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# Forsyth Park



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**PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

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**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

## **FORSYTH PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Management Context**

Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long-term management of all land in the North Sydney Council area, either owned by Council or under Council's control. This document complies with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Amendment (Community Land) Act 1998, and supersedes Council's Forsyth Park Plan of Management 2008.

Forsyth Park is a prominent piece of open space in the North Sydney area. A significant area Plan of Management has been developed for the Park due to its diverse features which include sportsfields, urban bushland, a community garden, a public hall and a community centre.

The Forsyth Park Plan of Management examines the broad range of issues associated with this well-used area of public open space in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Plan draws on information contained in other significant planning documents as well as in previous in-house studies, incorporating them into a useful document that functions as one of Council's primary management tools. Relevant documents and studies include:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998
- North Sydney Council Delivery Plan
- Recreation Needs Study 2005
- (Draft) Recreation Needs Study 2015
- State Environmental Planning Policy No.19 (bushland component)
- Local Environmental Plan 2013, North Sydney Council
- Bushland Plan of Management 2014
- Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park 1999
- Fauna Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park 2001
- Sportsfields Plan of Management 2011
- Sportsfield Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report 2007
- (Sportsground) Lighting Assessment Report 2007

Council's Sportsfields Plan of Management and Bushland Plan of Management should also be referred to when reading this document.

### **1.2 Structure of the Plan of Management**

The plan is divided into 6 parts:

Part 1 examines what a Plan of Management is, outlines the scope of this Plan, its purpose and core objectives, explains the link between this Plan of Management and Council's land management goals, and details the importance of community consultation in the planning process. It also examines the issue of leases, licences and other estates in the Park.

Part 2 locates Forsyth Park, and examines its character and resources. The function and uses of the Park are also discussed.

Part 3 identifies and examines the major planning issues essential to understand the overall directions of the Plan of Management. Current management policies and practices are also discussed.

Part 4 is the philosophical basis for the Plan of Management. It details the significance of Forsyth Park both on its own and in the context of the North Sydney area, and establishes the overall directions and objectives of management that guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

Part 5 is the implementation and performance component of the Plan of Management. A matrix sets out the objectives, proposed actions and performance indicators for each issue, and each issue is given a priority rating. An indicative works program further details the staging of all works and actions over a 5-year period.

Part 6 contains the appendices as well as supporting material and background information which provide an important resource base for appreciating the value of Forsyth Park.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Plan of Management**

This Plan of Management has been prepared to provide the managers of Forsyth Park with a useful and consistent set of guidelines governing the direction of management for this important area of public open space for at least the next 5 years. The production of this Plan of Management is closely linked with Council's overall land management objectives, as set out in the North Sydney Council Delivery Program.

The following information, relevant to managing Forsyth Park, comes from the North Sydney Council Delivery Program.

The following outcomes (encompassed in the Delivery Program under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') describe what Council needs to achieve with regard to management of Forsyth Park:

1.1 Protected, enhanced and rehabilitated native vegetation communities and ecosystems

The following strategies are derived from this outcome:

1.1.1 Rehabilitate bushland areas and monitor and address threats to biodiversity using best practice

1.1.2 Implement community education programs regarding protection and enhancement of the natural environment

1.2 Quality urban greenspaces

The following strategies are derived from this outcome:

1.2.2 Encourage community gardening

1.5 Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs

The following strategies are derived from this outcome:

1.5.1 Provide a range of recreational facilities and services for people of all ages and abilities

1.5.2 Improve equity of access to open space and recreation facilities

The Plan of Management for Forsyth Park examines the present-day character and condition of the Park and the factors that impact upon it. The Plan identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. It clarifies and establishes management policy and direction, both to Council staff and the general public. The Plan of Management provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed regularly to assess implementation. A major review after approximately 5 years will allow policy and planning issues to be revisited and updated.

The land covered by this Plan of Management is zoned a combination of 'RE1 Public Recreation' and 'E2 Environmental Conservation' under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2013. Refer **Map 1: Forsyth Park - Site Location, Context & Zoning**, and **Appendix 1: Zoning of Forsyth Park**.

#### **1.4 Land Categorisation and Core Objectives**

Council's Forsyth Park Plan of Management 2008 categorised Forsyth Park in a number of the designated categories. The 2 sportsfields were categorised as 'Sportsfield', that section of the Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation was categorised as 'Bushland' and the remainder of the Park was categorised as 'Park'.

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides more detail regarding the categorisation of community land, including detailed guidelines for categorisation of land, and core objectives for each land category.

According to the Act, land should be categorised as a park under section 36(4) of the Act if:

*the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.*

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides core objectives for management of land categorised as 'park' that are applicable to Forsyth Park.

*The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:*

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and*
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and*
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.*

According to the Act, land should be categorised as a sportsfield under section 36(4) of the Act if:

*The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.*

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 also provides core objectives for management of land categorised as a sportsfield that are applicable to Forsyth Park.

*The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsfield are:*

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and*
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences*

According to the Act, land should be categorised as bushland under section 36(4) of the Act if:

*the land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation:*

- (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, is still representative of the structure or floristics or structure and floristics of the natural vegetation*

*Such land includes:*

- (a) bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or*
- (b) moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees or even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion, or*
- (c) highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.*

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 also provides core objectives for management of land categorised as bushland that are applicable to Forsyth Park.

*The core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland are:*

- (a) to 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*
- (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and*

- (c) *to 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*
- (d) *to restore degraded bushland, and*
- (e) *to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and*
- (f) *to 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*
- (g) *to protect bushland as a natural stabilised of the soil surface.*

## **1.5 Council's Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy**

Management of the community centre in Forsyth Park accords with Council's Community, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy 2013. The Policy defines community centres as:

*'Publicly accessible premises owned by council or over which Council has care, control and management, whose principle function is the delivery of community services, which support and enhance the quality of life for those living, working and studying in the area, in response to identified need'.*

The objectives of the policy statement are to:

- a) Provide a network of community spaces/programs throughout the North Sydney LGA, fostering among residents, students, the local workforce and Council, a sense of belonging to the 'North Sydney community';
- b) Provide or facilitate provision of high quality and appropriate services;
- c) Strive towards making centre-based, and outreach programs and activities for residents affordable and accessible;
- d) Overcome social isolation and encourage social networking;
- e) Provide the major community facilities, which would not otherwise be available to the North Sydney community;
- f) Maximise the community's use of Council facilities;
- g) Facilitate community involvement in management of centres;
- h) Support a mix of management models, each appropriate to the centre concerned, so as to tap the skills and enthusiasm of the widest cross section of the community;
- i) Provide for centres which, in total, give an adequate level of support to the following key areas - childcare, including vacation care; youth services; aged and disability services; family services; arts and culture; activities and services for culturally and linguistically diverse communities; community health, including mental health; adult education; information dissemination; recreation; library services; and historical services;
- j) Develop and maintain strategic alliances with other Council's, the State and Federal government departments, and the non-government community services sector, to enrich the range and depth of services available to the North Sydney community;



- k) Maximise developer contribution, where appropriate, to the cost of new or expanded centre provision;
- l) Facilitate grant applications, relevant to centre programs;
- m) Maintain the centre buildings and grounds to agreed standards;
- n) Upgrade and enhance centres where appropriate, based on consultation with users and providers;
- o) Promote the centres as a council/community good;
- p) Monitor, and assist where appropriate, the centre's financial and management performance through a range of strategies; and
- q) Facilitate and initiate new uses/services;
- r) Ensure that services provided through the centres are accessible to all members of the public of the North Sydney local government area; and
- s) Ensure that sub-leasing or room hire of centres by Centre Management is restricted to groups serving the same needs as those identified in i) above.

## **1.6 Leasing and Licencing of Community Land**

Parks and reserves in North Sydney are subject to stringent controls to ensure the land is managed appropriately. The Local Government Act 1993, the Crown Lands Act 1989 and the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 all contain information that places restrictions on the use of public land in order to protect it.

The granting of a lease formalises the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, commercial organisations or individuals who are providing benefits, facilities or services for users of the land. A lease is typically required where exclusive use or control of all or part of a park or reserve is required. The terms and conditions of a lease should ensure that the lessee undertakes proper management of the facility such that it is maintained in a safe and visually pleasing condition, and that the interests of Council and the public are protected.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of a park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The term 'estate' is defined as an interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien or encumbrance, whether by law or in equity.

This Plan of Management authorises the granting of leases, licences and other estates for uses of and developments on Forsyth Park that are in accordance and consistent with:

- The requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;
- The requirements of the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998;
- The categorisation of the community land (refer section 1.4);
- The core objectives for that category (refer section 1.4);
- The zoning of the land under North Sydney LEP 2013;  
*The North Sydney LEP 2013 sets out in general terms what types of developments*

*are permissible within the RE1 Public Recreational zone, and provisions for conservation of heritage items. Any proposed developments within community land must be in line with the LEP 2013. They may require a development and building application in line with the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979;*

- Community values for the land (refer section 4.2.1);
- The objectives of the Forsyth Park Plan of Management (refer section 4.2.2);
- Community objectives for the land (refer section 4.2.2);

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 sets out requirements for the granting of a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land.

### General Conditions

Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate for use of Forsyth Park if it is:

- for a purpose specified as a core objective for ‘park’, ‘sportsfield’ or ‘bushland’ (refer section 1.4)
- for activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the community in relation to wide public purposes such as public recreation and cultural development
- for short term casual purposes as listed below:
  - o the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  - o engaging in a trade or business
  - o delivering a public address
  - o commercial photographic sessions
  - o picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
  - o filming for cinema or television

(Note: The use or occupation of the Park for any of the above listed short term casual purposes is allowed only if the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.)

Subleasing of Forsyth Park is only permitted for the same purpose as the original lease.

### **Leases, licences and other estates for periods not exceeding 5 years**

In order for Council to grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of Forsyth Park for a period that does not exceed 5 years (including any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option), it must:

- give public notice of the proposal, and
- exhibit notice of the proposal on the land to which the proposal relates, and
- exhibit notice of the proposal to such persons as appear to it to own or occupy the land adjoining the community land, and
- give notice of the proposal to any other person, appearing to the Council to be the owner or occupier of land in the vicinity of the community land, if in the opinion of the Council the land the subject of the proposal is likely to form the primary focus of the person’s enjoyment of community land.

A notice of the proposal must include:

- information sufficient to identify the community land concerned
- the purpose for which the land will be used under the proposed lease, licence or other estate
- the term of the proposed lease, licence or other estate (including particulars of any options for renewal)
- the name of the person to whom it is proposed to grant the lease, licence or other estate
- a statement that submissions in writing may be made to the Council concerning the proposal within a period, not less than 28 days, specified in the notice

Other requirements

- Any person may make a submission in writing to the Council during the period specified for the purpose in the notice
- Before granting the lease, licence or other estate, the Council must consider all submissions duly made to it
- On receipt by the Council of a written request from the Minister for Local Government, the proposal is to be referred to the Minister

Final approval of a lease, licence or other estate rests with Council, however, in unusual circumstances, the Minister for Local Government has the discretion to 'call-in' a proposed lease, licence or other estate and determine the matter in place of the Council.

