

SMOOTHEY 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 Smoothey Park Plan of Management 2009.

Smoothey 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 including urban bushland, a public hall and parkland.

The Smoothey Park Plan of Management examines the broad range of issues associated with this important 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
- North Sydney 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 Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove 1999 (the new Bushland Rehabilitation Plan is due to be adopted by Council by June 2016)
- Fauna Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove 2001 (information contained in this Plan is being incorporated into the new Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove due to be adopted by Council by June 2016)

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 Smoothey Park.

Part 2 locates Smoothey 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 Smoothery 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 Smoothery Park.

1.3 Purpose of the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared to provide the managers of Smoothery 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 Smoothery 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 Smoothery 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 Smoothey 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: Smoothey Park - Site Location, Context & Zoning**, and **Appendix 1: Zoning of Smoothey Park**.

1.4 Land Categorisation and Core Objectives

Council's Smoothey Park Plan of Management 2009 categorised Smoothey Park in 2 of the designated categories. 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 bushland under section 36(4) of the Act if:

the land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation:

- *is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or*
- *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:

- *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*
- *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*
- *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 Smoothey Park.

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

- *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*
- *to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and*
- *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*
- *to restore degraded bushland, and*
- *to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and*
- *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*
- *to protect bushland as a natural stabilised of the soil surface.*

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 Smoothey Park.

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

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

Map 1 illustrates those parts of Smoothey Park that are zoned RE1 Public Recreation and categorised as ‘Park’ and those that are zoned E2 Environmental Conservation and categorised as ‘Bushland’.

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

Management of the public hall in Smoothery 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 Smoothery 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 Smoothery 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 Smoothey Park if it is:

- for a purpose specified as a core objective for ‘park’ 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:
 - the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
 - engaging in a trade or business
 - delivering a public address
 - commercial photographic sessions
 - picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
 - 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 Smoothey 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 Smoothey 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 Smoothey Park for appropriate recreational or other cultural 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 Smoothey 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 Smoothey 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.

In June 2008 the Scout Association of Australia resolved to formally surrender the lease on the public hall in Smoothery Park, as scouting activities had ceased at this location. The public hall was then leased to the Uniting Care Ageing – Northern Sydney Region, to house a ‘Men’s Shed’. The lessee undertook management of the community facility on Council’s behalf, and Council monitors the management of the facility to ensure the lessee complies with the terms and conditions of the lease.

In November 2014 Uniting Care Aging – Northern Sydney Region informed Council of their desire to assign the lease held by Uniting Care Aging on behalf of the North Sydney Men’s Shed to the Northern Sydney Mens Shed Incorporated. Council was agreeable, and this has now been done. The previous lease expired on 31/12/2015. This Plan of Management authorises the leasing of the public hall in Smoothery Park for the purposes of a Men’s Shed.

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 Smoothery 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, members of the Bushcare Group, users of the public hall 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 Smoothery 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

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.

2.0 Characteristics and Resources

2.1 Site Location and General Description

Located in Wollstonecraft, on the western edge of the North Sydney Council area, Smoothey Park is an integral part of the open space corridor that extends from Newlands Park south to the Sydney harbour foreshore. The Park is largely bushland, with some open lawn areas studded with ornamental trees. The shady, treed environment is popular with bushwalkers and joggers, while the open, manicured lawn areas are used for more passive forms of recreation such as picnicking and reading.

Smoothey Park has significant ecological value; it provides habitat for fauna and links other bushland areas. Bush regeneration work carried out under the auspices of Council's Bushcare program assist in conserving the biodiversity of the area as well as maintaining its aesthetic value.

To the east Smoothey Park is bounded by the north shore railway line, to the north east is Russell Street, to the south is Milray Avenue, and to the west are Berry's Creek and Greendale Park, located in the Lane Cove Council area. The Park occupies a total area of 1.7 hectares, most of which is remnant bushland. With the exception of residential units that overlook the Park on the eastern side of the railway line and on the southern boundary, Smoothey Park is almost entirely screened from surrounding urban development.

Berry's Creek is the area of Smoothey Park with the greatest scenic value, and the graded pathways and the overhead footbridge provide interesting and varied viewpoints over it. Built structures do not dominate the landscape in this part of Smoothey Park, and there is a sense of the Park being removed from development.

The parts of Smoothey Park zoned RE1 Public Recreation are characterised by tracts of lawn dotted with non-indigenous specimen trees and shrubs. Beside the railway line is a public hall reached either by a footpath from within the Park or by a sealed road off Russell Street. This road also provides access to the railway line and associated railway lands. The Park is a popular starting and finishing point for bushwalks, otherwise it is used predominantly as a thoroughfare, and a series of paved paths channel pedestrian movement.

Map 1 shows the location, site context and zoning of Smoothey Park.

MAP 1 - Smoothey Park - Site Location, Context & Zoning



- Smoothey Park
- E2 Environmental Conservation Zone
- RE1 Public Recreation Zone

2.2 Site History and Heritage

Smoothey Park was named after Mr S Smoothey, an Alderman of North Sydney Council from 1911 to 1920. Smoothey had a plumber's workshop on Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). Both Smoothey Park and the adjacent Gore Cove Reserve were part of the original Berry/Wollstonecraft Estate that remained undeveloped during their ownership.

Shell middens found in the Smoothey Park area indicate that Aboriginal people used the creek as a source of fresh water. Items of European heritage significance include stone rubble walling, a rock-cut chamber and various rectangular cuts in the base of Berry's Creek. The stone embankments on the creek and cove may have been a jetty from Alexander Berry's time, but are rumoured to have also been used by smugglers. They may also relate to the small coal mine that once operated here.

In 1988, members of a Redcore Employment Project constructed a walking track from Smoothey Park south to the harbour foreshore at Gore Cove. The Gore Cove Track follows Berry's Creek, the longest stretch of natural open creek-line remaining in North Sydney. The track has been upgraded several times since its construction; improved access together with interpretive signage and better directional signage allows a greater section of the community to enjoy the track.

The lighting system along the main pedestrian pathway system has also been upgraded several times in the last 10 years. Initial improvements to the Park's solar lights failed to provide the requisite level of illumination for people walking through the Park in the evenings, and in 2014 further improvements to the main electrical lighting system were undertaken to address this issue.

2.3 Physical Characteristics

2.3.1 Topography

The relatively steep terrain in the Gore Cove area was the primary reason that this area was not considered for development. Smoothey Park consists of a curving hillside that falls in an east-west direction. The ground immediately adjoining the railway line is the highest in the Park, and from here the land slopes down to Berry's Creek which feeds into Gore Cove. The creek forms the boundary between the North Sydney and Lane Cove Council areas. There have been no significant modifications to the original physical form of the Park.

2.3.2 Geology

Smoothey Park is situated within the Sydney Basin, a geological province characterised by sedimentary rocks. Triassic sediments lain down between 230 and 180 million years ago form the dominant rock type within the basin, and include (in chronological order of deposition) the Narrabeen, Hawkesbury and Wiannamatta groupings. Hawkesbury sandstone is the major rock type in Smoothey Park, and the numerous sandstone outcrops are a visually dominant and attractive feature of the Park.

2.3.3 Vegetation

Although most of Smoothey Park is zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation', the vegetation in the Park is quite diverse, consisting of a mix of indigenous native flora and introduced lawn grasses containing a mix of non-indigenous ornamental trees and indigenous trees including Blackbutts. Some weed species are also present.

Due to the variations in topography and soil type, the Park contains a wide range of native vegetation. The location of the different vegetation types generally reflects variations in the underlying soil types that are predominantly derived from sandstone and shale. There is a marked change in vegetation types from the exposed hillside which is characterised by Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), woodland/open forest and dense undergrowth, to the heavy timber along the creekline, where the rainforest margin vegetation is dominated by species such as Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), and Callicoma (*Callicoma seratifolia*). Shale lenses and areas of deeper soil support remnant Blackbutt forest (*Eucalyptus pilularis*).

The Gore Cove Track passes through several vegetation communities, providing habitat for a range of wildlife. In the northern sections of Smoothey Park remnant Turpentine trees and locally rare flannel flowers can be found along the Track. Closed rainforest runs along the creek line, with Coachwoods, Tree Ferns, Sweet Pittosporum and some weed species. Further south, near the foreshore is Sclerophyll woodland with Sydney Red Gums and Peppermints and an understorey of Grass Trees, flowering shrubs, Mat Rush and ferns. Some grey mangroves survive on the mudflats of Gore Cove, providing breeding and shelter sites for estuarine life.

Council's Natural Area Survey, undertaken by specialist consultants in 2010, found that North Sydney's bushland reserves support 12 distinct native vegetation communities. The Survey also identified two biodiversity hotspots, one of which is the Wollstonecraft reserves of Berry Island, Badangi, Gore Cove and Smoothey Park. Between them these reserves have the most native vegetation communities of any bushland area in North Sydney (10 out of the 12 identified communities).

The bushland in Smoothey Park has been impacted upon by development in nearby residential areas, the presence of the north shore railway line, stormwater received from Berry's Creek and past management practices that have excluded fire and resulted in the development of a 'mosaic' of lawn and bushland areas. Consequently the bushland areas are degraded and in some areas have been substantially modified.

