

OATLEY PARK

Plan of Management



Hurstville City Council

This Plan of Management was adopted by Council on 24 November 2004.

Oatley Park Plan of Management

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management provides a clear set of guidelines for the short and long term management of a parcel or groups of parcels of community land owned or managed by Council. A Plan of Management identifies and clarifies Council's goals and objectives and establishes the overall direction for planning, resource management and maintenance of the land. The Plan of Management also allows Council to set priorities when preparing Works Programs and related budgets.

As a minimum requirement, the Plan must:

- categorise the land in accordance with the legislation
- contain objectives and performance targets for the management of the land
- specify the means by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets, and
- specify how achievement of the objectives and performance targets is to be assessed.

In addition, for specific plans such as this one, the plan must also:

- describe the condition of the land as at the adoption of the plan
- describe any buildings on the land as at adoption
- describe the use of the buildings and the land, and
- state the purposes for which the land will be allowed to be used, and the scale and intensity of that use.

1.1.2 About this Plan

All of Council's parks and reserves have been addressed within one of the four generic Plans of Management (Parks, Sportsgrounds, Natural Areas or General Community Use). There are however several sites that have assets or facilities that cross two or more of the above categories, and in addition are likely to have other issues specific to that site.

Oatley Park is one such park that is not only suitable for, but demands a specific Plan of Management due to its size, its importance to the community, and the multi-purpose nature of its usage. Numerous competing uses and important maintenance issues have developed within the park that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

By completing a specific Plan of Management for Oatley Park, Hurstville Council, with the assistance and guidance of the community, will be able to address these specific issues, implement a customised action plan, and prepare for the long term care and management of this important community asset.

1.2 Land Classification

All public land must be classified as either community land or operational land. Community land is any land that is retained by Council for use by the general public. The Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 require Councils to have Plans of Management for all community land controlled by Council.

Community land must also be categorised according to its function. Three separate zones have been identified within Oatley Park, and an appropriate category is applied to each zone to reflect its function and use. The majority of Oatley Park is classified as Natural Area (Bushland), and there are distinct Park zones and a Sportsground zone.

The Act subsequently identifies core objectives for the management of each category of community land. Each of the zones and relevant core objectives are described below.

Park Zone

The Park zoning is allocated to the Steamroller Park, the Castle and Baths, as well as the picnic areas between the two. It also includes the formalised garden beds at the entrance gates off Oatley Park Avenue and the sealed road network.

The core objectives for management of community land classified as a Park are:

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

Sportsground Zone

The Sportsground zone incorporates the sporting oval near the Oatley Park Avenue entrance, and the amenities and infrastructure contained therein.

Core objectives for a Sportsground:

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

Bushland Zone

Under Section 36(5) of the Act, Natural Areas are required to be further categorised as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore. The Natural Area zone of Oatley Park is classified as Bushland as it is

predominantly covered with remnant indigenous vegetation. This Bushland zoning includes all the land not zoned as Park or Sportsground, and specifically incorporates all of the remnant bushland, walking tracks, fire trails and lookouts. It also includes some car parking areas, and small barbeque areas contained therein.

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

- a. to ensure the ongoing viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- b. to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- c. to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- d. to restore degraded bushland, and
- e. to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- f. to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- g. to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

These objectives have been considered during the preparation of this Plan and in particular the development of the Plan objectives (Section 3).

1.3 SEPP No. 19 - Bushland In Urban Areas

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

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

The aims and objectives of SEPP 19 are detailed below:

The general aim of this Policy is to protect and preserve bushland within the urban areas referred to in Schedule 1 because of:

- a. its value to the community as part of the natural heritage;
- b. its aesthetic value; and
- c. its value as a recreational, educational and scientific resource.

The specific aims of this Policy are;

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

1.4 Council's Management Goals

In 2001 Council undertook a broad long-term strategic planning process, called the Hurstville Horizons, to develop and build upon an agreed community vision for Hurstville. The vision was developed by the community and was endorsed by Council in 2002. It is:

Hurstville: A friendly, diverse and sustainable city built on an all embracing community spirit, where we live, learn, work and play.

Seven Horizon Programs were subsequently developed. The Horizons identify the issues Council will address and specify how Council will respond to those issues. Each Horizon has a specific goal and collectively these have been adopted to inform Council's direction for the future.

Horizon Goals

- A safe and healthy Hurstville for all sectors of the community
- A diverse and harmonious City with a strong sense of community, providing a range of social, cultural, education and leisure opportunities
- A sustainable city that protects and enhances the natural environment for present and future generations

- A built environment that reflects the character of Hurstville
- An accessible city with sustainable transport networks and well maintained infrastructure that meets community expectations
- To support the development of the Hurstville CBD as a regional centre, and the other commercial and employment centres as a vibrant mix of retail and business activities, to ensure the sustainable growth of employment and business opportunities
- A highly effective and efficient organisation providing responsive and relevant services

Strategic directions have been identified within the seven horizons. They refer specifically to the whole of Hurstville City, but many of them, as follows, can equally be seen as desirable directions for the management of Oatley Park.

- Promote a safe and healthy environment that enhances the community's well being, sense of safety and enjoyment of their environment
- Minimise public health risks
- Minimise public safety risks
- Encourage improved road and safety awareness
- Provision of spaces and places for people to participate and express their culture
- Preserve and value the past
- Council's programs and services support the social and physical well being of individuals and communities
- Accessibility for all
- Ensure the protection of the bushland, foreshore areas and native plants and wildlife
- Promote and increase community participation and the level of environmental responsibility by businesses, schools, households and community organisations in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment
- Provide a coherent vision for the future of the natural environment through the preparation and implementation of outcome-based and site specific planning controls
- Council's walkways and footpaths present minimal safety risk to the community
- Facilitate effective communication and community participation that encourages active involvement and engagement in governance, planning and decision making processes
- Through community involvement and development, facilitate programs that are responsive to the needs of all members of the community
- The organisation minimises risk and can respond to and recover from natural disasters and major incidents

1.5 Public Consultation Process

Consultation with the community is an important part of the preparation of this Plan of Management. It gives Council a better understanding of the range of

local issues affecting the use and enjoyment of the Park, and gives all sectors of the community the chance to have an input into the planning process. The direction of policy development is often guided in large part by the views expressed by the public.

In preparation for the Oatley Park plan, a variety of methods were employed to seek input from the community. Initially, written submissions were requested from surrounding residents and from all of the known sporting and community user groups. The wider community was encouraged to send in submissions via an article in the Council Comment, a brochure distributed monthly to all households in Hurstville.

The responses received were generally highly articulate and passionate, and covered more than the range of issues suggested by Council to be of importance, showing that there is a widespread interest in the management and future use of the Park.

Following the collation of the written submissions and with the high level of media exposure and public interest in the mobile phone tower and mountain bike issues, it became necessary to seek more detailed information about what were perceived as the key issues for the Park and the range of possible planning responses to those issues.

An independent consultancy was subsequently engaged to assist with this process. The consultant's tasks included conducting interviews and focus group workshops with key stakeholders, assembling relevant demographic information, and collecting and collating all submissions with subsequent recommendations into a final report. A copy of the consultation report is included as Appendix 5.

All stakeholders are given the opportunity to express their opinions, provide relevant information or suggest valid alternatives to any of the strategies presented here. Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time. At the time of review of the Plan new issues can be incorporated and existing actions amended.

To make your submission as effective as possible, please ensure the following requirements are met.

1. List all points you wish to raise, referencing the appropriate section and page number.
2. Provide a brief description of each issue or subject.
3. State which strategies you agree or disagree with, providing reasons.
4. Suggest alternatives to any issues, where appropriate.

Submissions may be made in writing by letter, e-mail or fax.

Please address your submission to:

The General Manager
Hurstville City Council

P.O. Box 205
HURSTVILLE NSW 1481
Facsimile Number: 02 9330 6223
E-mail: hccmail@hurstville.nsw.gov.au

1.6 Leases, Licences and other Estates

Leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs and schools, or by commercial organisations and individuals providing facilities or services for public use. Activities should be compatible with any zoning or reservation, provide benefits, services or facilities for users of the land, and be authorised under the plan of management. The terms and conditions of any authorisation should ensure proper management and maintenance of the area or facility, and that the interests of the Council and the public are protected.

A lease is normally required where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a party is proposed. A licence may be granted where intermittent or short-term occupation of an area is proposed. The term “estate” is wide and includes many rights over land that can be granted. An estate is defined as an “interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance, whether at law or in equity.”

General Conditions

There are restrictions on the ability of Council to grant leases, licences and other estates over community land.

Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate if:

- the plan of management expressly authorises the lease, and
- the purpose of the lease is consistent with the core objectives for the category of land (refer Section 1.2), and
- the lease is for a permitted purpose listed in the Local Government Act 1993.

Permitted purposes (as applicable to Oatley Park) are:

- activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the community in relation to a number of wide public purposes, including public recreation and physical and cultural development; and
- for short-term, casual purposes, including:
 - the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward,
 - engaging in trade or business,
 - the playing of a lawful game or sport,
 - delivering a public address,
 - commercial photographic sessions,
 - filming, and
 - picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings.

The use or occupation of Oatley Park for any of the above short-term casual purposes is prescribed only if the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.

Leases, licences and other estates for periods of 5 years or less

To grant a lease, licence or other estate for a period not exceeding 5 years, Council must follow the prescribed regulations by:

- giving public notice of the proposal,
- placing a notice of the proposal on the land,
- notifying owners or occupiers adjoining the land, and
- notifying persons living in the vicinity of the land if Council believes that the land is the primary focus of the person's enjoyment of community land.

A public 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 (if known), and
- a statement that submissions in writing may be made to Council concerning the proposal within a period, not less than 28 days, specified in the notice.

Exemptions for some purposes of use or occupation are allowed under the Act, however only if:

- the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature
- in the case of any use or occupation that occurs only once, it does not continue for more than 3 consecutive days, and
- 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 use is completed within a 12 month period.

The Local Government Act permits the issue of leases for periods of more than 5 years and no more than 21 years, however such leases are not authorised by Council under this plan of management.

2.0 Site Analysis

2.1 Location and General Description

Oatley Park is located in the southern Sydney suburb of Oatley, adjoining the Georges River. Situated on a peninsula, three of the Park's boundaries are defined by water. Its northern and western boundaries are marked by Lime Kiln Bay, whilst Jewfish Bay forms its southern boundary. Dame Mary Gilmore Road forms the Park's eastern boundary, and is the only area of developed land in direct contact with the Park (refer to Locality Map in Figure 1).

The land area of the Park, formally defined as 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Road, Oatley (Lot 13 DP 752056) is 45.3 hectares. There is an additional parcel of "land" attached to the Park, officially recorded as 3 Dame Mary Gilmore Road, identified as the area below mean high water mark in Jew Fish Bay. This area is better known as the Oatley Park Baths, and covers an area of 2.6 hectares (refer to Oatley Park Site Map in Figure 2).

Motor vehicle access into Oatley Park can be gained from either Douglas Haig Street or Oatley Park Avenue. There are pedestrian (i.e. non motor vehicle) access points into the Park from the fire trail through the adjacent Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands and from the pedestrian bridge in Yawolloh Reserve (Jinna Road) in Peakhurst to Frog's Hollow; however these areas themselves are outside the boundaries of this Plan.

The Park is predominantly a bushland reserve, being the largest and most intact parcel of remnant bushland in the St George region, and contains threatened and locally rare plant species. With such a diversity of plant species, the Park is a potential home to a variety of fauna that are not often seen elsewhere in the region any longer due to lack of suitable habitat.

It is also a popular recreational and sporting facility, incorporating such well known features as the tidal Oatley Park Baths, the Steamroller Park, Oatley Park Castle, Oatley Park Oval, and many walking tracks. The Oval is the only sporting oval in the Oatley West peninsula, and although it is unlikely that such a development would be allocated within the Park if created today, it and the other long standing recreational features are nonetheless valued and important to the character of the park. Oatley Park and its surrounding area, including the Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands and Oatley Heights Park, comprise a valuable community asset contributing to the lifestyle and environment of Hurstville's residents and visitors to the area.

2.2 History

2.2.1 Aboriginal History

Oatley Park was the residential, foraging, and hunting territory of the Eora Nation prior to European settlement. For the Eora, the area was essential to

Figure 1: Locality Map

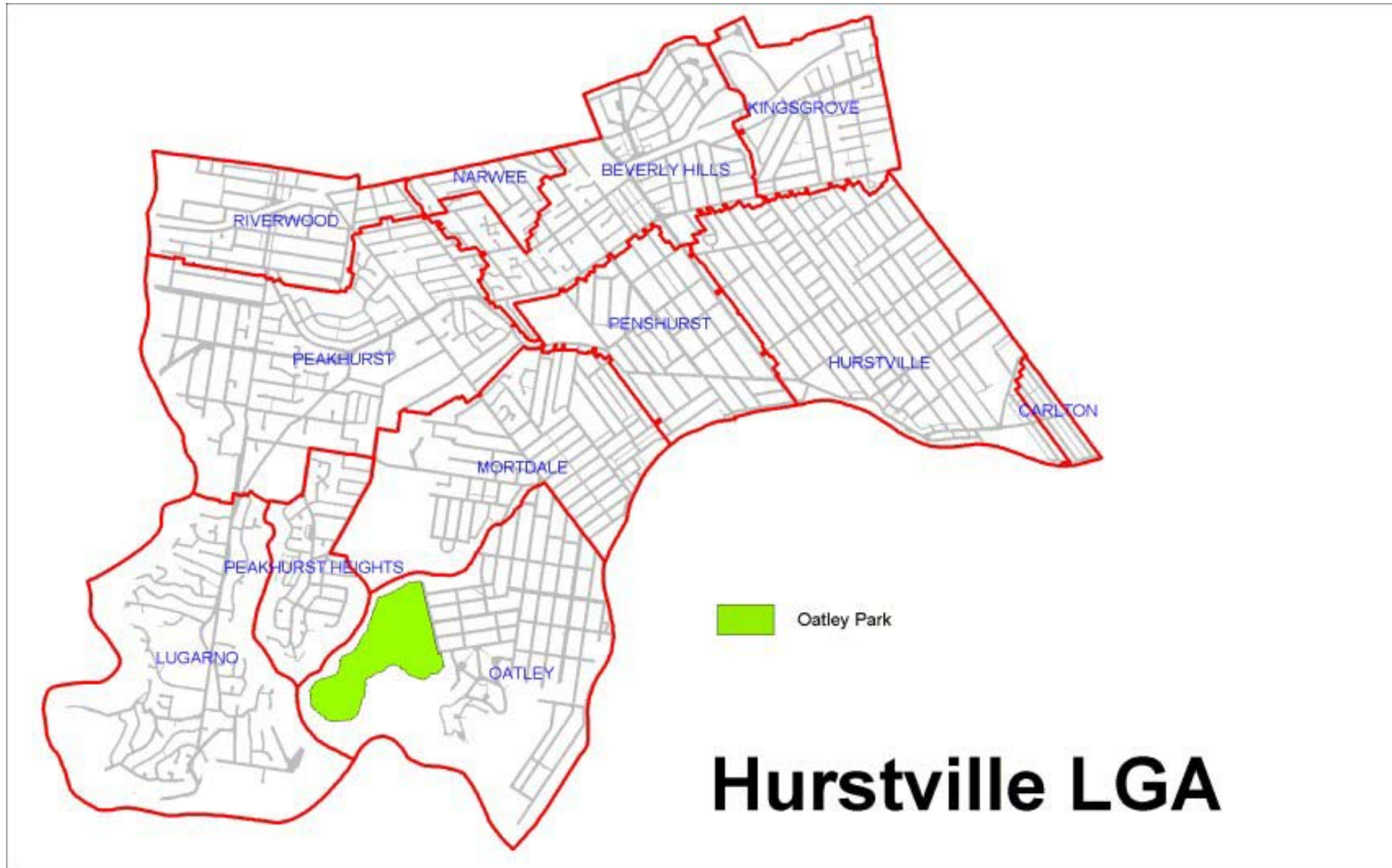
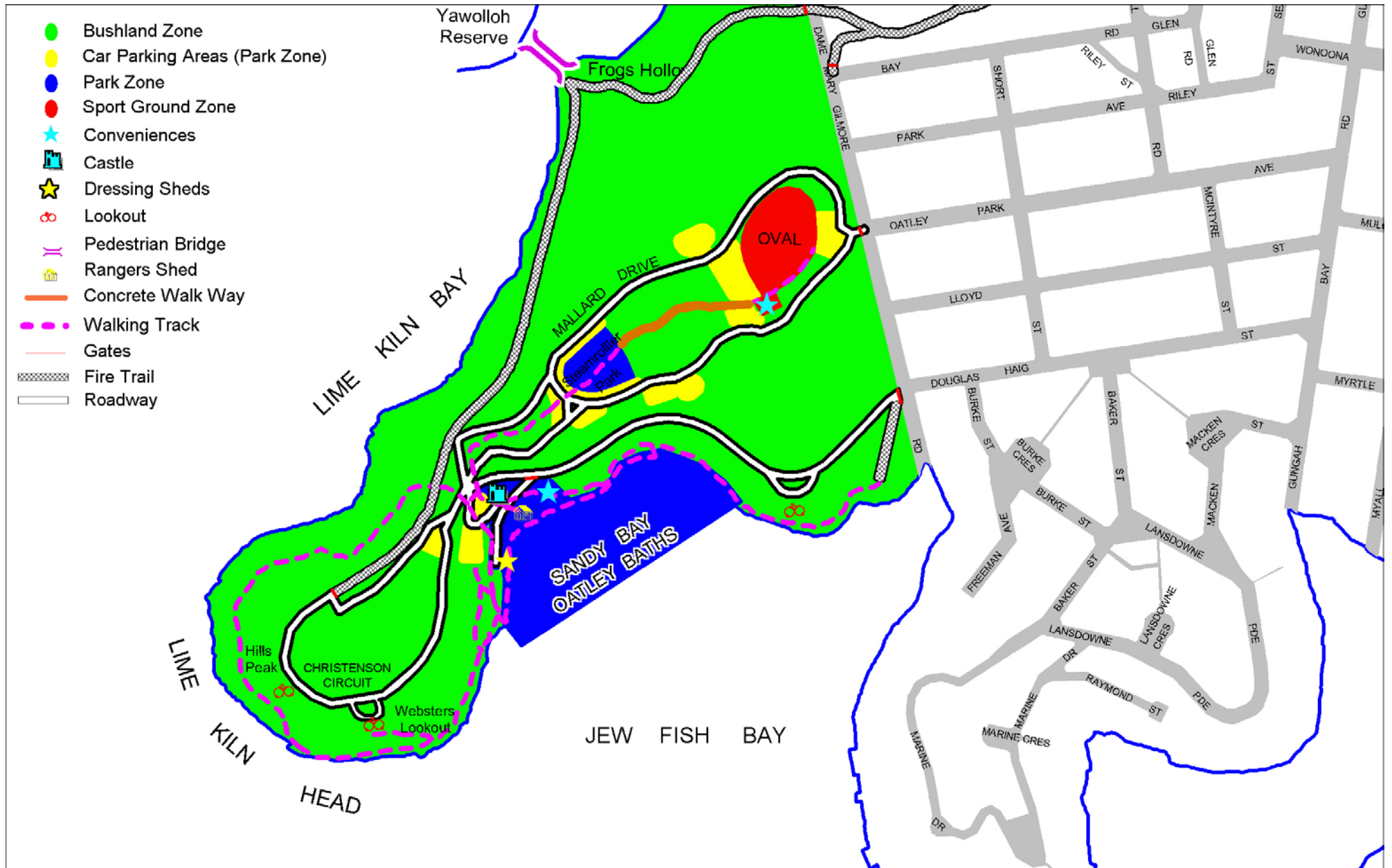


Figure 2: Oatley Park Site Map



their survival and way of life. The Park was rich in bush tucker, in both plant and animal form, and provided a wide variety of plants for bush medicine, and for making tools including canoes and didgeridoos, and weapons. The river and its abundance of animal life provided a variety of dietary alternatives.

There are three identified sites of Aboriginal heritage within the Park. Their location is withheld from general public knowledge to improve the likelihood of preservation, as a requirement of the information being supplied to Council.

2.2.2 European History

Oatley Park was proclaimed on 29 May 1888 as Peakhurst Park, with Hurstville Council being appointed trustee in 1908. Its name was changed to Oatley Park in 1922.

The Depression

Up until the Great Depression years of 1929-1932, the Park remained in a largely natural state (apart from the earlier development of the Baths). However at this time the Department of Public Works funded and supported an Unemployment Relief Scheme and it was agreed to undertake improvement works within Oatley Park.

The road system throughout the Park was constructed and sealed, the idea being to create a scenic road around the foreshores of the Park. The walking track and several scenic lookouts were also built under the Scheme, as was the sandstone kiosk and lookout known as “the Castle”. The fashion of the time was to decorate the bush rather than blend in, hence the significant use of sandstone and the striking nature of the structures.



Figure 3: “The Castle”

The roads through the Park were named after the Ward Councillors of this time; Aldermen Mallard and Christensen, while Webster's Look-out was named after the Council Engineer, all of whom were recognised for their contributions in securing the improvements to Oatley Park.

Oatley Park Baths

The tracks just below the Castle lead to the Oatley Park Baths. Construction of the Baths was recommended and financed by Council in 1909. In 1935 the Bath area was extended by a Special Lease to an area of 2.63 hectares, and this area remains part of the Park boundary today. The landward perimeter of the Baths is named Walkers Promenade, after another Alderman of the time who contributed to the project.

The original piles for the shark proof netting and the jetty were constructed from Turpentine logs, cut from a property at Herne Bay, the original name for the suburb now known as Riverwood.

The Oatley Amateur Swimming Club was established in 1927 and still utilises the Baths today.

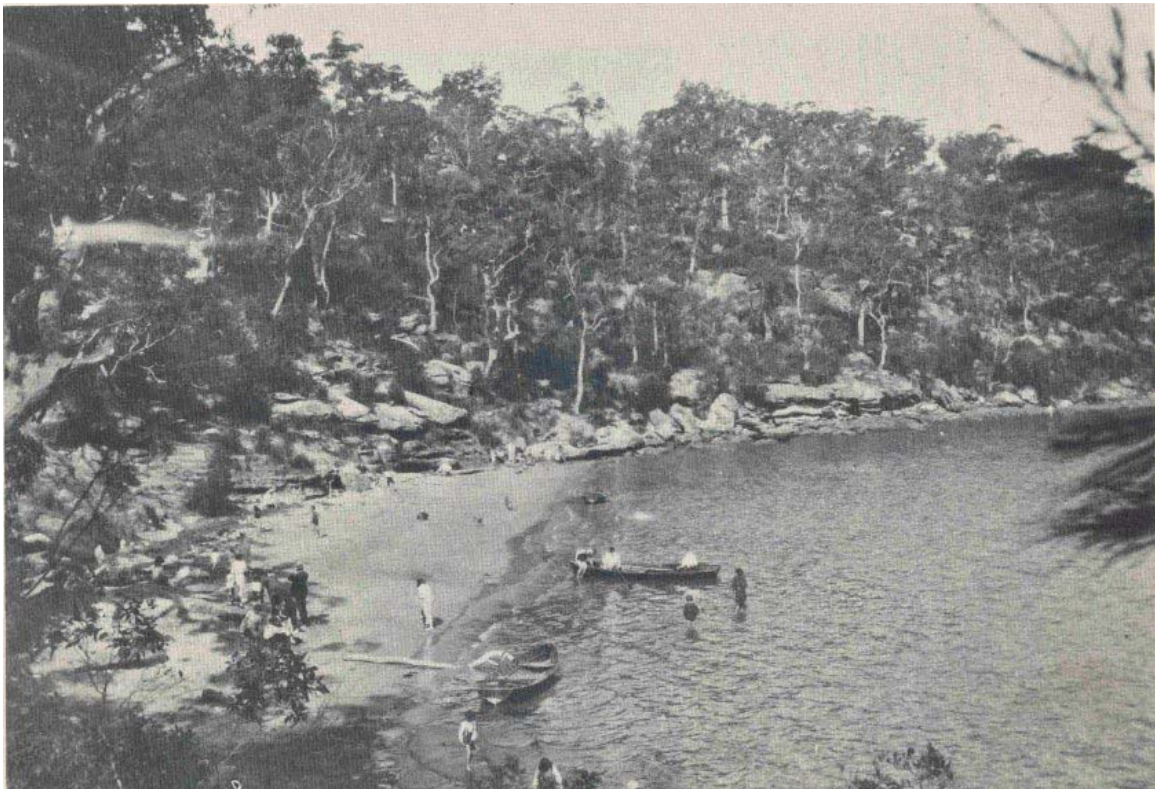


Figure 4: shows the Sandy Beach area of Oatley Park in a natural state, prior to the Baths development. The picture is undated.¹

¹ Oatley Writes... A Souvenir Publication of Oatley's 150th Anniversary 1833-1983 (1984); Donnan, N. and K. Heckenberg (ed); William H. Homer Pty Ltd. Photograph courtesy of J.W. Bayley

World War II Occupation

In July 1942, during World War II, Council was advised that an Order under National Security (General) Regulation 54 had been made and that a portion of Oatley Park would be occupied for military purposes.