Leases, licences and other estates for a period of 5 years or less for use of Forsyth Park for sporting or other cultural or recreational purposes are not required to be tendered.

### **Leases, licences and other estates for periods exceeding 5 years**

Leases, licences and other estates for use or occupation of Forsyth Park for periods of over 5 years must be tendered unless for a non-profit organisation. The public notification and consultation procedure is as for leases, licences and other estates of 5 years or less. Council must submit leases, licences and other estates of over 5 years (including options to renew) to the Minister of for Local Government for his approval.

Leases, licences or other estates may not be granted for a period exceeding 21 years. (This includes any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option).

### **Uses of Community Land for which leases, licences and other estates are not required**

Exemptions regarding the granting of lease, licence or other estate in respect of Forsyth Park for terms of 5 years or less may be granted in the following cases:

Use and occupation of the land for events such as:

- a public performance (that is, a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the amusement of the public),
- the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,

- engaging in a trade or business,
- playing of any lawful game or sport,
- delivering a public address
- conducting a commercial photographic session,
- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings,
- filming for cinema or television

However, the use or occupation of community land for the events listed above is exempt only if:

- (a) the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature,
- (b) in the case of any use or occupation that occurs only once, it does not continue for more than 3 consecutive days, and
- (c) in the case of any use or occupation that occurs more than once, each occurrence is for no more than 3 consecutive days, not including Saturday and Sunday, and the period from the first occurrence until the last occurrence is not more than 12 months.

Part of the Community Centre at Forsyth Park is currently leased to the Cameragal Montessori School. The current lease is for a 2-year period, commencing 1 January 2015 and expiring 31 December 2016. The lease is for the purpose of a kindergarten or pre-school, and the current lessee is the Cameragal Montessori School.

Council has also granted a license to the Cameragal Montessori School over the outdoor playground which adjoins the Community Centre. The license allows the use of the Premises as a playground space, in connection with the lease of the adjacent Community Centre. Use is exclusive during weekdays in every week of the NSW school term, between the hours of 7.00 am and 5.00 pm, except on each Tuesday and Thursday, between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm, when part of the outdoor playground is used by a playgroup.

In 2006, the Scout Association of Australia surrendered the lease on the public hall building located at the southern end of the Park, formerly known as the Forsyth Park Scout Hall. In November 2007 Council included Forsyth Park Scout Hall in the suite of programs managed by Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) as part of the Wellness Centre Project. The Hall is currently used by the KNC in accordance with a formalised hiring agreement that runs from 1 April 2014 until 31 December 2015. Hours of occupancy are from 8.30 am until 10.30 pm, Monday to Saturday, and from 8.30 am until 6.00 pm on Sunday.

## **1.7 Community Consultation**

Community consultation plays an important role in the production of Council's Plans of Management. It provides Council with a sound understanding of relevant local issues from people who are familiar with and use the relevant open space areas. To a large degree, the direction for the future development of open space is based on the views expressed by the general public.

Public involvement and consultation generates an understanding of Council's land management aims, combats misinformation and misunderstanding, and fosters support for Council's programs and policies. The consent and co-operation of the users of open space facilitates management and lends weight to the status of this Plan of Management.

The draft Forsyth Park Plan of Management is publicly exhibited for 28-days. A further 14 days are allowed to receive submissions. This gives interested parties the opportunity to comment on and have input into the final document. The following steps have been taken to generate widespread community awareness of the draft Plan of Management:

- Inserting regular advertisements into Council's corporate advertisement in the Mosman Daily to inform the general community that the Plan is on public exhibition
- Posting the draft document on Council's website for information and comment, and providing details of how to make a submission
- Notifying local Precincts, major sporting clubs who use the Park, members of the Bushcare Group, Community Gardeners, users of the Community Centre and other stakeholders that a new draft Plan is on display, and inviting comments
- Providing hard copies of the draft document to stakeholders, upon request
- Making hard copies of the draft document available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centre, upon request

#### Writing a Submission

Submissions give stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to Council's proposed management strategies for Forsyth Park over the next 5 years.

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible:

- (1) List all points according to the section and page number in the Plan of Management.
- (2) Briefly describe each subject or issue you wish to discuss.
- (3) State which strategies you agree or disagree with, and give reasons.
- (4) Suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you disagree.

Written submissions should be sent to:

The General Manager  
North Sydney Council  
P O Box 12  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Attention: Ms Megan White  
Landscape Planner

Fax: 9936-8177  
Email: [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plans of Management may be submitted at any time. Each Plan is reviewed regularly, and at the time of the review new issues can be incorporated and existing actions amended. Adopted Plans of Management may be viewed and downloaded from Council's website: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au).

## **2.0 Characteristics and Resources**

### **2.1 Site Location and General Description**

Located at the head of the Neutral Bay gully, Forsyth Park is bounded by Montpelier Street to the east, Eaton Street to the south, Bent Street to the west and by Bent and Yeo Streets to the north. A number of residential premises (mainly units and townhouses) back on to the Park on the southern, western and north eastern boundaries.

The two sportsfields, located on separate terraces, are visually dominant features of the Park. To the north of the playing fields is an area of remnant bushland situated on steeply sloping land. Other prominent Park features include the former oil storage tanks, a community centre with an adjacent playground, 3 semi-inground water tanks, a community garden and a public hall located at the southern end of the Park.

**Map 1** shows the location, site context and zoning of Forsyth Park while **Map 2** is an aerial photograph that shows the main features of the Park.

### **2.2 Site History and Heritage**

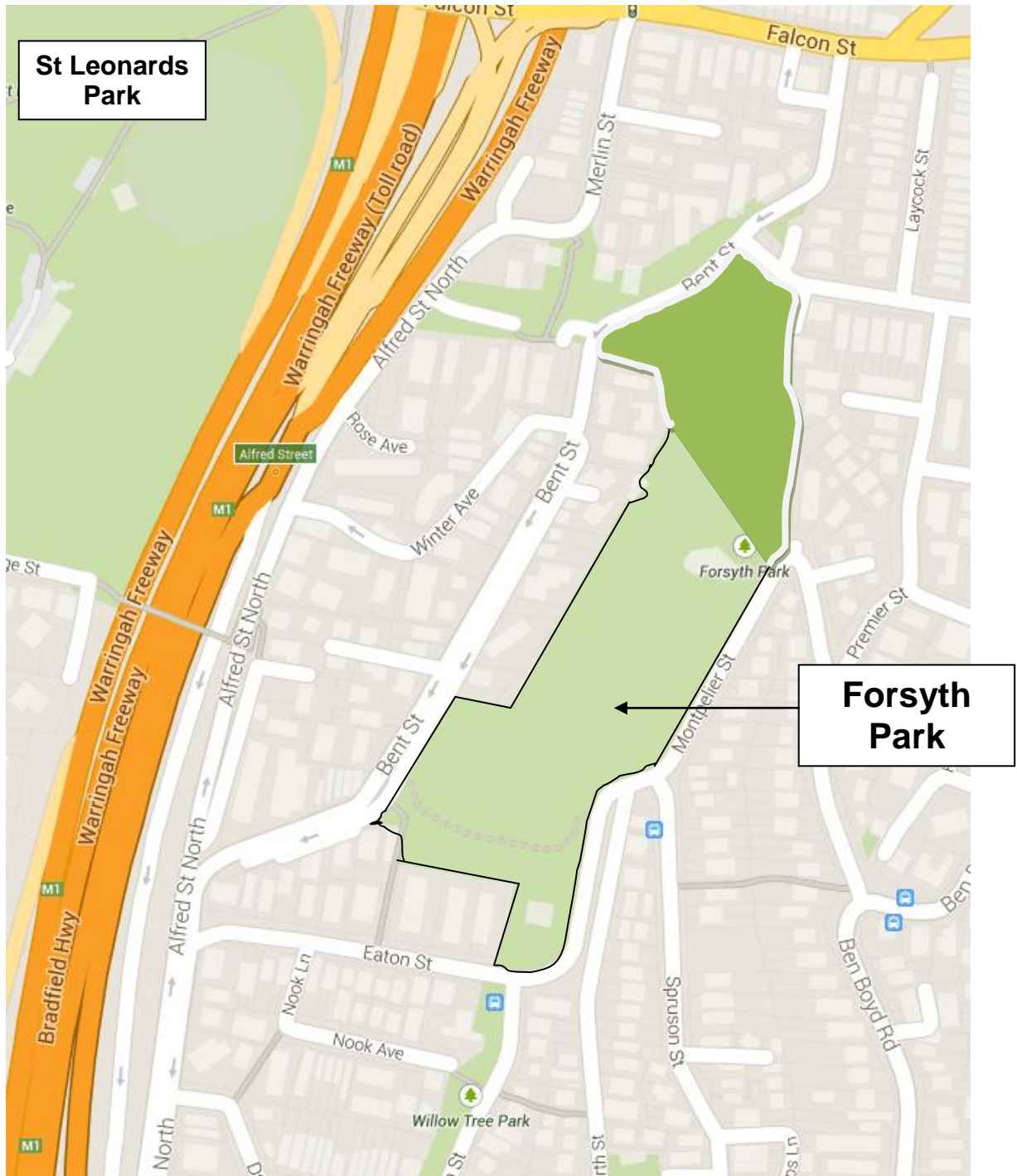
The area on which Forsyth Park now stands was previously known as Montpelier Estate. Initial proposals to name the area Montpelier Park were rejected, and the Park was eventually named after an alderman from Belmore Ward. 'Forsyth' perpetuates a name that has been associated with Local Government in Willoughby and North Sydney since its establishment in 1865.

The land for the Park was purchased by North Sydney Council in 1931, and the conveyance to Council is dated 1935. A Council resolution saw the Park developed for the preferential use of women's sporting organisations in the 1950s, however that resolution has since been rescinded. Sportsfields in North Sydney are in great demand today, and Council attempts to ensure that they are allocated in a fair and equitable manner, while simultaneously endeavouring to meet the requirements of each sports group and school. Currently Forsyth Park is used by a number of clubs and district sporting bodies on a regular basis for both Saturday and midweek competitions, as well as for training sessions.



The entire Park is listed as an item of Environmental Heritage on Schedule 5 of Council's Local Environmental Plan 2013. The 2 former oil tanks (and pumping station) located towards the northern end of Forsyth Park are listed individually as an item of Environmental Heritage. The tanks are described in the North Sydney Heritage Review 1992 as: "interesting historically for their role in World War Two defence activities and their location in parkland".

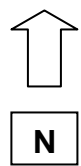
The tanks were erected in Forsyth Park and pipes were laid along the foreshores of Neutral Bay to Kurraba Point. Remains and footings of this pipeline are still visible in various locations. The tanks are evidence of the former importance of Kurraba Point as a ferry depot and oil wharfage. They are major structural elements in Forsyth Park, and there are excellent views over the Park and south towards the harbour from the top of the tanks.