Work by Council's bushland management team, Bushcare volunteers and contract bush regenerators over the past 20 years has significantly improved the quality of the bushland in Smoothey Park and reduced the 'mosaic' effect. The spread of weed species (linked to residential development around the perimeters of the Park) has been largely brought under control, and native vegetation species are being successfully re-established through the ongoing application of bush regeneration strategies such as ecological burning.

2.3.4 Fauna

Prior to European settlement, the rugged topography and dense bushland of Smoothey Park would have provided habitat for a variety of fauna. Mammal species likely to have frequented the area include wallabies, bandicoots, possums, and quolls.

A variety of lizards and snakes would have also been found, especially around the sandstone outcrops. A diversity of avifauna (birds and bats) would have existed in the tree canopies and shrub layers.

European settlement and urbanisation have resulted in the fragmentation of natural areas and most urban reserves are now too small in size to support many indigenous fauna species. The presence of cats and dogs in urban areas and the associated increase in feral populations has resulted in higher levels of predation and increased competition for resources. This has further impacted upon indigenous fauna and has led to a loss of species diversity. Tracks, scats and other traces of the Red Fox have been identified in Smoothey Park and along the Gore Cove Track. The Black Rat and House Mouse have also been seen in the Park.

Smoothey Park's diverse habitats support a range of native fauna. There are a wide range of bird species including Kingfishers, Robins, Wrens, Parrots and Rosellas. Ring-tailed Possums also inhabit the bushland as indicated by the numerous dreys found in the midstorey and canopy of native vegetation. The Eastern Rosella, Crimson Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra and Tawny Frogmouth are occasionally seen in bushland along Berry's Creek. Numerous Pied Currawongs and Noisy Miners are frequently seen throughout Smoothey Park. Sightings of three species of microbat have also been recorded in this park: Gould's Wattle Bat, the Eastern Freetail Bat and the Eastern Bent-wing Bat. Because bushland in Smoothey Park is contiguous with bushland in the adjoining Gore Cove Reserve as well as bushland in the Lane Cove Council area, the area of habitat available to fauna is far larger than exists in Smoothey Park alone.

Several fauna studies have been carried out in North Sydney in recent years. These include the North Sydney Bushland Continuing Bird Survey (2003, 2007 & 2013/14), the North Sydney Microbat Survey 2013-14 and the Natural Area Survey (2010). These studies document the species still found in the bushland and open space areas of North Sydney. They also record the disappearance of many native animals, particularly mammals, from around Sydney Harbour and the North Sydney area. The information gathered from these studies is essential to fauna management as it allows for the protection of known fauna habitat and enables Council to make better-informed resource planning decisions.

The Natural Area Survey 2010 reviewed the native vegetation, flora and fauna of the North Sydney local government area. A total of about 49ha of bushland was identified and mapped, representing less than 5% of the total land area of the LGA. The survey recorded 190 native terrestrial vertebrate species in North Sydney, including 4 frog species, 20 reptile species, 148 bird species and 18 mammal species.

Community volunteers participating in Council's 'Wildlife Watch' program provide valuable additional information by regularly reporting fauna sightings to Council's bushland management staff.

2.4 Built Form

The public hall beside the railway line is the most significant building in Smoothey Park. Built in 1966, it is a single storey brick building with a corrugated metal deck roof. Until 2008 the hall was leased to the Scouts Association; however it is now home to the North Sydney Community Men's Shed, a fully equipped workshop

where both skilled and unskilled men can come to design and construct timber products. The appearance of the hall, once a prime target for vandals due to its secluded location, has now improved due to its regular use. The Park also contains a small worker's shed that houses tools and materials used for bush regeneration activities. The shed is in relatively good condition.

The two pedestrian bridges that cross Berry's Creek and link Wollstonecraft Railway Station to the Greenwich residential area are significant features in the Park. The high level bridge in particular is well-used and a visually dominant element in the landscape. It is maintained by Lane Cove Council.

2.5 Current Activities in the Park

Smoothey Park is used primarily as a thoroughfare. The high-level pedestrian bridge crosses Berry's Creek and links the Greenwich residential area with the railway station, and a path runs from Russell Street through the Park to the railway station. The Park's open lawn areas are used for informal recreation activities such as picnicking, reading and relaxing, while the bushland section of the Park provides opportunities for more informal, nature-based recreation activities. Due to its secluded nature and the density of the bushland, Smoothey Park is generally perceived more as a pleasant area to walk through than as a place to stay. The Park's public hall is in regular use as a Men's Shed.

Its proximity to Wollstonecraft railway station makes Smoothey Park a popular starting or finishing point for a variety of walks. In addition to bushland reserves in North Sydney, the Park also adjoins several large parks and bushland reserves in the Lane Cove Council area including Newlands, Greendale and Holloway Parks. A branch of the Gore Cove Track leads up to the Vista Street Lookout which offers a spectacular view over Gore Cove, Berry Island and Sydney Harbour.

The Gore Cove Track is a moderate-grade, 45 minute bushwalk starting in Smoothey Park, running through Gore Cove Reserve and ending at Berry Island Reserve where there is a playground, an electric BBQ, an Aboriginal interpretive walk and a magnificent view of the harbour. From the railway station, the track descends into a gully in Smoothey Park, taking in the rainforest microclimate. It then follows Berry's Creek, and signs describe features of interest along the way. From Berry Island, it is a 5-10 minute walk up Shirley Road to Waverton railway station.

The paths and tracks facilitate public use and appreciation of Smoothey Park and the adjoining reserves. More information about the Gore Cove Track and other bush walking tracks in North Sydney can be found in a number of publications available on Council's website including the '*North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide*', and the '*North Sydney Circle Walk*' series of brochures and maps.

In recent years the use of North Sydney's public parks and reserves by fitness trainers has increased, reflecting a nationwide trend. Council supports people wishing to use Council's parks and reserves to maintain a healthy lifestyle, however in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct, trainers are not permitted to operate in areas zoned E2 Environmental Conservation unless on formed asphalt or concrete paths.

2.6 Current Management Programs

2.6.1 Bushcare

The North Sydney Council Bushcare program commenced in 1993; it involves community volunteers working with Council to conserve and rehabilitate publicly owned natural bushland in the North Sydney area, and aims to increase community awareness of local bushland issues.

Council's Bushcare program provides a structured and supportive framework for members of the community wanting to make a positive contribution to their local bushland. The volunteer bush regeneration program is integrated with the works of Council staff, contractors and other community groups who all contribute to the management of bushland.

Council recognises the importance of volunteers, and is committed to the long-term support of the Bushcare program. Council provides tangible resources such as plants, mulch and stonework as well as professional supervisors to support and guide volunteers on site. Council also organises training sessions and provides information designed to increase the skills of volunteers.

The Smoothey Park Bushcare Group was formed in 1994. The Group meets twice a month and undertakes bush regeneration, revegetation, bank stabilisation and erosion control, and plant identification amongst other activities. A qualified Bush Regenerator employed by Council provides the group with on-site training, technical advice, tools, and materials, and Council's Bushland Management Team supports the group by removing vegetative material, spraying weeds, and organising ecological burns to aid the regeneration of native plants.

The Smoothey Park Bushcare Group has been particularly active in the area below the public hall, in the bushland along Berry's Creek and on the land bordering the North Shore Railway line.

2.6.2 Wildlife Watch

Participants in Council's 'Wildlife Watch' program provide valuable additional information regarding sightings of wildlife in the North Sydney area. Volunteers in this program regularly send their recorded sightings of fauna to Council's bushland management staff. The Wildlife Watch program utilises the community's collective knowledge on fauna locations and records all sightings in a consistent manner. Similar programs operate in other Council areas and North Sydney's 'Wildlife Watch' program has proved to be a good starting point for a range of more detailed fauna studies. Council's Wildlife Watch reports are regularly forwarded to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

2.6.3 Native Havens

Council's Native Havens program offers assistance to residents wanting to help the environment by using local indigenous plants in their garden. Council provides 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 Smoothery Park, and the sustainability of bushland processes is strengthened.

2.6.4 Adopt-a-Plot Program

In 2006 a grant-funded program known as the ‘Adopt a Plot’ Envirofund project commenced in Cremorne Reserve. The project enabled local residents to ‘adopt’ and care for a plot of bushland near their home. Residents could choose to contribute time and/or money; to work with a qualified bush regenerator or to pay for a professional bush regenerator to work on their chosen plot. Work generally includes weed removal, terracing and planting of endemic native species. The success of the program in Cremorne Reserve led to the expansion of the concept into other bushland areas including Badangi and Gore Cove Reserves.

3.0 Planning Issues

3.1 Background

The character of Smoothey 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 Smoothey Park.

3.2 Landscape Character and Heritage

Although comprised primarily of bushland, Smoothey Park is not entirely a bushland reserve. Its modified environment blends conventional "European-style" parkland with natural bushland areas.

Near Russell Street there is a more formal park setting with benches and mown lawns scattered with exotic ornamental trees and shrubs. There is another lawn area in the south-eastern corner of the Park where the paths from Greenwich and Russell Street converge. Lawn areas bordering the pathways connecting the station with Russell Street give this area of the Park a more open character, and create areas for sitting and relaxing.