The 26th Field Company of the Royal Australian Engineers (R.A.E.) was moved from Carss Park at Blakehurst to Oatley Park in July 1942. Several temporary structures were assembled to accommodate the soldiers. These included a Mess tent, kitchen, rations tent and quartermaster's store, a stove and chimney, shower blocks, a store house for engineering and road building equipment, and a canteen made from galvanised iron.

By January 1943, most of the soldiers had joined the A.I.F., so the 26th Field Company was disbanded. In the same month, the Tasmanian 12th Field Company R.A.E. was stationed in Oatley Park, to be equipped for tropical service. The Unit was posted to New Guinea in July 1943, and Council was later advised by the Australian Military Forces that it intended to cease using Oatley Park in October 1943.

Some of the foundations of the kitchen, ordinance store, and shower block remain. A small concrete map of Tasmania was constructed from left over cement for the building foundations, and inscribed, by members of the 12th Field Company. These remnants are still visible and form a valuable record of this period in the Park's history.

2.3 Physical Characteristics

2.3.1 Geology and Soils

Oatley Park falls within a large geological structure known as the Sydney Basin, and lies on two types of geological units. The principal of these units is the Hawkesbury Sandstone, which outcrops along the riverside boundaries of the City; that is the south and western slopes bordering the Georges River and Salt Pan Creek. The outcrops create the steep rocky slopes of the promontory; an attractive and strong visual feature of the Park and the surrounding area. Hawkesbury Sandstones have skeletal Hawkesbury soils on the steep slopes, which are sandy and structureless and typically have a depth to only one metre.

The secondary geological unit is called a "Transition" zone and it forms a gradual demarcation between the Hawkesbury Sandstones of the foreshore and the Ashfield Shales which underlie the remainder of the City area. In this section, shale or siltstone bands are often interbedded within the sandstone. Soils formed from this zone can vary from sands to clays and are classified in the Hammondville Association.²

² Jeffery and Katauskas (March 1988); Report to Hurstville Municipal Council on Stage 1 Geotechnical Survey of Hurstville Municipality

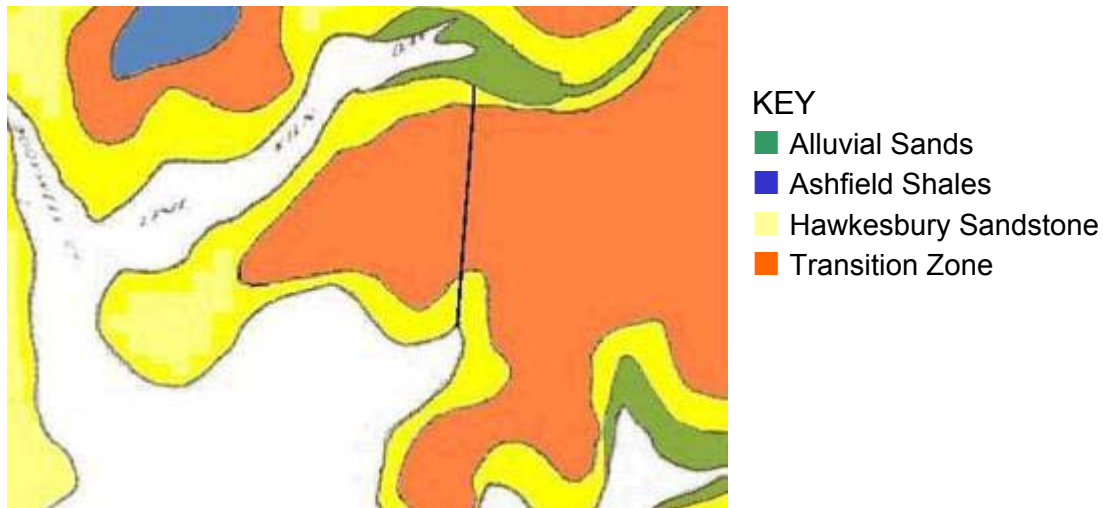


Figure 5: Geological Units of Oatley Park and surrounds

2.3.2 Vegetation

The vegetation of Oatley Park is predominantly remnant bushland, and due to the Park's size it provides one of the best examples of Sydney Sandstone vegetation in suburban southern Sydney. There are some areas of deliberately and accidentally introduced plants, a combination of non-endemic natives and exotic species.

The bushland is principally Dry Sclerophyll Open Forest, with a canopy cover of approximately 30-40% and a height of up to 25 metres. The canopy is dominated by *Angophora costata*, *Corymbia gummifera*, *Eucalyptus haemastoma*, *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus piperita*.

Aspect, as well as soil, has an influence on the location of many species within the Park. Growing conditions are hotter and drier on the exposed north-western side and top of the Park compared to the south-eastern slopes. Typical shrub species found thriving in the harsh northerly conditions are members of the Proteaceae family including Grevilleas, Banksias, and Hakeas; Acacias with spiny or narrow leaves including *Acacia ulicifolia* and *A. suaveolens*; and many species of Pea-flowers. Common ground cover species are Flannel Flowers, *Lomandra longifolia* and *Xanthorrhoea arborea*.

The sheltered nature of the slopes on the south-eastern aspect provides more shade and greater soil moisture, creating ideal conditions for the broad leaved plants of the association. In the mid storey these include *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Macrozamia sp.* The few species of fern that grow in the Park also occur in this area.

This is supported by the Green Web – Sydney document classifications, which describe two plant communities based on the soil types provided by the

underlying geological structure. These are Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland, intergrading with a Shale/Sandstone Transition Complex, and their placement is consistent with the Sandstone and Transition Zone geological units shown in Figure 5. Green Web – Sydney is a vegetation management plan for the whole of Sydney, prepared and endorsed by the Sydney Regional Organisations of Councils in 1997.

There are fringes of mangroves along the tidal boundaries, their density increasing significantly at the north of the Park towards the shallower waters of Lime Kiln Bay wetlands. The change in vegetation from the landward edge of the tidal zone to the waters of the Bay is typical of Sydney estuarine communities. Grey Mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) grows along the intertidal flats; the less common River Mangrove (*Aegiceras corniculatum*) is seen closer to the shore. Inland of the mangroves grow some Saltmarsh species, which give way to a stand of *Casuarina glauca*, followed by *Banksia integrifolia*.

There are some created garden areas, at the Oatley Park Avenue entrance, adjacent to the Castle and Baths recreation area, and at Webster's Lookout. Mostly native Australian plants have been used for the landscaping of these areas, although hybrid or commercially available species, not local species are typical.

The most historically significant exotic species growing in the Park is a Lone Pine tree (*Pinus halepensis*), grown from a seed collected by Owen Jones Davies, from the original Lone Pine tree of the famous 1915 Gallipoli campaign of World War I. It is one of very few trees that were successfully propagated from the original.

The maintenance of the integrity of the remnant bushland has been assisted by the small length of the Park boundary in contact with suburban development, the lack of storm water drains and runoff flowing into the Park, and the fortuitous preservation of such a large area of land before the residential boom of the early twentieth century that followed the opening of the Illawarra railway line in 1884. However Oatley Park is still subject to several pressures which impact on the vegetation, such as weed incursions, heavy recreational use, and previous exclusion of fire. These pressures have a cumulative, incremental effect and this Plan, in part, aims to halt any further incremental damage to or loss of bushland and amenity.

A list of the Park's native plants is included as Appendix 1. Ornamental plants and weed species are listed together as Introduced species in Appendix 2.

2.3.3 Fauna

The vegetation of Oatley Park would once have supported a large quantity and variety of wildlife. Many types of mammals, reptiles, birds and bats, and

invertebrates would have used the park as habitat, or frequented it as a feeding ground.

European settlement and the urbanisation that has occurred since Oatley Park was dedicated as a public reserve have resulted in the destruction of most of the City's bushland and therefore most of the available habitat for endemic fauna. Species diversity and numbers have also been impacted by the introduction of other animal species such as cats and dogs, now naturalised bird species including Mynas and Starlings, and the establishment of feral animal populations. The introduced fauna compete with and often displace the native species for both food and shelter, and many species also prey on the smaller birds, reptiles and mammals.

No official and comprehensive fauna surveys have been carried out however members of the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society have over the years made records of bird and animal sightings within the Park. Over a three year period during the 1970s, over 100 bird species were observed, including different types of honeyeaters, parrots, cuckoos, waterbirds and migratory birds, as well as several introduced species.

While larger marsupials have not permanently inhabited the Park for many years, sightings of some animals now unusual to the area have been reported by Park visitors in recent years. Specifically, a large reptile resembling a goanna has been observed, and there have been numerous accounts of echidna sightings, possibly indicating a breeding pair in residence. Smaller mammals such as possums and marsupial mice, and small reptiles like skinks and lizards are likely to be more common, although also a target for feral animals.

A bat call survey was undertaken in 2003. Of the calls recorded only two species were positively identified. These were Gould's Wattle Bat and the Eastern Bent-wing Bat, a vulnerable species on Schedule 2 of the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, although common in the Sydney region.

2.3.4 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

There are several items of legislation governing the recognition and management of threatened species. The two (2) most relevant are the NSW Government's Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995) (TSC Act); and the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (EPBC Act).

Under these legislations there are numerous plants and fauna that attract either a vulnerable or endangered conservation status listing. The plants and animals on both lists likely or possibly occurring in Oatley Park are listed in Table 1.

Another well documented methodology for categorising threatened flora is the Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (ROTAP) listing. This list is developed by

the CSIRO and is based on a coding system which provides a means of ranking the plants according to the level of risk they face in the wild. There are three (3) ROTAP species which occur in Oatley Park, as follows:

- *Hibbertia nitida* (Shining Guinea Flower)
- *Persoonia hirsuta* (Hairy Geebung)
- *Tetratheca neglecta* (Black-eyed Susan)

Table 1: Threatened Species Potentially Occurring in Oatley Park

Species Name	Conservation Status	
	TSC Act (1995)	EPBC Act (1999)
Flora		
<i>Acacia prominens</i> (Gosford Wattle)	Threatened Population	
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i> (Hairy Geebung)	Endangered	Endangered
Fauna		
<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i> (Major Mitchell's Cockatoo)	Vulnerable	
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i> (Pied Oystercatcher)	Vulnerable	
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> (Swift Parrot)	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Ninox strenua</i> (Powerful Owl)	Vulnerable	
<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i> (Superb Fruit-dove)	Vulnerable	
<i>Xanthomyza phygia</i> (Regent Honeyeater)	Endangered	Endangered

Key Threatening Processes

A Key Threatening Process is defined in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 as a process that threatens, or could threaten, the survival or evolutionary development of species, populations or ecological communities. Listing assists in conservation by influencing the planning process and requiring the preparation and implementation of a threat abatement plan to abate, ameliorate or eliminate the threat. Something can be a threatening process if it adversely affects two or more threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or could cause species, populations or ecological communities that are not currently threatened to become threatened.

Some of the listed key threatening processes that could have an effect on the ecosystems within Oatley Park are:

- Bushrock removal
- Clearing of native vegetation
- Competition from feral honeybees
- Ecological consequences of high frequency fires

- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses
- Predation by feral cats
- Predation by the European red fox
- Removal of dead wood and dead trees

2.4 Buildings and Constructed Facilities

There are three locations in Oatley Park where buildings have been constructed; namely at the Oval, the Castle and surrounds, and the Baths.

The Oval contains one single storey rendered and painted building with a slightly angled concrete roof. It houses public toilets including disabled facilities, and a canteen that is used by the soccer club on competition days. There are two storerooms within this building, one for Council equipment, the other used by the sporting groups.

The Castle area obviously contains the Castle structure itself. This is a large solid sandstone construction built during the 1930s as a work relief exercise for the unemployed. It is fully walled on one side only (with two small vertical openings), the other three sides have double or triple arches that are open to the view towards Jew Fish Bay and the surrounding bushland. Permanent picnic tables and seating, and electric barbecues within the Castle make it a popular passive recreation site. Casual bookings are taken which allow it to be used exclusively by groups for activities such as family gatherings, end of year celebrations or weddings. A sandstone path and stairs either side lead to a concrete ramp onto the flat turreted roof, which serves as an excellent lookout point, and this is particularly popular for photographs.

Below the Castle is the Ranger's shed and storeroom which has a sandstone façade and hipped corrugated iron roof. It is the staffroom and office for the Rangers, and the storeroom contains the tools and equipment required by the maintenance staff to undertake their daily duties.

Adjacent to the Ranger's shed and Baths car parking area is another toilet block. This too is of single storey brick construction, but is painted in Council's signature colours of apricot and green. Disabled toilet facilities are not currently available in this block.

The final building in Oatley Park is the swimming club's club room, located in the south-western corner of the Baths area. It is a single storey brick building with a flat iron roof, constructed in 1957. There are separate wings which were attached later to either side of the clubhouse, containing men's and women's change rooms, showers and toilets, with disabled toilet facilities included. The change rooms also have perspex over the roof.

A maintenance standard has been developed, indicating the desired condition of facilities with respect to visual appearance, functionality, economic performance and legal compliance. The standards are defined at five levels, each referring to a category that may be allocated to individual facilities or parts

of a facility. The level of maintenance desired for all buildings in Oatley Park is C category: Standard, the “default” standard. It is aimed at preserving essential functionality, complying with statutory health, safety and environmental obligations, and rectifying faults before consequential damage incurs additional cost. The performance criteria of this category are described below.

Visual Appearance

In this category physical appearance is not the major consideration and some minor signs of deterioration when viewed from normal distance are acceptable.

Function

All required elements should function as intended during periods of intended use. Minor failures, excluding those which bring a threat to safety or security, can be tolerated.

Legal

All requirements with respect to health, safety and the environment must be met. Other responsibilities should be achieved to the maximum extent feasible.

Financial

The primary aim of this category is to maximise the long term economic performance of the facility. Refurbishments, equipment replacements and maintenance planning should be in a strategic framework and decisions taken on a life-cycle basis.

Planning Implications

Some maintenance is undertaken on a cyclic basis, in order to reduce failures and maintain an adequate level of functionality. Cleaning, inspections and maintenance tasks should be planned in conjunction with the user to minimise disruption, but interruptions to service are acceptable. A call out capability should be available in order to respond to emergency failures reported by users.

A register of the built assets of Oatley Park, including an assessment of their condition and maintenance requirements, is attached as Appendix 4.

Elsewhere throughout the Park there are other types of structures that are mostly in place to assist patrons with their use and enjoyment of the Park, or for their safety. These include the roads and car parking areas, gates and fences, signs, walking tracks and stairs, play equipment, picnic and barbeque facilities, and the Baths jetty and netting. All of these items need to be maintained to a reasonable standard, as indicated in the Action Plan (Section 5).

2.5 Current Activities

Aside from its intrinsic worth as the premier bushland reserve in the St George region, Oatley Park is greatly valued by the community for the variety of recreational and educational pursuits it accommodates.

Oatley Park is highly suited to walking; on the sealed roadway or rougher foreshore walking track, through the Park itself or as part of the 2.5km Lime Kiln Bay loop track; cycling, on the sealed roads and fire trails only; and the active sports catered to including swimming, cycling, soccer and cricket. A variety of passive and informal recreation activities such as picnicking, casual ball games, and scenery viewing are suited to the open turfed areas and lookouts. The Park is popular for scientific and educational studies and excursions; school, TAFE and university students undertake projects on flora, fauna, ecological systems, geology, historical aspects and other topics relevant to environmental or cultural syllabus.

Surrounding residents, park users and the wider community take an interest in the welfare and sustainable use of Oatley Park. Volunteers are able to demonstrate this interest through active involvement with the Bushcare Program, assisting to regenerate the weed infested and degraded areas of bushland. The Bushcare Program is described further in Section 2.7.3.

2.6 Planning Considerations

Under the Local Environment Plan (1994), the land referred to in this Plan is zoned as 6A: Open Space. The objectives of this zoning are:

- to recognise existing publicly owned land used or capable of being used for public recreation purposes; and
- to identify and protect land intended to be acquired for public open space.

Works permitted under the zoning include development classified as exempt development; buildings ordinarily incidental or subsidiary to the purposes of landscaping, gardening or bush fire hazard reduction; commercial signs; community facilities; recreation areas; recreation facilities; refreshment rooms; and works (but not buildings) for the purposes of landscaping or gardening.

The land adjoining the Park's boundaries in Dame Mary Gilmore Road is split in to several blocks and zones. Along the Bay Road corner to the north, there is a further parcel of Open Space (6A). This is part of the boundary of the Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands. There are several blocks of residential development (Zone 2) and Oatley West Public School occupies one adjoining block between Oatley Park Avenue and Park Avenue (Zone 5A). All land is located within Council's foreshore scenic protection area which limits the type and size of development.

2.7 Management and Maintenance

2.7.1 Management Structure

The management of Oatley Park comes under the Service Delivery Directorate of Hurstville City Council. There are two permanent full-time employees (Rangers) based in the Park, who are responsible for the daily upkeep of the picnic and recreation areas and amenities, the Baths, parking areas, and internal road system and walking tracks, as well as seasonal maintenance of

the sporting facilities. The bushland is maintained separately, as part of Hurstville's Volunteer Bushcare Program (see 2.7.3).

2.7.2 Funding

The maintenance of Oatley Park is funded entirely by Hurstville City Council. It has an allocation of approximately \$170 000 per year (2004/2005 financial year). The Bushcare Program, which undertakes some bush regeneration activities in the Park, is allocated additional funding of \$20 000 for Oatley Park.

Grant funding for major works and special projects has occasionally been obtained from a variety of external sources including:

- the Metropolitan Greenspace Program, provided by the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources (DIPNR) (formerly the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning), and
- the Capital Assistance Program Grants funded by the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and, Recreation.

2.7.3 Bushcare Program

The Volunteer Bushcare Program commenced in Oatley Park in April 2001. Two groups meet in Oatley Park, a weekly Wednesday group and a monthly weekend group. Both groups are fully supervised by an experienced Council Bushcare Officer. Volunteers participate in weed removal using a variety of techniques, learn native plant and weed identification skills, and undertake minor drainage works and erosion control as necessary. Small areas are maintained near the Park entrance gates, and along the creek line in 'Frog's Hollow'. An enclosed area of Lantana on the western tip of the peninsula has been identified and is visited periodically, although access is difficult. Over 640 volunteer and supervisor hours were achieved on site in 2003.

A representation of the area covered by the Bushcare Program is shown in the Condition of Bushland in Oatley Park – July 2004 Map in Figure 6. The descriptions used for the condition of the bushland areas are explained as follows:

Good condition: a few weeds are present, however it is predominantly bushland. Indicated by Green areas on map.

Fair condition: weeds are noticeably present however the vegetation is mostly native species. Indicated by Blue areas on map.

Poor condition: some native species remain although there are mainly weeds present. Indicated by Orange areas on map.

The condition of most of the areas currently under regeneration is Fair.

Figure 6: Condition of Bushland in Oatley Park - July 2004



2.8 Previous Studies

Much of the information available on Oatley Park has been researched and prepared by the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society, a local environment group. The studies within Council date back to 1975 and include the following:

- Bushland Survey of Oatley Park (1980); anon. (National Trust?)
- Headland Nature Walk (1975?); Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society for the Oatley Park Advisory Committee of HMC. A small leaflet encouraging a guided walk through points of interest.
- Management Plan for Oatley Park (1975); Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society in cooperation with Lime Kiln Bay Preservation Society. This Plan was not adopted by Council as an official policy document, however much of the content is still relevant today.
- Native Plants of Oatley Park (2000); Alan Fairley
- Oatley Park (1975); Alan Fairley for Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society. This is an information booklet with notes on the land, vegetation, animals, nature walks and some problems (caused by human impact) occurring in the Park.

Details about bush regeneration work carried out in Oatley Park by the National Trust can be obtained in their Annual Bush Regeneration Reports from years 1993, January 1994 to June 1995, and July 1995 to June 1996. Additional information about the status and condition of the bushland in Oatley Park is reported as part of the 1995 document Hurstville Council Survey of Bushland Areas, also prepared by the National Trust.

3.0 Aim and Objectives

3.1 Aim

The aim of the Oatley Park Plan of Management is to provide guidelines to assist with the maintenance, management, use and improvement of the Park. It will provide short and long term policy, and possess a degree of flexibility to respond to changing community needs.

The Plan will allow us to acknowledge the intrinsic worth of the area as a nature reserve whilst accommodating some recreational activities that do not damage or detract from the environmental aspects of the Park, nor its protection for future generations.

3.2 Statement of Significance

Oatley Park, as the largest remaining tract of bushland in the St George region, is one of the most treasured and unique reserves in southern Sydney.

It is recognised primarily for its value as a natural bushland reserve, and for the diversity of biological species, populations and communities it accommodates.

Oatley Park contains natural, cultural and historic features of social and educational interest.

Oatley Park provides opportunities for recreational and educational pursuits in a natural environment within the Sydney urban area.

Its preservation as all of these things is an important social responsibility placed upon Council, as managers of Oatley Park.

3.3 Objectives for this Plan of Management

The objectives for the various zones of the Park relate to the core objectives for each zone specified by the Local Government Amendment Act 1998, detailed in Section 1.2, and Council's Management Goals (Horizons) outlined in Section 1.4.

1. To provide optimum access to Oatley Park and its facilities for all users and stakeholders.
2. To provide a safe and well resourced area for recreational bathing and swimming.

3. To protect and preserve the bushland for its value as a vegetation and wildlife remnant and to manage the bushland in accordance with the provisions of SEPP 19.
4. To manage the bushland understanding that fire is essential for the long term survival of the flora, but having regard to bushfire hazard & the need to reduce fuel loadings and maintain Fire Protection Zones.
5. To encourage responsible pet behaviour in Oatley Park, and limit the effects of feral animals on native fauna and vegetation.
6. To prevent further loss of bushland and minimise infrastructure development in all areas by restricting developments to upgrading the existing structures and facilities, and the aesthetics of the Park where required.
7. To preserve, protect and enhance the historical and cultural integrity of Oatley Park.
8. To manage the areas zoned as Parkland for public recreation and to provide appropriate and adequate amenities that meet user needs.
9. To provide accessible, high quality, safe, and interesting playground equipment for children that is easily supervised.
10. To provide and maintain road network and car parking facilities that are safe, effective and user friendly.
11. To provide high quality sporting facilities to meet community needs without impacting negatively on bushland areas.

4.0 Management Issues and Actions

4.1 Accessibility

Objective: To provide optimum access to Oatley Park and its facilities for all users and stakeholders.

There are various types of access points and paths into and around Oatley Park.