# MAP 1 - Forsyth Park - Site Location, Context & Zoning



## Land Zoning in Forsyth Park

-  RE1 Public Recreation
-  E2 Environmental Conservation



**MAP 2 - Forsyth Park Site Features - Aerial Photograph 2014**





## 2.3 Physical Characteristics

The land on which Forsyth Park now stands was originally considered by Council to be unsightly and not suitable for development; being rough, hilly and covered with scrub. A watercourse ran through the centre of the small v-shaped valley. In order to accommodate playing fields this watercourse was piped, and the land cleared and graded into a series of terraces.

In the north of the Park near Yeo Street, steep slopes covered with trees and thick undergrowth still exist. Most of this area consists of rainforest and some weed species, while the western slope contains a woodland association dominated by Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*). Rarer natives including a pale pink flowered form of Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) and *Cordyline stricta* may also be found here.

The remainder of Forsyth Park is a modified landscape that consists of playing fields, sloping planted banks, boundary planting and mown lawn areas. A group of Eucalypts located on the western side of the upper playing field provides some shade for people watching sporting events. These trees also partially screen the Park from an adjacent residential development. A number of coral trees (*Erythrina x sykesii*) are also scattered throughout the Park. The Lombardy Poplars (*Populus nigra var. Italica*) that surround the public hall on three sides are an important and visually dominant feature of the Park.

## 2.4 Built Form

The former oil tanks are the dominant built structures in Forsyth Park. The grassed rooves of the tanks are accessible from Montpelier Street on the eastern side of the Park. The top of the tanks offer excellent views over the Park and to the harbour and city beyond. A community garden is located on the top of the northernmost tank.

Located in the north of the Park, the Community Centre is a brick building with a green colourbond roof. It is reached via a paved pathway/roadway off Montpelier Street. The Community Centre is leased to the Cameragal Montessori School. An enclosed children's playground located at the rear of the Centre extends from the building to the walls of the concrete storage tanks.

The other significant park building is the public hall located at the southern end of the Park. This former Scout Hall is of better block construction and is in reasonable condition, although the external walls are prone to graffiti. The hall is surrounded on 3 sides by mature poplars. The public hall is currently used by the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre as part of its Wellness Centre Project in accordance with a formalised hiring agreement.

The residential area surrounding Forsyth Park is characterised by medium density housing. Due to the area's topography, properties on three sides of Forsyth Park overlook the Park which is an important and visually significant green space in this heavily developed, urban environment.

## 2.5 Current Activities in the Park

The two playing fields in Forsyth Park are used primarily for cricket and hockey matches and for training. Cricket can be played all year round as the synthetic wickets are not covered over during winter. Other uses of the sportsfields are for football and touch (on oval no. 2), and several schools use the fields regularly for sport and carnivals. There is also a long jump pit in the Park.

Facilities associated with the sportsfields include floodlighting (sportsfield no. 2), change rooms, toilets and showers. In summer the fields are configured with 2 synthetic wickets, while in winter the fields are configured with 2 hockey/cricket fields. Refer **Appendix 3 – Forsyth Park Sportsfields Seasonal Configurations**.

While the Forsyth Community Centre is leased to Cameragal Montessori School during the week, on weekends the large hall, small meeting room and kitchen facilities may be hired out for functions and special events. Playgroups also use the parts of the Centre including the playground on a regular basis. The public hall at the southern end of the Park is currently hired by the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre as part of its Wellness Centre project.

A walking track runs through the bushland at the rear of the northern playing field. From the top of the storage tanks, a path leading into the bushland connects walkers to Bent Street. Alternatively walkers may complete a loop that terminates on the western side of the playing fields. These tracks facilitate public appreciation and enjoyment of the bushland component of Forsyth Park.

Over the past 15 years, significant bush regeneration activities have been carried out in the northern section of Forsyth Park. This area previously contained Camphor laurels, Privets, Morning Glory and a substantial amount of dumped rubbish. Initially woody weeds were removed by Shore School, and Council's Bush Regeneration Team subsequently consolidated this work.

The Forsyth Park Bushcare Group was formed in 1996. Members meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month to regenerate the pocket of bushland on the corner of Bent and Yeo Streets. Volunteers in Council's Wildlife Watch program have reported sightings of White-throated Nightjars, Barn Owls and Tawny Frogmouths in the bushland section of Forsyth Park. The bushland section of the Park provides opportunities for more informal, nature-based recreation activities.

2014 saw the development of a community garden in Forsyth Park. Located on top of the northernmost former oil storage tank, the garden has a circular, free-flowing character designed to allow both gardeners and non-gardeners to enjoy the space and the outlook. The Forsyth Park Community Garden group currently meets twice a week; anyone is welcome to visit the garden anytime. There are no individual plots, and produce harvested is shared among the participants. Several local pre-schools are actively involved in the garden.

Forsyth Park is used regularly for a variety of informal recreational activities. The level lawn area on top of the concrete storage tanks is an excellent vantage point from which to view the harbour and the city, and is also an attractive area for picnicking, sitting, socialising and relaxing. Joggers and people walking dogs also regularly frequent the Park.

### **3.0 Planning Issues**

#### **3.1 Background**

The character of Forsyth Park has evolved over time. The Park is subject to a range of pressures from various sources, and it is important that relevant issues are identified and analysed so that potential negative influences can be managed appropriately. Following is a brief outline of the major planning issues currently affecting Forsyth Park.

#### **3.2 Landscape Character and Heritage**

The green, manicured swathes of the two playing fields are the visually dominant elements in Forsyth Park. The playing fields are separated by a landscaped bank planted with native groundcovers and shrubs low enough to maintain views towards the city. Also located between the 2 playing fields are 3 x 200kl water tanks. Vegetation bordering the playing fields is also largely native, and the bank linking the lower playing field to the public hall is planted out with native shrubs and small trees.

To the north of the upper playing field are the two former oil storage tanks. These tanks are now covered over with turf and their top edges are fenced. The northernmost tank top is partially occupied by a community garden. Seats located against the rock face near the entrance to the bush track take advantage of the existing shade, while fig trees planted about 15 years ago are starting to provide more shade to this area. Any further landscape work in this area must take into consideration the fine views of the harbour and city afforded from the top of the concrete tanks.

Remnant bushland is an important feature of the northern section of Forsyth Park. Its presence is due to the rugged nature of the topography in this area, and its consequent unsuitability for development. Weeds in this section of Forsyth Park are an ongoing problem. In some instances, the planting of unsuitable plant species in gardens adjoining the Park has resulted in weed infestation of adjacent bushland areas. Council staff and Bushcare volunteers continue to address this problem as part of bush regeneration activities.

Council's Native Havens program offers assistance to residents wanting to help the environment by using local indigenous plants in their garden. Council supplies the local community with free local native plants, an extensive list of local native plants, advice on suitable local native plants for individual gardens and ongoing advice and support. By eliminating weeds with seeds, fruits and propagules that are easily transported from gardens into bushland, fewer resources are required by Council to restore degraded areas of bushland in Forsyth Park, and the sustainability of the bushland is strengthened.

All new planting in Forsyth Park should be appropriate and sympathetic to the desired landscape character of each section of the Park; whether it is bushland or the more structured planting associated with the playing fields and the Park buildings.

#### **3.3 Structures and Park Furniture**

This Plan of Management looks at long-term policy and directions for all structures and park furniture in Forsyth Park. It aims to provide adequate facilities according to identified levels of community need.

The type and amount of furniture and sportsfield-related infrastructure in Forsyth Park, how well it meets user needs, and whether there is a need to upgrade or to install additional items should all be regularly considered. Thought must be given to the suitable placement and aesthetic appearance of all park structures, to the needs of park users with disabilities such as mobility impairments, and any new items should be consistent with Council's corporate image and sympathetic to the established character of the Park.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2005 found that sportsfields in North Sydney tended to be overutilised, and that much of the associated infrastructure (including public amenities and changing rooms) was of a relatively poor standard.

The following key recommendations from the Recreation Needs Study have been completed/ implemented since 2007:

- Undertake a Condition Audit of all existing sportsfield infrastructure to determine its current condition, level of performance and OH&S compliance, and prepare a Condition Assessment Report.  
Completed 2007.  
(Compared to most other sportsfields in North Sydney, Forsyth Park sportsfield infrastructure is in relatively good condition; requiring relatively minor upgrading).
- Conduct an assessment of existing electrical reticulation and lighting at parks and sportsfields coinciding with the condition audit.  
Completed 2008.  
(The Lighting Plan prepared for Council by consultants in 2007 prioritised Forsyth Park sportsfield no. 2 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest priority sportsfield for upgraded lighting).
- Upgrade lighting to accommodate night training and competition at Forsyth Park sportsfield no. 2.  
Completed 2011.
- Investigate provision, location and condition of ancillary facilities at sportsfields. (Ancillary facilities support organised sporting activities, and may include picnic and BBQ facilities, seating, tables, and shelter structures. Also included are cricket nets and tennis practice walls).  
Investigation completed 2011.

### **3.4 Recreation and Use**

Forsyth Park caters for the recreation needs of people of all ages living in the North Sydney area. This Plan of Management aims to ensure that sport and recreation facilities provided at Forsyth Park meet community needs and expectations, that the pocket of urban bushland is managed and maintained appropriately, and that the Park remains a visually attractive amenity.

The Park's playing fields and the associated change rooms cater for cricket and hockey matches and training, as well as for school sport and athletics carnivals. When not being used for organised sport, they accommodate informal sports and games and activities of a more passive nature. The Park is popular with joggers, dog-walkers and kite flyers, as well as with people picnicking, bushwalking or just relaxing.

A Synthetic Sports Surface Business Case Study was prepared for Council by specialist consultants in 2014. The Study looked at Council's existing grassed sportsfields and

determined (in priority order) their suitability for upgrading to a synthetic surface. After Cammeray Park (work to upgrade the grassed sportsfield to a synthetic surface was completed in early 2015) the most suitable sportsfields were found to be:

- Anderson Park
- Primrose Park
- Tunks Park
- Waverton Park
- Forsyth Park

Forsyth Park is ranked low due to ongoing sub-surface movement. It is not recommended for a synthetic field without significant resources first being expended to improve the pavement.

Forsyth Park is a significant recreational resource for both local and district users. Management strategies within this Plan need to be flexible and adaptable to provide for the changing recreational needs of the community in relation to the Park.

### **3.5 Access and Circulation**

A major problem connected with the use and appreciation of many parks and reserves in North Sydney is the limited supply of parking associated with them. No special provisions have been made for parking at Forsyth Park, and people arriving by car must park in nearby residential streets. Currently most cars park in Montpelier Street, which gives direct access to the playing fields, the lookout on top of the tanks, the Forsyth Community Centre and to the Wellness Centre. Parking shortages during peak use periods can cause conflicts between local residents and visitors.