Native plantings near the eastern end of the pedestrian footbridge have been deliberately kept low so as not impede sightlines; this more open character creates a greater sense of security for pedestrians.

The character of Smoothey Park in the vicinity of the public hall is markedly different due to the presence of the railway line and the visual connection to medium density residential development on the far side of the railway line.

Vegetation is a major influence on the landscape character of Smoothey Park. The bushland vegetation in the Park is part of a much larger area of contiguous bushland, stretching from Holloway Park and Greendale Park in the Lane Cove Council area to Gore Cove, Berry Island and Badangi Reserves in the North Sydney Council area.

Berry's Creek which forms the western border of the Park is the longest stretch of natural open creek line remaining in North Sydney. Weed species are still evident along parts of this creek-line due to past soil disturbance, nutrient enriched stormwater and urban runoff. Council has been undertaken bush regeneration activities along the creek line since 1997 however recent large developments in the Crows Nest/ St Leonards area have had a clear negative impact on the quality of the water in the Creek.

Weeds from a variety of sources are an ongoing problem in Smoothey Park. Many areas of the Park are steep and rocky, making eradication difficult. Weeds growing upslope on the railway land can spread into the Park and in some instances unsuitable plant species growing in gardens adjoining the Park along Milray Avenue have caused weed infestations in the Park. Council staff, Bushcare volunteers and contract bush regenerators continue to address this problem as part of bush regeneration activities.

All new planting in Smoothey 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 parkland areas.

3.3 Structures and Park Furniture

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

The type and amount of furniture and other infrastructure in Smoothey 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.

Effective directional and interpretive signage assists user circulation and enriches the general recreational experience. While the total amount of signage in Smoothey Park should be controlled to avoid excessive visual clutter, the extensive nature of the Park has warranted the development of directional and interpretive signage to provide information for park users. Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 identifies the need to provide better walking track signage; information about distances, accessibility, gradients, facilities along the way or at the end of the track and whether the track is a round trip all helps users make informed choices.

Lighting is an important element in Smoothey Park. The pathways through the Park are well-used by commuters and other pedestrians, and the dense nature of much of the Park vegetation makes good illumination important. Lighting is currently a mix of Ausgrid lights, maintained by Energy Australia, and additional poles (with solar panels) that are owned and maintained by Council. The lighting on these Council-owned poles was upgraded in 2014. Lights operate in the Park from dusk until dawn.

3.4 Recreation and Use

In addition to its ecological and scientific functions, Smoothey Park caters for the recreation needs of people living in the North Sydney area. This Plan of Management aims to ensure that facilities provided in Smoothey Park meet community needs and expectations, that the urban bushland is managed and maintained appropriately, and that the parkland areas are visually appealing.

Pathways in Smoothey Park are used by commuters, bushwalkers, joggers, cyclists and by people walking dogs, and the Park is a starting and finishing point for a number of bushwalks including the Gore Cove Interpretive Track. Other activities include socialising, relaxing and picnicking on the level lawn areas.

The public hall is the only formal recreational facility in the Park. It is leased by Council and currently operates as a Men's Shed.

Smoothey Park is a significant recreational resource for both local and district users. Management strategies within this Plan of Management 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

No special provisions have been made for parking at Smoothey Park, and people arriving by car must park in nearby residential streets including Milray Avenue and Russell Street. The Park is located in close proximity to Wollstonecraft railway station, and Council encourages the use of public transport (and bicycles) to reduce problems associated with traffic congestion and parking and to relieve pressure on local streets.

Whilst general vehicular access to Smoothey Park is prohibited, adequate access is provided for service and emergency vehicles. The service road off Russell Street gives access to a stormwater pollution trap and to the railway land beside the public hall.

Smoothey Park has a well-established system of pedestrian pathways running through it. A well-graded pathway connects Russell Street to Wollstonecraft Railway Station, and another major pathway links the station to the Greenwich residential area via the high-level pedestrian bridge. A low-level bridge which also crosses Berry's Creek forms part of the Gore Cove walking track. In 2000 a new section of pathway was constructed to create an improved link to Russell Street for cyclists.

The internal circulation system in Smoothey Park is an important component of the overall recreational experience. The existing pathways adequately cater for the majority of pedestrian and cyclist movements, are generally in good condition and many are accessible to all (although the pathway leading down to the creek is steep and has steps). The grassed areas scattered through the Park provide staging points from which to view Smoothey Park's diverse range of vegetation. Pedestrians generally stay on the formed paths due to the dense nature of the bushland in the Park and the fact that the paths accurately reflect desire lines. As a consequence environmental damage caused by the creation of informal tracks is minimal.

A major regional bushwalking track, the Gore Cove Track, links Holloway, Smoothey and Greendale Parks with Berry Island Reserve via Gore Cove Reserve. The track provides access to remnant bushland in an area where public access is otherwise awkward.

The North Sydney Integrated Cycleway Strategy 2014 identifies the pathway from Russell Street through the Park and over high level bridge to Greenwich residential area as an 'Off-road shared path'. This route is not identified for improvement or expansion within the life of the Strategy.

3.6 Pollution

Pollution in Smoothey Park detracts from the overall recreational experience and has a negative impact on the quality of the bushland. Appropriate management strategies are needed to address all forms of pollution in the Park.

The Berry's Creek area has a number of problems. Stormwater entering the Creek from the large pipe at the northern end of Smoothey Park (adjacent to Russell Street) delivers urban runoff, waste water and pollutants from the upper catchment. Runoff from roads and other hard surfaces including driveways, roofs and paved areas also enters the Park from open pipes at the rear of residential properties. This water moves through the Park and enters Berry's Creek. The Park's stormwater pollution trap

separates solids from the rest of the stormwater entering the Creek. Its construction has reduced problems caused by the occasional dumping of rubbish in the Creek.

The issues of urban runoff, nutrient pollution and the impacts on bushland from adjacent developments are all highly relevant to Smoothey Park. North Sydney Council adopts a total catchment management approach using Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to manage stormwater. Each drainage basin and waterway is considered to be a planning unit; activities upstream impact on bushland and the harbour downstream. Urban runoff impacts bushland through erosion, nutrient pollution, altering hydrology and transportation of weed propagules into bushland. Ways of managing stormwater include armouring drainage outlets with boulders and planting native wetland plants to reduce erosion potential.

3.7 Management

The Smoothey Park Plan of Management provides guidelines for the future use, development, management and maintenance of the Park. Other relevant documents guiding the management of the parts of the Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation include Council's Bushland Plan of Management and the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/Gore Cove. All bushland in North Sydney is also managed in accordance with the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No 19.

Smoothey Park is located on the western edge of the North Sydney Council area; the adjoining bushland is managed by Lane Cove Council. The two Councils work together on relevant regional issues including feral animal management, noxious weed control and grant applications.

The need for ongoing maintenance affects not only landscape character but also 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 Smoothey Park focuses on achieving an acceptable standard of maintenance for the Park in light of its high level of use as a commuter route. 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.

Involving the community in managing Smoothey Park is an important aspect of this Plan of Management. Ways in which the community can become involved will 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 (through programs such as Bushcare, Wildlife Watch, Native Havens etc) are encouraged within the parameters of this Plan of Management.

3.7.1 Fire Management

In 2014 the Mosman/North Sydney Local Emergency Management Committee in conjunction with the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Management Committee developed the 'Bushfire Danger Period Public Access Management Plan' to provide a

consistent, structured and transparent approach to managing community use of public bushland during periods of severe fire weather. The Plan was adopted by North Sydney Council in 2014.

The Plan aims to mitigate the potential harm to life and property that is an inherent characteristic of high-visitation bushland reserves during periods of severe fire weather. It does this by coordinating the closure of high-risk bushland reserves under the control of land management agencies including Mosman Council, North Sydney Council, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust under specific threshold conditions.

For North Sydney Council, the Plan identifies four high-risk, publicly accessible bushland reserves that require a specific management response under “Severe” or greater fire danger periods:

- Balls Head Reserve (Waverton);
- Badangi Reserve (Wollstonecraft);
- Berry Island Reserve (Wollstonecraft);
- Gore Cove Reserve/ Smoothey Park (Wollstonecraft)

In summary, during ‘Severe’ fire danger periods (as declared by the Rural Fire Service), closure of Balls Head Reserve would be at the discretion of Council whilst other reserves would be monitored and remain open. Under “Extreme” fire danger conditions, Balls Head Reserve would close to public access; Berry Island Reserve would be considered for closure at Council’s discretion whilst the other two reserves would be monitored for potential fire activity. Under a “Catastrophic” fire danger declaration; Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves would be closed to public access. Badangi Reserve and Gore Cove Reserve/Smoothey Park may also be closed at the discretion of Council.

3.7.2 Wildlife Protection Areas

In 2010 North Sydney Council declared five key bushland reserves as ‘Wildlife Protection Areas’ (WPA’s) under the NSW Companion Animals Act (1998):

- Balls Head Reserve (Waverton)
- Badangi Reserve (Wollstonecraft)
- Gore Cove/ Smoothey Park (Wollstonecraft)
- Primrose Park (Cremorne) and
- Tunks Park (Cammeray)

This declaration allows Council to address the issue of cat predation of native wildlife by implementing strategic trapping programs in WPA’s. Under the legislation, cats (domestic or otherwise) are not permitted to enter conservation reserves that have been declared WPA’s.