There are two motor vehicle entry and exit points, off Oatley Park Avenue and Douglas Haig Street. The gates are opened daily at 7.00am and closed at different times each evening depending on the season. During Summer (November to February) the gates close at 8.00pm; during Spring (September to October) and Autumn (March to April) closing is at 7.00pm; and in the Winter season (between May and August), the gates are closed at 6.00pm. Unauthorised use of the Park after hours was identified as a safety concern and the feasibility of introducing after hours surveillance and monitoring will be investigated.

The sealed roads dissect most of the Park, providing access to all of the recreation, scenic and parking areas. Two short sections of road are restricted to emergency and Council work motor vehicles. These are the gated ramp above the Ranger's shed, and the fire trail leading to Frog's Hollow along the north of the Park.

A well-used walking track skirts around the foreshore of the Park, and links to the main recreation areas. It is constructed from compacted earth, and a few sections have stairs, making the majority of the track unsuitable for people with mobility difficulties. Some of the sandstone edging is still in place from construction work done during the Depression.

Several informal tracks have developed over the years of use, causing damage to vegetation and increasing erosion. As they are not designated as part of the official track system, they are not maintained and therefore pose potential risks beyond Council's ability to control. The number, age, condition, level of use and possible alternative routes of all walking tracks need to be studied. Where tracks are well established and useful they may be retained or made official and maintained as part of the regular maintenance schedule. Where tracks are assessed to be additional to needs they may be blocked off and walkers encouraged to adhere to the official tracks.

Additional walking opportunities are provided by the fire trails and roads. Many walkers share the road with cars and bicycles; however some safety concerns exist, particularly at times of peak use.

The north-western fire trail/emergency access road to "Frog's Hollow" leads to the pedestrian bridge to Yawolloh Reserve, at Jinna Road Peakhurst, and then on to the loop track through Hurstville Golf Course and around Lime Kiln Bay

Wetlands. There are excellent opportunities to provide interpretive signage around the tracks. The pedestrian bridge may be regarded as another entrance, and its closure to motorised traffic (in particular motor/trail bikes) needs to be ensured.

The Park is closed during times of high and extreme bushfire danger, in accordance with NSW Fire Brigades recommendations and National Parks procedure.

4.2 Beachfront and Baths

Objective: To provide a safe and well resourced area for recreational bathing and swimming.

The Bath area is well used and valued by the Oatley Amateur Swimming Club, and the wider community and many schools who utilise the facilities.

Shark-proof netting extends along the full length of the boundary of the Baths. The netting is inspected at the commencement of every swimming season and at least quarterly during the year, to ensure that sharks and large items of debris are kept out of the swimming enclosure. Repairs to the net are undertaken as soon as damage is noted. While the net and pole structures are structurally sound, there may be a long term opportunity to upgrade their appearance, to be more in keeping with an identified visual code for the Park.

The jetty and access area to the amenities, known as Walkers Promenade is concreted, and extends from the southern end of the Baths to the access ramp. Six swimming lanes are marked on the jetty, and there is a high tide marker of 1.8 metres. A sandstone wall extends around the entire length of the Baths. North-east of the ramp, the promenade is unsealed. There are covered picnic tables, timber barbeques, and rubbish bins placed at various intervals around the promenade. Any additions or upgrades to these facilities should also be in keeping with visual standards to be determined for the Park.

The Swimming Club room was built during the late 1950s. The men's and women's amenities sheds are attached to either side of the club room. They contain showers, toilets, a disabled toilet and a change area.

Pedestrian access to the Baths is obtained via the concrete vehicle access ramp, or from one of three bush walking tracks that lead down to the promenade. Wheelchair access is difficult due to the steepness of the ramp. It was built for emergency and work vehicle access, however there are no viable alternatives for wheelchairs at this stage.

4.3 Bushland Management

Objective: To protect and preserve the bushland for its value as a vegetation and wildlife remnant and to manage the bushland in accordance with the provisions of SEPP 19.

The protection and management of the bushland was identified through the consultation process as the most critical and important issue facing Oatley Park. The consensus was that the bushland makes Oatley Park what it is and it should be preserved in as healthy and diverse condition as possible. Reasons for its preservation include its intrinsic worth; its value as habitat and refuge for native fauna; as the largest example of such vegetation communities in the St George region; for the various environmental advantages provided by any green space (eg. shade, oxygen, soil stability etc); and for the obvious aesthetic benefits that so many people appreciate.

While many of the concerns raised by the consultation will be addressed within this Plan, it is clear that a specific and comprehensive bushland management plan needs to be developed. As a precursor to, or as part of a bushland management plan, a formal survey of the existing flora and its conservation status will need to be completed. No comprehensive fauna surveys have been undertaken so this is another area that requires investigating.

The use of timber barbeques is to be phased out. Not only do the barbeques pose a potential fire risk, encouraging the equivalent of open fires so close to bushland, but fuelling them is an ongoing maintenance task. It is also common for the bushland to be raided for suitable timber for burning, with reports that plants are being damaged in the process. Replacing the timber barbeques with electric operated ones may be possible and will eliminate both hazards. It will however require a rationalisation of the number and locations of barbeques, and will be an expensive exercise initially, if pursued.

Dead trees and branches are an essential part of the bushland ecosystem, providing habitat for much of the Park's fauna. Therefore it is important that as many of these hollow trees and branches as possible can be kept. There may be some that occur along the road or path system that should be removed for the safety of users of the Park, however each should be inspected for stability, and importance as habitat prior to removal being undertaken.

In concurrence with current environmental thinking, and to optimise the use of the propagation facilities available at Council, a planting policy for Oatley Park will focus on the use of indigenous plant material, grown from local provenance seed or cuttings. This will not only help preserve the Park's vegetation but will also ensure that the native fauna have the best opportunity of competing with non native species.

Many of the exotic plants in the Park, such as the Coral trees between the Castle and the Baths, may be selectively and gradually removed, and replaced with more appropriate species.

The Bushcare Program undertakes weed control in selected sites within Oatley Park (see Condition of Bushland Map in Figure 6 for areas covered). The amount of regeneration achieved is currently limited by the number of volunteers and hours worked. Some contract regeneration has also been completed although this is carried out on a one-off needs basis rather than as a regular commitment. The size and importance of the reserve however, certainly indicate that a full time Bushcare Officer could be employed to maintain and monitor the bushland of Oatley Park, similar to Lime Kiln Bay, as long as it would not be compromising funding and staffing for other Bushcare sites. A Bushcare Officer could then oversee and implement the actions required and specified to ensure the integrity of the bushland is protected.

Progressive encroachments onto Oatley Park from private property, although usually only minor, add to the incremental loss of bushland and can contribute to the introduction of unwanted species into the Park. Thus the Park boundaries will continue to be monitored by the Bushcare Officer and any encroachments will be eliminated.

4.4 Bushfire Management

Objective: To manage the bushland understanding that fire is essential for the long term survival of the flora, but having regard to bushfire hazard & the need to reduce fuel loadings and maintain Fire Protection Zones.

In conjunction with bushland management, the management of the potential bushfire hazard within Oatley Park is seen as a priority issue.

Much work has been done, and is continuing, to ensure the bushfire hazard is at a minimum level. It is not feasible or reasonable to expect no hazard at all, given that fire is a natural and necessary part of the Australian landscape, and particularly of the dry sclerophyll forest vegetation found in Oatley Park. However the risk can be assessed, and fire used as a beneficial tool to keep the bushland healthy, instead of feared as a dangerous threat.

In acknowledgement of the importance of this issue, a Bushfire Management Plan (BFMP) was prepared, and was adopted by Council in 2003. The Plan covers Oatley Park and the adjoining areas of Lime Kiln Bay and Oatley Heights Park. Relevant sections of the Plan are included as Appendix 3.

Prior to the adoption of the BFMP, Council liaised with the NSW Fire Brigades to inspect relevant areas of bushland and implement various methods of hazard reduction. Techniques to remove fuel vary from manual removal to small pile burns (which help to stimulate regeneration), to larger scale broad acre burns. The aim with all of these methods is to reduce the level of leaf litter and flammable material on the ground. Trees and other live plant material are not as flammable and do not pose as much risk as small dry ground fuel. It is well documented that the presence of trees around a property can actually act as a buffer and provide protection to houses from a bushfire. Assessment and reduction of fuel levels will continue with the implementation of the BFMP.

Manual fuel removal has been recorded within Oatley Park since at least 1983. Manual removal is the primary method of removal of fuel, and it is done on a continual rotating basis between sites where fuel loadings exceed recommended levels. Within Oatley Park, a 20 metre buffer zone along the residential boundary is maintained, from Oatley Park Avenue south to the water's edge.

Hazard reduction burns have been recorded in Oatley Park in 1985/1986, 1988, 1991, and extensive areas were burned in 1994. Another hazard burn in 1997 got away from the control of the Fire Brigades and caused severe scorching of the north western park slopes facing Lime Kiln Bay. The scars from this fire can still be seen and the vegetation has not fully recovered.

There are opportunities to better inform the park community and surrounding residents about the hazard reduction activities taking place within the reserve, to minimise confusion and dissatisfaction.

The issue of wood fired barbeques, as mentioned in Section 4.3, is one that urgently needs to be addressed, and this Plan will make provision for the timber fuelled barbeques to be phased out.

4.5 Domestic, Feral and Nuisance Animals

Objective: To encourage responsible pet behaviour in Oatley Park, and limit the effects of feral animals on native fauna and vegetation.

Dogs and other pets can cause disturbance and even harm to native birds and animals, and their habitats. Unleashed or uncontrolled dogs can also disrupt other Park users and/or their pets.

Dogs are allowed within the Park, although they must be on a lead and under the owner's control at all times. Owners must collect and remove their pet's droppings. Pets are not permitted to swim in the Baths area. These regulations are well signposted, in all the recreation areas and along the walking tracks. However it became apparent through the consultation process that they are not consistently being adhered to, and are a cause of concern or difficulty to other users who do adhere to the regulations or use the park for other reasons.

Less common is the use of Oatley Park for horse riding. However, horses are only be permitted on the sealed roadway, and not on the walking tracks or unsealed paths to prevent unnecessary damage and erosion, and transference of unwanted seed (carried in hooves and droppings) to the bushland areas.

A review of the signage relating to animal regulations needs to be undertaken. A widespread education program will be implemented, as well as follow up monitoring.

The issue of foxes hunting, living, and breeding within Oatley Park (and within the wider area of bushland and suburban community) is not new. Many sightings have been reported, and they are now an established component of suburban ecosystems. Along with feral cats, foxes prey upon birds and mammals, and contribute to the spread of weeds through the consumption of seeds and fruit. Construction of dens creates soil disturbance, and they have contributed to the displacement of local populations of marsupials.

Control of foxes and feral cats is difficult. Traps have been used for many years with limited success, although they will continue to be set and monitored. Den fumigation is an alternative for foxes where carbon monoxide gas is introduced into a den during the breeding season to eliminate young fox cubs, and thus interrupting the fox breeding cycle. This technique relies on the identification of the location of fox dens, which must also have a single entrance or are able to be sealed.

Baiting is often mentioned as an effective means of fox control. However, there are strict distance restrictions for baiting near residential areas which prohibits such a program being undertaken within any of Hurstville's bushland. A regional approach to fox control is being investigated through the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), and Hurstville has indicated its interest in pursuing this option.

Introduced bird species, and aggressive local species such as the Pied Currawong appear to be increasing in number and displacing other local species. This is reportedly a result of the use of hybrid natives (such as Grevilleas and Bottlebrushes) in the surrounding community and other non local plant species which do not favour the endemic bird population. This is another valuable reason to use indigenous species in bushland areas.

Nesting native birds, particularly Magpies, can be a nuisance for some patrons during their breeding season. Magpies are protected throughout NSW and it is illegal to harm the birds or collect their eggs. For most of the year they are not aggressive. Nesting occurs between August and October, and for four to six weeks they may become very defensive of their territory, swooping over the head of a person walking past. This behaviour is usually only a warning and it is rare that a magpie will make contact with its beak or claws. In a large bushland reserve such as Oatley Park, the magpie is in its natural environment, and people using the Park are expected to be tolerant and respectful of such behaviour if it occurs.

Snakes

All native snakes in NSW are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Snakes play an important role in many different types of ecosystems, including those within Oatley Park. Snakes are not naturally aggressive and always prefer to retreat. They will only attack humans if hurt or provoked – most bites occur when people try to kill or capture snakes. As with birds and mammals, it is requested that snakes and other reptiles found in Oatley Park be respected and left alone.

Insects

Feral bees and other introduced insect species can also displace and compete with the native fauna. This can also have longer term effects on the survival and condition of native plant species. The best way to reduce this threat is to prevent the establishment of such pests by regular monitoring, and prompt treatment if any incursions are found.

Jellyfish

Jellyfish were cited as a nuisance species during the consultation process, as they can be brought in with the tide. They are again a natural part of the aquatic ecosystem, and there is little that can be done to prevent their occurrence; however alternative types or sizes of netting may be considered when it is due for replacement as a potential means of restricting the entry of jellyfish into the Baths.

4.6 Future Developments

Objective: To prevent further loss of bushland and minimise infrastructure development in all areas by restricting developments to upgrading the existing structures and facilities, and the aesthetics of the Park where required.

This is one of the key issues for Oatley Park, as any further development or restrictions placed on the Park will potentially have an impact on all of the other areas and issues. It is also a topic about which there are various conflicting opinions and ideas.

It was clearly stated by many stakeholders that there should be no increase in infrastructure within the Park, and that the focus of spending should be towards the conservation of biodiversity and the natural amenity and environment. It was widely felt that sporting facilities could and should be maintained at existing levels but not expanded.

By contrast there was a strong desire from many of the sporting groups to upgrade or extend their current facilities, some of the proposals requiring expansion of their on-ground area.

Any further expansion of area for facilities or amenities is not in keeping with the principle objective of preserving the bushland and therefore shall not be permitted under this Plan. However there are several items of infrastructure that may need to be upgraded or refurbished, either presently or in the foreseeable future. The condition of existing assets may need to be reviewed to determine maintenance requirements, the expected lifespan of the asset, and opportunities for refurbishment. Priority items include, but are not limited to, the park furniture, the Castle, and the club rooms of both the sports associations and the Baths.

The installation of any radio or telecommunications infrastructure throughout Oatley Park is strongly opposed by Council and is prohibited under this Plan, although Councils do not have regulatory control over "low impact facilities". A

new DCP, Development Control Plan No. 5 Radiocommunications and Telecommunications, was adopted by Council and came into force in May 2004. It provides controls for the siting, design and installation of telecommunications and radiocommunications facilities that require development consent from Council, and provides guidelines for telecommunications carriers for the siting, design and installation of “low impact” facilities.

While large items of infrastructure are not favoured, there are some smaller items that will need to be provided to optimise the use of existing facilities. In particular, the training lights for the Oval were removed when the mobile phone tower was installed. The two replacement light poles are smaller and do not give the same illumination. This restricts the area of the oval that can be used for night training, therefore increasing wear in localised parts of the ground. Additional smaller lights, selected in keeping with determined visual standards, will alleviate this deficiency.

Another minor exception to this policy is the consideration of an additional toilet facility in the Steamroller Park, and/or disabled toilet facilities in the Castle area. The nearest toilets to the Steamroller Park are at the Oval, connected by a 210 metre concrete pathway. The closest disabled facilities to the Castle are at the Baths, only accessible via a steep concrete driveway.

The addition of change rooms to the existing Oval club/amenities building, with a small increase in the building footprint, will also be considered subject to the addition being in keeping with the character of the existing structure and the surrounds and complying with Council building regulations. The Oval does not currently have any provision for change rooms and this addition would greatly improve the comfort of all participants.

The development of a Visual Standards code will be an important tool to ensure the aesthetics of Oatley Park are maintained and enhanced. The code could specify the type of plants and materials to be used for landscaping, minor building works and playground equipment so that repairs and upgrades are complementary to the existing visual atmosphere. It would also include specifications for the type of park furniture and signage to be used, similarly to reflect the natural feel of the reserve.

The matter of leases and licences has been discussed in Section 1.6. Given the fact that the majority of Oatley Park is bushland and most of the public facilities are located outside the bushland zone, it is considered appropriate to restrict the issue of leases and licences to the sportsground zone and the park zone, with the exclusion of the Baths, roads and car parks. The type of facility that may be considered to be of benefit to patrons of Oatley Park is a mobile café type operation. Any applications for such a venture would need to comply with the Local Government Act 1993 regulations governing the issue of leases and licences, and would be for a maximum of five (5) years only. The requirement for the supply of any additional services (eg electricity, water supply) to facilitate this would need to be weighed against other competing demands for funding.

4.7 Heritage

Objective: To preserve, protect and enhance the historical and cultural integrity of Oatley Park.

As discussed in the site analysis, there are a variety of items of historical and cultural interest within Oatley Park that represent both the Aboriginal and more recent European use of the Park. The opportunities to preserve these items, and educate the community about their significance should be considered.

The vegetation itself is a remnant of that which covered the entire suburb and wider foreshore areas of the Georges River. There are species within Oatley Park that are now unique to this site alone, and they need to be protected. The conservation of the Oatley Park flora needs to be ensured for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Interpretive signage and the development of education programs may assist with community understanding and recognition.

There was significant comment from stakeholders during the consultation process encouraging the listing of the whole of Oatley Park as a heritage item on Council's LEP, and applying for its placement on the Register of National Estate. This would give increased validity to the protection of the Park's historical and cultural items, as well as protect the bushland from undesirable development.

4.8 Passive Recreation Area & Public Amenities Provision

Objective: To manage the areas zoned as Parkland for public recreation and to provide appropriate and adequate amenities that meet user needs.

The passive recreation areas incorporate those sites set aside for casual activities such as picnicking and other social or casual activities. Within Oatley Park, the passive recreation areas are the Steamroller Park, the Castle and its immediate surrounds, and the picnic area just below the Castle. It also includes the Baths and promenade as this area caters significantly for unstructured recreation.

The Castle is the only area within Council able to be privately booked for functions. This option is generally appreciated and is well patronised. There is a hiring fee, set annually in accordance with the Council's Management Plan, as well as a refundable cleaning deposit.

Comments have been very supportive of the level of facilities and maintenance standards kept by Council staff however the longer term provision and upkeep of adequate facilities for patrons needs to be assessed. Toilet facilities, seating, tables and shelter, and as has been discussed elsewhere, electric barbecues, are all important to people's enjoyment of the passive recreation opportunities offered in Oatley Park. The maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure such as the Castle and Baths facilities is also crucial for the long term management of the passive recreation areas, and as with any future upgrades, should reflect

the conservation values of the Park plus meet the agreed visual standards to be set.

4.9 Playground Area and Equipment Provision

Objective: To provide accessible, high quality, safe, and interesting playground equipment for children that is easily supervised.

The designated children's playground area is the 'Steamroller Park', which is characterised by the old steamroller placed on site. New playground equipment has been installed to cater for children between the ages of 3 to 11, and is well utilised. The equipment is in good condition and a safety inspection is carried out every quarter. The equipment incorporates a soft fall zone in accordance with legislation. There was little public comment on this area, indicating it met widespread approval.

The opportunity to develop an adventure playground designed around and for the site specifically, using natural materials and sensitive to the surroundings, may be considered at a time when the current equipment needs upgrading.

Families use the remainder of the area which provides a number of picnic tables and seats, and barbeques. As discussed in Sections 4.2 & 4.3, the barbeques need to be replaced and the quantity and style of seating will be reviewed in conjunction with the development of a visual standards guide. In addition, shade and shelter for patrons using this area and supervising children should be investigated. A combination of trees and careful selection of built shelters may be appropriate for this purpose.

4.10 Road Network and Car Parking

Objective: To provide and maintain road network and car parking facilities that are safe, effective and user friendly.

The road system through Oatley Park, introduced during the 1930s, creates a continuous linked circuit and provides access to all areas of the Park. (Refer to Site Map, showing the road layout, plus existing car parking areas.)

The roads are used by motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians alike. It was noted during consultation that conflicts and potential injuries have arisen, often as a result of the speed or lack of care taken by drivers and cyclists, particularly at blind spots. A review of the traffic management procedures is to be undertaken to identify areas for improvement and ways to encourage safer behaviour.

Car parking is an ongoing and increasing problem within Oatley Park. During peak usage times, especially on weekends, the existing car parks are unable to accommodate demand and there is significant overflow onto the road and outside the gates into the surrounding residential streets. Parking on the verge

creates two additional problems. It is a safety hazard whereby drivers of moving cars are forced to cross over, possibly in to the path of oncoming traffic. Similarly pedestrians and cyclists have to move out further onto the roadway. It also causes soil compaction and damages and encroaches on the vegetation.

Damage to vegetation is also occurring within the designated car parking areas where they are unsealed and unmarked and cars are currently able to be parked close to remnant trees, compacting root systems or causing mechanical damage to the trunks. The feasibility of sealing some of the car parks - although it is acknowledged that it may compromise visual standards in some areas - to formalise and rationalise parking spaces, and provide greater protection to trees will be investigated as a high priority.

It is essential that emergency access points are not blocked by parked cars, which was a noted concern during consultation.

Procedures regarding both traffic management and car parking will be publicised, monitored, and enforced through a comprehensive implementation program.

4.11 Safety and Risk Management

Safety concerns within Oatley Park include traffic speed, the riding of bikes on walking tracks, dog control, bushfire hazard and the use of timber fuel barbeques, among others. Most relate to a conflict in use by different activities and user groups within the Park. Many of these items raised as potential safety hazards or risks have been addressed within the most relevant key issue and therefore need not be duplicated here.

4.12 Sports Facilities and User Groups

Objective: To provide high quality sporting facilities to meet community needs without impacting negatively on bushland areas.

There are four principal sporting groups that have registered use of the Park's facilities: the Oatley Amateur Swimming Club, the St George Cycling Club, the All Saints Oatley West Soccer Club, and the St George Cricket Association. The soccer and cricket clubs use the Oval, which has been allocated a Sports Ground zoning within the boundaries of the Park. The Swimming Club uses the Baths area and has their own club room, whilst the Cycling Club keeps to the sealed road system, and has been granted road usage rights by Council over other vehicles and pedestrians during race meetings. Race times occur on Saturdays between 1.00pm and 4.00pm during the racing season of April to September. Oatley West Public School also uses the Oval for school sports.

Most of the community welcome sharing the Park with the existing sporting groups with the relevant facilities already in place. The various sporting codes and their participants add to the vibrancy of the park and the wellbeing of the

community. However there was concern expressed that the prime importance of the Park as a nature reserve should not be lost and Oatley Park not regarded primarily as a recreational “playground”. As such, the loss of any further areas of bushland for expansion of sporting facilities is not under consideration by Council.

While an expanded sporting area is not favoured, and nor is more intensive use of the sports grounds, there may be opportunities to improve the existing infrastructure, including club rooms, amenities and car parking. The intensity of use of the Oval in particular will be monitored to ensure it is not being overused during training and competition. Overuse may damage the quality of the playing surface and create additional maintenance costs. Supplementary lighting may help to alleviate some of the training pressures, as mentioned in Section 4.6 (Future Developments) The addition of change rooms to the Oval amenities building (also flagged in Section 4.6) will be a welcome improvement to the facility for users of the sportsground.

Maintenance of the Oval is to be undertaken in accordance with the service level agreements and standards detailed in the Grounds and Pavilions Use Policy. The policy document is still being finalised and will be attached to this Plan as an Appendix when completed and approved by Council.

Both the Cycle Club and Swimming Club have suggested priorities for improvements to facilities and listed some items of safety concern. A maintenance and improvement plan developed with each club can establish the safety requirements for participants and other patrons and a program of works as well as funding responsibilities.

4.13 Bike Riding in Bushland Zone

Oatley Park is a popular place for cyclists to ride, whether members of a Bike or Cycle Club, or individual uncommitted or recreational cyclists.

The issue of bike usage within the bushland of Oatley Park is one that has escalated in recognition and importance since the consultation for this Plan of Management began. The bushland areas and unsealed tracks have become sought after as an alternative to the sealed roads. These areas are valued for many of the reasons they are appreciated by other passive users or groups. This includes the size of the bushland area and the length of the tracks, and that it links into the surrounding areas of Lime Kiln Bay, Gannons Park and Evatt Park, to make an extensive cycling circuit.