Council encourages the use of public transport and bicycles to reduce problems associated with traffic congestion and parking, and groups using Forsyth Park are encouraged to promote and publicise appropriate public transport services to their members. Although not easily accessible by train or ferry, the Park is a short walk from buses on Military Road. General vehicular access to Forsyth Park is prohibited, however access for service and emergency vehicles is provided.

Circulation routes within the Park are mostly informal. Formal pathways include the sloping path that connects visitors to the Forsyth Community Centre, the steps that link the top of the tanks to the rear of the Community Centre and the newly constructed terraced steps on the western side of the Park that link the lower and middle terraces. The bush track allows pedestrians to walk through the northern, bushland area of the Park, while a paved asphalt roadway regulated by a gate allows authorised vehicles to access the playing fields for maintenance and emergency works.

### **3.6 Management**

The Forsyth Park Plan of Management provides guidelines for the future use, development, management and maintenance of the Park. Other Council documents that guide the management of Forsyth Park include the Sportsfields Plan of Management (playing fields and associated infrastructure), and the Bushland Plan of Management (parts of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation).

Residential areas surround the Forsyth Park sportsfields, and the impact of sportsfield use on neighbouring residential areas is an important ongoing issue. Council is conscious of balancing the needs of sportsfield users with the needs of the surrounding residents, and

resident concern must be acknowledged and acted upon where appropriate. Neighbouring residents are encouraged to notify Council if excessive noise or other undesirable behaviour is occurring, and Council officers can then liaise with the relevant club or other organisation to encourage more effective self-regulation, or impose restrictions if this becomes necessary.

Conditions of hire for Council's community centres aim to minimise impacts on surrounding residents. Restrictions on the hire of Forsyth Park Community Centre are as follows:

- All hirings must cease (ie cleaned and vacated) by midnight (Monday-Saturday), and 6.00 pm Sunday.
- Drinks must be served in plastic cups (no glass)
- Amplified music prohibited
- Coming-of-age birthday parties must have security guards present

Any infringements of the above restrictions should be reported to Council's Bookings Officers to action.

The need for ongoing maintenance is an issue that influences not only landscape character but also affects general safety levels. The effectiveness of maintenance is a function of a number of factors including the type and extent of machinery available, the level of experience and expertise of personnel, and the frequency of each operation. Efficient maintenance practices allow cost savings to be made, permitting funds to be redirected to other important areas.

Current management of Forsyth Park focuses on achieving an acceptable standard of maintenance for the Park in light of its high level of use as a sporting venue. Staffing levels and budget for management and maintenance in the Park can vary over time as new issues become relevant and community needs and priorities change.

Incorporating community participation in the management of Forsyth Park is an important aspect of this Plan of Management. There must be enough scope within this Plan to allow for the active involvement of the community. Ways in which the community can participate in the management and maintenance of Forsyth Park should continue to be explored, as a sense of community ownership can lead to a reduction in anti-social activities such as vandalism. Opportunities to involve the community in future projects in the Park should be pursued, and initiatives by residents to become involved in the life of the Park (such as the recent establishment of a community garden) are encouraged within the parameters of this Plan of Management.

### 3.6.1 Encroachments

The Forsyth Park Plan of Management aims to ensure that any current or future encroachments onto the Park are dealt with consistently, appropriately and in the best interests of Park users and the general public.

Council's Encroachment Management Policy provides the following definition:

*'Encroachment: the intrusion of a structure or other object onto land owned or controlled by Council'.*

Encroachments typically include fences, steps, paths, paved areas, seating, small buildings such as sheds and vegetation planted to imply a boundary. Encroachments alienate public land and prevent the general public from using public open space. Private encroachments onto Forsyth Park are not permitted.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Forsyth Park is classified as 'community land'. Encroachments onto community land are not permitted unless authorised by a lease or licence in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Act provides that Council may lease or licence community land where it is expressly authorised to do so under a Plan of Management, and where the purpose for which the lease or licence is issued is consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question. If the purpose of the lease or licence is not consistent with these core objectives, a Plan of Management authorising it is rendered invalid.

The Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides core objectives for management of land categorised as 'park', 'sportsfield' and 'bushland' that are applicable to Forsyth Park. These core objectives are set out in section 1.4: 'Land Categorisation and Core Objectives'.

Alternatively, having regard to section 46(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a lease/licence may be entered into if it relates to such matters as the provision of a public road; or the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following:

- (i) *public recreation,*
- (ii) *the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons.*

A relevant extract from Council's 'Encroachment Management Policy' is included as **Appendix 4**.

## 3.7 **Improvement Works**

Carrying out projects identified in previous Plans of Management for Forsyth Park has significantly contributed to the way the Park looks and functions. Significant works have included installing a fence on top of the former oil storage tanks, levelling and drainage works at one of the sports fields, upgrading the bushwalking track and an ongoing program of bush regeneration (carried out by staff, contractors and volunteers).

The following projects have been completed since the previous Plan of Management for Forsyth Park was adopted in 2008:

- Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade (oval number 2) in 2011  
This project involved removing the 4 existing light poles on sportsfield no.2, and replacing them with 4 new floodlight poles (each supporting 3 floodlights) that comply with Australian Standards. The improved lighting has improved player safety, and increased the capacity of the ground to accommodate sport and incidental informal recreation. This project was funded jointly by Council and the NSW Government through their Community Building Partnership Program.
- Bushland Walking Track Improvement Works in 2011  
Using recycled curb dimension sandstone supplied by Council to create uniform risers and treads has improved the stability of the bushland walking track and reduced trip hazards. The work has retained the informal and ‘natural’ feel of this track while simultaneously addressing erosion issues.
- Pedestrian Access Improvements in 2013  
The desire line on the western side of the Park between the lower and middle terraces was previously marked by a steep dirt track, in poor condition. This worn track was replaced with a series of broach stepped terraces using sandstone risers with turf in-fill treads that are aesthetically attractive and allow for safer traversing of the slope.
- Shade Trees Planting around Sportsfields in 2013  
Additional trees were planted around the boundaries of a number of North Sydney’s sportsfields, including Forsyth Park, to provide increased shade and amenity for spectators and other Park users.
- Forsyth Park Community Centre Improvements in 2013  
Repainting of the exterior of the Community Centre and other minor repair works were carried out in 2013.
- Wildlife Corridor Enhancement (ongoing)  
The wildlife corridor plantings along the western edge of the Park’s open areas have been expanded and enhanced. Eventually it is planned that these plantings will join with plantings near Rawson Street. (A group of Streets Alive volunteers are currently working on the Rawson Street Green Corridor Project).
- Wildlife Watch Program (ongoing)  
Over the past 5 years a significant number of wildlife species have been sighted in Forsyth Park for the first time. These species have included the Australian Brush Turkey, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the endangered Powerful Owl.
- Bushland Rehabilitation (ongoing)  
Continuing implementation of the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park over the past 7 years has resulted in substantial gains for the bushland section of the Park: the bushland core has been expanded and native plantings have stabilised the park edges. The Forsyth Park Bushcare Group has volunteered over 600 hours of bush regeneration work in the Park over this time.
- Forsyth Park Stormwater Reuse Project (part of the overall North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project) 2005 - 2010  
In 2005 Stage 1 of the North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project commenced with the installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap to provide primary treatment of harvested stormwater in Cammeray Park. A dam was also constructed in the Park.

Stage 2 of the stormwater reuse scheme was completed in October 2007. It involved construction of the necessary pipes, pumps, storage tanks, treatment devices and irrigation network to provide reused stormwater to St Leonards Park, including North



Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews Oval, other grassed areas of the Park and the North Sydney Bowling Club.

Further stages of the project involved installing reticulation piping from the dam in Cammeray Park to Primrose Park, Tunks Park and, finally, to Forsyth Park. These parks were all previously irrigated using water from Sydney's water supply system.

Now complete, the project fully utilises all water captured in the storage dam in Cammeray Park to irrigate a number of Council's sportsfields and other major recreation areas. It significantly reduces Council's reliance on town water supply; this represents a considerable financial saving for Council.

The final stage of the stormwater reuse project, linking Forsyth Park to the dam in Cammeray Park was completed in 2010. This stage was the most complex and costly due to the topography; there is a ridgeline situated between the dam and Forsyth Park, and work involved road trenching (including crossing both Ernest Street and Falcon Street), and traversing steep areas in the northern part of Forsyth Park.

Work involved laying 1.4 kilometres of polyurethane pipe, and constructing 3 x 200 KL reinforced concrete tanks in Forsyth Park. These tanks are set into the embankment that separates the 2 sportsfields. A pump shed, pumps and other control equipment was also installed, and soft landscaping works were carried out.

Council contributed the bulk of the funding for the project, with the assistance of a public facilities grant and a grant from Round 3 of the Climate Change Fund.

In addition to the projects listed above that were identified in the previous Forsyth Park Plan of Management, the following project was also carried out:

- Forsyth Park Community Garden in 2014  
In 2013 Council was approached by a local resident to commit land in Forsyth Park to a community garden. After consultation, a site on top of the northern former oil storage tank was selected as the most appropriate location. The garden incorporates fencing, a storage shed, composting areas, a tap, raised garden bed and linking paths. It is accessible to all. Day-to-day operations in the community garden are carried out by interested local volunteers. Council provides assistance in the form of advice and materials as required.

Upgrading and improvement works scheduled to occur during the life of this Plan of Management include:

- Forsyth Park Playground in 2016/17  
Council's Playground Methodology 2011 provided a prioritised list of playgrounds in North Sydney that required upgrading. It also assessed opportunities to provide new playgrounds in areas where they are currently lacking. Forsyth Park was identified in the Methodology as a suitable location for a new playground due to several factors including the lack of playgrounds of either district or regional significance in this area, and the presence of a large catchment of potential users close by. Locating a new playground towards the northern end of the Park would mean that people living in the dense Military Road, Neutral Bay corridor could access it. A previous 'koppers log' playground was removed from Forsyth Park for safety reasons a number of years ago. Because there is no playground in the Park at present, a proposal to install one will involve submitting a Development Application.

- Sportsfield Upgrading (oval no. 2) in 2017/18  
Leveling and drainage work to sportsfield no. 2 to improve its condition.
- Sportsfield Upgrading (oval no. 1) in 2018/19  
Leveling and drainage work to sportsfield no. 1 to improve its condition.
- Sportsfield Irrigation System Upgrading in 2017/18  
Upgrade the irrigation system to both sportsfields.
- Sportsfield Lighting (oval no. 1) in 2015/16  
Install lighting on sportsfield no. 1 (if Development approval is granted)
- Forsyth Park Amenities block Upgrading in 2018/19  
Various minor works will be carried out as per the long term Condition Assessment Report of existing sportsfield infrastructure prepared in 2007.
- Riparian Improvement Works in 2015  
Carry out riparian improvement works in the vicinity of the creekline in the bushland section of the Park.
- Prepare a Bushland Walking Track Management Plan in 2015/16  
The initial audit will cover all bushland areas in North Sydney. The existing track system will be audited so that future maintenance and upgrading works can be prioritised and implemented more effectively.
- Continue to implement the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park  
Specific work to be carried out in the bushland section of the Park includes continuing to improve bushland edge stability by enhancing buffer planting, and expanding buffer planting around the lower edge of the Park (in consultation with the Parks Manager).
- Carry out an ecological burn in the bushland section of the Park in 2017/18  
A strategic ecological burn will be carried out around the north west core of the bushland area.
- Creek line Restoration Work in 2019/20  
Investigate the feasibility of removing the lower concrete stormwater pipe and returning the creek bed to a more natural state.