Council has carried out education campaigns to inform properties that neighbour bushland reserves about the change in reserve status, about their legal responsibilities to ensure that pets do not enter protected bushland areas and about the detrimental

impact that unmanaged cats can have on populations of vulnerable native wildlife. A part of the staged implementation of Council's WPA program has been the installation of appropriate signage at all formal entrances to the above-listed reserves.

3.7.3 Dogs in Bushland

With numerous parks and reserves where dogs can be exercised off-leash, North Sydney is a dog-friendly area. However there are some restrictions. Under the 'Companion Animals Act 1998 (Section 14)', dogs are prohibited in the following public places:

- In or within 10m of any children's play areas;
- Food preparation and/or consumption areas (unless it is a public thoroughfare such as a road, footpath or pathway);
- Recreation areas where dogs are declared prohibited;
- Public bathing areas where dogs are declared prohibited;
- Child care centers (unless with the permission of the person controlling the center);
- School grounds (unless with the permission of the person controlling the grounds);
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited (unless secured in a vehicle, with the permission of the person controlling the place or going to or from a vet or pet shop);

North Sydney's Local Companion Animals Management Plan imposes some additional restrictions. All Council parks and public reserves are off-leash areas with the exception of:

- St Leonards Park (ovals no. 1 & 2);
- All playing fields whilst organised sporting events are in progress;
- All bushland areas;
- Cremorne Reserve, Clark Park and Ancrum Street Park.

In addition, all dogs must be on a leash at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability.

All dogs in public places must be under the control of a competent person. As per the Companion Animals Act, the maximum number of dogs that a person is permitted to handle in a public place is 4. Council is required by the State Government to enforce the laws concerning dogs, and Council Rangers may issue on-the-spot fines for infringements including those listed above.

3.7.4 Encroachments

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

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Smoothery Park is classified as 'community land'. Part of the Park is further categorised as a 'park' as:

'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 rest of the Park is categorised as 'bushland' natural area' as:

'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:

- (c) 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*
- (d) 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*
- (e) 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.*

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' and 'bushland' that are applicable to Smoothery 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 3**.

3.8 Improvement Works

Carrying out improvement works identified in previous Plans of Management for Smoothey Park has led to the improved appearance of the Park and quality of the bushland that is apparent today. The following list details some of the projects that have been undertaken in Smoothey Park since the preparation of the previous Plan of Management for the Park in 2009.

- Pedestrian Pathway Solar Lighting Upgrading in 2011
- Tree Habitating in 2015
Two large Blackbutts near the Russell St end of the main pedestrian pathway were in poor condition and leaning over the path. Rather than remove the trees (for safety) arborists dismantled the canopies and 'habitated' the tree by bore-cutting hollows and microbat cavities into the standing barrel and major limb stubs.
- Gore Cove Bushland Walking Track Improvement Works in 2011
- Ecological burn in 2014. Burn was carried out by NSW Fire & Rescue to reduce hazard and stimulate new growth from the seed bank.
- Mapping and identification of potential Local Wildlife Protection Areas in 2010
5 reserves (including Smoothey Park/Gore Cove) declared as Wildlife Protection Areas in 2010 by Council resolution. This allows Council to address the issue of cat predation of native wildlife by implementing strategic trapping programs as needed.
- Update and upgrade North Sydney walking track information in 2015
An updated version of the North Sydney Foreshore Bushwalk Guide was completed in early 2015.
- Bushland Rehabilitation (ongoing)
Continuing implementation of the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/Gore Cove over the past 6 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. Bush regeneration work is carried out by Bushcare volunteers, Council staff and contractors.
- Pedestrian Pathway Lighting Upgrading in 2014
The previous project to improve the solar lighting in Smoothey Park (2011) needed augmentation to provide better illumination of key pathways at night. This project replaced the old solar lights and supplemented the existing Ausgrid lights. The new system comprises 5 Ledeema KAGA 8W LED lights with Suntech 200W solar panels. The lights operate from dusk to dawn.
- 'Dog Walking in Bushland' brochure prepared in 2010

Brochure was prepared to educate people walking dogs about the impacts of off-leash dogs in bushland areas.

- Wildlife Watch Program (ongoing)
70 different animal species have been sighted in Smoothery Park over the past 5 years. Species recorded range from the Short-beaked Echidna, to the Australian White Ibis, the Powerful Owl, Spotted Pardalote and Eastern Whipbird.
- North Sydney Natural Area Survey in 2010
- Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Risk Management Plan in 2010
- Bushfire Hazard Reduction Program (ongoing)
A hazard reduction burn took place above the main pedestrian pathway (Wollstonecraft Station end) in 2014.
- Annual Bushcare site rehabilitation plan
- Installation of Bio-retention System in 2015
A bio-retention (stormwater treatment) system was installed at the north-eastern edge of Smoothery Park, near the low point of Russell Street. The project included constructing new kerb and gutter and dish drains in Russell Street to direct stormwater flows to the treatment swale, constructing a diversion swale with the upper length comprising sandstone flagging, constructing a bio-retention system including pipe connection to the stormwater system and planting.

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

- Identify opportunities to improve access into and through Smoothery Park and prioritise potential works in 2016/17
Work may include improving the condition of paths, make paths accessible to all, provide handrails and steps to make access easier, etc.
- Bushfire Hazard Reduction Program in 2015/16
A broad area burn is scheduled for the low side of the main pedestrian pathway (Russell Street end). A portion of this area was previously burnt in 2007.
- Carry out new access works in order of priority commencing in 2018
- Assess the existing signage in the Park in 2018/19
(Consider particularly the signage associated with the Gore Cove Track) with a view to providing more and better information for Park users.
- Assess the need for additional directional signage in 2018/19
Additional signage may be needed to assist pedestrians using Smoothery Park to reach Wollstonecraft Station and vice versa.
- Complete project to develop 'Places' App for Android Phone in 2016
This will provide interpretive information for people walking the Gore Cove Track.
- Develop an education program to address impacts of off-leash dogs in bushland in 2018/19
- Carry out continuing bird surveys in all bushland in North Sydney in 2020
- Review the lease on the Smoothery Park public hall in 2015/16
- 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 Smoothey Park

Specific work to be carried out in the bushland section of the Park includes:

- Building up the structure and diversity of the riparian corridor
- Addressing weed influxes from the rear of private properties and the creekline
- Carrying out burn preparation works and post-burn weeding of exotic species and native weed species
- Continuing to incrementally strengthen bushland edges where they adjoin zones of disturbance (eg paths, grassed areas, the public hall and the railway corridor)

Note: The completion of new Bushland Rehabilitation Plans (due to be adopted by Council by June 2016) may necessitate changes and/or additions to the above-listed works.

- Ongoing Bushcare, Wildlife Watch and Adopt-a-Plot programs
- Annual Bushcare site rehabilitation plans
- Ongoing monitoring of fauna occupation of newly created habitat hollows
- Ongoing monitoring of post burn species regeneration

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 Smoothey 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. The bushland areas have considerable environmental, scientific and educational value. Management should maximise the potential of Smoothey Park; ensure that it is adequately maintained and that pollution is controlled, that it caters for a range of activities, that conflicts are minimised, and that any future works respect the established landscape character.

The Plan of Management for Smoothey 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 Smoothey Park

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

Scientific and Environmental Values

- Smoothey Park is an important component in a significant wildlife corridor that also comprises neighbouring Gore Cove Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Holloway Park and Greendale Park.
- The Park functions as a reminder and example of the past vegetation communities of the North Sydney area and provides habitat for a range of wildlife including a breeding pair of Powerful Owls (threatened species).
- The Park contains the longest and most intact natural creekline in North Sydney
- The Park plays a role in maintaining the biodiversity of the region. It assists in conservation of species and habitat protection, and functions as a seed bank to regenerate other areas.
- The Park is a valuable educational resource.

Visual Qualities and Aesthetics

- Smoothey Park has considerable aesthetic value; the provision of green space is important in maintaining the quality of urban living.
- The bushland and other vegetation provides a contrast to surrounding urban development.
- The Berry's Creek area has particularly high scenic value.
- Parts of the Park preserve remnant bushland, precious in an urban environment.
- The track from Smoothey Park and through Gore Cove Reserve encompasses diverse vegetation types and changing landscapes.

Cultural Heritage

- Smoothey Park and the adjacent Gore Cove Reserve contain remnants of Aboriginal inhabitants including shell middens.
- Smoothey Park and Gore Cove Reserve contain items of European heritage significance including stone rubble walling and a rock-cut chamber.
- The walking track leading from the Park through Gore Cove Reserve interprets items of Aboriginal and European history, explaining their significance.

Social/Recreational

- Smoothey Park is a valuable recreation resource for the local and wider community. It accommodates activities including bushwalking, picnicking, relaxing and communing with nature.
- The bushland section of the Park provides opportunities for involving the community in its protection and management. (For example bush regeneration under the auspices of the Bushcare program).
- Paths and tracks allow people to exercise, explore and to appreciate the Park's bushland.
- Park pathways are an important element of Smoothey Park; echoing desire lines and connecting pedestrians with a public transport hub (Wollstonecraft railway station).
- The lawn areas cater for informal recreation activities.
- The Park's public hall operates as a Men's Shed.