It is also considered to have good tracks, areas and features for off-road activities, which is one of the main reasons that conflict has arisen. Some bike riders have been observed seeking out areas to go off the designated tracks, and evidence of created mounds, ramps and jumps has been found and reported to Council. These activities have unfortunately involved the breaking off and movement of materials such as soil, rocks and branches, in an effort to make the ride more difficult and interesting. The continued riding off track is

also a damaging practice in itself. Continued use of new paths results in the formation of rivets in the ground surface which in turn increases run-off and erosion.

It is true that walkers veering from the tracks will have a similar effect on the bushland, both damaging plants initially and causing erosion with the wearing in of informal tracks. The differences between damage caused by walkers and through the use of bikes are principally in the level of impact and the amount of repetition of the activity before noticeable degradation is caused. The impact of bikes is larger due to their size and the speed and force with which they may be ridden. While the resourcefulness and sense of adventure of the riders is not being questioned, the fact that the bushland is being obviously and incrementally eroded through this activity is a damaging impact which Council had a duty of care to minimise and prevent where possible.

Another important consideration of the use of bikes on and off track is that of safety, both to the riders themselves and to other patrons that may be encountered on the walking tracks and paths. The elements of speed and surprise, although not used deliberately, can create significant conflict with walkers, for whom the tracks are designated. The bushland tracks are designed for walking and as such are not intended to be used for, nor are they maintained for bike riding.

Attempts have been made by Council staff, Bushcare volunteers and concerned individuals to block off many off-road tracks as they appear, and Council has consulted with the Mountain Bike Club to help educate the riders about the need to restrict these activities. The success of these efforts has by all accounts been limited. The Mountain Bike Club spokesperson has liaised with Council staff and elected members to discuss the nature of the problem of damage to bushland, the appropriateness of using walking tracks for bike riding, and possible alternative sites for the Mountain Bike riders to utilise instead of Oatley Park. The Club's concern of traps placed for the riders on which to injure themselves was also raised.

Using the National Parks and Wildlife Service Policy as a guide, bicycles are generally permitted on sealed roads and fire trails but not on walking tracks or anywhere off track in the bushland.

It is not Council's desire or intent to alienate or discriminate against any group or individual in attempting to address this issue. It is not the bike riders themselves, but the activity of bike riding on the walking tracks and within the bushland that is of concern. As the largest and best example of remnant bushland within the St George region, Oatley Park must be the focus of preservation, as borne out in the consultation process and based on Council policy. Council has a duty of care to protect the Park and allow for appropriate public use. In consultation with the Mountain Bike Club, an alternative area or areas suitable and designated for this activity are being negotiated. Offers by Mountain Bike Club members to assist with regeneration activities are honourable, and the participation of any cyclist is welcome at any time to any of

the established Bushcare groups. Involvement in Bushcare activities however does not negate the detrimental effects of bike riding on the bushland.

5.0 Policy and Performance

Definition of Priorities used:

- High - work to be completed within 12-24 months
- Medium - work to be completed within 2-4 years
- Low - work commenced after 4 years
- Ongoing - a continuing responsibility

List of Abbreviations used:

- | | |
|--|--|
| BFMP - Bushfire Management Plan | OHS - Occupational Health & Safety |
| CLU - Community Liaison Unit | OPBO - Oatley Park Bushcare Officer |
| CO - Compliance Officer | OWPS - Oatley West Public School |
| CSO - Community Services Officer | POM - Parks Operations Manager |
| DAO - Development Assessment Officer | ROTAP - Rare or Threatened Australian Plants |
| EO - Environmental Officer | SLA - Service Level Agreement |
| FB - Fire Brigades | SRO - Sport & Recreation Officer |
| LEP - Local Environment Plan | TAO - Tree Administration Officer |
| MPR - Manager – Parks & Recreation | TE - Traffic Engineer |
| NPWS - National Parks & Wildlife Service | TMO - Tree Management Officer |
| OASC - Oatley Amateur Swimming Club | |

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
ACCESSIBILITY					
To provide optimum access to Oatley Park and its facilities for all users and stakeholders.	Provide motor vehicle access during daylight hours.	Gate opening and closing times maintained as per season.	Motor vehicle access prohibited after closing times.	Ongoing	Opening: Park staff Closing: Contract Security
	Ensure safety of Park after hours.	Obtain cost and feasibility of after-hours surveillance & monitoring of Oatley Park. Implement with Council and budget approval.	After hours damage and vandalism prevented/reduced.	High	Contract Security

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	
	Ensure work vehicle and emergency access points are kept clear at all times.	Implement monitoring program & fine/tow away if necessary.	Access points clear and available.	High	Compliance Officers (COs)	
	To maximise accessibility of Oatley Park for mobility impaired patrons.	Investigate feasibility of providing wheelchair access to some walking tracks, without sealing surface.	Mobility impaired patrons can safely utilise nominated walking/bush tracks.	Medium	Parks Operations Manager (POM)/ Community Service Officer	
	Maintain and enhance walking track system.	Undertake audit of walking tracks.	Audit prepared (& presented to MPR/ Executive committee/ Council).	High	Bushcare Officer/ Environmental Officer (EO)	
			Monitor track system on regular basis to assess condition and prevent new tracks. Maintain official tracks in good state of repair using natural materials, and clearly signpost.	Tracks inspected, repairs & maintenance carried out, official tracks in good condition, well signed. New tracks blocked.	Ongoing	Park staff/ POM
			Block off unwanted tracks and regenerate.	Regeneration on old unofficial tracks.	Ongoing	Bushcare/ POM
			Install interpretive & directional signage around tracks and Park to facilitate patron flow & understanding.	Signage installed and ease of use.	Medium	POM
	To restrict unwanted vehicle access into Oatley Park.	Install pedestrian-friendly trail bike barrier at Frogs Hollow bridge.	Trail bike entry to Park from Peakhurst prohibited.	High	POM	
Restrict access to Oatley Park during bushfires.	Close Oatley Park during periods of extreme/high fire danger (in accordance with NPWS policy/ action).	Gates closed, signage displayed during high fire danger.	Ongoing/ as required	POM		
BEACHFRONT AND BATHS						
To provide a safe and well resourced area for recreational bathing and swimming.	To provide for the upgrade of Baths and club facilities.	Develop a maintenance and improvement plan for facilities, involving OASC.	Work plan agreed to by OASC and has budget/ Council approval.	Medium	Assets Manager	
	Maintain sound condition of Baths safety net.	Inspection & necessary repairs of net structure undertaken every 6 months.	Net in good condition and swimmers safe from sharks & debris.	Ongoing	POM	
	Enhance visual appeal of facilities.	Consider aesthetics (plus function) of net and poles when upgrade required.	Any new netting structure is visually consistent with natural environment.	Low	POM	

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT					
To protect and preserve the bushland for its value as a vegetation and wildlife remnant and to manage the bushland in accordance with the provisions of SEPP 19.	Recognise the bushland and its preservation as the most important feature of Oatley Park.	Appoint Bushcare Officer for Oatley Park.	Council approval of full-time Bushcare Officer for Oatley Park.	High	Council/ Manager – Parks & Recreation (MPR)
		Prepare Bushland Management Plan.	Bushland Management Plan prepared.	High	Oatley Park Bushcare Officer (OPBO)/ EO
		Update flora survey, using Alan Fairley/ Oatley Flora & Fauna reference as base.	Survey update complete.	High	OPBO
		Undertake fauna survey.	Fauna survey complete.	High	External consultant
		Remove BBQs from bushland zones.	BBQs removed.	High	Park staff
		Install fence along both sides of concrete track between Oval & Steamroller park to protect remnant bushland and allow cycle use of track.	Fence installed, and patron mobility between Oval & Steamroller park unimpeded.	High	Park staff
	Identify and protect rare or threatened species.	Identify numbers and locations of ROTAP species or populations.	Species & number of ROTAP identified.	High	OPBO
		Develop and implement protection measures.	Protection measures put in place.	High	OPBO
		Ensure maintenance staff are aware of plant locations and procedures in place.	Staff made aware, no accidental loss of species.	High	OPBO
		Propagate where possible.	Seed and/or cutting propagation attempted.	Medium	OPBO
	Remove noxious and environmental weeds, encourage natural regeneration of indigenous plant species.	Maintain Volunteer Bushcare Program within Oatley Park and continue to promote. Aim to expand areas worked with appointment of Oatley Park Bushcare Officer.	2 groups – maintain current sites; expand when numbers, time and interest make it possible.	Ongoing	OPBO
		Reduce reliance on contract labour for primary and reactionary weed control. Increase follow up work and commitment to areas weeded.	Minimum areas opened up for primary work. Follow up work committed.	Ongoing	OPBO
	Encourage native fauna.	Use local plant stock for all revegetation and landscaping works.	Local plant material used.	High/ ongoing	OPBO/ POM
		Implement feral animal control where possible.	as per Animals section below	Ongoing	

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
		Encourage and enforce correct pet control within Oatley Park.	as per Animals section below	Ongoing	
		Leave dead trees and branches for hollows.	Habitat left for birds/ fauna where possible.	Ongoing	OPBO/ Tree Management Officer (TMO)
	Encourage local residents to eliminate encroachments and rubbish dumping in Oatley Park.	Identify boundaries, remove inappropriate plants and materials.	Park boundaries identified and respected.	Medium	OPBO
		Inform and educate adjoining residents through letterbox drops and doorknocks where required.	Local residents notified.	Medium	OPBO
	Encourage responsible recreational use of bushland.	Provide seating along official walking tracks, for rest opportunities and view points.	Seating installed in selected positions within budget allocation.	Medium	POM/ Parks staff
	To restrict damage to bushland and personal risks to park patrons.	Permit use of cycles on sealed roads and designated fire trails only. Prohibit cycle use on walking tracks and off track in bushland.	Cycle use restricted to roads and designated fire trails.	High	MPR
		Install signage at entrances to tracks.	Signage installed.	High	POM
		Monitor track use, implement ordinance controls as required.	Tracks monitored, warnings and fines issued.	High/ ongoing	COs
		Block off and dismantle off road tracks and jumps.	Bushland regenerated.	High	OPBO/ Park staff
		Undertake education campaign – paper, Council Comment, & brochure which sets out designated riding areas plus rules & regulations.	Publicity carried out.	High	CLU/ EO/ Cycling Clubs
		Liaise with Bike and Cycle Clubs and uncommitted cyclists to investigate alternative sites suitable for off-road cycling.	Bikes no longer ridden within bushland zone.	High	SRO
	Implement tree preservation (also for fauna habitat).	Complete Significant Tree Register/ survey for Oatley Park.	Survey prepared.	Medium	Tree Administration Officer (TAO)/ OPBO
		Assess dead trees and branches where overhanging road, path or recreation area. Inspect individually for safety, stability and habitat value.	Trees & branches inspected individually and assessed on merits before action taken.	Ongoing	TMO/ OPBO

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
		Leave dead trees & branches in bushland for habitat where they will not pose threat to patron safety.	Trees, branches retained for habitat where possible, removed where hazardous.	Ongoing	TMO/Park staff
BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT					
To manage the bushland understanding that fire is essential for the long term survival of the flora, but having regard to bushfire hazard & the need to reduce fuel loadings and maintain Fire Protection Zones.	Minimise fuel loadings in identified risk areas.	Undertake annual assessments of fuel loadings.	Fuel loads inspected.	Ongoing/annual	B/C/ NSW Fire Brigades
		Undertake manual removal of fuel where possible.	Recommendations of NSW Fire Brigades adhered to.	Ongoing	OPBO/Park staff
		Carry out hazard reduction burns where required by NSW Fire Brigades.	Burns carried out by NSW Fire Brigades.	Ongoing	OPBO/NSW FB/ POM
		Minimise need for broadacre burns by regular use of pile & mosaic burning & other hazard reduction techniques.	Reduced need for broadacre burns.	Ongoing	OPBO/NSW FB/ POM
		Burn in mosaic pattern to stimulate regeneration and maximise diversity.	Pile burns done by Fire Brigades, regeneration growth stimulated.	Ongoing	OPBO/NSW FB/ POM
	Adhere to recommended fire frequency thresholds as per Bushfire Management Plan.	Burns undertaken no more than every 5 years (10 years for selected species), not less than every 30 years, as recommended for vegetation type/s.	Healthy ecosystem maintained. No species loss through too frequent burning.	Ongoing	OPBO/ POM/ NSW Fire Brigades
	Provide public information about bushfire risk and minimisation procedures.	Prepare Evacuation Plan (as recommended in BFMP).	Evacuation Plan prepared and approved.	High	MPR
		Place signage in Park to alert patrons.	Patrons aware of burns.	Ongoing	POM
		Undertake letterbox drops to adjoining properties before burning carried out.	Adjoining residents aware of burns.	Ongoing	OPBO /NSW FB
DOMESTIC, FERAL AND NUISANCE ANIMALS					
To encourage responsible pet behaviour in Oatley Park, and limit the effects of feral animals on native fauna and vegetation.	To encourage responsible and controlled behaviour of pets within Oatley Park.	Pets to be kept on lead at all times within Park.	Minimal/ reduced reports of breaches.	High/ ongoing	Pet owners/ COs
		Pets not permitted in Baths.	Minimal/ reduced reports of breaches.	Ongoing	Pet owners
		Pets to be cleaned up after by owners.	Minimal/ reduced reports of breaches.	Ongoing	Pet owners
		Horses permitted on sealed roads only, and must be cleaned up after.	Horse riding kept to designated areas.	Ongoing	Owners/riders
	To educate, monitor and enforce Companion Animals Act regulations.	Advertise regulations in Council publications (Council Comment, website etc).	Information available to community.	High	Community Liaison Unit (CLU)

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
		Check signage and replace or install where required.	Clear concise signage in good state of repair.	Annually	Park staff
		Determine locations for signage eg. entrance to bush tracks, park entrances, sports ground & passive rec areas.	Signage placed in highly visible positions.	Medium	MPR
		Spot inspections by COs.	Compliance by patrons, or fines issued.	Ongoing	COs
		Impose amnesty period on fines.	Warnings issued instead of fines for set period.		COs
	To minimise the impacts of feral animals where possible.	Keep record of fox sightings.	Database of reports of fox activity kept.	Ongoing	EO
		Set fox trap/s – baited and monitored by Bushcare volunteers.	Trap/s monitored regularly.	Ongoing	OPBO
		Inspect reports of fox den sightings, and fumigate if suitable.	Fox dens located and suitability for fumigation identified.	Ongoing	OPBO
		Pursue regional approach to baiting through SSROC, acknowledging that distance restrictions for bait placement are currently prohibitive.	Participation and support for feasibility into regional baiting program.	Medium	Sustainability Coordinator/ EO
		Inspect regularly for feral insect pests and treat ASAP by pest controller if found.	Inspections carried out and any outbreaks controlled.	As reported/ ongoing	OPBO
		Use endemic plant species to encourage local bird species over aggressive non-local species.	Gradual increase in local species and decrease in hybrid species.	Ongoing	OPBO/ adjoining owners
		Request (via letterbox material) adjoining owners use local plants in landscaping to favour local fauna.	Increase in use of local plant species by neighbours.	Ongoing	EO/ OPBO
	Encourage tolerance and understanding of habits of other native 'nuisance' fauna.	Prepare brochure, signage or other info on animals of Oatley Park.	Brochure prepared, info available on website, signage installed.	Medium	EO/ CLU
Educate patrons to leave native animals alone.		Incidences of disturbed fauna.	Ongoing	EO/ OPBO/ CLU	

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
		Investigate alternative types of netting for Baths when due for replacement, if possible to exclude jellyfish.	Type of net to exclude jellyfish weighed against other deciding factors eg. style, cost, ease of maintenance.	Low	POM
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS					
To prevent further loss of bushland and minimise infrastructure development in all areas by restricting developments to upgrading the existing structures and facilities, and the aesthetics of the Park where required.	Provide opportunities for ongoing consultation in the management of Oatley Park.	Refer relevant matters to Council's Advisory Committees (Environment, Sports, or Volunteers) as appropriate.	Opportunity for input from stakeholders provided and sought for high profile/ priority issues.	Ongoing	MPR
	Prohibit any development within bushland zone.	Investigate avenues for legislation eg. LEP.	Development in bushland zone prohibited.	High	Manager - Planning
		Community informed through publicity.	Information made public.	High	CLU/ DAO
		Allow placement of seating only along walking tracks & in existing picnic areas where suitable for rest points and views.	Seating selectively placed along tracks & in existing picnic areas.	Medium/ Low	POM
	To develop and adhere to a visual standard code for Oatley Park.	Prepare visual standards manual to be identified for all future upgrades and additions to park furniture, buildings and landscaping.	Standards manual prepared, approved by Council & incorporated into update of this Plan.	High	External consultant
		Embellishments and upgrades to comply with aesthetic/visual standards.	Visual standards met.	Ongoing	DAO
	To restrict infrastructure development in park & sports zones to that required for an identified service need, or for embellishment &/or upgrade of existing facilities.	Prohibit any further expansion to the existing footprint of structures/buildings and the construction of new buildings, excepting toilets at Steamroller Park and change room addition to Oval amenities building.	No increase in area of existing infrastructure approved; with exception of listed items.	High	DAO
		Undertake audit of existing assets.	Audit completed.	High	Asset Manager
		Develop budgeted maintenance plan for long term upgrade.	Maintenance plan prepared.	High	Asset Manager
		Include asset maintenance plan in subsequent review of this Plan.	Relevant aspects incorporated.	High	EO
		Install additional training lights to Oval to help reduce stress on ground for night training.	Training lights installed without additional poles/towers.	High	MPR

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	
		Investigate the provision of an additional toilet block in Steamroller Park.	Feasibility investigated, program for works if approved & viable.	Medium	MPR	
		Investigate provision of disabled toilet facility at Castle amenities block.	Feasibility investigated, program for works if approved & viable.	Medium	MPR	
	Allow for appropriate commercial lease, up to 5 years or less, for café type outlet to be operated within Oatley Park if approved by Council.	Assess individual applications on their merits. Commercial leases permitted in Park and Sportsground zones, excluding beachfront, car parks and roads.	Any approved commercial activities comply with all other requirements & intents of this Plan.	Low	DAO/ MPR	
	Phase out wood fuelled barbeques and replace with electric BBQs in appropriate locations.	Undertake audit of number and location of wood fuel BBQs, and usage levels.	Information on BBQs collated.	High	POM	
		Identify feasible locations within park & sportsground zone for placement.	Relocation sites identified.	High	POM	
		Provide cost estimate of replacement units.	Costing obtained.	High	POM	
		Remove wood fuel BBQs from high risk and undesirable areas.	BBQs removed from bushland areas and other nominated sites.	High	Park staff	
		Stage replacement according to budget allocation & Council approved time frame.	Approval for BBQ replacements.	Medium	POM	
	HERITAGE					
	To preserve, protect and enhance the historical and cultural integrity of Oatley Park.	To preserve and protect items of historical and cultural interest.	Liase with Museum staff and/or historical society to prepare catalogue of historical items. Identify type, location, condition, protection measures.	Catalogue prepared & incorporated into update of this Plan.	High	Museum staff/ EO
Implement appropriate protection of historical remnants where required. Protect sensitive areas eg. Aboriginal sites.			Protection measures implemented.	Medium	OPBO/ Park staff	
To obtain greater legislative protection of Oatley Park and its		Investigate requirements for inclusion of Oatley Park on LEP as heritage item and make submission.	Requirements identified, submission made.	Medium	EO	

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
	historical and cultural assets.	Investigate requirements for inclusion of Oatley Park on State Heritage Register and make submission.	Requirements identified, submission made.	Medium	EO
	Enhance historical integrity of Oatley Park.	Develop interpretive signage.	Signage installed.	Medium	MPR/ Museum Staff
		Produce educational material (website info, brochure etc).	Material produced & distributed.	Medium	EO/ OPBO/ CLU
		Employ/utilise Cultural Officer to undertake educational programs for schools and community.	Use of Park for education programs.	Low	Council/ Cultural Officer
<i>PASSIVE RECREATION AREA AND PUBLIC AMENITIES PROVISION</i>					
To manage the areas zoned as Parkland for public recreation and to provide appropriate and adequate amenities that meet user needs.	To provide and maintain high quality recreation facilities/ infrastructure to accommodate a range of unstructured activities.	Review the condition of park furniture annually and replace if condition is poor.	Park furniture in good condition.	Ongoing	Park staff
		Assess need for additional furniture, in designated areas and install picnic tables/shelters where appropriate & within budget constraints.	Additional furniture requirements met without negative impact on bushland.	Medium	POM/ Park staff
	Maintain current maintenance standards within passive recreation areas.	Staff to maintain or improve on current maintenance standards.	Standards met as per Service Level Agreement.	High	POM/ Park staff
		Plant additional canopy trees in appropriate locations for shade, shelter and aesthetics.	Local species canopy trees planted.	Medium	Park staff/ OPBO
	Castle area available for private functions.	Continue to permit booking of Castle area for private functions.	Castle booking system maintained.	Ongoing	Sport & Recreation Officer (SRO)
		Booking and cleaning fee set in accordance with annual fees and charges in Management Plan.	Booking fee approved annually by Council.	Ongoing	SRO
<i>PLAYGROUND AREA AND EQUIPMENT PROVISION</i>					
To provide accessible, high quality, safe, and interesting playground equipment for	To maintain safety of playground equipment.	Condition and safety aspects of equipment are assessed quarterly. Any faults are repaired within SLA timeframe.	Equipment is in good, safe working condition & complies with Australian Standards.	High/ ongoing	POM
		Maintain softfall area in accordance with Australian Standard /OHS regulations.	Softfall area complies with regulations.	Ongoing	POM

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
children that is easily supervised.	Provide a high quality, interesting play experience.	When equipment due for replacement consider current trends and natural environment of park.	New equipment in keeping with surrounding environment.	Low	POM
	Provide suitable locations and visibility for supervision.	Ensure playground visible from passive rec areas of Park.	Playground easily supervised.	Medium	POM
		Provide additional shade and/or seating if required.	Seats and trees installed appropriately.	Medium/ Low	POM/ Park staff
ROAD NETWORK AND CAR PARKING					
To provide and maintain road network and car parking facilities that are safe, effective and user friendly.	Maintain condition of road surface.	Undertake regular inspections to identify any areas for repair. Undertake repairs within time specified by SLAs.	Sealed roadway in good state of repair.	Ongoing	Road crew/ Rangers
	Improve traffic flow and safety.	Undertake review of traffic procedures to identify areas for improvement and ways to encourage safer behaviour eg. speed, road sharing, signs, blind spots, give ways etc.	Review prepared by Traffic Engineer. Recommendations endorsed by Traffic Committee & Council.	High	Traffic Engineer (TE)
		Implement approved recommendations.	Recommendations implemented.	Medium	TE/ MPR
		Undertake surveillance and monitoring. Issue warnings and fines as necessary.	Monitoring program carried out.	Medium	Road Safety Officer/ COs
		Keep emergency access points clear.	Access clear.	Ongoing	COs
		Trial implementation of car-free days in Oatley Park.	Car free days trialled. Regularly implemented subject to public feedback.	Medium	POM/ TE
		Improve car parking facilities.	Review all official and unofficial car parking areas.	Review prepared.	High
	Close off unofficial car parks and regenerate to bushland.		Undesirable car parking areas closed.	High/ medium	Park staff/ OPBO
	Provide protection for remnant trees in official car parks.		Valuable trees protected.	High/ medium	TMO/ OPBO/ Park staff
	Seal car parks to be retained where appropriate and line mark official spaces.		Official car parks sealed and marked, within budget allocations.	High/ medium	MPR
	Discourage and prohibit parking in unauthorised areas.	Physically prevent verge parking by selective use of bollards/barriers.	Verge parking discontinued.	High	POM/ Park staff
		Undertake public notification program (signage, Council Comment).	Publicity carried out.	High/ medium	CLU