Specific scheduling details for these and other planned works are contained within section 5.2 of this document – Indicative Works Program.

## **4.0 Basis for Management**

### **4.1 Philosophical Basis for the Plan of Management**

This Plan of Management guides the future use, development, management and maintenance of Forsyth Park. The Park is an important piece of open space, contributing to the visual appeal of North Sydney and providing a recreational resource for local residents and the wider community. Management should maximise the potential of the Park; ensure that it is adequately maintained, that it caters for a range of activities, that conflicts are minimised, and that any future works respect the established character.

The Plan of Management for Forsyth Park must have the flexibility to respond to the changing needs of the community and users and to social changes.

### **4.2 Core Values and Management Objectives**

#### **4.2.1 Values of Forsyth Park**

The following core values describe the most significant qualities of Forsyth Park. These values must be considered when future management objectives, strategies and actions are formulated, to ensure their protection.

##### *Visual Qualities and Aesthetics*

- The site has high scenic value due to its physical setting; it is overlooked by many properties.
- The Park is an important green space in an area of dense urban development.
- The Park offers excellent views of the harbour and the city from the vantage point on top of the former oil storage tanks.
- Parts of the Park preserve remnant bushland, precious in an urban environment, while the sportsgrounds have an attractive green, manicured character.

##### *Cultural Heritage*

- Forsyth Park occupies an area of land previously known as Montpelier Estate. The Park was named 'Forsyth' after an alderman from Belmore Ward; perpetuating a name that has been associated with Local Government in Willoughby and North Sydney since its establishment in 1865.
- The land for the Park was purchased by North Sydney Council in 1931, and the conveyance to Council is dated 1935. A Council resolution saw the Park developed for the preferential use of women's sporting organisations in the 1950s, however that resolution has since been rescinded.
- The 2 former oil tanks (and pumping station) located towards the northern end of Forsyth Park are listed individually as an item of Environmental Heritage. They were erected in Forsyth Park and pipes were laid along the foreshores of Neutral Bay to Kurraba Point. The tanks are evidence of the former importance of Kurraba Point as a ferry depot and oil wharfage.

### Social/Recreational

- Forsyth Park is a valuable recreational resource for the local and wider community. It accommodates organised sports and numerous informal activities including picnicking, bushwalking, walking, dog walking, relaxing, socialising, jogging, and viewing the harbour and city.
- The Park is an informal meeting place; it facilitates local community interaction. As population numbers grow and density increases the importance of the Park as a venue for social gatherings and occasions also increases.
- The sportsfields are used for cricket, hockey and various other sports. They are used by clubs, schools and other organisations.
- The buildings in the Park offer a variety of programs to various sections of the community. The Community Centre may be hired for functions and special events when not in use by the primary tenant.
- Organised community activities in Forsyth Park include participation in Council's Bushcare Program and the Forsyth Park Community Garden group.

#### 4.2.2 Management Objectives

Based on legislative requirements, community needs and expectations, and the Park's values and assets, a number of broad, primary management objectives have been identified:

- To manage the land for public recreation in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Delivery Plan;
- To provide and maintain a high quality recreation facility which meets the needs of the local and wider community;
- To manage the playing fields as per Council's Sportsfields Plan of Management;
- To manage bushland areas as per Council's Bushland Plan of Management and in accordance with the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No 19;
- To manage bushland areas as per the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park;
- To manage the community centre as per Council's Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy;
- To upgrade the existing recreational facilities and associated infrastructure in the Park
- To ensure any new work in the Park is sympathetic to the Park's existing character and aesthetics;
- To ensure the Park is accessible to the general community;
- To cater for people with physical impairments, where feasible and practical;
- To maintain the Park to an acceptable standard;
- To ensure the Plan of Management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitudes and needs;
- To minimise conflict between Park users;
- To encourage community involvement in the management and maintenance of Forsyth Park;

- To provide for public safety.

These objectives have been used in the subsequent management issues to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.



Surrounded by urban development, Forsyth Park offers green, open space and great views.

## 5.0 Policy, Implementation and Performance

The policies established in this Plan of Management provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends.

The priority ratings outlined on the following pages are subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds, and may require modification if special circumstances arise.

### **Codes used to define priorities in the following matrix:**

ST	(Short Term)	-	Action completed within 2 years
MT	(Medium Term)	-	Action completed within 2-4 years
LT	(Long Term)	-	Action commenced after 4 years *
O	(Ongoing)	-	Action is carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of Management
C	(Commenced)	-	Action has commenced
CP	(Completed)		Action has been carried out

\* **Note:**

This Plan of Management is relevant for a 5-year period, and will be extensively reviewed and updated at the end of this time. As defined by this document, long-term projects are those that are scheduled for commencement but not necessarily completion within the life of this Plan.

## 5.1 Matrix

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND HERITAGE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Landscape Amenity	To manage existing vegetation in areas of Forsyth Park zoned 'RE1 Public Recreation' using best horticultural techniques.	Carry out regular, ongoing maintenance work to conserve appropriate existing vegetation.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'.	O	User satisfaction - feedback received from stakeholders.	
		Select, plant and establish suitable trees, shrubs and groundcovers as required.	Consider the character of the area to be planted.	O	All new plantings are appropriate.	
		Replace over-mature species and species reaching the end of their useful lives.		O	Over-mature species removed and replaced as required.	
	To ensure all significant trees are maintained in optimum condition.	Inspect all significant trees annually and carry out maintenance work when required.	The Poplars surrounding the public hall at the southern end of the Park have been identified as significant.	O	Regular inspections carried out.	Significant Tree Register NSC. 1994.
To maintain views out of the Park of the harbour and city.	Site any new plantings strategically to ensure views of the harbour and city are maintained.	There are excellent views of the harbour and city from the lookout on top of the former oil storage tanks.	O	Views of the harbour and city maintained.		



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Management of Vegetation in areas zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation'	To manage vegetation in areas of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' using best-practice ecological restoration techniques.	Continue to implement the Forsyth Park Bushland Rehabilitation Plan.	Bushland rehabilitation is sustainable, ecologically sound and adheres to strategic objectives.	O	Improvement in quality of bushland, gauged annually.	Forsyth Park Bushland Rehabilitation Plan NSC.
		Monitor and document rehabilitation work.	Monthly reports compiled annually for all rehabilitation works by staff, contractors, and volunteers.	O	Regular reports to Council's Bushland Management Co-ordinator.	
		Gradually phase out non-native trees (eg Camphor laurels) in bushland areas, in conjunction with natural regeneration or planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees.	Work should be carried out over a number of years to minimise the impacts of mature tree removal on bushland (eg loss of fauna habitat).	O	Number of replacement indigenous trees planted.	Local Environmental Plan 2013 NSC. Street Tree Strategy.
		Remove inappropriate species and replace with more suitable species.	Inappropriate species include self-seeded trees and shrubs that pose a weed threat to bushland areas.	O	Inappropriate species removed and replaced with suitable species.	
		Conserve desirable endemic species when they occur as a result of natural regeneration.	In areas zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' these species will be conserved regardless of the impact on views.	O	Improvement in quality of bushland, gauged annually.	Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To consider the impact of new plantings in bushland on existing views.	Minimise planting of tall, dense spreading species in areas where this will have an impact on existing views.	Consideration of existing views must be balanced with the need to provide additional vegetation.	O	All new planting considers impacts on views.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Bushland Rehabilitation	To rehabilitate degraded bushland areas of Forsyth Park to a condition of indigenous local native bushland.	Carry out riparian stabilisation works in the vicinity of the natural creek line system in the bushland section of the Park.	This work will be coordinated by Council's Bushland Management Team.	ST	Works carried out on time and to budget.	North Sydney Council Delivery Plan.
		Continue to improve bushland edge stability by enhancing buffer plantings.		O	Buffer plantings enhanced.	
		Expand buffer plantings around the lower edge of the Park.	This work will be carried out in close consultation with Council's Parks & Reserves Manager.	ST	Buffer plantings expanded, if appropriate.	
	To maintain the genetic integrity of bushland in Forsyth Park.	Replant bushland reserves using plants of local genetic stock.	Seed to be collected by staff for contract growing and Bushcare plant propagation.	O	Replanting with local genetic stock undertaken.	State Environmental Planning Policy No 19.
	To restore the creek line in the bushland section of the Park.	Investigate the feasibility of removing the lower concrete stormwater pipe and returning the creek bed to a more natural state.	Hydrological investigations will be carried out to determine the feasibility of removing the stormwater pipe and creating a more natural creek line.	LT	Feasibility investigations complete.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Vegetation Protection	To protect existing vegetation in Forsyth Park from illegal activities.	Enforce the Tree Preservation Order and pursue appropriate action where vegetation is illegally cleared or damaged.	Council's Tree Vandalism Policy sets out actions to be taken by Council against tree vandalism on public land.	O	Tree Preservation Order enforced and appropriate action taken if required.	North Sydney Tree Vandalism Policy 2006. North Sydney Tree Preservation Order 2006.
		Refuse all requests to trim trees on public land zoned E2 'Environmental Conservation' for cosmetic purposes.	Cosmetic pruning on land zoned 'Environmental Conservation' is prohibited under DCP Section 16 – Trees and Vegetation Management.	O	All requests for cosmetic pruning of trees in bushland denied.	North Sydney DCP 2013.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Noxious Weed Control	To control all noxious and environmental weeds in Forsyth Park.	Undertake weed removal programs when and where required.		O	Reduction in weed levels in the Park.	
		Implement the Noxious Weeds Act consistently and effectively.		O	Noxious Weeds Act implemented by staff.	Noxious Weeds Act, 1993.
		Continue to implement the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Forsyth Park.	The Plan sets out priorities for control of noxious weeds in the bushland section of the Park.	O	Reduction of occurrence of noxious weeds.	Noxious Weeds Act, 1993.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Preservation and Conservation of Heritage Items	To protect and preserve all identified heritage items in Forsyth Park.	Consult with the National Trust, the Heritage Council and other appropriate organisations on the management of heritage items and fulfil the requirements of the Heritage Act, 1977.	The former oil storage tanks have been identified as items of heritage significance.	O	Coordinated and effective management of heritage items.	North Sydney Council LEP 2013. Heritage Act, 1997. Heritage Study Review 1993.
		Carry out any work necessary to maintain heritage items in good condition.	Work should be carried out in consultation with the National Trust, Heritage Council and other relevant organisations as required.	O	All heritage items maintained in good condition.	North Sydney Council LEP 2013.