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 areas of the Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation taking into account the following planning instruments:
 - State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19
 - Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
 - Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
 - Clean Waters Act 1970
 - Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000
 - Pesticides Act 1999
 - Pesticides Regulation 1995
- To manage the areas of Smoothey Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation as per the following Council documents:
 - Bushland Plan of Management 2014
 - Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999 (updated Plan

due to be adopted by Council by June 2016)

- To manage the public hall in accordance with Council's Community, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy 2013;
- To maintain the open character of areas of the Park zoned RE1 Public Recreation and areas adjacent to the path connecting the railway station with Russell Street;
- To upgrade existing informal recreation facilities and associated infrastructure in the Park;
- To ensure appropriate circulation routes are maintained throughout 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 all, as far as possible;
- 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 manage the land for events in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Delivery Plan;
- To minimise conflict between Park users;
- To encourage community involvement in the management and maintenance of Smoothery Park;
- To provide for public safety.

A number of objectives that relate specifically to the part of the Park zoned E2 Environmental Conservation have been developed as part of Council's Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothery Park/Gore Cove. These objectives are:

- To conserve and restore the remnant indigenous plant communities of the area;
- To rehabilitate disturbed bushland edges to reflect the floristic and structural diversity of former vegetation communities;
- To conserve locally rare flora and promote biodiversity;
- To control and reduce the spread of weeds throughout the bushland;
- To provide native habitat for the local indigenous fauna and encourage the creation of corridors to other bushland parcels;
- To protect and conserve areas of Aboriginal Heritage;
- To minimise the effects of stormwater pollution on Berry's Creek and the effects of urban runoff on the bushland parts of the Park;
- To minimise the spread of weed species from adjacent land;
- provide for residents wishing to regenerate remnant bushland in their backyards or to recreate the bushland which once existed there, and
- To provide for responsible reserve use whilst protecting remnant bushland.

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

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 ensure all new plantings are appropriate and enhance the existing landscape character of the various parts of Smoothey Park.	Select, plant and establish suitable species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers.	Consider the zoning and character of the area to be planted.	O	All new plantings are appropriate.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Exotic Vegetation in the Park	To preserve and enhance existing appropriate exotic vegetation.	Conserve, maintain and enhance areas of parkland consisting of lawns and exotic specimen trees using best horticultural techniques.	Relevant areas are those zoned 'RE1 Public Recreation'.	O	Lawn areas and exotic specimen trees maintained in good condition.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.
		Inspect all significant ornamental trees annually, and carry out maintenance work when required.		O	Regular inspections carried out. Trees maintained in optimum health.	
		Replace over-mature species and species reaching the end of their useful lives.		O	Over-mature species removed and replaced as required.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To control noxious and environmental weeds in the Park.	Implement programs of weed control and removal.	Council staff, contractors and volunteers use techniques such as spot spraying, hand pruning and cutting. Noxious weed control is co-ordinated as required with residents whose properties adjoin the Park.	O	Reduction in weed levels in the Park.	
		Implement the Noxious Weeds Act consistently and effectively.		O	Noxious Weeds Act implemented by staff and contractors.	Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
		Continue to implement the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove.	The Plan sets out priorities for control of noxious weeds in the bushland section of the Park. (A new Bushland Rehabilitation Plan is scheduled for completion by June 2016).	O	Reduction of occurrence of noxious weeds.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Coral Trees (Erythrina x sykesii)	To manage the impacts of the population of coral trees in Smoothey Park.	Continue to gradually phase out coral trees from areas of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' in conjunction with planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees.	Coral trees are an invasive species; however they are also a significant food source for indigenous fauna. Replacement of the coral trees with endemic species is being carried gradually to minimise the impact on fauna habitat and the 'green' character of the Park.	O	Minimal impacts on 'green' character of Park as trees are removed.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013. Street Tree Strategy 2006. NSC.
		Conserve specimen coral trees in lawn areas.	When the health of these trees declines, they will be removed and replaced with more appropriate specimen trees.	O	Health and vigour of specimens.	
		Prevent all coral trees in the Park from further colonisation.		O	No new coral trees in the Park.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Camphor Laurels (Cinnamomun camphora)	To remove all camphor laurels from Smoothey Park over time.	Continue to phase out all camphor laurels in the Park gradually in conjunction with the planting and establishment of more suitable replacement trees in appropriate locations.	Camphor laurels are an invasive species; they have been responsible for displacing remnant bushland. Work is being carried out gradually to minimise the impact on fauna habitat and on the 'green' character of the Park.	O	Minimal impacts on the 'green' character of Park as trees are removed.	Street Tree Strategy 2006. NSC.
		Prevent all camphor laurels in the Park from further colonisation.		O	No new camphor laurels in the Park.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Brush Boxes (Lophostomen confertus)	To manage the impacts of the population of brush boxes in Smoothey Park.	Continue to gradually phase out brush boxes from areas of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' in conjunction with the planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees.	Work should be carried out gradually to minimise the impact on fauna habitat and on the 'green' character of the Park.	O	Minimal impacts on the 'green' character of the Park as trees are removed.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013. Street Tree Strategy 2006 NSC.
		Conserve specimen brush boxes in lawn areas.	As the health of these trees decline, they will be removed and replaced with more appropriate specimen trees.	O	Removal and replacement occurs as required.	
		Prevent all brush boxes in the Park from further colonisation.		O	No new brush boxes in the Park.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Vegetation Protection	To protect existing vegetation 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 action to be taken by Council against tree vandalism on public land.	O	Tree Preservation Order enforced and appropriate action taken where 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	
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 Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove.	Bushland rehabilitation is sustainable, ecologically sound and adheres to strategic objectives. The new version of this document is due to be adopted by Council by June 2016.	O	Improvement in quality of bushland, gauged annually.	Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove 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.		
	To maintain the genetic integrity of bushland in Smoothey Park.	Conserve desirable endemic species when they occur as a result of natural regeneration.			O	Improvement in quality of bushland, gauged annually.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.
		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.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Preservation and Conservation of Heritage Items	To protect and conserve all identified heritage items in Smoothey Park.	Manage all items of heritage significance in Smoothey Park appropriately, and fulfil the requirements of the relevant Acts.	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.	O	Coordinated and effective management of heritage items.	North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013. Heritage Act, 1997. National Parks & Wildlife Act, 1974. 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, the Metropolitan and Local Aboriginal Lands Council and other relevant organisations as required.	O	All heritage items maintained in good condition.	NS Local Environmental Plan 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 Smoothey Park that meet the identified needs of users and the community.	Assess the need for new park furniture regularly.	Park furniture includes seats, picnic tables, water fountains, light, bollards etc. The Recreation Needs Study noted to need to provide seats along and at the end of tracks and trails.	O	Annual assessment undertaken.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Install new park furniture as needed.		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.	
	To provide an appropriate system of park lighting for pedestrian users of Smoothey Park.	Ensure all lights in Smoothey Park are in working order.	Council's Recreation Needs Study identified the need to provide lighting for recreational walking along key routes. Council owns and maintains the solar lights in Smoothey Park (green poles and shades). The other Park lights are owned and maintained by Energy Australia. Problems with these lights can be reported directly to Energy Australia, quoting the pole number and park name and location.	O	Council-owned and maintained lights repaired in a timely manner, as required. Problems with other park lights reported to Energy Australia.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Ensure the lighting system in Smoothery Park provides adequate illumination of major pathways for commuters and other users.	Smoothery Park is a significant route used by commuters accessing the Wollstonecraft and Greenwich residential areas. Council significantly upgraded the Park lighting system in 2014/5.	O	Feedback received from Park users.	
		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 Smoothery 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. Recreation Needs Study noted that the bulk of any structures required in parks and reserves should be minimised.	O	New developments to comply with Council's Local Environmental Plan.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013. North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Consult with and elicit comments from users of the Park and the general community prior to commencing any significant new development work.	This is in addition to consultation undertaken as part of the DA process. For example, liaise with relevant Precincts, the Smoothery Park Bushcare Group and other known stakeholders and interest groups.	O	Satisfaction of users and the general community with the consultation process.	
		Ensure the public hall is leased to an appropriate tenant to maximise community use and benefit.	The hall currently houses a Men's Shed.	O	Public hall leased to an appropriate tenant.	