CORE OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	INDICATOR	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY
		Carry out regular parking patrols.	Patrols carried out.	Ongoing	COs
SPORTS FACILITIES AND USER GROUPS					
To provide high quality sporting facilities to meet community needs without impacting negatively on bushland areas.	To provide for maintenance actions specific to sports grounds to be carried out on Oatley Park Oval.	Oval zoned sportsground.	Sports ground zone implemented.	High	Council/ MPR
	Undertake relevant actions necessary to maintain sports ground.	Irrigate playing field in compliance with water restrictions and to maintain condition of turf.	Turf watered in accordance with water restrictions.	Ongoing	Park staff/ Club volunteers
		Implement maintenance of sportsground eg. fertilising, drainage, marking of playing fields etc.	Maintenance in accordance with SLAs & standards as detailed in Council's Grounds & Pavilions Use policy.	Ongoing	POM/ Park staff
		Additional lights on Oval to reduce impact on playing surface.	Lights installed if DA approved, selected in accordance with Park visual standards.	High	MPR
		Monitor usage of Oval to ensure it is not being overused.	Groups and times used, surface condition satisfactory.	High/ ongoing	SRO
		Use of Oval permitted during school hours for school sports activities.	OWPS satisfied with access and facilities provided.	Ongoing	SRO
		Consider suggested improvements and/or safety measures proposed by Cycle Club & Swimming Club. Program required works where Council responsibility to fund.	Proposals assessed, programmed, & implemented where endorsed by Council.	Medium	MPR/ Clubs
		Allow use of Oval for hosting of special events.	Conditional, temporary permits granted for sports carnivals, presentations etc.	Staging of events complies with Council regulations.	Ongoing

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Native Plant Species

Appendix 2: Introduced Plant Species

Appendix 3: Building and Asset Management Schedule

Appendix 4: Extract from Bushfire Management Plan

Appendix 5: Oatley Park Plan of Management – Market Research and
Consultation Final Report

APPENDIX 1 – Native Plant Species

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
PTERIDOPHYTA (Ferns and Fern allies)		
Adiantaceae	Adiantum aethiopicum Adiantum hispidulum	Common Maidenhair Rough Maidenhair Fern
Aspleniaceae	Asplenium australasicum Asplenium flabellifolium	Bird's Nest Fern Necklace Fern
Blechnaceae	Blechnum sp. Doodia aspera	Water Fern Rasp Fern
Cyatheaceae	Calochlaena dubia Cyathea australis	Common Ground Fern Rough Treefern
Davalliaceae	Davallia pyxidata	Hare's-foot Fern
Dennstaedtiaceae	Histiopteris incisa Pteridium esculentum	Bat's-wing Fern Bracken Fern
Gleicheniaceae	Gleichenia dicarpa Gleichenia rupestris	Coral Fern
Lindsaeaceae	Lindsaea linearis Lindsaea microphylla	Screw Fern Lacy Wedge Fern
Polypodiaceae	Platycterium bifurcatum	Elkhorn
Psilotaceae	Psilotum nudum	Skeleton Fork Fern
Selaginellaceae	Selaginella uliginosa	Swamp Selaginella
Sinopteridaceae	Cheilanthes distans Cheilanthes sieberi	Cloak Fern Poison Rock Fern
Thelypteridaceae	Christella dentata	
GYMNOSPERMAE (Cycads and Conifers)		
Podocarpaceae	Podocarpus elatus Podocarpus spinulosus	Plum Pine Native Pine
Zamiaceae	Macrozamia communis	Burrawang
ANGIOSPERMAE		
Dicotyledons (Flowering Plants)		
Acanthaceae	Brunoniella pumilio	Dwarf Blue Trumpet
Aizoaceae	Tetragonia tetragonioides	New Zealand Spinach
Amaranthaceae	Alternanthera denticulata	Lesser Joyweed
Apiaceae	Actinotus helianthi Actinotus minor Platysace ericoides Platysace lanceolata Platysace linearifolia Trachymene incisa Xanthosia pilosa Xanthosia tridentata	Flannel Flower Lesser Flannel Flower Heath Platysace Lance-leaf Platysace Narrow-leaf Platysace Hairy Xanthosia
Apocynaceae	Parsonia straminea	Common Silkpod
Araliaceae	Polyscias sambucifolia	Elderberry Panax
Asclepiadaceae	Marsdenia suaveolens	Scented Mink Vine
Asteraceae	Cassinia aculeata Cassinia aureonitens Cassinia laevis Epaltes australis Euchiton gymnocephalum Euchiton sphaericum Gnaphalium involucreatum (= Euchiton involucreatus?)	Dolly Bush Yellow Cassinia Cough Bush Spreading Nut-heads Creeping Cudweed Cudweed Cudweed

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
	Lagenifera gracilis Olearia microphylla Olearia viscidula Ozothamnus diosmifolius Senecio quadridentatus	Blue Bottle-daisy Small-leaf Daisy Bush Sticky Daisy Bush White Dogwood Cotton Fireweed
Avicenniaceae	Avicennia marina var. australasica	Grey Mangrove
Baueraceae	Bauera rubioides	Dog Rose
Bignoniaceae	Pandorea pandorana	Wonga Wonga Vine
Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia communis Wahlenbergia gracilis	Tufted Bluebell Native Bluebell
Cassythaceae	Cassytha sp.	Devil's Twine
Casuarinaceae	Allocasuarina littoralis Casuarina glauca	Black She-oak Swamp Oak
Chenopodiaceae	Einadia hastata Sarcocornia quinqueflora	Saloop Samphire
Clusiaceae	Hypericum gramineum	Small St John's Wort
Commelinaceae	Commelina cyanea	Scurvy Weed
Convolvulaceae	Calystegia marginata Dichondra repens Polymeria calycina	Bind Weed Kidney Weed Bindweed
Crassulaceae	Crassula sieberiana	Australian Stonecrop
Cunoniaceae	Callicoma serratifolia Ceratopetalum gummiferum	Black Wattle Christmas Bush
Dilleniaceae	Hibbertia diffusa Hibbertia fasciculata Hibbertia monogyna/circumdans Hibbertia nitida Hibbertia scandens	Bundled Guinea Flower Shining Guinea Flower Climbing Guinea Flower
Droseraceae	Drosera auriculata Drosera peltata	Pale Sundew
Elaeocarpaceae	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash
Epacridaceae	Astroloma humifusum Astroloma pinifolium Brachyloma daphnoides Epacris longiflora Epacris microphylla Epacris pulchella Leucopogon amplexicaulis Leucopogon ericoides Leucopogon juniperinus Monotoca elliptica Monotoca scoparia Styphelia laeta var. laeta Styphelia tubiflora Woolisia pungens	Native Cranberry Pine Heath Daphne Heath Fuschia Heath Coral Heath White Beard Prickly Beard-heath Tree Broom Heath Prickly Broom-heath Five Corners Red Five-corners Woolisia
Euphorbiaceae	Amperea xiphioclada Breynia oblongifolia Glochidion ferdinandi var. ferdinandi Glochidion ferdinandi var. pubens Micranthemum ericoides Omalanthus nutans(populifolius) Phyllanthus hirtellus Poranthera ericifolia	Broom Spurge Breynia Cheese Tree Cheese Tree Bleeding Heart Thyme Spurge Heath-leaved Poranthera

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
	Poranthera microphylla Ricinocarpus pinifolius	Small Poranthera Wedding Bush
Fabaceae Faboideae	Bossiaea ensata Bossiaea heterophylla Bossiaea scolopendria Daviesia corymbosa Desmodium gunnii Dillwynia retorta Glycine clandestina Glycine microphylla Glycine tabacina Gompholobium glabratum Hardenbergia violacea Hovea linearis Kennedia rubicunda Pultenaea daphnoides Pultenaea linophylla Pultenaea stipularis Viminaria juncea	Plank Plant Bitter-pea Tick-trefoil Eggs & Bacon Love Creeper Love Creeper Glory Pea Native Sarsaparilla Narrow-leaf Hovea Dusky Coral Pea Large-leaf Bush-pea Fine-leaf Bush-pea Native Broom
Fabaceae Mimosoideae	Acacia brownii Acacia decurrens Acacia echinula Acacia hispidula Acacia linifolia Acacia longifolia var. longifolia Acacia myrtifolia Acacia parramattensis Acacia prominens Acacia suaveolens Acacia terminalis Acacia ulicifolia	Prickly Moses Green Wattle Hooked Wattle Rough-leaf Wattle Flax-leaved Wattle Sydney Golden Wattle Myrtle-leaf Wattle Sydney Green Wattle Gosford Wattle Sweet-scented Wattle Sunshine Wattle Prickly Moses
Geraniaceae	Pelargonium inodorum	
Goodeniaceae	Dampiera stricta Goodenia bellidifolia Goodenia hederacea Scaevola ramosissima	Blue Dampiera Ivy Goodenia Fan Flower
Haloragaceae	Gonocarpus teucrioides	Raspwort
Juncaginaceae	Triglochin striata	Streaked Arrowgrass
Lauraceae	Cassytha pubescens	Devil's Twine
Lobeliaceae	Lobelia alata Lobelia dentata Lobelia gracilis Pratia purpurascens	Angled Lobelia White Root
Loganiaceae	Mitrasacme pilosa Mitrasacme polymorpha	Mitre Worts Mitre Weed
Loranthaceae	Amyema congener ssp. congener Muellerina celastroides	Mistletoe Mistletoe
Moraceae	Ficus rubiginosa	Port Jackson Fig
Myoporaceae	Myoporum acuminatum	Boobiella
Mysinaceae	Aegiceras corniculatum Rapanea howittiana Rapanea variabilis	River Mangrove Brush Muttonwood Muttonwood
Myrtaceae	Angophora bakeri	Narrow-leaved Apple

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
	Angophora costata Angophora floribunda Angophora hispida Callistemon linearis Callistemon pinifolius Corymbia gummifera Eucalyptus capitellata Eucalyptus pilularis Eucalyptus piperita Eucalyptus punctata Eucalyptus sclerophylla Kunzea ambigua Leptospermum polygalifolium Leptospermum trinervium Melaleuca ericifolia Melaleuca linariifolia Melaleuca thymifolia	Sydney Red Gum Rough-barked Apple Dwarf Apple Narrow-leaf Bottlebrush Pine-leaved Bottlebrush Red Bloodwood Brown Stringybark Blackbutt Sydney Peppermint Grey Gum Scribbly Gum Tick Bush Yellow Tea-tree Flaky-barked Tea-tree Swamp Paperbark Honey Myrtle
Oleaceae	Notelaea longifolia	Mock Olive
Oxalidaceae	Oxalis exilis Oxalis perennans Oxalis thompsoniae	
Pittosporaceae	Billardiera scandens Bursaria spinosa Pittosporum revolutum Pittosporum undulatum	Dumplings Blackthorn Rough-fruit Pittosporum Native Daphne
Polygalaceae	Comesperma ericinum Comesperma sphaerocarpum	Match Heads Broom Milkwort
Polygonaceae	Persicaria decipiens	Slender Knotweed
Portulacaceae	Calandrinia sp.	Purslane
Primulaceae	Samolus repens	Creeping Brookweed
Proteaceae	Banksia ericifolia Banksia integrifolia Banksia oblongifolia Banksia serrata Banksia spinulosa Conospermum ericifolium Conospermum longifolium ssp. angustifolium Grevillea buxifolia ssp. sphacelata Grevillea mucronulata Grevillea sericea Hakea dactyloides Hakea sericea Isopogon anemonifolius Isopogon anethifolius Lambertia formosa Lomatia silaifolia Persoonia hirsuta ssp. hirsuta Persoonia laurina ssp. laurina Persoonia levis Persoonia linearis Petrophile pulchella Xylomelum pyriforme	Heath-leaved Banksia Coast Banksia Old Man Banksia Spine leaf Banksia Smoke Bush Long-leaf Coneseeds Grey Spider Flower Green Spider Flower Pink Spider Flower Broad-leaf Hakea Needle Bush Drumsticks Drumsticks Mountain Devil Crinkle Bush Hairy Geebung Laurel Geebung Broad-leaved Geebung Fine-leaved Geebung Conesticks Woody Pear

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Ranunculaceae	<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	Old Man's Beard
Rhamnaceae	<i>Cryptandra amara</i> <i>Pomaderris intermedia</i> <i>Pomaderris ferruginea</i> <i>Pomaderris lanigera</i>	Rusty Pomaderris Woolly Pomaderris
Rubiaceae	<i>Morinda jasminoides</i> <i>Opercularia aspera</i> <i>Opercularia varia</i> <i>Pomax umbellata</i>	Morinda Coarse Stinkweed Variable Stinkweed Pomax
Rutaceae	<i>Correa reflexa</i> <i>Crowea saligna</i> <i>Philotheca scabra</i> ssp <i>scabra</i> <i>Zieria pilosa</i> <i>Zieria smithii</i>	Common Correa Wax Flower Hairy Zieria Sandfly Zieria
Santalaceae	<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> <i>Exocarpos strictus</i> <i>Leptomeria acida</i> <i>Omphacomeria acerba</i>	Native Cherry Dwarf Cherry Native Currant Leafless Sour-bush
Sapindaceae	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Hop Bush
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	Trailing Speedwell
Stackhousiaceae	<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	Slender Stackhousia
Sterculiaceae	<i>Lasiopetalum ferrugineum</i> var. <i>ferrugineum</i> <i>Lasiopetalum rufum</i>	Rusty Petals Red Rusty Petals
Stylidiaceae	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> <i>Stylidium productum</i>	Grass Trigger Plant Trigger Plant
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	Slender Rice Flower
Tremandraceae	<i>Tetradlea neglecta</i>	Black-eyed Susan
Ulmaceae	<i>Trema aspera</i>	Native Peach
Verbenaceae	<i>Clerodendrum tomentosum</i>	Hairy Clerodendrum
Violaceae	<i>Hybanthus monopetalus</i>	Lady's Slipper
Monocotyledons		
Anthericaceae	<i>Caesia parviflora</i> <i>Laxmannia gracilis</i> <i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i> <i>Tricoryne elatior</i> <i>Tricoryne simplex</i>	Pale Grass-lily Wire Lily Fringed Lily Yellow Rush-lily Yellow Rush-lily
Blandfordiaceae	<i>Blandfordia nobilis</i>	Christmas Bells
Colchicaceae	<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
Cyperaceae	<i>Baumea juncea</i> <i>Carex breviculmis</i> <i>Carex inversa</i> <i>Caustis flexuosa</i> <i>Chorizandra cymbaria</i> <i>Cyperus laevis</i> <i>Gahnia aspera</i> <i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> <i>Lepidosperma concavum</i> <i>Lepidosperma laterale</i> <i>Lepidosperma neesii</i> <i>Schoenus melanostachys</i> <i>Tetraria capillaris</i>	Bare Twig Rush Knob Sedge Curly Sedge Bristle-rush Rough Saw-Sedge Red-fruited Saw-sedge Variable Sword-sedge Stiff Rapier Sedge Black Bog-rush
Haemodoraceae	<i>Haemodorum planifolium</i>	Bloodroot

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Hypoxidaceae	<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i>	Golden Weather-grass
Iridaceae	<i>Patersonia glabrata</i> <i>Patersonia sericea</i>	Leafy Purple-flag Purple Iris
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus continuus</i> <i>Juncus krausii</i> <i>Juncus remotiflorus</i> <i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Sea Rush Common Rush
Lomandraceae	<i>Lomandra confertifolia</i> ssp. <i>rubiginosa</i> <i>Lomandra cylindrica</i> <i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>coriacea</i> <i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>filiformis</i> <i>Lomandra gracilis</i> <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> <i>Lomandra micrantha</i> <i>Lomandra multiflora</i> <i>Lomandra obliqua</i>	Needle Mat-rush Wattle Mat-rush Wattle Mat-rush Spiny-headed Mat-rush Small-flowered Mat-rush Many-flowered Mat-rush Twisted Mat-rush
Luzuriagaceae	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
Orchidaceae	<i>Acianthus fornicatus</i> <i>Caladenia catenata</i> <i>Calochilus paludosus</i> <i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> <i>Corybas fimbriatus</i> <i>Cryptostylis erecta</i> <i>Dipodium punctatum</i> <i>Diuris maculata</i> <i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i> <i>Erythrorchis cassythoides</i> <i>Glossodia major</i> <i>Lyperanthus suaveolens</i> <i>Microtis rara</i> <i>Microtis unifolia</i> <i>Pterostylis acuminata</i> <i>Pterostylis concinna</i> <i>Pterostylis curta</i> <i>Pterostylis longifolia</i> <i>Pterostylis nutans</i> <i>Pterostylis parviflora</i> <i>Spiranthes sinensis</i>	Pixie Caps White Caladenia Red Beard Orchid Purple Bearded Orchid Fringed Helmet Orchid Bonnet Orchid Hyacinth Orchid Donkey Orchid Tongue Orchid Climbing Orchid Waxlip Orchid Brown Beaks Scented Onion Orchid Common Onion Orchid Pointed Greenhood Trim Greenhood Blunt Greenhood Tall Greenhood Nodding Greenhood Baby Greenhood Ladies Tresses
Phormiaceae	<i>Dianella</i> sp. <i>Dianella caerulea</i> var. <i>producta</i> <i>Dianella longifolia</i> <i>Dianella revoluta</i> <i>Thelionema caespitosum</i>	Blue Flax Lily Paroo Lily Blue Flax Lily Black-anther Flax Lily Tufted Blue Lily
Poaceae	<i>Agrostis avenacea</i> <i>Anisopogon avenaceus</i> <i>Aristida ramosa</i> var. <i>ramosa</i> <i>Aristida vagans</i> <i>Aristida warburgii</i> <i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i> <i>Austrodanthonia tenuior</i> <i>Austrostipa pubescens</i> <i>Cymbopogon refractus</i> <i>Deyeuxia quadrisetia</i>	Blown Grass Oat Spear Grass Purple Wiregrass Threeawn Speargrass Speargrass Wallaby Grass Wallaby Grass Tall Speargrass Barbwire Grass Bent Grass

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
	Dichelachne micrantha	Shorthair Plumegrass
	Dichelachne parva	Plumegrass
	Digitaria parviflora	Small-flowered Finger Grass
	Digitaria ramularis	Finger Grass
	Echinopogon caespitosus	Hedgehog Grass
	Echinopogon ovatus	Forest Hedgehog Grass
	Entolasia marginata	Bordered Panic
	Entolasia stricta var. hirsuta	Wiry Panic
	Entolasia stricta var. stricta	Wiry Panic
	Entolasia whiteana	Panic
	Eragrostis benthamii	Lovegrass
	Eragrostis brownii	Brown's Lovegrass
	Imperata cylindrica var. major	Blady grass
	Microlaena stipoides	Weeping Grass
	Notodanthonia longifolia	Longleaf Wallaby Grass
	Oplismenus aemulus	
	Oplismenus imbecillis	
	Panicum simile	Two Colour Panic
	Paspalidium distans	
	Phragmites australis	Common Reed
	Poa affinis	Poa
	Poa labillardieri	Poa Grass
	Tetrarrhena juncea	Wiry Ricegrass
	Themeda australis	Kangaroo Grass
Restionaceae	Lepyrodia scariosa	Scale-rush
Smilacaceae	Smilax australis	Wait-a-while Vine
	Smilax glycyphylla	Sweet Sarsaparilla
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Xanthorrhoea arborea	Grass Tree
	Xanthorrhoea media	Grass Tree

Recorded by Alan Fairley and Colin Gibson for Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society and Pat Akkersdyk for National Trust (1980-1981 & 1990-1995). Published list *Native Plants of Oatley Park* by Alan Fairley for OFF Conservation Society (2000). Additional species recorded in December 2003 by Vicki Willes (Hurstville Bushcare).

APPENDIX 2 – Introduced Plant Species

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Agavaceae	Agave sp.	
Alliaceae	Nothoscordum gracile*	Onion Weed
Amaranthaceae	Alternanthera philoxeroides*	Alligator Weed
Anacardiaceae	Rhus succedanea	Rhus Tree
Asclepidaceae	Araujia hortorum	Moth Plant
Asteraceae	Bidens pilosa Conyza floribunda Ageratina adenophora Hypochoeris radicata Onopordum sp. Sonchus oleraceus	Cobbler's Peg Fleabane Crofton Weed Catsear Scotch Thistle Common Sowthistle
Balsaminaceae	Impatiens walleriana*	Busy Lizzie
Basellaceae	Anredera cordifolia	Madeira Vine
Caesalpinaceae	Cassia bicapsularis	Cassia
Caprifoliaceae	Lonicera japonica	Japanese Honeysuckle
Chenopodiaceae	Atriplex hastata*	Salt Bush
Commelinaceae	Tradescantia albiflora	Wandering Jew
Convolvulaceae	Ipomoea indica	Morning Glory
Crassulaceae	Bryophyllum tubiflora*	Mother-of-Millions
Davalliaceae	Nephrolepis cordifolia*	Fishbone Fern
Fabaceae	Erythrina sp. Genista monspessulana	Coral Tree Cape Broom
Iridaceae	Crocasmia sp.*	Montbretia
Lauraceae	Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor Laurel
Liliaceae	Asparagus sprengeri Chlorophytum comosum Myrsiphyllum asparagoides Protoasparagus aethiopicus* Protoasparagus plumosus*	Basket Asparagus Ribbon Plant Bridal Creeper Asparagus Fern Climbing Asparagus
Malvaceae	Sida rhombifolia	Paddy's Lucerne
Moraceae	Morus sp.	Mulberry
Ochnaceae	Ochna serrulata	Ochna
Oleaceae	Ligustrum lucidum* Ligustrum sinense Olea africana	Broad Leaf Privet Small Leaf Privet African Olive
Passifloraceae	Passiflora edulis	Passionfruit
Pinaceae	Pinus halepensis	Gallipoli Pine
Plantaginaceae	Plantago lanceolata	Plantain

FAMILY NAME	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Poaceae	Andropogon virginicus Briza maxima Briza minor* Bromus catharticus* Cortaderia selloana Cynodon dactylon Digitaria sanguinalis* Ehrharta longifolia* Ehrharta erecta* Paspalum dilatatum* Pennisetum clandestinum Poa annua* Sporobolus africanus Stenotaphrum secundatum	Whisky Grass Quaking Grass Quaking Grass Prairie Grass Pampas Grass Couch Summer Grass Veldt Grass Veldt Grass Paspalum Kikuyu Winter Grass Parramatta Grass Buffalo Grass
Polygonaceae	Acetosa sagittata*	Turkey Rhubarb
Rosaceae	Cotoneaster glaucophyllus Prunus persica Rubus fruticosus	Cotoneaster Peach Blackberry
Solanaceae	Solanum nigrum*	Blackberry Nightshade
Sterculiaceae	Brachychiton acerifolium	Illawarra Flame Tree
Thunbergiaceae	Thunbergia alata*	Black-eyed Susan
Urticaceae	Parietaria judaica*	Asthma Weed
Verbenaceae	Lantana camara Verbena bonariensis	Lantana Purple Top

Originally recorded 15/4/80

Additional survey by Vicki Willes in December 2003 indicated by *

APPENDIX 3 – Bushfire Management Plan for Oatley Park, Oatley Heights Park & Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands

Note: The following information is taken from the above Plan and refers only to those sections affecting Oatley Park. For further reference a full copy of the Plan is held within the Council Library.

Works Schedule and Operations Plan

A range of management options need to be implemented to reduce the bushfire risk to an acceptable level. For example, while hazard reduction will reduce the severity of a bushfire and therefore improve the chance of survival; houses will have an even better chance of survival; houses will have an even better chance of survival if the people living in them have taken steps to make their own houses less vulnerable to bushfire attack.

Within this section, the prescribed Bushfire Protection Measures are provided, as well as a variety of methods and techniques which can be utilised to reduce fuel levels within the Reserves.