## STRUCTURES AND PARK FURNITURE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Structures and Park Furniture	To provide and maintain structures and park furniture in Forsyth Park that meet the identified needs of users and the community.	Overhaul and service plumbing fittings in toilets/showers of the amenities block.	Required works are detailed in the Sportsfields Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report. Only minor annual maintenance work is required to this amenity block over the next 5 years.	ST-LT	Work carried out on time and to budget.	Sportsfield Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007 NSC.
		Carry out various minor works to upgrade the amenities block.	As per above.	MT	Work carried out on time and to budget.	As above.
		Install new park furniture as needed.	Park furniture includes seats, benches, picnic tables, water fountains etc.	O	New park furniture installed as required.	
		Schedule repair and maintenance work for existing park furniture, if a need is identified.		O	Repair and maintenance work carried out as required.	
		Ensure any new structures proposed for the Park are needed, are consistent with Council's identified corporate image and are compatible with the character of Forsyth Park.	Development consent is required for any proposed new structures to be built in the Park. Community consultation is an integral part of the Development Application process.	O	New developments to comply with Council's LEP.	Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.

## RECREATION AND LEISURE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsfields	To encourage use of the sportsfields in Forsyth Park for a range of organised sporting activities.	Accommodate groups wanting to use Forsyth Park sportsfields for organised sport as far as possible.	The carrying capacity of sportsfields varies, with factors such as wear and tear from different sports, and the presence of floodlighting (oval no. 2) being relevant factors.	O	Maximum number of appropriate users within the carrying capacity of the playing fields accommodated.	
		Actively promote sportsfields in the resident, worker and student communities and seek appropriate new sporting user groups if required, within the carrying capacity of the sportsfields.	Refer Appendix 2 for a definition of organised sporting activities.	O	Maximum desirable level of sportsfield usage achieved and maintained.	Appendix 2 – Definitions: Organised Sport & Informal Sports and Games.
		Accommodate organisations offering ‘pay-to-play’ sporting opportunities where possible.	This model may appeal to other sectors of the community that are not currently well provided for.	O		
		Charge fees for organisations and groups using the sportsfields.	Fees assist with sportsfield maintenance. Sportsfield use by community groups, schools and other users is encouraged, and fees are less for these organisations than for commercial operators.	O	Appropriate fees charged to sportsfield users.	Schedule of Fees and Charges. North Sydney Council.
	To improve the condition and carrying capacity of the sportsfields at Forsyth Park.	Carry out leveling and drainage work to upgrade sportsfield no. 2.	This will improve playing conditions for existing and future users, and may increase the ability of the sportsfield to accommodate additional users.	MT	Work carried out on time and to budget.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Carry out leveling and drainage work to upgrade sportsfield no. 1.	This will improve playing conditions for existing and future users, and may increase the ability of the sportsfield to accommodate additional users.	MT	Work carried out on time and to budget.	
		Upgrade the existing sportsfield irrigation system.		MT	Work carried out on time and to budget.	
		Investigate other options to increase the carrying capacity of the sportsfields at Forsyth Park to accommodate more users.	Options may include new/improved lighting, installation of appropriate new ancillary facilities, or upgrading of existing ancillary facilities.	ST	Investigations complete and options defined.	
		Prepare a Development Application for the installation of floodlighting to oval no. 1.		ST	Development Application prepared and lodged.	
		Install floodlighting to oval no. 1.	Work will only proceed if DA approval is gained.	ST	New floodlights installed.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsfields for Informal Sports, Games and other Activities	To encourage a range of other activities on sportsfields.	Allow recreational activities that do not conflict with organised sporting activities to take place on sportsfields at Forsyth Park.	All non-sporting activities and events are accommodated within the constraints imposed by the primary use of the sportsfields for organised sport.	O	Annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use.	Appendix 2 - Definitions: Organised Sport and Informal Sport & Games
		Allow appropriate recreational and cultural events to take place on sportsfields.	Permission for recreational and cultural events is at Council's discretion.	O	Range of appropriate non-sporting events and activities accommodated where feasible.	



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Other Activities in Forsyth Park	To accommodate a range of recreational activities to meet community needs in Forsyth Park.	Ensure all activities occurring in the Park are appropriate, are consistent with the 'core objectives' (refer section 1.4), and lie within the carrying capacity of the Park.	Suitable activities include walking, picnicking, informal sports and games, watching events on the sportsfields, gardening and viewing the harbour and city.	O	Annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate Park use.	Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998.
		Allow dog walking in the Park within the principles set out in Council's Dog Control Policy.	Dogs must be kept on a leash in the part of Forsyth Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' but may be off-leash in other parts of the Park.	O	Annual number of infringements	North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan 2004.
		Prepare plans and lodge a Development Application for a new playground in Forsyth Park.	Forsyth Park was identified as a suitable location for a new playground due to the lack of other significant playgrounds in the area and its proximity to a large catchment of potential users. A 'koppers log' playground was removed from the Park a number of years ago for safety reasons.	ST	Plans for a new playground prepared and Development Application lodged.	Playgrounds Methodology 2011 NSC.
		Construct a new playground in Forsyth Park.	Construction is dependant upon the Development Application being approved.	ST	New playground build on time and budget.	
		Ensure fitness trainers using Forsyth Park operate in accordance with Council's Fitness Code of Conduct.	Fitness trainers are not permitted on marked designated sportsfields (unless with an approved booking). They are also not permitted in areas zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' unless on formed asphalt or concrete paths.	O	All fitness trainers using Council parks and reserves have signed the Fitness Code of Conduct.	Fitness Code of Conduct NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Patrol the Park to ensure compliance with the above actions.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers.	O	Regular patrols carried out.	
		Monitor the condition of Forsyth Park and limit use of areas where overuse is causing negative impacts (such as wearing out the grass).	Best locations for groups are those that do not significantly impact on other Park users and that cause least wear and tear.	O	Condition of the Park.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Forsyth Park Community Garden	To support the Forsyth Park Community Garden to be self-managed, and to increase the sense of community ownership.	Provide assistance to the Forsyth Park Community Garden Group in the form of: - Advice and materials - Promotion - Financial support - Other support as needed (eg assistance with scheduling etc).	The Community Garden is a not-for-profit, community-based enterprise that produces food primarily for the consumption of the gardeners. It provides a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to the community.	O	Forsyth Park Community garden is inclusive, productive, and an attractive feature of the Park.	Community Garden Guidelines 2012. North Sydney Council.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Forsyth Park Bushcare Group	To support the Forsyth Park Bushcare Group.	Provide assistance to the Forsyth Park Bushcare Group in the form of: - Supervision - Advice and materials - Promotion - Financial support - Other support as needed.	The Forsyth Park Bushcare Group meets monthly to undertake bush regeneration activities under the guidance of appropriately qualified Council staff.	O	Quality of bushland. Level of satisfaction of Group members.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Other Activities in areas of the Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation	To minimise any adverse environmental impacts that result from the recreational use of the bushland section of Forsyth Park.	Manage activities that may have negative environmental impacts to ensure impacts are minimised.	The most common recreational activities in Council's bushland reserves (such as walking, enjoying scenic views and appreciating nature) are generally low impact. Activities such as walking dogs and fitness training can have a higher environmental impact.	O	General condition of bushland.	
		Impose conditions as required to minimise the impact of commercial filming activities in the bushland section of the Park.	Negative issues associated with commercial request to film in bushland areas can generally be overcome by Council officers working with applicants to select appropriate locations and by imposing conditions of use.	O	Conditions imposed on applications to film as required.	
		Prevent inappropriate activities from occurring in the bushland section of Forsyth Park.	Bouldering, orienteering and mountain biking are examples of inappropriate activities that occur in North Sydney's bushland from time to time. Impacts include erosion, track damage and destruction of vegetation. Additionally there are safety and risk management issues associated with these activities.	O	Decrease in annual number of reports of inappropriate activities occurring in bushland.	

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Access	To overcome issues associated with the limited carparking.	Encourage sportsfield user groups to promote carpooling, walking or using buses and bicycles as a way of getting to the Park.	This is consistent with Council's aim to reduce the number of cars in the North Sydney area.	O	Reduction in vehicle congestion in nearby streets.	
	To control vehicular access to Forsyth Park.	Prohibit and prevent general vehicle access to Forsyth Park.		O	General vehicular access is restricted.	
		Allow service and emergency vehicles to enter the Park.	Removable bollards and gates allow easy access.	O	Easy of entry for service and emergency vehicles.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Circulation in the Park	To provide a useful pathway system for pedestrians in Forsyth Park.	Ensure gates and other barriers to vehicle access permit pedestrian access, including wheelchairs and people pushing prams.		O	People with impaired mobility can move about the Park.	
		Construct new pathways and carry out corrective works to existing pathways as required.	A new path connecting the 2 sportsfields was constructed on the western side of the Park in 2013.	O	New and corrective pathway works carried out as required.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Walking Tracks through Bushland	To provide walking tracks through the bushland in Forsyth Park that give visitors a range of experiences whilst minimising environmental impacts.	Prepare a Bushland Walking Track Management Plan to audit the existing track system (for all areas of bushland in North Sydney) and prioritise maintenance and upgrading works.	This project is being integrated into an asset database audit (to be carried out by Engineering & Property Services). The audit will incorporate bushland walking tracks and associated built structures.	ST-MT	Bushland Walking Track Management Plan prepared on time and to budget.	Bushland Plan of Management. NSC.
		Carry out regular maintenance work on the existing track system to ensure it remains in good condition.	Regular inspections allow potential problems to be identified early (for example track erosion and the formation of new 'goat tracks'). The track in Forsyth Park was upgraded in 2011 and is generally in good condition.	O	Regular maintenance work carried out.	
		Prevent the establishment of new informal tracks in bushland.	Use brushmatting, fencing and educational signage to discourage new, inappropriate tracks from becoming established.	O	No new informal tracks established.	