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Access to Smoothey Park	To provide safe and convenient access to Smoothey Park.	Assess opportunities to improve access to Smoothey Park and to create accessible paths of travel into and through the Park.	Alleviate physical barriers into Smoothey Park, and along trail routes within the Park. For example consider pedestrian crossings, pram ramps, footpaths, ramps and steps.	ST	Opportunities to improve access to the Park identified and appropriate work scheduled.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Carry out an assessment to determine priority areas for access improvement works.		ST	Assessment carried out and priorities determined.	
		Schedule and implement identified access improvement works.		MT-LT	Work scheduled and carried out.	
	To overcome perceived problems associated with the limited car parking facilities.	Encourage visitors to use public transport to reach the Park.	The proximity of Wollstonecraft railway station makes access to the Park by public transport easy.	O	Reduction in vehicular congestion in surrounding streets.	
		Install new bicycle parking close to Wollstonecraft railway station.	Council's Integrated Cycleway Strategy recommends a secure bicycle parking cage is provided in the vicinity of Wollstonecraft railway station. (Note: 12 other locations in the Council area have also been identified and further investigations will be undertaken to develop a priority order for works, to determine costs etc).	MT-LT	Further investigations carried out, recommendations produced and implemented.	North Sydney Integrated Cycleway Strategy 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Publicise the methods of exploring Smoothery Park and the surrounding area on foot.	Information on Council's website includes - 'Walking North Sydney' (map) - 'North Sydney Circle Walks – Waverton to Wollstonecraft' (brochure and map). - North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide	O	Relevant maps and brochures publicised and readily available to the general public.	Walking North Sydney 2009 North Sydney Circle Walks: Segment 2. North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide 2015.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Vehicular Access	To control vehicular access to Smoothery Park.	Prohibit and prevent general vehicular access to the Park.		O	General vehicular access to the Park prevented.	
		Allow service and emergency vehicles to enter the Park.	Regular access is needed to reach the stormwater pollution trap and bush regeneration sites.	O	Ease of entry for service and emergency vehicles.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Circulation within the Park	To provide and maintain a useful and safe circulation system in the Park.	Carry out regular inspections of all Park pathways.	Inspections reveal that sections of the main pathway connecting Russell Street to the railway station are in poor condition.	O	Monthly inspections carried out.	
		Determine scope of works to upgrade main pathway (as above) and schedule work.		ST	Scope of required improvement works determined.	
		Carry out additional corrective pathway works if and when required to ensure all pathways are in good condition.	Any work should take optimum pathway widths into consideration.	O	Corrective works carried out in a timely manner.	
		Assess the need to provide rails on steps into and through Smoothey Park to enable additional people to use the Park.		ST	Assessment carried out.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Determine priority areas and schedule required access works.		MT-LT	Priorities determined and work scheduled.	
		Ensure gates and other barriers to vehicle access allow for pedestrians, including people in wheelchairs or pushing prams.	Due to its topography and shape, there are several minor pedestrian entrances to the Park that are not accessible to all.	O	Major Park entrances are accessible to all	
		Continue to explore opportunities to create and improve bicycle routes through Smoothey Park.	The main Park pathway from Russell Street and across the high-level bridge to Greenwich is identified as an off-road shared path in Council's Integrated Cycleway Strategy.	O		North Sydney Integrated Cycleway Strategy 2014.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Assess whether there are any paths in Smoothery Park that can be made more accessible to people with prams and using mobility devices.		ST	Assessment complete.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Determine priority paths and schedule required work.		MT-LT	Priorities determined and required work scheduled.	
	To provide adequate signage in and around the Park.	Assess the existing signage in the Park and in particular associated with the Gore Cove Track with a view to providing more and better information for Park users.	The Recreation Needs Study stresses the importance of providing people wishing to walk around North Sydney with appropriate information. For example: - length of track - estimated time to complete walk - gradient/difficulty - accessibility (for wheelchairs etc) - whether the walk is circular - connections at the end of the walk - features along the way and at the end (seats, picnic tables, views etc)	MT	Work to be undertaken as part of an overall 'Trails in North Sydney' project.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Assess the need for additional directional signage to assist pedestrians using Smoothery Park to reach Wollstonecraft Station and vice versa.		MT	Assessment complete and recommendations prepared.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Gore Cove Interpretive Walking Track	To provide walking tracks through the bushland in the North Sydney area 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 2014 NSC.
		Inspect interpretive and directional signage along the course of the track regularly to minimise the impact of graffiti and other vandalism.		O	Damaged signage repaired in good time.	
		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').	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.	

RECREATION AND USE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of the Park	To manage Smoothey Park to provide recreational opportunities for a variety of users.	Ensure all activities occurring in the Park are consistent with the Park's 'E2 Environmental Conservation' and 'RE1 Public Recreation' zoning.		O	Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.
		Ensure all activities occurring in the Park are appropriate, are consistent with the core objectives of this Plan of Management (refer section 1.4), and lie within the carrying capacity of the Park.	Suitable activities include walking, picnicking and bush walking.	O	Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park.	Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998.
		Promote the track to the community and visitors to encourage higher levels of use.	Promotional information may be downloaded from Council's website. Hard copies of brochures or maps may be obtained by from Council's Customer Service Centre. The updated North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide was completed in 2015.	O	Track promoted in Council publications.	North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide. North Sydney Circle Walks Walking North Sydney 2009.
		Use the track for Council activities.	For example guided educational walks. The interpretive signs along the track provide additional information about the history and environmental values of the Park.	O	Annual number of activities scheduled.	
		Allow dog-walking in accordance with the principles set out in Council's Dog Control Policy.	Dogs must be on a leash in areas of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation'	O	Annual number of infringements.	North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan 2004.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Patrol the Park to ensure compliance with the above action.	Council Rangers carry out patrols.	O	Regular Ranger patrols.	
		Continue to educate users in order to reduce the conflicts between dogs and other users on shared paths, and off-leash dogs in Smoothey Park.	Council has a 'Dog-Walking in Bushland' brochure.	O	Reduction in annual number of complaints regarding dogs in the Park.	North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015.
		Ensure fitness trainers using Smoothey Park operate in accordance with Council's Fitness Code of Conduct.	All reserve users must respect and be considerate of other legitimate Park users and neighbouring residents. Fitness trainers are only allowed on paved paths in areas zoned E2 Environmental Conservation.	O	All fitness trainers using Council parks and reserves have signed the Fitness Code of Conduct.	Fitness Code of Conduct NSC. NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Smoothey Park Bushcare Group	To support the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group.	Provide assistance to the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group: - Supervision - Advice and materials - Promotion - Financial support - Other support as needed.	The Smoothey Park Bushcare Group meets twice-monthly to undertake bush regeneration activities under the guidance of 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 Smoothey 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.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.
		Impose conditions as required to minimise the impact of commercial filming activities in the bushland section of the Park.	Negative issues and impacts can generally be addressed when Council officers work with applicants to select appropriate locations and impose conditions of use.	O	Conditions imposed on applications to film as required.	
		Prevent inappropriate activities from occurring in the bushland section of Smoothey Park.	These include bouldering, orienteering and mountain biking. 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.	

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 Smoothey 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 2014 NSC.
	To minimise the negative impacts of adjacent and nearby 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 2014 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 Smoothey Park.	Implement works and actions listed in Council's new Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove following the Plan's completion by June 2016.	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 Plan for Smoothey Park/ Gore Cove.
		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 Smoothey 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.	
	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.	Council implements burns 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.
		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.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To control and manage feral and domestic animals in the bushland section of Smoothery Park.	Increase public awareness on responsibilities of companion animal ownership relating to bushland areas and WPA's.	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.	NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.
		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 (zoned E2 Environmental Conservation) 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.
		Carry out strategic trapping programs if required, to address the issue of cat predation of native wildlife.	In 2010 Gore Cove/Smoothery Park was declared a Wildlife Protection Area. Under the legislation, cats are not permitted to enter WPA's.	O	Decrease in evidence of cat predation in the Park.	NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.

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 Smoothey Park Plan of Management.	Encourage feedback by widely publicising the draft Plan of Management.	Known stakeholders including local Precincts, the Smoothey Park Bushcare group and the Men's Shed receive direct notification when the draft Plan when it 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 Smoothey 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 Smoothey Park.	Consult with stakeholders prior to and during the development of new proposals for Smoothey Park and consider comments.	New work must be consistent with the values and objectives of this Plan. Consultation methods include: - posters on site - letter box drops - information sent directly to neighbouring residents and known stakeholders - information posted on Council's website - 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.	NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To achieve greater levels of participation in Council's existing environmental programs.	Encourage community participation in Council's various community programs operating in Smoothey Park by publicising them.	Current programs include: - Smoothey Park Bushcare Group - Wildlife Watch Program - Adopt-a-Plot Program - Native Havens Program	O	Level of participation stable or increasing (where possible given existing resources).	
	To raise community awareness on the benefits of bushland, and on activities detrimental to the conservation of bushland in Smoothey Park.	Provide advice and information kits to people living close to the Park.	North Sydney Council's Native Havens Program offers free assistance to residents who wish to help the environment by using local indigenous plants in their garden. Nest-boxes are also available from Council to provide additional habitat.	O	Annual number of people participating in the Native Havens program, and purchasing nest-boxes.	
		Provide information to the public regarding Council's bushland management program.	Methods of providing information include: Precinct system, Bushcare Newsletter, media etc.	O	Opportunities to provide information acted upon.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Leases, licences and other estates in Smoothey Park	To facilitate the use of Smoothey Park for appropriate cultural and recreational activities.	Grant leases, licences and other estates to cultural and recreational organisations to use Smoothey Park as a venue for appropriate events.	Occasional or one-off use of the Park may not require a lease, licence or other estate – sect. 1.5. Proposed uses must comply with: - Requirements of the LGA 1993 - The requirements of the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 - The categorisation of the land - The core objectives for land categorised as ‘park’/‘bushland’ - The zoning of the land - The objectives of this Plan of Management - The community values and objectives for the Park –sect. 4.2.	O	Leases, licences and other estates granted for appropriate cultural and recreational uses of Smoothey Park.	Local Government Act 1993. Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.
	To maximise use and community benefit from the public hall in Smoothey Park.	Lease the public hall to appropriate tenants at affordable rates.	The public hall is currently leased to Northern Sydney Mens Shed Inc for the purposes of a Men’s Shed.	O	Lease granted to a tenant who makes good use of the facility and provides public benefit.	Local Government Act 1993. Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy 2004 NSC.
	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 of the Park.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Maintenance	To maintain Smoothey Park to an appropriate standard to respond to the needs and expectations of users and the general community, and commensurate with Council resources.	Carry out regular maintenance of the Park to appropriate standards.	This ensures provision of a high quality, safe and attractive recreational amenity.	O	Maintenance schedules reviewed regularly. Condition of Smoothey Park. Community satisfaction gauged from feedback.	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 all bushland in the Park is managed and maintained appropriately.	Manage and maintain areas of the Park zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' as per Council's Bushland Plan of Management.	Bushland biodiversity is rehabilitated through the application of ecologically sustainable methodologies commensurate with current best practice in bushland management.	O	Bushland areas managed and maintained as per Bushland Plan of Management.	Bushland Plan of Management 2014 NSC. NS Local Environmental Plan 2013.