Oatley Park

It is recommended that an Evacuation Plan be prepared for the access road (from the locked gate) leading down to Lime Kiln Bay Wetland.

1. Asset Protection Zones (APZs)

- APZ6 – Dame Mary Gilmore Road

This management area incorporates Dame Mary Gilmore Road and the adjacent bushland to the west. A limited amount of fuel management has occurred within this area.

It is recommended that this area be regularly maintained (mowing) to a width of 20m. Fuel loadings should be maintained at a level no more than 3 t/ha. NSW Fire Brigades should be responsible for annually reviewing fuel loads within the Reserves to ensure that levels are maintained at a safe and manageable level.

- APZ7 – Douglas Haig Street

A limited amount of fuel management has been undertaken on the southern side of the access road leading into the reserve. On the northern side of this road, a fire break of 5m-10m has been maintained between existing dwellings and Oatley Park.

It is recommended that this area be regularly maintained (mowing/slashing) to its current width. Fuel loadings should be maintained at a level no more than 3 t/ha. NSW Fire Brigades should be responsible for annually reviewing fuel loads within the Reserves to ensure that levels are maintained at a safe and manageable level.

- APZ8 – Eastern boundary of Oatley Park (between Dame Mary Gilmore Road & Douglas Haig Street)

This management area is located on the eastern boundary of Oatley Park and is not currently subject to any formal fuel management regime.

It is recommended that a strip burn be implemented (20m width) behind the dwellings. This should occur on a four to seven year rotation in order to protect life and property.

- APZ9 – Castle

Limited amount of fuel management has occurred around this asset area.

It is recommended that fuel reduction (mowing/slashing) be undertaken to a depth of 15m around this asset. Fuel loadings should be maintained at a level of no more than 3 t/ha. NSW Fire Brigades should be responsible for annually reviewing fuel loads within the Reserves to ensure that levels are maintained at a safe and manageable level.

- APZ10 – Clubhouse

Limited amount of fuel management has occurred around this asset.

It is recommended that fuel reduction (mowing/slashing) be undertaken to a depth of 15m around this asset. Fuel loadings should be maintained at a level of no more than 3 t/ha. NSW Fire Brigades should be responsible for annually reviewing fuel loads within the Reserves to ensure that levels are maintained at a safe and manageable level.

2. Heritage Management Zones (HMZs)

- HMZ3 – Oatley Park

It is recommended that this area be managed by a mosaic burn program occurring on an eight – fifteen year cycle. No more than 40% of this zone should be impacted within any single fire event. NSW Fire Brigades should determine the most appropriate location for these burns – dependent on fuel loadings.

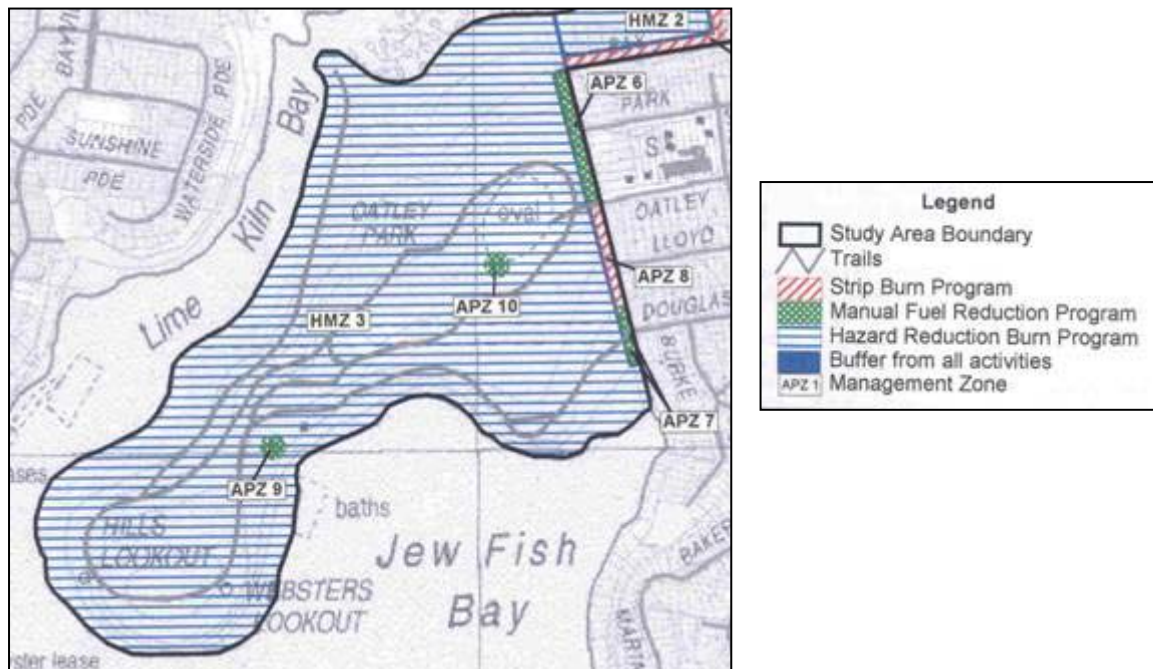
Summary of Works to be undertaken annually

Zone	Prescribed Treatment	Year				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asset Protection Zones						
APZ 6	Maintain (mowing)	Annual review				
APZ 7	Maintain (mowing)	Annual review				
APZ 8	Strip Burn	#				#
APZ 9	Maintain (mowing)	Annual review				
APZ 10	Maintain (mowing)	Annual review				
Heritage Management Zones						
HMZ 3	Hazard reduction burn			#		

Fuel Reduction Techniques

Method	Type of Treatment	Extent of Treatment
Manual Hand Tool Line	Fuel reduction undertaken by physical works using a rake hoe tool to clear vegetation to mineral earth for a width of 1 metre.	< 1 metre in width
Hand/Mechanical Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction undertaken by a mower, small machine like a Bob Cat or a self propelled slasher or a small tractor slasher machine. Can be used as access trail by default.	3-10 metres
Grading	Large earth moving machines are typically used to reduce land to mineral earth by grading. This treatment is typically reserved for creating and maintaining permanent management trails.	3-5 metres
Mechanical Fuel Reduction	Fuel reduction undertaken by a tritter machine, slasher or larger earth-moving machine. Can be used as access trail by default.	10-20 metres
Strip Burning	Burning undertaken at low intensity by authorised organisations such as Rural Fire Service.	The depth of the burn is usually 40-80 metres.
Zone Burning	Burning undertaken at low to medium intensity by authorised organisations such as Rural Fire Service.	The extent of the burn is based on achieving a 40-60% burn penetration across all surface fuels in the zone.

Figure 7: Bushfire Protection Measures



Appendix 4 – Building and Asset Management Schedule

NAME OF INSPECTOR:							
Building Location:	Oatley Park	Type of Construction:	Masonry/Sandstone/Veneer Walls, Tile Roof				
Date of inspection:	25/06/2004	Floor Area (m²):	25	Maintenance Standards			
Asset No:	15	Reconstruction Value:	\$71,000				
Building Name:	Rangers Shed / Store Room	Overall condition rating:	C	HIGH	A	EXCEPTIONAL	
Job No:				MEDIUM	B	HIGH	
Contact Name:	Rob Casey			LOW	C	STANDARD	
Phone:	0411 744 559				D	MINIMAL	
All Buildings are subject to inspections whereby the building is prioritised based on the degree of work required					E	MOTHBALL	
PRIORITY LEVELS AND LISTING OF WORKS							
Item	Description	QTY	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Value (\$)	Priority Level	
1	Straighten Roof Edge at back of New Building	1	No	\$200.00	\$200.00	A	
2					\$0.00		
3					\$0.00		
4					\$0.00		
5					\$0.00		
6					\$0.00		
7					\$0.00		
8					\$0.00		
9					\$0.00		
10					\$0.00		
11					\$0.00		
ALL WORKS TOTAL					\$200.00		

NAME OF INSPECTOR:						
Building Location:	Oatley Park	Type of Construction:	Double Brick Construction, Timber roofing			
Date of inspection:	25/06/2004	Floor Area (m²):	118	Maintenance Standards		
Asset No:	17	Reconstruction Value:	\$152,000	Priority Levels		Overall Condition
Building Name:	Dressing Shed / Baths	Overall condition rating:	C	HIGH	A	EXCEPTIONAL
Job No:				MEDIUM	B	HIGH
Contact Name:	Rob Casey			LOW	C	STANDARD
Phone:	0411 744 559				D	MINIMAL
All Buildings are subject to inspections whereby the building is prioritised based on the degree of work required					E	MOTHBALL
PRIORITY LEVELS AND LISTING OF WORKS						
Item	Description	QTY	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Value (\$)	Priority Level
1	Non slippery tape is peeling off in shower area	20	m ²	\$20.00	\$400.00	A
2	Back flow prevention is missing	2	No	\$100.00	\$200.00	A
3	Replace broken wall tiles (150*150)	2	m ²	\$74.71	\$149.42	A
4	Liquid hand cleaner dispenser	2	No	\$108.17	\$216.34	A
5	<i>Replace any cracked tiles as required</i>				\$0.00	A
6	Replace Women's shower floor tiles (50*50)	10	m ²	\$83.73	\$837.30	A
7	Replace Women's shower wall tiles (150*150)	25.7	m ²	\$74.71	\$1,920.05	A
8	Replace Men's shower floor tiles (50*50)	10	m ²	\$83.73	\$837.30	A
9	Replace Men's shower wall tiles (150*150)	21.1	m ²	\$74.71	\$1,576.38	A
10	Replacement of existing clip lock roofing	118	m ²	\$54.00	\$6,372.00	A
11	<i>Paint other areas previously painted that are not included in the above</i>				\$0.00	C
12	Hardiflex, windows etc	72	m ²	\$13.00	\$936.00	C
13	Dress room - Replace roof and painting	117.8	m ²	\$66.65	\$7,851.37	C
14	Replace Women's shower floor tiles (50*50)	6.2	m ²	\$83.73	\$519.13	C
15	Replace Women's shower wall tiles (150*150)	12.6	m ²	\$74.71	\$941.35	C
16	Replace Men's shower floor tiles (50*50)	5.8	m ²	\$83.73	\$485.63	C

17	Replace Men's shower wall tiles (150*150)	10.4	m ²	\$74.71	\$776.98	C
18	Safety Tape on floor in dressing area - Women	40	m ²	\$20.00	\$800.00	C
19	Safety Tape on floor in dressing area - Men	40	m ²	\$20.00	\$800.00	C
20					\$0.00	
21					\$0.00	
ALL WORKS TOTAL					\$25,619.25	

NAME OF INSPECTOR:						
Building Location:	Oatley Park	Type of Construction:	Brick Walls, Concrete Roof			
Date of inspection:	25/06/2004	Floor Area (m²):	37	Maintenance Standards		
Asset No:	18	Reconstruction Value:	\$101,000	Priority Levels		Overall Condition
Building Name:	Baths Carpark / Toilet Block	Overall condition rating:	C	HIGH	A	EXCEPTIONAL
Job No:				MEDIUM	B	HIGH
Contact Name:	Rob Casey			LOW	C	STANDARD
Phone:	0411 744 559				D	MINIMAL
All Buildings are subject to inspections whereby the building is prioritised based on the degree of work required					E	MOTHBALL
PRIORITY LEVELS AND LISTING OF WORKS						
Item	Description	QTY	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Value (\$)	Priority Level
1	Replace light fitting	6	Item	\$92.70	\$556.20	A
2	Paint interior	108	m ²	\$10.31	\$1,113.48	B
3	Paint exterior	96	m ²	\$10.31	\$989.76	B
4	Replace concrete roof in 30 years	71	m ²	\$66.00	\$4,686.00	C
5					\$0.00	
6					\$0.00	
ALL WORKS TOTAL					\$7,345.44	

NAME OF INSPECTOR:								
Building Location:		Oatley Park		Type of Construction: Sandstone Walls, Concrete Roofing				
Date of inspection:		25/06/2004		Floor Area (m²):		141		
Asset No:		19.1		Reconstruction Value:		\$206,000		
Building Name:		The 'Castle'		Overall condition rating:		C		
Job No:				Priority Levels		Overall Condition		
Contact Name:		Rob Casey		HIGH		A		
Phone:		0411 744 559		MEDIUM		B		
All Buildings are subject to inspections whereby the building is prioritised based on the degree of work required				LOW		C		
						D		
						E		
						MOTHBALL		
PRIORITY LEVELS AND LISTING OF WORKS								
Item	Description			QTY	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Value (\$)	Priority Level
1	For the unforeseen item			1	No	\$600.00	\$600.00	A
2	(Fire damage in the interior back corner)						\$0.00	A
3	Repaint internal			24.2	m ²	\$15.47	\$374.37	A
4	Repair chipped sandstone wall			1	No	\$60.00	\$60.00	B
5	Roof member above storage area			5	m ²	\$67.78	\$338.90	C
6							\$0.00	
7							\$0.00	
8							\$0.00	
9							\$0.00	
10							\$0.00	
11							\$0.00	
12							\$0.00	
ALL WORKS TOTAL							\$1,373.27	

NAME OF INSPECTOR:						
Building Location:		Oatley Park		Type of Construction:		
Date of inspection:				Floor Area (m²):		
Asset No:		109		Reconstruction Value:		\$66,000
Building Name:		Caravans		Overall condition rating:		C
Job No:				PRIORITY LEVELS		Overall Condition
Contact Name:		Rob Casey		HIGH		A
Phone:		0411 744 559		MEDIUM		B
				LOW		C
						D
						E
All Buildings are subject to inspections whereby the building is prioritised based on the degree of work required						
PRIORITY LEVELS AND LISTING OF WORKS						
Item	Description	QTY	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Value (\$)	Priority Level
1					\$0.00	
2					\$0.00	
3					\$0.00	
4					\$0.00	
5					\$0.00	
6					\$0.00	
7					\$0.00	
8					\$0.00	
ALL WORKS TOTAL					\$0.00	

APPENDIX 5
OATLEY PARK – PLAN OF MANAGEMENT
MARKET RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

FINAL REPORT

Prepared by SGL Consulting Group



Hurstville City Council

OATLEY PARK – PLAN OF MANAGEMENT MARKET RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

Final Report

APRIL 2004

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The Study Team

In response to the multi-disciplinary requirements of this study, Hurstville City Council commissioned:

- SGL Consulting Group

Section One: Introduction



1.1 INTRODUCTION

Hurstville City Council is responsible for the interests of some 70,644 people, over an area of 24.69 km². Council is involved in the care, control and management of 248 hectares of open space, comprising of 151 community land areas plus several other informal sites which together offer a large and diverse range of recreational opportunities.

Council's Statement of Corporate Intent gives a commitment to working with the community to create, manage and protect a quality lifestyle and environment for the people. As custodians of community land, Council manages the provision and embellishment of these areas in an efficient and effective manner so as to maximise the benefit to both residents of Hurstville and those visiting the City area.

1.2 PLANS OF MANAGEMENT POLICY

Hurstville City Council has developed a set of Management Objectives as part of Natural Areas Plans of Management Policy.

The aims and objectives of the Policy are:

- 1) The general aim of this Policy is to protect and preserve bushland within the urban areas referred to in Schedule 1 because of:
 - a) its value to the community as part of the natural heritage;
 - b) its aesthetic value; and
 - c) its value as a recreational, educational and scientific resource.

- 2) The specific aims of this Policy are:
 - a) to protect the remnants of plant communities which were once characteristics of land now within an urban area;
 - b) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration which will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term;
 - c) to protect rare and endangered flora and fauna species;
 - d) to protect habitats for native flora and fauna;
 - e) to protect wildlife corridors and vegetation links with other nearby bushland;
 - f) to protect bushlands as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface;
 - g) to protect bushland for its scenic values, and to retain the unique visual identity of the landscape;
 - h) to protect significant geological features:
 - i) to protect existing landforms, such as natural drainage lines, water courses and foreshores.
 - j) to protect archaeological relics;
 - k) to protect the recreational potential of bushland;
 - l) to protect the educational potential of bushland;
 - m) to maintain bushland in locations which are readily accessible to the community; and
 - n) to promote the management of bushland in a manner which protects and enhances the quality of the bushland and facilitates public enjoyment of the bushland compatible with its conservation.

The Plan of Management addresses all community land designed as a “Natural Area”. There are 29 parcels of land included in this Plan.

1.3 OATLEY PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Oatley Park is a sandstone area of approximately 45 hectares (112 acres) surrounded on three sides by water – Jewfish and Lime Kiln Bays. It consists of a rocky plateau and woodland cut by roads, picnic area, a sports playing field and a bathing area.

Dame Mary Gilmore Road marks the eastern boundary of the Park. There are two main entrances to the Park, one from Oatley Park Avenue and one from Douglas Haig Street, and a number of informal entrances along Dame Mary Gilmore Road.

Hurstville City Council wished to develop a Management Plan for Oatley Park. As part of the process Council wished to consult with key stakeholders about the current and future needs for the park. In particular the following key issues were identified.

- Accessibility
- Bushland and bushfire management
- Future developments within the Park
- Passive recreation area usage and improvement
- Road networks and car parking
- Sport facilities and user groups
- Beachfront and baths
- Domesticated animals
- Heritage Values
- Playground area/equipment provision
- Public amenity provision
- Safety
- Mobile phone towers
- Mountain Bike usage

Leisure Planners SGL Consulting Group were commissioned to assist Hurstville City Council undertake the consultation processes for inclusion in the Management Plan for the Park.

This report provides a summary of the key issues and needs identified through the consultation processes.

Section Two: Demographic Review



2.1 PROJECT AREA DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW

Centrally located within Sydney's metropolitan area, Hurstville is the focal point of a sprawling, dynamic region of growth.

Hurstville is one of eight regional centres within greater Sydney located just 15 kilometres to the south west of Sydney's CBD. It is one of the fastest growing parts of metropolitan Sydney growing by 11% between 1996 – 2001. Covering an area of 2460 hectares, it has several major residential, shopping and commercial centres with approximately 26,000 dwellings that are home to its population of 70,642.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A review of relevant ABS statistics for 2001 produced for the City of Hurstville has been completed and is summarised as follows:

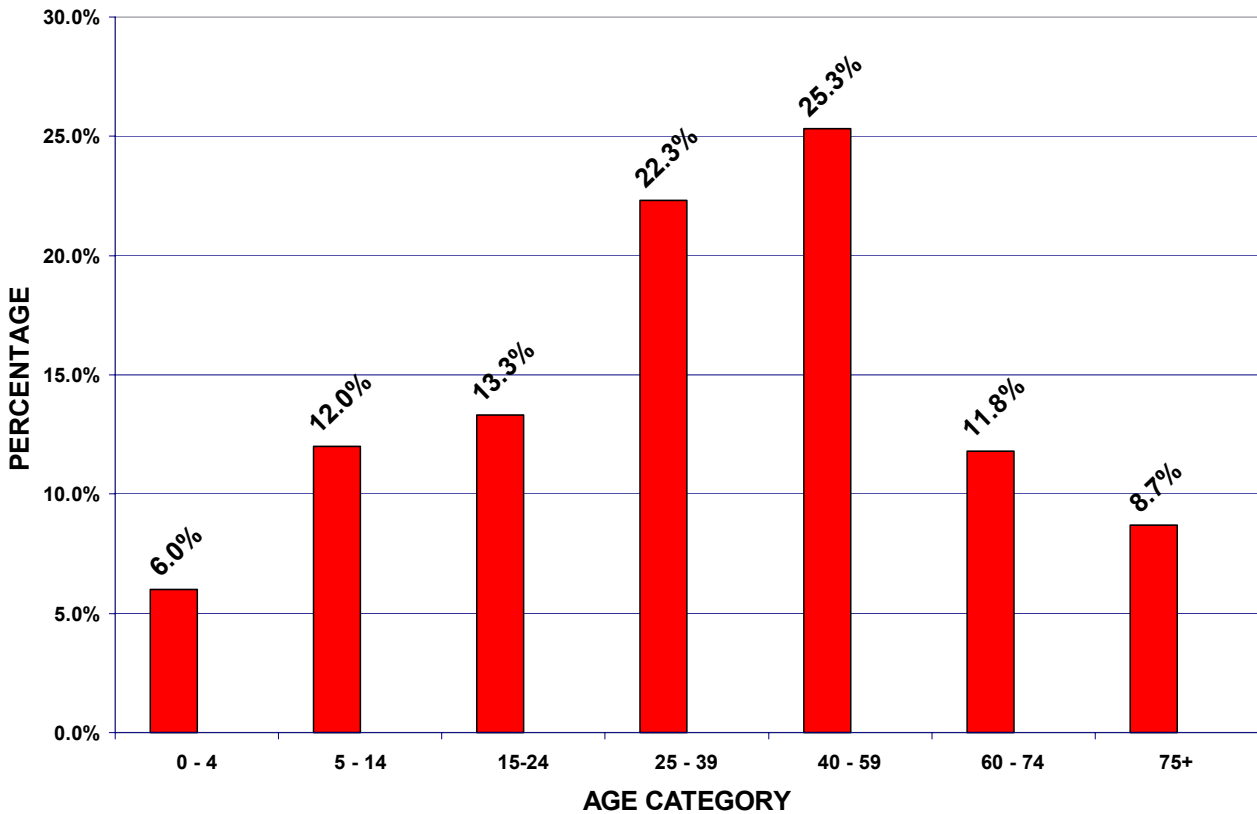
2.2.1 Age Structure

The table below details the age profile of the existing Hurstville population based on 2001 ABS.

Table 2.1
Hurstville Age Profile

AGE CATEGORY YEARS	HURSTVILLE 2001	
	No.	%
0 – 4	4370	6
5 – 14	8599	12
15-24	9423	13.3
25 – 39	15802	22.3
40 – 59	17922	25.3
60 – 74	8352	11.8
75+	6176	8.7
TOTAL	70,644	100

Graph of Hurstville City Council Age Profile



A review of the Hurstville age structure indicates that:

- In 2001 the highest proportion of people were aged between 40 to 59 years 25.3%, followed by 25 to 39 years 22.3%, 15 to 24 years 13.3%, 5 to 14 years 12%, 60 to 74 years 11.8%, 75+ years 8.7% and 0 to 4 years 6%.
- Leisure statistics indicate that people aged between 0 to 39 years are more likely to participate in leisure and recreation activities. People in this age group currently represent approximately 42.6% of the Hurstville population.

2.2.2 Hurstville Population by Suburbs

The following table provides a summary of the population for each of the suburbs within the City of Hurstville.

Table 2.2
City of Hurstville Population by Suburbs

PRECINCT	2001	
	No.	% of Population
Beverly Hills	7249	10.3
Carlton	936	1.3
Hurstville	15533	22
Kingsgrove	2893	4
Lugarno	5492	7.8
Mortdale	8165	11.6
Narwee	1195	1.7
Oatley	5206	7.4
Peakhurst	7999	11.4
Peakhurst Heights	2347	3.3
Penshurst	7903	11.2
Riverwood	5086	7.2
TOTAL	70,010	100%

A review of the City of Hurstville population by suburbs indicates:

In 2001 the majority of residents live in Hurstville (22%) followed by Mortdale (11.6%), Peakhurst (11.4%), Penshurst (11.2%), and Beverly Hills (10.3%)

2.2.3 Country of Birth

The City of Hurstville has a high proportion of persons born in a non English speaking country 29%

The table below details the Country of birth of residents.

Table 2.3
Most Common Countries of Birth

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	HURSTVILLE 2002 %
Australia	65
Overseas – English Speaking Country	6
Overseas – Non-English Speaking Country	29

The top five overseas countries of birth are China 7.1%, Hong Kong 3.1%, United Kingdom 2.8%, New Zealand 2.0% and Greece 1.6%.

The impact of this is that leisure facilities and services will need to be aware of cultural issues and coordinate both the programs and promotional campaigns to these markets.

2.2.4 Languages Spoken at Home

The City of Hurstville has a higher proportion of persons who speak a language at home other than English 56.4%.