## LANDUSE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Urban Runoff and Nutrient Pollution	To adopt a co-ordinated approach to stormwater management in the bushland section of Forsyth Park.	Implement the actions listed in Council's Bushland Plan of Management and adopt a total catchment management approach to management of urban runoff.	Total catchment management considers each drainage basin or waterway as a planning/ management land unit. The activities upstream impact on bushland, parkland and the harbour downstream.	O	Implementation of a total catchment management program commenced.	Bushland Plan of Management. NSC.
	To minimise the impacts of adjacent development on the Park.	Implement the actions listed in Council's Bushland Plan of management.	Development Applications for properties adjacent to bushland should incorporate adequate procedures to reduce impacts on bushland, and adopt the principles and objectives of State Environmental Planning Policy 19. Urban runoff impacts on bushland and parkland through erosion, nutrient pollution, altering hydrology and transportation of weed propagules.	O	Development and adoption of new standards for developments adjacent to bushland.	Bushland Plan of Management. NSC. State Environmental Planning Policy 19.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Flora and Fauna Management in areas of the Park zoned E2	To maintain and enhance the range of flora and fauna habitats in order to conserve species remaining in the bushland section of Forsyth Park.	Implement works and actions listed in Council's new (draft) Bushland Rehabilitation Plans.	Previous Fauna Rehabilitation Plans are being incorporated into the new Bushland Rehabilitation Plans, as are the findings of the Natural Area Survey.	O	All work carried out in accordance with the relevant Plan.	Bushland Rehabilitation Plans – Port Jackson Catchment. NSC. Natural Area Survey 2010 NSC.
		Commission a Study to determine the flora and fauna composition and diversity across the North Sydney Local Government Area.	This Study will consider all areas in North Sydney zoned E2 Environmental Conservation.	ST-MT	Study commissioned and completed within the designated timeframe and within budget.	
		Develop a Fauna Recovery Plan for Forsyth Park.	The Plan will target species of special conservation concern, threatened species and newly establishing endemic species.	LT	Fauna Recovery Plan for Forsyth Park developed.	
		Carry out continuing bird surveys in all bushland reserves in North Sydney.	Continuing bird surveys are undertaken at 5-year intervals.	MT	Continuing bird surveys undertaken every 5 years.	
		Encourage residents to provide information on fauna sightings in Forsyth Park through Council's Wildlife Watch program.	Information about the Wildlife Watch program is available on Council's website.	O	Wildlife Watch program operating effectively.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To use fire as a management tool to maintain the biodiversity of the bushland in North Sydney and to reduce hazard.	Carry out hazard reduction and ecological burns in areas zoned E2 in accordance with the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney annual Bushfire Hazard Reduction Program.	Burns are implemented by Council in cooperation with the NSW Fire Brigades and the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Management Committee. The burns protect assets and assist with ecological rehabilitation.	O	Hazard reduction burns carried out as necessary.	Annual Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Hazard Reduction Program.
Undertake a strategic ecological burn around the north west core of Forsyth Park.			MT	Burn successfully carried out.		
Notify local residents when a controlled burn is scheduled to occur.		Notification may be carried out either by Council or by NSW Fire & Rescue directly.	O	Reduction in number of phone calls received when controlled burns occur.		
	To control and manage feral and domestic animals in the bushland section of Forsyth Park.	Increase public awareness on responsibilities of companion animal ownership relating to bushland areas.	For example appropriate trackhead signage, information kits, community education at bushland open days, etc.	O	Number of incidents of non-compliance as reported by park users and Council Rangers.	
Restrict dogs in bushland areas to designated walking tracks as per Council's Local Companion Animals Plan.		Appropriate information to be provided at major track entrances. All dogs in bushland areas must be on a leash.	O	Number of incidents of non-compliance as reported by park users and Council Rangers.	North Sydney Local Companion Animals Plan 2004. NSC.	



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Effect of Sportsfield Use on Neighbouring Properties	To minimise impacts on neighbouring properties caused by use of sportsfields.	Liaise with user groups and residents as required to foster a positive and harmonious relationship.		O	Liaison occurs promptly, as required.	
		Encourage groups using the sportsfields to carpool and to promote the use of buses and bicycles to their members.	These measures will reduce the number of local parking spaces occupied by visitors.	O	Reduction in vehicle congestion in surrounding streets.	
		Patrol streets affected by increased traffic generation to prevent illegal parking at peak use times.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers.	O	Reduction in annual number of complaints.	
		Ensure sportsfield lighting is extinguished immediately following evening use.		O	As above.	
		Restrict activities that may result in excessive noise pollution.	Permission for activities and events is at Council's discretion, and considers the likely impact on neighbouring residents.	O	As above.	
		Manage and control noise at the source.	Noise levels for proposed special events are measured to ensure compliance with the Noise Control Act.	O	As above.	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
		Consider calendar of sportsfield use when scheduling cleaning and other maintenance to minimise the impacts of litter on local residents.		O	As above.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Community Involvement	To provide opportunities for local residents and other stakeholders to be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Forsyth Park Plan of Management.	Encourage feedback by widely publicising the draft Plan of Management.	Known stakeholders including local Precincts, users of the Community Centre and major sportsfield users receive direct notification when the draft Plan is on exhibition. Regular advertisements in the Mosman Daily inform the general community.	O	Public exhibition of the draft Plan widely publicised.	
		Ensure that both the draft and the final Plan of Management for Forsyth Park are easily accessible to the community and stakeholders.	Documents are available on Council's website and in Stanton Library. Hard copies are available from Council on request.	O	Plan of Management easily accessible.	
	To provide opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in new developments in Forsyth Park.	Consult with stakeholders prior to and during the development of new proposals for Forsyth Park and consider comments.	Consultation methods include: - posters on site - letter box drops - information sent directly to neighbouring residents and known stakeholders - information posted on Council's website - information distributed via social media - notification in local newspapers	O	Stakeholder satisfaction with the consultation process as gauged from feedback.	
		Lodge Development Applications where required for construction works and seek public comment.	Community consultation is a key part of the Development Application process.	O	DA's lodged for appropriate work.	Local Environmental Plan 2013 NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To achieve greater levels of participation in Council's existing programs.	Encourage community participation in Council's various community programs operating in Forsyth Park by publicising them.	Current programs include: - Forsyth Park Bushcare Group - Forsyth Park Community Garden - Wildlife Watch Program	O	Level of participation stable or increasing (where possible given existing resources).	
	To provide opportunities for sporting groups to liaise with Council regarding use of Forsyth Park.	Encourage stakeholders to be aware of Council's Sport and Recreation Reference Group and its agenda.	Recommendations made by the Reference Group are reported to Council and are available on Council's website.	O	Increase in awareness of activities of the Sport and Recreation Reference Group.	
		Encourage stakeholders to attend Council's seasonal (bi-annual) sportsfield hirer meetings.	Meetings are held prior to the commencement of the summer and winter playing seasons.	O	Increase in number of attendees at bi-annual hirers meetings.	
	To provide relevant and up-to-date information regarding recreation and sporting opportunities to the community in an easily accessible form.	Update the Directory of Sport and Recreation Facilities in North Sydney as needed.	The Directory is available on Council's website as well as in hard-copy form.	O	Sport and Recreation Facilities Directory updated as required.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Leases, licences and other estates in Forsyth Park	To facilitate the use of Forsyth Park for appropriate cultural and recreational activities.	Grant leases, licences and other estates to cultural and recreational organisations to use Forsyth Park as a venue for appropriate events.	Occasional or one-off use of the Park may not require a lease, licence or other estate – refer section 1.5. Proposed uses must comply with: -The requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 -The requirements of the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 -The categorisation of the land -The core objectives for land categorised as ‘park’/’sportsfield’ /’bushland’ -The zoning of the land under North Sydney LEP 2013 -The objectives of this Plan of Management -The community values and community objectives for Forsyth Park (as per this document) Refer section 1.6 for more detail.	O	Leases, licences and other estates granted for appropriate cultural and recreational uses of Forsyth Park.	Local Government Act 1993. Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013.
	To raise revenue by granting leases, licences and other estates for appropriate activities.	Use funds raised by granting leases, licences and other estates to assist with ongoing maintenance of the Park.		O	Revenue raised contributes to maintenance and upgrading of the Park.	
	To maximise use and community benefit from the public hall located at the southern end of Forsyth Park.	Lease the public hall to appropriate tenants at affordable rates.	The public hall is hired by the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre as part of its Wellness Centre Project. The current hiring agreement runs from 1 April 2014 until 31 December 2015.	O	Lease reviewed and assessed upon expiry.	Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy 2004 NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To maximise use and benefit from the Forsyth Community Centre.	Review lease in light of this objective and in light of the aims and objectives of Council's Community Centre Policy when it is due for renewal.	The current lease is for a 2-year period, commencing 1 January 2015 and expiring 31 December 2016. The lease is for the purpose of a kindergarten or pre-school, and the current lessee is the Cameragal Montessori School. The Centre is available for hire by other groups when not being used by the School.	MT	Lease reviewed and assessed.	Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy 2004 NSC.
		Consider changing the length or terms and conditions of the lease or alternative appropriate lessees if the review identifies a need.		O	New lease and/or lessee negotiated to better meet the stated objective.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Maintenance	To maintain Forsyth Park to an appropriate standard to respond to the needs and expectations of users and the general community, and commensurate with Council resources.	Regularly review maintenance schedules for all components for maintenance and amend if required.	This ensures provision of a high quality, safe and attractive recreational amenity.	O	Maintenance schedules reviewed regularly. Condition of Forsyth Park.	North Sydney Council Delivery Program.
		Carry out regular maintenance of the Park to appropriate standards.		O	Maintenance program implemented on time and to budget.	North Sydney Council Delivery Program.
		Undertake emergency repairs, removals or other additional maintenance work as required.	Council staff are pro-active; identifying problems and responding to requests from the public.	O	Expenditure/revenue ratio achieved.	
		Monitor the cost of maintenance and replacement work in order to source adequate resources to carry out the actions listed above and prevent future problems.		O	Annual cost of maintenance monitored.	
	To ensure the organised sporting facilities in Forsyth Park are managed and maintained appropriately to meet user needs.	Manage and maintain the two playing fields and the long jump pit at Forsyth Park as per Council's Sportsfields Plan of Management.		O	Playing fields and long jump pit managed as per the Sportsfields Plan of Management.	Sportsfields Plan of Management. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Administration and Management	To provide an efficient, open and responsive administration and management system with clearly defined goals and areas of responsibility.	Develop and implement efficient and effective systems designed to make the best possible use of financial, human and natural resources.		O	Cost-effectiveness of management systems.	
		Respond to public suggestions, attend to public enquiries promptly and provide accurate and useful information to the community as required.		O	Level of community satisfaction gauged from feedback.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Safety and Risk Management	To identify, measure and manage potential hazards in a timely manner to minimise Council's exposure to criticism, compensation claims and litigation.	Continue to carry out an inspection program to identify all potential hazards.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'. The regular maintenance inspections also function as risk assessment inspections.	O	Inspection program formulated and implemented.	
		Carry out maintenance and risk management as required.		O	Reduction in annual number of claims.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To minimise the incidence of vandalism in the Park.	Carry out regular patrols in Forsyth Park.	A visible Ranger presence leads to fewer incidents in the Park.	O	Decrease in annual number of incidents reported.	
		Remove all graffiti as soon as practicable.	People are less likely to deface surfaces that are undamaged.	O	Speed of repair work.	
		Repair vandalised and damaged structures as soon as practicable or remove if damaged beyond repair.		O	Speed of repair work or removal.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Monitoring of Management Systems	To review and update the Plan of Management regularly so that the values and character of Forsyth Park are preserved, maintained and enhanced.	Review Forsyth Park Plan of Management regularly.	Review implementation and performance regularly. Review and update policy and planning issues after 5 years.	O	Plan objectives achieved in the stated time frame. Relevancy of the Forsyth Park Plan of Management.	