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 Smoothey 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.	
		Consider visibility when siting new park furniture and plantings.	Consider views in and out, and personal safety.	O	Visibility assessed and concealed sites avoided.	

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 Smoothey Park are preserved, maintained and enhanced.	Review Smoothey 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 Smoothey Park Plan of Management.	

5.2 Implementing the Indicative Works Program

Council's Plans of Management identify clear objectives and directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. They inform the community about upcoming projects and works; not only clarifying what will be happening, but explaining why, and assigning priorities.

However Plans of Management also have the flexibility to respond to new opportunities as well as to changed circumstances and community needs. While significant shifts in policy or planning issues during the life of a Plan of Management (approximately 5 years) are extremely unlikely, it is possible that individual works and projects or the order in which works are undertaken may vary.

5.2.1 New Opportunities

Implementing many of Council's 'visionary' objectives and goals (contained in policy documents such as the Delivery Program and the Open Space Provision Strategy) requires Council to react to plans proposed by other organisations or individuals.

For example, Council has a long-term vision to achieve continuous public access along the foreshore. Opportunistic acquisition of a link or open space as a result of redevelopment of a foreshore site is one of the most realistic ways of working towards this goal. When such an opportunity arises, swift Council action is needed.

Although the work to acquire the foreshore land and to develop it for public use and access may not be directly identified as an action in the relevant Plan of Management (in this case the Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management), it is consistent with the core values and the stated management objectives expressed in that document, and is therefore appropriate. The fact that the objective of continuous foreshore access is also referenced in the relevant high-level policy documents (Delivery Program and Open Space Provision Strategy) further justifies taking quick action.

5.2.2 Changed Circumstances and Community Needs

It is important to recognise that the process of reviewing and revising Council's set of 12 Plans of Management is cyclical, and that other significant studies completed 'between Plans' may identify actions and works that can appropriately 'leap frog' over and ahead of existing Plan of Management actions. This is particularly appropriate when the study in question has been prepared with a very high level of community engagement and involvement.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 (RNS) is an example of such a Study. Generally, actions identified in the Recreation Needs Study are inserted into the relevant Plans of Management when those Plans are reviewed. However because Plans of Management are reviewed only every 5 years, it may be appropriate to undertake some works identified in the RNS as of the highest priority before the next review takes place. Again, as long as the 'fast-tracked' action is consistent with the core values and stated management objectives expressed in the relevant Plan of Management, it is justified and appropriate.

Council's upcoming Bushland Rehabilitation Plans, due to be adopted by June 2016, are other examples of documents which may identify high priority works.

5.3 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							
	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016			Jan 2017 – Dec 2017			Jan 2018 – Dec 2018			Jan 2019 – Dec 2019			Jan 2020 – Dec 2020							
Assess opportunities to improve access to Smoothey Park and to create accessible paths of travel into the Park.																				
Assess the need to provide rails on steps into the Park to enable additional people to use the Park.																				
Assess whether there are any paths in Smoothey Park that can be made more accessible to people with prams and using mobility devices.																				
Determine priority areas for access improvement works.																				
Implement identified access improvement works in order of priority.																				
Install new bicycle parking close to Wollstonecraft railway station.																				
Determine scope of works required to upgrade main pathway (as above) and schedule work.																				
Carry out work to upgrade main pathway.																				
Continue to explore opportunities to create better bicycle routes through the Park.																				

WORKS	SHORT TERM								MEDIUM TERM								LONG TERM			
	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016				Jan 2017 – Dec 2017				Jan 2018 – Dec 2018				Jan 2019 – Dec 2019				Jan 2020 – Dec 2020			
Assess the existing signage in the Park and in particular associated with the Gore Cove Track with a view to providing more and better information for Park users.																				
Assess the need for additional directional signage to assist pedestrians using Smoothey Park to reach Wollstonecraft Station and vice versa.																				
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.																				
Carry out continuing bird surveys in all bushland reserves in North Sydney.																				
Review the lease on the public hall when it is due for renewal, in light of the aims and objectives of Council's Community Centre Policy.																				
Review Smoothey Park Plan of Management regularly.																				●

6.0 Appendices and Supporting Material

6.1 Appendix 1 – Zoning of Smoothery 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 – 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.

6.4 Appendix 4 – NS Council’s Outdoor Fitness Training Code of Conduct

Introduction

The purpose of the North Sydney Council Outdoor Fitness Training Code of Conduct is:

- To eliminate negative behaviour that interferes with the amenity of local residents and other park users.
- To ensure access to and use of public open space is preserved for all members of the community.
- To protect the public open space and public domain for future community use.
- To provide the opportunity for the community to benefit from, enjoy and engage in fitness training in a variety of outdoor environments.

The Code

1. Training Times

Organised outdoor fitness training is only to occur between the hours of 6am and 9pm.

2. Group size

Total size of group (including trainers), is not to be larger than 10 people.

3. Activities or Groups that are not required to comply with this Code of Conduct include:

- Walking groups
- Activities of local schools under the supervision of a teacher.
- Hirers that have a booking with North Sydney Council and comply with the Terms and Conditions of Use.

4. “No Go” Zones

The following areas are **not** to be utilised for outdoor fitness training.

- Areas of high pedestrian activity, e.g. shopping strips, footpaths etc;
- Facilities and areas booked by Council and other user groups for programs and events, e.g. youth programs, corporate events and birthday parties;
- Within marked designated sports fields on sportsfields (unless conducted with an approved booking). Sports fields are defined by North Sydney Council as: “The actual marked or designated playing surface used for playing organised sport. While most playing surfaces in North Sydney are turf, other surfaces can include asphalt, acrylic/hard court and synthetic grass.” (See map of sportsfields in North Sydney);
- Areas where training activities have a negative impact on neighbouring properties and other park users, e.g. intrusive noise, aggressive language etc;
- Within 50m of residential properties before 7am;
- Within 20m of War Memorials, monuments and cemeteries;
- Within 10m of children’s playgrounds;
- Within areas zoned as ‘Bushland’ unless on formed asphalt or concrete footpaths; (see map of bushland in North Sydney)
- Areas closed for renovation or upgrading;
- Park structures and furniture (e.g. buildings, shelters, fountains, walls, seats, picnic tables, signs, bubblers etc), trees, plants and garden beds etc. must not be used for training.

5. “No Go” Activities

The following activities are not to be conducted by personal trainers.

- Amplified music or amplified audio (voice) equipment, whistles and loud shouting or other intrusive noise-generating activities;
- Aggressive, intimidating or noisy training activities including military style squad training;
- Activities necessitating the use of large sized specialist resistance and load bearing training equipment such as bars or benches, logs, tyres, heavy ropes or other large pieces of equipment;
- The soliciting of funds, sale of merchandise, advertising of goods or services (including use of banners, A-frame signs etc), or distribution of printed materials;
- Use of objects that mark out an area to imply exclusive use.

Fees and Charges

At the present time North Sydney Council is not planning to charge Personal Trainers an administration fee for the use of public open space.

However all personal trainers wishing to conduct outdoor fitness training in the North Sydney Local Government Area are expected to comply with this Code of Conduct.

Compliance with the Code of Conduct

Personal trainers are asked to complete the attached declaration and comply with the Code of Conduct at all times. Signing the declaration signifies a personal trainer’s intent to comply with the Code of Conduct

All trainers are required to comply with reasonable directions of Council Ranger(s) or other Council Staff in relation to any actual or potential activities undertaken in line with the Code of Conduct.

Personal Trainers will be issued with an item to identify themselves as having signed up to Council’s Code of Conduct. The item is to be on display during any fitness activity conducted on public open space in North Sydney.

It should be noted that committing to the Code and displaying the identifying item does not imply that Council endorses or is liable for, any damage or loss the Trainer may suffer by act, default or neglect of any other person. Nor does it imply that Council has made any assessment of that Trainer’s suitability to supply the training service.

Non- compliance with the Code of Conduct

Personal Trainers not compliant will be moved on by Council’s Rangers. Continued non-compliance may result in a request to permanently cease the conduct of fitness activities on public open space in North Sydney.