Table 2.4
Most Common Languages Spoken at Home

LANGUAGE	Hurstville No.	Hurstville %
English only	39,863	56.4
Chinese Languages	10,002	14.1
Greek	3522	4.9
Arabic	2777	3.9
Macedonian	1830	2.5
Italian	1383	1.9
Spanish	605	0.85

2.2.5 Other Leisure Related Statistics

Two major constraints, which limit people's participation in leisure and recreation activities, are the availability of private transport to access facilities and the cost of participating in activities. A review of the vehicle ownership and income levels of Hurstville residents indicates:

(i) Income Levels

The table below details the personal weekly income levels of Hurstville residents:

Table 2.5
Weekly Personal Income Levels

INCOME LEVEL	HURSTVILLE 2001 NO.	HURSTVILLE 2001 %
Negative income/Nil	4785	8.3
\$1 - \$299	16,750	29
\$300 - \$599	13,115	22.7
\$600 - \$999	11,045	19
\$1000+	6972	12
Not Stated	4375	7.5
Total	57,602	100

Note: Income derived from businesses or from rental properties may be recorded by the ABS as "Negative Income"

The review of the income levels of Hurstville residents indicates:

- Approximately 8.3% of Hurstville residents do not receive a weekly income.
- The highest proportion of residents 22.7% has weekly income levels of between \$300 and \$599.00.
- The review indicates that Hurstville residents have some discretionary income for activities related to leisure and recreation pursuits. Fees and charges however, need to be maintained to ensure all residents are able to access these activities.

(ii) Vehicle Ownership

Vehicles garaged at home by residents based on the 2001 ABS statistics are detailed in the following table:

Table 2.6
Vehicle Ownership ABS 2001

VEHICLES PER HOUSEHOLD	HURSTVILLE 2001 %
No vehicle	14.5
One vehicle at household	41.3
Two vehicles at household	27.2
More than three vehicles	9.8
Not stated	6.9

The review of the Vehicle ownership of Hurstville residents indicates that the majority of residents 78.3% had access one or more vehicles which means that residents have the ability to independently access leisure facilities.

Section Three: Market Research and Consultation



3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a summary of the key issues identified through the consultation with key stakeholders for the project and includes:

- Key informant Interviews
- Focus Group Discussion
- Public written submissions

3.2 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

3.2.1 Council Bushcare Officer and Bushcare Volunteer Representatives

- The Bushcare Volunteers provide their services voluntarily to the Hurstville Council and are supervised on site by Council's Bushcare Officers. The key objective of the group is to help maintain the bio diversity of the Park, weed removal and the collection of seed source. The group consists of six representatives who work together on the park in one of the key areas once a week.
- From a Bushcare perspective, the main objective of the Park should be the preservation of the flora and fauna.
- There is a need for someone to be responsible for the maintenance and management of the Park's vegetation. There is currently no person responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the bio diversity of the Park.
- The flora and fauna within the Park are used as an educational tool by many individuals and schools. This practice should be further encouraged.
- There is a need for Council to undertake a vegetation and fauna survey. It is essential that you know what flora and fauna exists before you can successfully manage it.
- During high use periods, people are parking along the roadside. This is causing compaction and displacements of the native vegetation. To eliminate further damage this should be discontinued.
- One of the biggest problems within the Park is the use of the area by mountain bike riders, and the damage caused as a result of this activity. The problems arise when the riders go off the tracks, create mounds and ramps and damage the remnant vegetation.
- The bikes also cause considerable safety risk to people and slow moving native fauna (for example echidnas and monitor lizards) walking on the tracks as they come from behind people with little warning.
- Council needs to question whether the park is large enough to cater for mountain bike activities and if there is an alternate location for such an activity, given the need for the Park to be preserved for conservation purposes.

- There is a need to remove the current wood fired barbeques and replace in appropriate locations electric barbeques. This would reduce the number of people taking wood and disturbing the habitat from within the park to fuel their barbecue and would reduce the fire risk to the park.
- There is a need to develop a policy about dogs within the Park. Dogs should be restrained on a leash at all times within the park and this requirement should be monitored and enforced by Council Ordinance Law Enforcement Officers. A publicity campaign to educate park users would be required to inform people about the need to restrain their dogs.
- There is a need for the provision of additional seating throughout the park, particularly along the walking tracks. The seats should be constructed of a material that is environmentally sensitive.
- There is a need to provide more interpretive/educational signage around the Park and walking tracks. The opportunity to offer an interpretation/education program to the local schools would be well received.
- There should be no further incremental development of the Park. A plan of management is required to protect the natural conservation aspects of the park. This Plan should consider the traffic management of the area, car parking and control of access and the number of visitors to the Park.
- There is an issue with a number of private residences encroaching on the parkland area. There is a need to develop a clear distinction between the park and the private residence.

3.2.2 Council Maintenance/Ranger Staff

- The Rangers are primarily responsible for the maintenance and operational issues associated with the Park.
- The Key issues identified by the Rangers included:
 - The Oatley Park is highly valued by the residents, schools and visitors to the Park
 - The need for a Disabled toilet facility within the Castle picnic area. The closest facility is part of the Swimming Club facilities located at the bottom of the steep driveway.
 - There is also the need for toilet facilities to be located within the steamroller picnic/park area. This area has the largest playground structure, however users have to walk to the sporting pavilion to access toilet facilities.
 - There is a need to surface car park area surrounding the sporting reserve. The area is often subjected to vandalism and there is a problem of tree root compaction due to cars parking around the area.

- There is a problem with the tables and chairs around the park particularly for older people. Although the wooden pieces of furniture fit in with the environment more closely they are more easily vandalised.
- The Castle picnic area is the only site within the Park that can be booked. The area is a popular venue for weddings and family gatherings. A problem can arise when people do not respect the booking process, resulting in conflict. There is a need to develop some other areas within the Park that could be booked. This could include the Steamroller Park if it were upgraded to include a toilet facility, shelter, barbeques and fencing.
- The issue of Dogs on leashes needs to be more closely controlled. The Rangers do not have the authority to enforce this issue.
- There is a need to redevelop the front entrance including the provision of a new security gate system. The gates are constantly being vandalised.

The priorities for the Park include:

- Upgrade of change room facilities for the sporting clubs
- An additional disabled toilet
- Provision of toilet facilities, shade and picnic shelters within the steamroller park area
- Upgrading and sealing of the car park
- Electric barbeques and removal of wood fired barbeques

3.2.3 Georges River Mountain Bike Club

- The Georges River Mountain Bike Club was established to represent the views of Mountain Bikers to the Council. The Club includes people who are social members through to mountain bikers and down hill bike riders.
- The group is an informal group, which mainly consists of people who enjoy riding through Oatley Park on either a group or individual basis.
- Oatley Park is considered a good location for the following reasons.
 - Largest local bush area
 - Good tracks for off road activities
 - Tracks are a good length
 - The Park can link to Gannons Park, Evatt Park and Moore Reserve to create a circuit of approximately 10km.
- Council recently installed some boulders and wood chips as a management strategy to prevent Mountain Bike riders going off the tracks. This strategy does not appear to have been successful.
- The group is extremely keen to work with Council and the environmental groups in the management and use of the Park by mountain bike riders. In particular the group is in contact with the majority of the people who ride in the park and can work with Council in educating them about their use of the Park.

3.2.4 Oatley Flora and Fauna Society

- The Oatley Park Flora and Fauna Society was instigated in 1954 due to development threats to Park.
- The key requirement in the establishment of a Plan of Management for the Park is the development of clearly defined objectives for the use, management and maintenance of the area. These objectives should set the base for any future decision making in relation to the Park.
- The Park was originally established with the primary objective of protecting and restoring the natural environment. This original objective should be retained as the principle purpose of the Park. The park was not established as a recreation area and therefore this use should be a secondary objective.
- The Park has a significant amount of natural, cultural and heritage values including:
 - Great depression bricks used for construction of sandstone wall on top road and within the baths area.
 - World War II Tasmanian Search light Regiment based in Park – concrete floor to building still remain.
 - Concrete map of Tasmania located on rock within the Park
 - Lone Pine at the entrance to the Park one of only two remaining in Australia
- There are a number of environmental and conservation management issues that need to be taken into account including:
 - Preservation of species – communities of rare plants
 - Currently no formal survey of flora or fauna species
 - Fauna restricted and small due to transit lane for migrating birds
 - Park surrounded by mud flats
 - Recently identified micro bats residing in the Park
 - Need for control of foxes
 - Damage to habitats by collection of wood to fuel the barbeques and potential fire risk
 - Need for interpretative signage throughout the Park, particularly on the Headlands track.
 - There is a need to survey and undertake an audit of the walking tracks. This review should identify which tracks should remain, be improved or be closed. The tracks that remain should be better signed.
 - There is a need to create different activity zones within the park
 - The picnic playground area is great for families and children, however the design of the playground should be more sensitive to the natural environment.
 - Car parking areas should be sealed as long as the existing trees remain.
 - Fence along Dame Mary Gilmore Rd could be removed
 - Lime Kiln Bay should be considered for inclusion in Management Plan

- The issue of Mountain Bikes using the Park has become an area for concern. The main concerns include:
 - Concern re public liability for both walkers and bike riders
 - Park size too small for mountain bike activities
 - Maintenance team often required to remove jumps
 - There are currently no local laws to control the use of the Park by bikes
 - There are a number of alternate areas that could be considered for Mountain Bike use such as Gannons Park and Lansdowne Park, Bankstown.
- The Management Plan should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure the Plan is up to date.
- The ultimate aim for Council should be to have the Park on the State Heritage Register to provide the area with the added protection.

3.2.5 Lugarno Progress Association

- The Oatley Park is highly valued by the local community because of the magnificent natural environment and natural walkways.
- Over the past few years the increasing usage and change of use has had a negative impact on the Park.
- The bicycle racing that occurs on a Saturday conflicts with other key usage times. There is some limited signage around the park about the bicycles, but not sufficient to reduce the potential safety concerns. The activity becomes dangerous for both bike riders and walkers.
- Mountain bike riders should be allowed to use the area as long as appropriate management strategies are implemented for the safety of all users.
- It is important to maintain the natural parkland for future generations.

3.2.6 National Trust

- The Oatley Park has been classified on the National Trust Register for the past five years due to both the cultural heritage and the natural environment.
- The main concern for the National Trust is the anecdotal evidence which indicates that there are a number of species of both flora and fauna within the Park that are becoming rare and the Park may be losing the species.
- There is a need to undertake a flora and fauna survey to identify firstly if there is a problem and if so the appropriate management strategies to address the issues.

3.2.7 Oatley West Public School

- Oatley West Public School views Oatley Park as a unique and valuable community asset. The pupils of the school frequently use Oatley Park as an essential sport, study and play area for the 420 pupils enrolled in the school.
- The Park provides an essential study area and a natural extension to the school curriculum, as it contains rare and endangered species, aboriginal artefacts, is a pristine bush reserve and the last remaining tract of the St George Forest.
- The school utilises and values the Park as a teaching and learning resource. Curriculum studies topics have included:
 - The local environment
 - Unique flora and fauna
 - Aboriginal education perspectives
 - Local area studies
 - Freshwater studies
- Where appropriate teachers conduct trips and studies within the Park, including night-time excursions to observe nocturnal fauna
- There are no level or grassed area within the schools boundaries for undertaking sporting activities. The school therefore utilises and values the Park as a valued sporting facility. The school uses the oval facilities for training of school PSSA sports teams, including cricket, softball, rugby league and soccer teams. The school also uses the Park for sporting activities on Friday afternoons for physical education and sporting activities.
- The School strongly objected to the erection of the Hutchinson Telecoms (Orange mobile phones) towers. The staff have expressed strong opposition to the exposure of students to the relentless fallout of EMR emissions, which they believe are potentially injurious and harmful and present a real hazard under occupational health and safety

3.3 FOCUS GROUP

A focus group was held with the key user groups of Oatley Park on Wednesday 3 December 2003. The purpose of the focus group was to identify the current and future issues and needs of the groups and the Park.

The groups that were represented at the focus group included:

- Oatley Amateur Swimming Club
- St George Cycling Club
- All Saints Oatley West Soccer Club

The following provides a summary of the key issues identified by the Clubs.

3.3.1 Oatley Amateur Swimming Club

- The Oatley Swimming Club was established in 1926. The Club has a current membership of approximately 85 people who are predominantly aged in their late forties plus.
- The Club conducts inter club competition each Sunday dependent on the tide conditions. The Club does not compete externally.
- The length of the competition section of the pool area is 49 metres x 6 lanes. The area also allows for long course circuit competition of between 800m and 1.5 km.
- The current depth of the pool area during high tide is approximately 1.8m. Over the years however the area has silted up. It would be advantageous to the club to have the area dredged.
- A large number of families use the pool and beach areas for informal swimming activities. During a busy day approximately 160 people use the beach and water area. A bobcat is used to flatten out the sand on the beach.
- School groups use the beach area but do not swim in the water. Although the EPA has given the water 100% clearance the area can be subjected to jelly fish.
- The Club is not responsible for providing lifeguards around the area. It was suggested however that access to a telephone for emergency situations would be a priority.
- The Club rooms were built around 1957/1958 and could be registered on the heritage list. The Club would like to extend the current club room facilities to provide a storage area of approximately 3m x 2.5m.
- The key future priorities for the Swimming Club include:
 - The need to refit the interior of the club rooms
 - Showers need to be repaired
 - Ladder on platform rusted and needs to be replaced
 - Tear in net is a cause for concern, there is a need to provide protection from sharks
 - The poles holding up the net have eroded at the bottom
 - Gradient of the ramp extremely steep and is concern for wheel chair access
 - Safety concern of young people riding down ramp.
 - Lights insufficient for night competition
 - Need for sun shelter/shade
 - Broken glass on promenade is a safety concern

3.3.2 St George Cycling Club

- The St George Cycling Club has accessed Oatley Park for bicycle races since the 1950's.

- The Club uses the park on a Saturday between the months of April and September. Junior racing commences at 1.00pm and senior racing commences at 2.00pm and concludes by 4.00pm.
- To ensure the safety of Park users the Club stations marshals at each primary entry point. The users of the park cooperate well with the event organisers.
- The key needs of the Club include:
 - Provision of permanent signs around the Cycling circuit cautioning people about the racing activities and times.
 - Provision of poles to install bunting
 - Provision of shade over picnic area
 - Access to power
 - Provision of toilet facilities within steam roller park area
 - Upgrading of Club room facilities at oval

3.3.3 All Saints Oatley West Soccer Club

- The All Saints Oatley West Soccer Club was established in 1926 and was originally located at the site of the current Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre.
- In 1960 the Club was re established with one team and has grown over the last forty years to a Club of thirty soccer teams. The current membership is approximately 360 members of which 80% are male and 20% are female.
- The Club currently consists of 17 junior teams and 13 senior teams. The club is at full capacity and is unable to meet the current demand.
- All 30 teams currently train at the Oatley Park facility between Monday and Friday from 4.30 pm to 9.00 pm which is causing the area to be over used. The Club is trying to find an alternate training location to relieve the pressure on the ground.
- The Club use the facility during the winter sporting season of April to August each year. Due to the uneven ground caused by the cricket pitch the area is not used for final matches.
- The Club has submitted a proposal to Council requesting the extension of the northern end of the sporting ground to enable the development of one senior ground and one mini field 60m x 30m. This would help alleviate some of the pressure on the current single playing area.
- The training lights were removed when the issue of the mobile phone towers was being debated. New lights have been installed, however they are not of a sufficient height to provide good light coverage across the training area. There is a need for two additional light towers to provide the required coverage.
- The covering of cricket pitch causes the centre of the ground to be muddy.

- The future priority needs of the Club include:
 - The need for more and larger rubbish bins
 - Car parking area needs to be sealed to deter vandalism and improve traffic management.
 - Club room/ change room areas need to be upgraded and extended. NSW Sport and Recreation Grant currently being prepared. Estimated cost of construction \$250,000.
 - Drainage of sporting ground poor – number of days last season when the ground is unplayable.
 - There are 4 stumps that are too close to the playing area and are trip hazards
 - The new lighting poles have been placed on the cricket field.

3.4 SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Council forwarded a letter to key stakeholders in February 2003, requesting written public submission about the Management Plan for Oatley Park. The following provides a summary of the key issues raised.

3.4.1 Accessibility

- Some of the tracks are overused and no repair work has been done to improve or upgrade them.
- There is a need to provide sign around the Park.
- Board walks should be built to stop erosion in the park's well used tracks
- None of the walking trails are 'wheelchair friendly'
- Limit number of paths, close off those not needed, improve those that will be used eg Headland track. Unofficial track between roads, no steps, tarmac undercut.
- Access for people with disabilities is a problem due to poor surfaces of the tracks. Path between Oval and Steamroller Park great but access to it is not possible for all.
- Would be advantages in having well maintained walking tracks so walkers can experience park without having to walk on roads i.e. separate roads and tracks. A, redesigned track system could link up with other tracks outside park eg Como bridge, LKB and beyond.
- Proliferation of informal tracks is highly undesirable. Areas of trampled vegetation and bare earth short cuts. Suggest placing barriers and/or signage in abused areas.
- Douglas Haig entrance bush track in need of some hard fill because of protruding rocks on path. Needs to be levelled to prevent injury.
- Possible for concrete path between Douglas Haig and Lloyd Streets? Wooden steps put in but lots of seepage on grass, can't walk on when it rains.

3.4.2 Beachfront & Baths

- Piles and netting should incorporate better safety and more attractive look, plus some way of keeping out jellyfish.
- Done a wonderful job with facilities. Need to keep 'safe net' in good repair for sharks.

3.4.3 Bushland & Bushfire Management

- Gradual deterioration of quality of bush. Council should be congratulated on the areas already worked on, however much more work needs to be done.
- Consultation should occur with residents surrounding the Park before any further bushfire precautions are undertaken.
- The bush area is what makes the park therefore more thought should go into protecting what there is. Where trees have died in Steamroller Park they should be replaced.
- There are only stumps left in the open area where trees have died or been cut back.
- To prevent further damage to vegetation the redundant walking tracks should be closed.
- Impression that contractors are being used in response to public complaints rather than as part of coordinated approach to bush management.
- After 1994 fires, there was a knee jerk reaction to fire management - several fire trails cut, however none of the tracks have been properly maintained.
- Any management plan should account for the needs of the flora as well as fauna eg removal of dead branches, could be nesting site.
- Degradation of bushland areas in recent years has become a real threat to intrinsic worth of park as nature reserve.
- Promote BFMP within community and explain if necessary. Undertake not to deviate from plan except in exceptional circumstances, with consultation.
- The conservation values of the Park warrants the employment of a full time Bushcare Officer solely for Oatley Park.
- The area between the picnic ground (steamroller park) and the Oval should be blocked off from public at least until it has had time to regenerate.
- There has been some inappropriate pruning of grass trees along headland track (from Mallard Dr).
- Pleased park closed during high fire danger days last summer. Notice large amount of deadwood lying throughout park that won't be gathered for barbecues.

- There is a great appreciation of bushland but it is far from pristine. Near oval and residential areas riddled with informal tracks, fire trails and remains of cubbyhouses. See natural area as well loved favourite rather than untouched wilderness.
- Primary aim of the Management Plan should be the protection and restoration of natural bushland.
- A policy in relation to the native vegetation at Oatley Park should be developed to ensure conservation of all indigenous plant species, communities and structural types.

This should include the following:

- All new planting will be propagated from local indigenous stock
- Introduced animals will be controlled where they threaten the conservation of native flora and fauna.
- Suggest ID and map location of rare, endangered and regionally rare plant species.
- There is a need to prepare, implement and fund a weed control program, with input from Hurstville City Council Bushcare Officers.
- Flora and fauna surveys should be encouraged.
- Collate existing information about flora and fauna species in the park.
- Fire management should include:
 - Maintenance of biodiversity and integrity of native plant and animal communities through appropriate fire management.
 - ID of appropriate fire regimes for each vegetation community type, and monitor effects of all burns, planned or not.
- Park needs to be managed more actively for wildlife conservation as recreational use is already adequately addressed.
- Lopping of dead trees and branches should not take place except where it can be demonstrated they overhang road or picnic area and present significant risk. Easily observed that many birds nest in remaining hollows and dead branches.
- Council needs to collect valuable community information about park biodiversity eg plant species, microbat recordings, and supplement with further work so natural value of park is recognised.
- Loss of old feeding Banksia trees during burn off couple of years ago, more during drought, feeding chain is breaking down. Accidental severe burn offs need to be avoided at all costs and serious thought given to day of burning.
- Except for removal of some fuel (fallen trees, etc), leave park as is.
- Locals pray for a bushfire to clean it up. Greenies have taken over, each year our once beautiful park looks more untidy. Spring clean and return to what it was – most pristine park in Sydney.
- Urgent consideration needs to be given to providing barbecue wood near barbecue to discourage users from damaging plants.

3.4.4 Domesticated Animals

- Dogs off lead and exercising in baths is a problem as many people are breaching laws. Strict enforcement of rules leads to hostility and resentment.
- Suggest public education – shame public rather than hand out fines; hand out information on harm dogs can do.
- Should be education campaign targeting residents who allow dogs and cats to roam in park.
- There is a need to maintain and enforce the requirement for dogs to be leashed while in the park.
- Horse riding should not be allowed in the park, or restricted to bitumen roads only.
- Many dog owners do not restrain dogs except by verbal control this is restrictive for many people to fully enjoy parks. The signs are not fully effective. There is a need to develop a way to promote dog's usage of the Park.
- There is a problem of people still not picking up after their dog. This issue needs to be further considered.

3.4.5 Future Developments

- Recent developments – bridge, wetlands, improvements to rangers hut and surrounds, modern playground equipment, signage and front entrance roadway – add nothing to conservation value (except wetlands). Bridge will increase pressures.
- Direct towards improving conservation value instead of bigger and better facilities. Resist active recreation facilities eg. boat ramps, bike tracks, upgrades to oval.
- Strongly opposed to placement of mobile phone towers within park.
- A recreation policy should be developed that includes: Recreational and educational opportunities are maintained at current levels with a focus on low-key, self-reliant day use.
- Policy: All works in park, new and maintenance should minimise adverse impact on biodiversity and natural landform of park. Includes:
 - Track, road and car park construction, maintenance and clearing
 - Fire management
 - Signage provision
 - Building construction, maintenance and cleaning
- By all means regenerate the bush but don't ever replace natural tracks with concrete pathways.

- Believe there is obligation on future Councils to ensure preservation of park in its current form and deny any future development work that would impact detrimentally on environment sensitivity of park.
- Do not want to see Oatley Park desecrated by mobile phone antenna nor wish that school children to be exposed to EMR. Appreciate efforts of Council in opposing proposal.
- Oatley Park is an important and environmentally sensitive reserve, which must be protected from development that detracts from its unique environmental and historical heritage. Trust that Council will keep in mind when considering any future development plans and its future utilisation.
- Would like to see park used for recreational activities such as picnics, bike riding, bush walking and sport on the oval, not commercial facilities such as renting poles to telecommunications companies.
- No justification for expansion of turfed areas, playing fields or built facilities.
- No further development of Oatley Park for any more sports of any kind or buildings etc or communication tower.
- Oatley Park so precious, area should not be destroyed by overdevelopment in any way.

3.4.6 Heritage

- Hurstville Historical Society would be aware of significant features and no doubt invited to make submission.
- Hurstville Historical Society best to advise on significance of oyster farm remnants in the Park.
- The research into history of the area should be encouraged.
- There is a need to identify and protect all cultural heritage sites within Oatley Park, including WWII army sites and depression buildings and swimming baths change room building.
- There is a need to consider low impact interpretive signage at appropriate points.
- Try for heritage listing to stop 'commercial bandits' – like phone company wanting to put a tower on oval.
- Army occupation: Several concrete slabs among leaves where soldiers' huts once stood. Soldiers used to repair trucks where children's playground is now.
- Some walking tracks need some reinforcement along the edge with natural rocks like they were in the 1930's.
- The Hurstville City Council urged to apply for a heritage listing on whole park.