## 5.2 INDICATIVE WORKS PROGRAM

Note: Works listed in the following table are proposed new projects only. Actions designated as ‘Ongoing’ in the Matrix section of the Plan are not listed here.

WORKS	SHORT TERM						MEDIUM TERM						LONG TERM					
	July 2015 - June 2016			July 2016 – June 2017			July 2017 – June 2018			July 2018 – June 2019			July 2019 – June 2020					
Carry out riparian stabilisation works in the vicinity of the natural creek line system in the bushland section of the Park.	██████████																	
Investigate the feasibility of removing the lower concrete stormwater pipe and returning the creek bed to a more natural state.																		██████████
Expand bushland buffer plantings around the lower edge of the Park in consultation with the Parks Manager.	██████████																	
Overhaul and service plumbing fittings in toilets/showers.	██████████			██████████			██████████			██████████			██████████					
Prepare a Bushland Walking Track Management Plan.	██████████			██████████														
Commission a Study to determine the flora and fauna composition and diversity across the North Sydney LGA.							██████████											
Develop a reserve-specific fauna recovery plan for Forsyth Park.																		██████████
Carry out continuing bird surveys in all bushland reserves in North Sydney.							██████████											

WORKS	SHORT TERM						MEDIUM TERM						LONG TERM																	
	July 2015 - June 2016						July 2016 – June 2017						July 2017 – June 2018						July 2018 – June 2019						July 2019 – June 2020					
Undertake a strategic ecological burn around the north west core of the Park. (In the part of the Park zoned E2).													■	■	■	■	■	■												
Oval no. 2 sportsfield upgrading – leveling and drainage.													■	■	■	■	■	■												
Oval no. 1 sportsfield Upgrading – leveling and drainage.																			■	■	■	■	■	■						
Sportsfield Irrigation System upgrading.													■	■	■	■	■	■												
Oval no. 1 sportsfield lighting DA prepared and lodged.	■	■																												
Sportsfield lighting installed to Oval no. 1 (if DA approved)		■	■	■	■																									
Upgrade Forsyth Park amenities block.																			■	■	■	■	■	■						
Prepare plans and lodge a DA for a new playground in Forsyth Park.	■	■	■	■	■																									
Construct new playground in Forsyth Park (if DA approved).							■	■	■	■	■																			
Review all leases in the Park when they are due for renewal in light of the aims and objectives of Council’s Community Centre Policy.													■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Review Forsyth Park Plan of Management regularly.																														●

## **6.0 Appendices and Supporting Material**

### **6.1 Appendix 1 – Zoning of Forsyth Park**

#### **Zone RE1 Public Recreation**

##### **1. Objectives of the Zone**

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents of, and visitors to, North Sydney.

##### **2. Permitted without consent**

Environmental protection works.

##### **3. Permitted with consent**

Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (outdoor); Roads; Water recreation structures.

##### **4. Prohibited**

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

#### **Zone E2 Environmental Conservation**

##### **1. Objectives of the Zone**

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.
- To protect and preserve bushland to provide representation of the natural state and to enable existing animal and plant communities to survive in the long term.
- To allow, where appropriate, for low-impact recreational opportunities, which will protect the value of bushland.

##### **2. Permitted without consent**

Environmental Conservation works

**3. Permitted with consent**

Environmental facilities; Roads

**4. Prohibited**

Business premises; Hotel or motel accommodation; Industries; Multi dwelling housing; Recreation facilities (major); Residential flat buildings; Restricted premises; Retail premises; Seniors housing; Service stations; Warehouse or distribution centres; Any other development not specified in item 2 or 3

*Source:* North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013.

## **6.2 Appendix 2 - Definitions: Organised Sport and Informal Sport & Games**

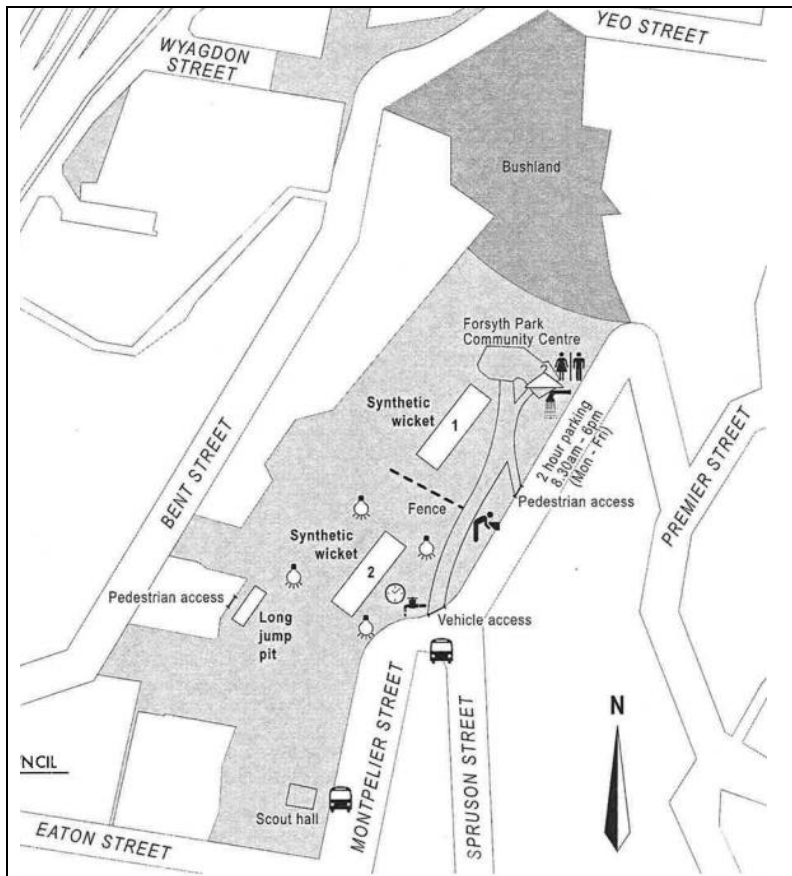
### **Organised Sport**

Organised sport describes sporting activities that are played on a permanently marked or designated playing surface provided and maintained by Council. These playing surfaces include grassed sportsfields (accommodating cricket, rugby, soccer, AFL, touch football etc), basketball, netball and tennis courts, cricket wickets and hockey fields. Fees are charged for use of all organised sporting facilities, and bookings must be made through Council's Customer Services Department.

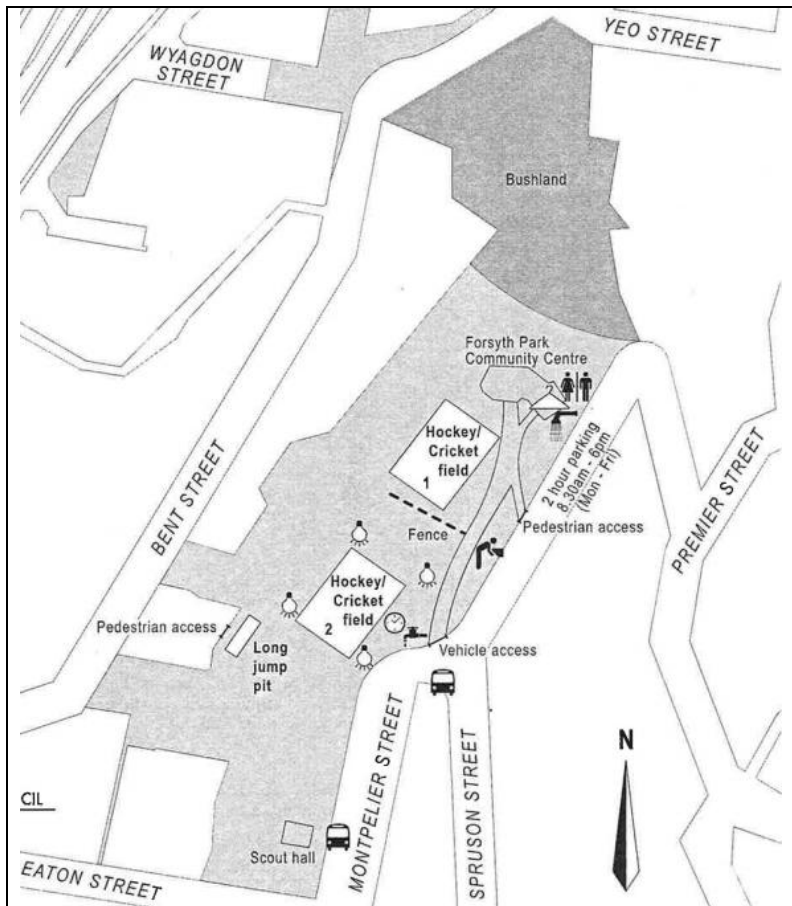
### **Informal Sport and Games**

Informal sports and games are those that do not require use of a marked or designated playing surface. They may be played within Council's parks and reserves free of charge, on a first come first served basis, as long as they comply with the requirements of the relevant Council Plan of Management, and do not significantly compromise the amenity of other park users.

6.3 Appendix 3 – Forsyth Park Sportsfields Seasonal Configurations



Forsyth Park  
**Summer Season**  
Playing Field Configuration  
& other Features



Forsyth Park  
**Winter Season**  
Playing Field Configuration  
& other Features

## 6.4 Appendix 4 – Extract from Council’s Encroachment Management Policy

### 4.5.3 Management of Encroachments on Community Land (Governed by the *Local Government Act 1993*)

#### 4.5.3.1 Lease, Licences and Other Estates

Management of Encroachments on Council-owned Community land shall be in accordance with the following principles:

- a) Development and use of Community land is subject to strict controls, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- b) Community land cannot be sold, is subject to strict restrictions to ensure its long term retention for public use, and is required to be used and managed in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.
- c) Encroachments onto Community land are not permitted unless authorised by a lease or licence in accordance with the Act, which provides that Council may only lease or licence community land where it is expressly authorised to do so under a Plan of Management, and where the purpose for which the lease or licence is issued is consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question.

Note: if the purpose of the lease or licence is not consistent with the core objectives for the area of community land in question a Plan of Management authorising it will be rendered invalid.

- d) Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Community land may be reclassified as Operational land. Reclassification can occur by amending the Local Environmental Plan, however a public hearing into the proposed reclassification must be held prior to Council making any resolution.

#### 4.5.3.2 Sale/Transfer

- a) Council has no power to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of Community land unless it is re-classified as Operational land.
- b) Council, pursuant to the Act, must first determine whether the subject land be considered for sale.
- c) If Council resolves that the land be considered for sale, and the use is not consistent with the core objectives of the land, the land must be:
  - i. re-zoned in accordance with the intended use;
  - ii. sold subject to an environmental study being undertaken;
  - iii. re-classified to operational land through a change in the LEP; and
  - iv. sold subject to a public hearing being undertaken.