6.5 Appendix 5 – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove Reserve – Species List

Smoothey Park/ Gore Core Reserve - Species List



Common name	Conservation Status	Last date observed	Occurrence	Habitat
Amphibians				
Common Eastern Froglet	Locally common	2010	yb	v
Striped Marsh Frog	Locally common	2009	yb	wu
Reptiles				
Eastern Water Dragon	Locally significant	2010	yb	w
Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko	Locally common	2009	yb	ehu
Fence Skink	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Striped Skink	Locally significant	1998	yb	eh
Eastern Water Skink	Locally significant	2009	yb	w
Delicate Garden Skink	Locally common	2010	yb	ehu
Common Garden Skink	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Eastern Blue-tongued Skink	Locally significant	2009	yb	eh
Eastern Long-necked Turtle	Locally significant	2008	yb	w
Birds				
Australian Brush-turkey	Regionally threatened	2009	yb	re
Chestnut Teal	Locally significant	2007	yb	w
Pacific Black Duck	Locally significant	2009	yb	w
Crested Pigeon	Locally common	2010	yb	gu
Tawny Frogmouth	Locally common	2009	yb	eu
Little Penguin	Regionally threatened	2008	wn	mwc
Australasian Darter	Locally significant	2008	yn	w
Little Pied Cormorant	Locally significant	2010	yn	wc
Great Cormorant	Locally significant	2009	yn	wc
Little Black Cormorant	Locally significant	2010	yn	wc
Pied Cormorant	Locally significant	2010	yn	wc
Australian Pelican	Locally significant	2010	in	w
White-necked Heron	Regionally threatened	2009	rn	w
Striated Heron	Locally significant	2010	yb	w
White-faced Heron	Locally significant	2010	yb	wc
Black Bittern	Threatened in NSW	2005	rn	w
Australian White Ibis	Locally common	2010	yn	gwu
Brown Goshawk	Locally significant	2010	in	e
Pacific Baza	Locally common	2008	rn	e
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Migratory species	2008	in	wc
Masked Lapwing	Locally common	2010	yb	gwu
Common Sandpiper	Migratory species	2006	sn	w
Silver Gull	Locally common	2010	yn	wcu
Crested Tern	Locally significant	2010	in	wc
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Locally common	2010	yb	egu
Little Corella	Locally common	2008	yb	gu
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Locally significant	2009	wn	eh
Galah	Locally common	2010	yb	gu
Australian King-Parrot	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Musk Lorikeet	Locally significant	2007	in	e
Crimson Rosella	Locally common	2009	yb	ehu
Eastern Rosella	Locally common	2010	yb	egu
Red-rumped Parrot	Regionally threatened	2002	rn	eg
Rainbow Lorikeet	Locally common	2010	yb	ehu
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Locally common	2005	rn	e
Eastern Koel	Locally common	2009	sb	eu
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Locally common	2009	sb	eu
Southern Boobook	Locally significant	2009	yb	e
Powerful Owl	Threatened in NSW	2010	yb	e
Azure Kingfisher	Locally common	2002	rn	w
Laughing Kookaburra	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Sacred Kingfisher	Locally significant	2010	sb	ew

Common name	Conservation Status	Last date observed	Occurrence	Habitat
Birds				
Dollarbird	Locally significant	2007	sb	a
Satin Bowerbird	Locally significant	2008	in	e
Superb Fairy-wren	Locally significant	2010	yb	v
Yellow Thornbill	Locally common	2005	rn	eh
Brown Thornbill	Locally significant	2010	yb	eh
White-throated Gerygone	Regionally threatened	1994	sn	e
White-browed Scrubwren	Locally significant	2010	yb	eh
Weebill	Regionally threatened	2002	rn	e
Spotted Pardalote	Locally significant	2010	yb	e
Eastern Spinebill	Locally significant	2008	yb	eh
Red Wattlebird	Locally common	2010	yb	ehu
Little Wattlebird	Locally significant	2009	in	eh
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Locally significant	2007	wn	eh
Noisy Miner	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
New Holland Honeyeater	Locally common	2002	rn	eh
Eastern Whipbird	Locally significant	2010	yb	eh
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Locally common	2010	yb	egu
Golden Whistler	Locally significant	2003	wn	re
Rufous Whistler	Locally common	2008	rn	e
Olive-backed Oriole	Locally common	2002	rn	e
Australian Magpie	Locally common	2010	yb	gu
Grey Butcherbird	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Pied Currawong	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Spangled Drongo	Locally significant	2009	wn	re
Grey Fantail	Locally significant	2003	in	e
Willie Wagtail	Locally common	2010	yb	gu
Rufous Fantail	Migratory species	2009	sn	re
Australian Raven	Locally common	2010	yb	v
Magpie-lark	Locally common	2010	yb	gwu
Black-faced Monarch	Migratory species	2006	sn	re
Eastern Yellow Robin	Locally significant	2010	yb	e
Rose Robin	Locally significant	2003	wn	re
Silvereye	Locally common	2010	yb	ehu
Welcome Swallow	Locally common	2010	yb	au
Fairy Martin	Regionally threatened	2007	rn	a
Tree Martin	Locally significant	2009	sn	a
Mammals				
Brown Antechinus	Locally significant	2006	yb	eh
Common Brushtail Possum	Locally common	2010	yb	eu
Common Ringtail Possum	Locally common	2010	yb	ehu
Grey-headed Flying-fox	Nationally threatened species	2010	yn	eu
Gould's Wattle Bat	Locally common	2005	yb	eu

Occurrence:

y = likely to be present all year, s = spring-summer visitor, w = autumn-winter visitor,

i = irregular visitor, r = rare visitor

b = known or likely to breed in North Sydney, e = escapee from captivity,

n = unlikely to breed now in North Sydney, () = former occurrence of species not recorded for many years

Habitat: r = rainforest, e = eucalypt forest/woodland, h = heath/scrub, g = grassland/open vegetation,

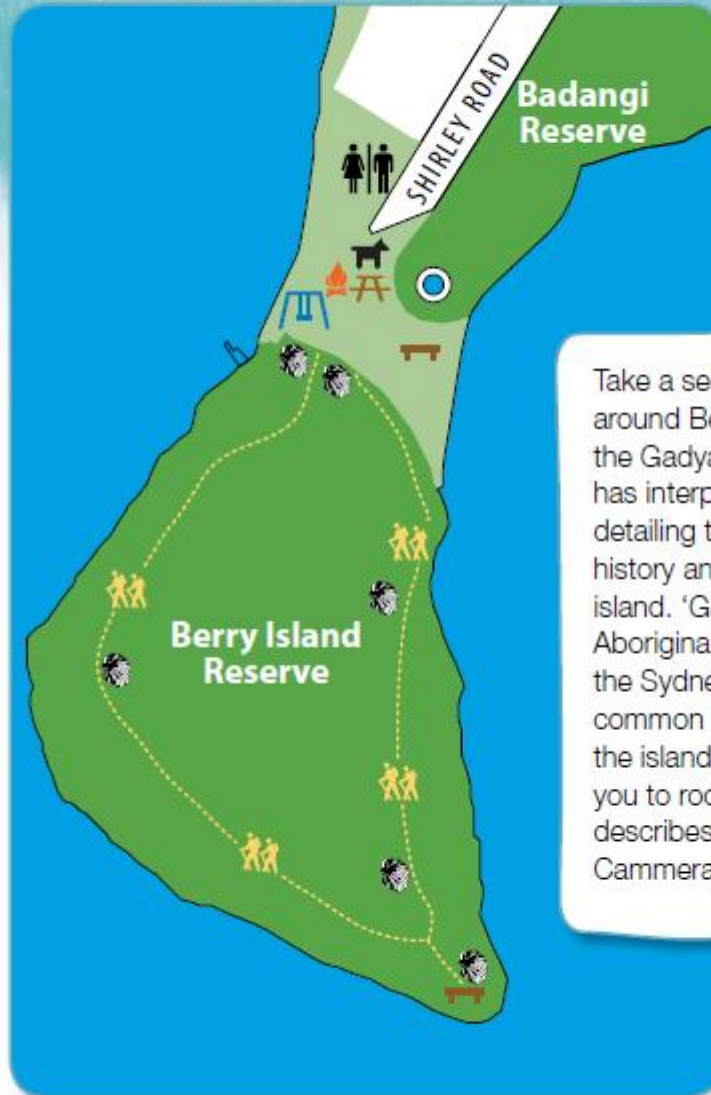
u = urban, w = wetlands/estuaries/watercourses, c = coast, m = marine, a = aerial, v = various



6.6 Appendix 6 – ‘North Sydney Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide’ Extracts



Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft - the Gadyan Track



Take a self-guided walk around Berry Island on the Gadyan Track, which has interpretive signage detailing the rich Aboriginal history and heritage of the island. 'Gadyan' is a Sydney Aboriginal language word for the Sydney cockle, a shellfish common in the middens on the island. The signage takes you to rock engravings and describes the lifestyle of the Cammeraygal people.

LEGEND	Parkland	Bush track	Toilets	Trackhead signs
	Bushland	Dog bin	Playground	Water bubbler
	BBQ	Picnic table and seating		