preservation of harbour views is essential at Johnston's Lookout and Forsyth Park, which provide ideal observation points for Sydney Harbour.

These views should be protected and wherever possible improved by tree pruning and lopping if necessary.

When considering future development proposals that fall in the vicinity of Johnston's Lookout or Forsyth Park, Council should be mindful of protecting and preserving harbour views and viewing arcs. Development which threatens to impinge on such views should be prohibited, or amended accordingly.

### 5.3 *Maintenance*

Regional parks should be not only maintained but also upgraded and improved wherever possible. This applies to all plantings, facilities and structures such as seating, fencing and lighting.

A consistent approach to maintenance will ensure that park areas remain safe, clean and attractive public open space areas.

Community involvement in maintenance programs greatly assists in enhancing the quality of open space areas and should be encouraged.

### 5.4 *Residential Amenity*

With regard to regional parks, the privacy of the surrounding residential area should be respected and maintained.

Residents should also be consulted of any changes to parks that may impact upon them.

### 5.5 *Community Consultation*

Woollahra Council is committed to community consultation. In relation to regional parks, Council will ensure that the community is involved in the management of open space through consultation.

### 5.6 *Visibility*

Open space contributes greatly to the general health and vitality of the local community through the provision of natural elements in a built environment. Parks are particularly important in higher density residential areas, providing visual relief and a retreat from city living.

A number of regional parks throughout the Woollahra Municipality are also significant to overseas and Australian visitors for the outstanding views they offer of Sydney. From these parks, visitors can observe the visual impact of the harbour and coastline.

Wherever possible in regional parks, signage should be improved to increase awareness and educate the large numbers of local and overseas visitors frequenting these areas.

### 5.7 *Heritage Significance*

The views of Sydney Harbour from Johnston's Lookout and Forsyth Park are an important component of the heritage of Woollahra. Future development should not conflict with the preservation of these views.

Many of the regional parks possess items of heritage significance, from original endemic flora to historic structures.

The monument located at Wallenberg Reserve is considered a valuable part of Jewish heritage. The reserve is often the site of ceremonies commemorating the Jewish Holocaust of World War II.

All heritage items should be conserved and maintained in the appropriate manner.

### 5.8 *Indigenous Plantings*

Where parks have pockets of indigenous flora, these should be maintained and enhanced with appropriate indigenous plant associations.

### 5.9 *Permissible Uses*

The Council occasionally grants permission for the use of parks for organised functions,

ceremonies, and for specific uses such as filming and commercial promotions. Council should be mindful of permitting only those functions which are appropriate to the size and valued aspects of each park. Organised functions planned within Wallenburg reserve, should be sensitive to the park's memorial significance.

The use of a park for organised activities without the prior approval of the Council is not permitted.

Application for approval for organised activities is to be made in the approved form. Approval, if granted, may be subject to conditions. If the activity involves a commercial element an appropriate fee will be charged.

## **6 MANAGEMENT PROCESS: OBJECTIVES, ACHIEVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

The structure of this Plan of Management has been developed to facilitate its implementation.

The first part is the policy document which includes background to the plan, corporate goals and major issues.

The second is the management process which specifies:

- (a) objectives and performance targets
- (b) the means to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets
- (c) the manner in which Council assesses performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets.

In order for this Plan of Management to function as a true working document, a Management Process Schedule has been developed.

## 4 MANAGEMENT PROCESS

No	MANAGEMENT ISSUES	OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
4.1	Cleanliness, safety and accessibility	Maintain a clean, safe and accessible open space area.	<p>Maintain and wherever possible upgrade and improve facilities and structures such as playgrounds, fencing, lighting and pathways.</p> <p>Keep all facilities, structures and pathways clean.</p> <p>Wherever possible, improve wheelchair access.</p>	Carry out regular inspections to ensure that standards are maintained.
4.2	Views and Vistas	Preserve and improve views.	<p>Prune trees which may obstruct views.</p> <p>Prohibit or amend development plans which threaten to impinge or degrade public harbour views and viewing arcs.</p>	Undertake regular inspections to ascertain whether views are impeded.

No	MANAGEMENT ISSUES	OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
4.3	Maintenance	Maintain and improve facilities where possible to ensure a clean, safe and attractive recreational area.	Preparation of a maintenance schedule. Consistent implementation of routine maintenance procedures, which include planting, pruning, mowing, rubbish collection and cleaning.	Review maintenance procedures on a regular basis to ensure that they meet maintenance schedule priorities and standards.
4.4	Residential Amenity	Maintain the amenity of surrounding residential areas.	Consider the impact on local residents when open space facility improvements are proposed.  Monitor how levels of park visitation affect residents from adjoining houses.	Obtain feedback from local residents.

No	MANAGEMENT ISSUES	OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
4.5	Community Consultation	Incorporate community input into the management of open space.	Liaise with the community over maintenance procedures. Seek public input during major development applications.	Assess whether expressed community needs are being met.
4.6	Visibility	Increase awareness of regional parks.	Improve and update signage. In the longer term, consider erecting an information directory at Johnston's Lookout similar to the one in Forsyth Park.	Obtain feedback from local residents and visitors.
4.7	Heritage Significance	Conserve items of heritage significance. Preserve the visual value of Johnston's Lookout and Forsyth Park.	Protect, and where necessary, restore historical items in the appropriate manner. Ensure that Johnston's Lookout and Forsyth Park are maintained as important 'green' landmarks visible from the harbour.	Ascertain whether the heritage value of the park has been maintained.



No	MANAGEMENT ISSUES	OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT
4.8	Indigenous Plantings	Conserve and enhance areas of indigenous vegetation.	<p>Replant and regenerate native plant species in accordance with existing vegetation programs.</p> <p>Pursue weed eradication where necessary.</p>	Monitor and evaluate overall effectiveness of planting procedures.
4.9	Permissible Uses	<p>Facilitate organised functions or activities of a short-term nature.</p> <p>Ensure that organised functions within each park are appropriate to their size and valued aspects.</p>	Approval of such uses subject to conditions, and if of a commercial nature, the imposition of a fee.	Monitor and evaluate these activities.



**REGIONAL PARKS AREA KEY**

- |   |
|---|
| <p>1. JOHNSON'S LOOKOUT<br/>         2. FORSYTH PARK<br/>         3. WALLEMBERG RESERVE</p> |
|---|