- Initiate process of having whole park placed on Register of National Estate – cumulative natural, Aboriginal and historical values especially Lone Pine connection to Gallipoli campaign make it worthy.
- Recommend that Council prepare a draft LEP pursuant to section 54 of EP&A Act 1979 to amend Hurstville LEP 1994 to include Oatley Park as a heritage item on Schedule 2 to Hurstville LEP 1994.
- Would like to see more detailed history of park available on signage. Individual plaques identifying the historical sites and botanical name plates at foot of trees indicating whether of regional significance, or of threatened species.
- Look into reason for original grant and abide by owner's wishes for its future.

3.4.7 Passive Recreation Area – Usage and Improvement

- There is a need to conduct a study of the passive and active recreation use of the area and assess the impact of the new bridge on amenities.
- Pathways in reasonable state of repair (most have some damage or erosion from mountain bikes).
- Against bookings taken for weddings etc. in the castle or for party groups occupying this pre-booked area.

3.4.8 Playground Area/Equipment Provision

- Colourful, modern and safe equipment recently provided.

3.4.9 Public Amenities Provision

- Huge works and pond system below Bay Rd excellent represents enormous shift in Council attitudes towards park in last 30 years. .
- The signage installed some years ago should be maintained. Some damage has been done.
- Greatest threat to amenity of park is the overuse.
- Efforts are made to provide wood for the barbecues but public continue to break and collect wood from park. Reduce number of barbecues and make those in picnic area at least, electric.
- Officers placed identification signs on significant trees but they are in disrepair. Identification of common plants may add to visitor enjoyment but reserved about spending money on signs that will probably get vandalised.
- May be appropriate to get rid of open barbecues – replace with electric ones.

- Like to see area between steamroller and oval developed as native garden, like micro Mt Annan. Natural bush in this area not attractive. Mini botanic garden would complement pathway from oval to steamroller park and is one of the few level areas safe for all walkers.
- Toilet block near oval with good natural lighting – should blend in to bush.
- Collection of firewood should be banned and ban enforced. Barbecues should only be permitted in low fire risk and in limited designated areas. Council should consider providing wood, or provide more gas barbecues.
- Recommend that Council post public notice in the park of future plans being considered.
- There is a need to provide a toilet in the steamroller park area as people are lazy and still abusing bush near children's playground area
- Gate closing hours are entirely satisfactory.

3.4.10 Road Network and Car Parking

- Some control over the cars in park is required
- Visitors often do not keep to speed limit. No policing.
- There is a need to place 'no parking signs' – residents only near entrance, or limited time, providing revenue. Would avoid over-parking outside gates rather than visitors not choosing to pay to use park.
- Ideally cars should be banned but not realistic option.
- Network provides adequate access to park.
- Weekends plus public holidays, especially in summer – significant pressure on available parking – vehicles parked posing hazard to other road users or damage to park (destroying vegetation, compacting soils).
- Cars on verge cause approaching cars to cross double lines (picture). Cars park across emergency access gate (picture).
- Few motorists stick to speed limit – speed humps possible solution but likely to not meet with approval of cycle club.
- Clearly mark parking zones with barriers to prevent encroachment plus well publicised penalties for motorists parking outside designated areas.
- Hope car park in middle of oval to Steamroller area is on upgrade list – very overdue for attention as are access areas to oval.
- Carry out track survey, having regard to usage and erosion effects of each track.

- Develop strategies and actions to prevent riding of bicycles, trail bikes and motor bikes on walking tracks, including footbridge over Lime Kiln Bay.
- Should be no expansion of car parking areas. Parking of cars under trees adjacent to oval should cease and areas rehabilitated.
- Allow a white line boundary painted on road for bicycle riders to adhere to so they are always restricted to that lane when the numerous walkers and joggers are exercising. This prevents injury which has happened, on blind corners a must.

3.4.11 Safety

- Stop sign, at exit of Oatley Park and into Oatley Park Avenue removed – cars leave without stopping, dangerous for cars turning into Dame Mary Gilmore Rd.
- Public liability – mountain bikers danger to themselves and walkers directly and indirectly.
- Needs to be much stronger ranger patrolling presence, especially on weekends. Picnic areas kept immaculate and staff presence is deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Rest of park never seems to have patrolling presence.
- Area checks made to ensure caves are not continued to be used as shelter by homeless and drifters not permitted to set up camp. This has happened, especially in cave at top of lookout (Douglas Haig entrance). Any mattress and gear needs to be cleaned away.
- Physical presence of caretaker doing regular perusals is good deterrent.

3.4.12 Sports Facilities and User Groups

- None of regular clubs activities are especially damaging to park, but place emphasis on recreational worth – park as ‘playground’ to be used rather than valued for its intrinsic nature. This mindset needs to be overcome.
- Question of whether one significant area of remnant bush is to be treated as a playground or nurtured for its intrinsic worth.
- Provide small paved area for shooting baskets plus wall with paving for handball/tennis. Could be in spot opposite school, with landscaping.
- Challenging nature of Oatley Park circuit (*road cycle racing*) is excellent and trust that facility will remain available to club for many years to come.
- St George Cycling Club – desires to maintain access to park while it conducts cycle racing in a safe manner without need for interaction with vehicle traffic on Saturday afternoons.

- No improvements required but suggestions to benefit club:
 - Covered picnic table near existing picnic table (near lookout), with
 - Suitable secure and locked storage area for signs and bunting (could assist with design and arrange fundraising activities)
 - Gas fired barbecue plate near covered picnic table
 - Posts around circuit that bunting could be attached to
 - Resurfaced roadway (bottom of hill) is bumpier than rest – could rolling help?
- All Saints Soccer – urgently need lights back. Prefer same type of poles.
- Need long term commitment that will be able to hold training and games at oval – convenient location and reaffirms affinity between area and club.
- Request budgeting to install underground drainage in oval, gets very soggy after sustained rain, makes grass vulnerable to damage and hinder growth.
- Request turfing of some of oval. Last turfing used grass that tufts, doesn't knit and doesn't cover ground properly.
- Long term request for extension of oval for soccer 'mini field' – would require clearing of some bushland, but priority for club.
- Want to build change rooms at the oval – extension to current amenities block.
- Is there some way to change cricket pitch to grass or removable?
- No more. This is a bush haven for solitude, for birds and animals and people with small children to enjoy, and old folk to meander in.
- Elderly walkers, considering racing cyclists to be biggest danger, give no warning, travel very quickly, no bells, shout can be frightening. Too much to suggest they be confined to cycle tracks at Olds & Gannons?
- Suggest cyclists have designated morning and afternoon sessions only, signposted.

3.4.13 Feral and Nuisance Animals

- Fox eradication necessary – clear evidence native fauna are prey.
- Imbalance of bird population – increase in Noisy Miners (blamed on native hybrid plant species) – 'gang up' on other species. Also Common Myna and Pied Currawong. Fund study of bird population and monitor trends (suggest OFF).
- Carry out fox and feral cat control on an ongoing basis.

3.4.14 Mountain Bikes

- Riders cut through bush from one road to another – 13 tracks counted. Areas need repair and regeneration and blocking off to prevent further traffic. Getting worse every week.
- Causing erosion on tracks.
- Causing plants/trees to be broken.
- Rocks being moved.
- Total abuse of park.
- Erect signs – No Bikes Allowed on tracks.
- Immediate concern is use of mountain bikes on most walking tracks. Recent trend, causing damage to tracks and opening new trails, damaging vegetation.
- Threat to other park users plus themselves – public liability issue.
- Ban use of bikes other than on sealed road, except for wetlands track to bridge.
- Extreme damage is being caused by trail bike activity, especially in bushy area on high side of road near Douglas Haig St entrance.
- Flora in park badly drought affected and in poor condition. Extreme misuse of bushy area may render natural regeneration almost impossible. Riders have created bike tracks and cleared areas through the bush by crushing plants in their way. Some rock has been crushed to create 'landing pads' for bike jumps from higher rock platforms.
- Around dusk, motorised bike noise comes from park. Suggest gate be placed on pedestrian bridge across LKB and locked at night to prevent trail bike incursions around dusk.
- Concerned about use of existing paths and formation of new tracks by mountain bike riders and recreational cyclists. Marked increase in erosion on slopes riders have used.
- Destruction of significant portion of tongue orchid clumps growing on large rock on right hand side of road from Douglas Haig St – skidded down or climbed up, dislodging growth.
- Mountain Bike riders alone do not cause 100% of damage to environment.
- Prepared to come to agreement with other park users to address trails that are suffering most and section off so regen can take place.
- Unfair and impractical to close all tracks as they provide enjoyment to walkers, runners, picnickers, scouts, guides, etc.

- Mountain Bikes is positive outdoor activity, gain self esteem, responsibility and social skills.
- Necessary for all park users to take responsibility for degradation of Oatley Park. Mountain Bike riders targeted for flora and fauna damage but feel there is bigger picture to problems.
- Found stakes embedded in some trails to cause injury to bike riders, dangerous behaviour.
- Mountain Bike damage is amongst worst damage to Oatley Park in last 30 years.
- Walking tracks meant for walking. Reports of up to 20 bikes at once on tracks. Mountain Bikes have destructive effect and lead to serious erosion.
- Tracks cut by Mountain Bikes become wider and deeper and more numerous.
- Council's role is not to allocate bits of Oatley Park for different users or activities but to protect the park.
- Council should include a prohibition clause for this type of high impact activity.

3.4.15 Other

- Circular garden at Oatley Park Avenue entrance is in disrepair, poor introduction, garden needs replanting/regeneration.
- Myra Wall Garden, south of Steamroller park – garden in disrepair, plaque gone.
- Give consideration to planting 'around large boulders along fence' as they look out of place.
- Privilege to live next to Oatley Park, special part of Sydney.
- Small charge on weekends reintroduced. Reduce traffic and funds placed into boardwalks etc. to maintain park.
- Erect gate with automatic payment machine, collect money each evening to avoid theft. Locals could use pass and emergency services.
- Legal Officer should prepare advice on precise legal status with particular reference to Council's rights and responsibilities. Consider action to secure park as nature reserve for all time.
- Consider fundraising from local businesses and community organisations to improve conservation value of park.

- Vital that implementation of Plan Of Management is overseen by Consultative Committee – not a decision making body but community based from those with genuine interest in the park; to be fully informed of any proposals relating to management and development with input into decision process.
- Approach to the park dusty, blows around on windy days. Users would appreciate more welcoming approach.
- One of most treasured and unique areas in St George area.
- Do nothing; refuge for wildlife, place of respect for native fauna and relaxation for people. Oatley would not be the same without Oatley Park functioning as a virtual national park, suggest it is currently perfect.
- Consider inclusion of all issues identified in section 72AA of NPW Act (1974) as amended.
- Include Statement of Significance, including:
 - protects urban bushland in the Sydney metro area
 - contains rare and endangered native plants
 - has natural and cultural features of educational interest
 - provides opportunities of recreational and educational activities in a natural environment within the Sydney urban area.
 - largest area of natural bushland in St George
- List and describe values of park eg. natural, cultural, scenic, aesthetic, educational, recreational.
- Monitor: include a system to monitor performance against plan's objectives, and include a list of specific action items to be checked at least annually.
- Review: Include a requirement for POM to be reviewed periodically to establish appropriateness and completeness, and to amend accordingly after public consultation.
- Oatley Park is treasure of natural bushland, artist's paradise, joy for children to explore, and historical record of life in Oatley.
- School uses Park as teaching and learning resource, valued sporting facility, and for recreational purposes.
- Council is commended for managing the park maintaining the bushland.
- With limited green space, Council as managers of Oatley Park have an important social responsibility to maintain the park in its present state as a good bushland park.
- Needs to be protected against any development or degradation at all costs. Its preservation as a natural bushland park with correct bush care management is of vital importance.

Section Four: Summary of Key Issues and Needs



4.1 INTRODUCTION

Based on the information obtained through the Consultation process the following provides a summary of the key issues and needs that should be considered in the development of the Management Plan for Oatley Park.

The summary of issues has been completed under the key headings identified within the project brief.

4.2 ACCESSIBILITY

The consultation process identified that a series of linked natural walking paths existed around the Park enabling good access to all amenities and facilities.

Within the path network however there are a number of informal or redundant trails that should be reviewed and where necessary removed or closed. An audit of all trails is required to determine the usage, need and appropriateness of each trail. The audit would also allow for a rolling upgrade maintenance schedule to be developed for the trails which are determined to be retained.

Some concern was expressed about the surfaces of the trails, particularly for people with mobility problems or in wheelchairs. Although the general consensus was that the trails should remain in a natural state there is need to ensure the main trails are accessible for people of all abilities.

The opportunity to provide some seating that is sensitive to the natural environment should be considered along a number of the main trails allowing for rest points and viewing areas at places of interest.

The provision of interpretive signage along the main trails should also be implemented providing useful and educational facts about the features and flora along the paths.

Any development along the trail/pathway system should be sensitive and in keeping with the natural state of the Park and provide for some uniformity and consistency in type and structure.

A concern was expressed about the potential access to the Park by trail bikes particularly after hours via the recently constructed pedestrian bridge. Barriers are required at the entry and exit of the bridge that allow pedestrian access but restrict trial bikes.

4.3 BUSHLAND AND BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

The issue of bushland and bushfire management was identified as the most important and sensitive issue raised as part of the consultation process.

A number of stakeholders expressed concern over the lack of direct management of the natural environment and the bio diversity within the park.

It was identified that a key requirement for the Plan of Management was the need to clearly define the aim and objectives for the use, management and maintenance of the Park. Once established the objectives should then be used to set the base for any future decision making in relation to the Park. It was suggested that the original objective of preserving, protecting and restoring the natural environment should be retained as the principle purpose of the Park and the recreation and sporting uses should therefore become a secondary objective.

It is recommended that the Plan of Management clearly define the broad aim and objectives for the Park. The broad objectives should be established under the key headings of:

- Management
- Usage (formal/informal)
- Maintenance
- Future refurbishments/upgrades and developments

The Park should then be divided into different activity zones. Each zone should have its own specific set of objectives. These objectives should then be used to plan for the future development, management, usage and maintenance of the particular areas. As a base the zones could include:

- Natural Environment/bushland/conservation zone
- Unstructured recreational area i.e. Steamroller park and Castle picnic zone
- Baths and Beachfront zone
- Structured Sporting zone
- Amenities and support infrastructure

There were a number of environmental and conservation management and maintenance issues that were identified through the consultation process that should be considered in the development of the Plan of Management. The key issue identified was the need for a development of a formal survey of flora and fauna species. Before being able to develop strategies on the effective management of the bushland area there is a need to understand what exists.

Fire management was also raised as a key issue through the consultation process. The current wood fired barbeques were identified as an area of concern in terms of both a fire risk and the destruction that occurs to the bushland and habitats when wood is removed from the natural areas. The opportunity to remove the wood barbeques should be considered. Electric barbeques should then be replaced in restricted areas i.e. the zones identified for informal recreation activities.

4.4 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE PARK

The consultation process identified that there were a number of conflicting opinions about the need for future developments within the Park.

A number of stakeholders indicated the need to direct future funds towards improving the conservation values of the Park and were against the development of any additional infrastructure particularly related to structured sporting facilities. It was stated that the current level of sporting activities could be maintained, but should not be further expanded.

Conversely a number of the sporting clubs have put forward proposals to Council requesting upgrades and extensions to the existing facilities. In particular the All Saints Oatley West Soccer Club have submitted a proposal to extend the northern end of the sporting ground to enable the development of one senior soccer ground and one mini field. The aim of the proposal is to alleviate some of the pressure being placed on the existing ground.

The Club also indicated the need to upgrade and extend the clubroom/change rooms associated with the sporting ground and are in the process of preparing a grant application to the New South Wales Department of Sport and Recreation for funding.

A request was also made for the replacement of the lighting towers that were removed when the mobile phone tower was installed. Although two light poles have been replaced they are not of sufficient height to provide adequate light coverage to the sporting ground for training purposes.

Any decision about the future developments of the Park should be directly in line with the agreed principle objectives for the Park. If Council determines that the principle objective is the preservation, protection and restoration of the natural environment then clear criteria should be established to guide any future development to ensure that it is consistent and sensitive with this objective.

Based on the findings from the Consultation process the Consultant team would not recommend the development of any new infrastructure within the Park, including the extension to the current sporting reserves.

Some of the current infrastructure however is deteriorating and in need of upgrade or refurbishment to improve the overall appearance, functionality and amenity within the Park.

An audit of all infrastructures should be undertaken to identify ongoing maintenance requirements, the anticipated lifespan of the facility and refurbishment opportunities.

As a priority the infrastructure that should be reviewed includes:

- The sporting reserves club rooms
- The Castle
- The clubrooms associated with the baths (discussed further in Section 4.8)
- Park furniture including all BBQs

Discussion with the Oatley West Soccer Club indicated that the sporting reserves are currently heavily used during the winter sporting season for both training and competition.

Council should consider the provision of training lights that illuminate the whole reserve to ensure the training load is spread across the entire reserve and not concentrated in one location.

The provision of adequate training lights will greatly assist with maintenance of the facility and the long-term maintenance and usage of the asset.

Ongoing monitoring of both training and competition activities is also required however to ensure that the reserve is not being overused during the winter season. Overuse of the facility will result in significant additional maintenance costs both in the short and long term and may impact on the quality of the playing surface for both the Cricket Club and the school during the summer season.

4.5 PASSIVE RECREATION AREA USAGE AND IMPROVEMENT

The Steamroller and the Castle picnic areas are the two main passive/unstructured areas within the Park. These two areas are highly valued by families for social activities and functions. The Castle is a popular venue for special functions including weddings and family gatherings due to the ability to pre book the area. There was some suggestion that Council should consider extending the opportunity to pre book areas to include the Steamroller Park.

To ensure the enjoyment and effectiveness of these areas is maintained consideration should be given to the following:

- The provision of toilet amenities.
- The provision of electric barbeques.
- Adequate shade, seating and tables.
- Improvement and upgrade of the Castle.

Any future developments of these areas should however be in line with the natural environment values of the Park and provide a consistent theme in terms of furniture and infrastructure.

4.6 ROAD NETWORKS AND CAR PARKING

The roadway system provides a continuous linked circuit allowing visitors to access all aspects of the Park. Discussions with stakeholders indicate however that there are a number of hazardous points around the road system. A review of the traffic management for the Park should be undertaken to identify areas of risks and options for improvements.

Car parking was also raised as an issue of concern by a large number of stakeholders. It was identified that during peak usage times on weekends the park is overflowing with cars and the car parks are unable to accommodate the demand. As a result cars are being parked in places i.e. along the roadside that may cause safety concern to other users and/or are damaging the natural environment.

The car parking areas around the sporting reserve are currently not sealed. Cars currently park in an ad hoc manner within the parking area. Due to the informal nature and gravel surface the area is often the site for vandalism. The tree roots are also compacted due to the parking of cars within close proximity to the trees. An opportunity exists to redevelop the car parking area to reduce the impact on the vegetation and provide a more formal and effective form of car parking for the sporting facilities.

There was some concern expressed about the adherence by motorists to the speed limits set around the Park. To ensure the safety of all users the opportunity to implement spot checks by Councils Local Laws Officers should be considered.

Clear signage should be placed around the Park identifying parking areas and publicising the penalties for motorists who park outside the designated areas.

The opportunity to control access by instigating boom gates and requiring payment for entry was identified as an opportunity that should be considered. Although this would be a means of monitoring and controlling the usage of the Park it would require additional financial resources and payment into Council's open space areas may not be well received by the community.

4.7 SPORTS FACILITIES AND USER GROUPS

The St George Bicycle Club uses the roadways on Saturday afternoons between April and September each year for their competition race circuit. This activity has been undertaken within the Park since the 1950's. To ensure the ongoing safety of both riders and users of the park the Club would like to see the provision of the following items

- Permanent signage around the cycling circuit cautioning people about the racing activities and the times
- Provision of poles to enable bunting to be hung
- Access to a permanent power site.

As previously identified the Soccer Club have submitted a number of proposals to extend the sporting ground, upgrade the change room facilities and provide additional and taller lighting towers for night training, this has been discussed in greater detail in Section 4.4.

The Oatley West Public School also uses the sporting ovals at Oatley Park due to the lack of outdoor sporting ovals on the school site. The school sees the Park as an extremely valuable asset to the school community and is an extension to the school curriculum.

Throughout the consultation process there was only minor concern expressed about the use of the Park by the St George Bicycle Club on Saturday afternoon. As a result the continued use of the Park by the Bicycle Club should be supported.

However, to ensure the ongoing safety of both Park uses and the bicycle riders the items suggested by the Club to improve the safety and effectiveness of the Club should be supported by Council.

4.8 BEACHFRONT AND BATHS

The Oatley Amateur Swimming Club has been established since 1926. The baths that are part of Oatley Park are a highly valued community and cultural asset to the Park. The schools in the area make good use of the beach facilities and on a hot day in excess of 150 people can enjoy the beach and water provided within the baths.

There is a need for Council and the Swimming Club to identify the priority safety issues for both the buildings and infrastructure within the bathing and beach area.

Based on the priority issues an agreed maintenance and development plan should be established between Council and the Swimming Club to ensure the safety of the area, the functionality of the clubrooms and swimming/competition area and ensure the area remains a valuable community/recreation asset.

The plan should also identify the party (Council/Swimming Club) responsible for undertaking and funding the required works.

4.9 DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

Council has a current local law, which requires dogs to be on a leash within the Park. The consultation process however identified that some users of the Park are not adhering to the local law.

There is a need to develop an education campaign to inform users about the damage to the Park and the native inhabitants the dogs can cause, the need to pick up after your dog and the requirement to have dogs on a leash while in the Park. This should then be followed up with a monitoring program to enforce the requirement.

Some stakeholders also identified the issue of horse riding within the park. It was recommended that horse riding should only be permitted on the bitumen roadways to reduce the impact and erosion to the natural bushland areas. The education campaign should also address this issue to ensure users are fully aware of the acceptable uses.

4.10 PLAYGROUND AREA/EQUIPMENT PROVISION

Council recently provided some new playground equipment in the Steamroller park area. This equipment is well used by young children and is a popular meeting place for families. Council may wish to consider in the future the provision of purpose built playground equipment that uses natural materials and is more sensitive to the natural environment of the reserve.

It is essential to ensure that the key playground zones are supported by amenities including toilet facilities, shade, tables and chairs and barbeques to add to the safety and enjoyment of the recreational experience.

4.11 HERITAGE VALUES

There are a number of areas of cultural and heritage significance that both the Oatley Flora and Fauna Society and the Hurstville Historical Society have identified. Discussions with both organisations identified the need for the heritage items to be properly documented and protected. Such areas include but are not limited to:

- The bricks used from the great depression used to construct the sandstone wall on the top road and within the baths area
- The concrete floor indicating the site where the World War II Tasmanian Search Light Regiment was based
- Concrete map of Tasmania located on a rock within the Park
- Lone Pine at the entrance to the Park.
- Preservation of the communities of rare plant species
- Development of interpretive signage around the Park identifying some of the key features

To ensure the heritage items are not subjected to miss use or vandalism it is important that the items be sensitively protected.

The opportunity to employ an Education/Interpretation Officer to develop education/heritage programs for school and local groups should also be considered. This would allow both the heritage and conservation values of the Park to be passed on to future generations and assist with educating the community about the significance of the natural bushland and heritage values.

4.12 SAFETY

This issues related to safety within the Park relate primarily to the conflict in use by different activities that are undertaken within the Park, the control of dogs and the traffic management including the car parking. Each of these issues has been addressed within the summary of key issues.

The after hours unauthorised use of the Park however was identified as a concern by a number of community members. Council should consider the costs and benefits of undertaking after hours surveillance and monitoring of the park to ensure the ongoing protection and safety of the Park.

4.13 MOBILE PHONE TOWERS

The Orange Hutchinson Telecommunication Company erected a mobile phone tower adjacent to the sporting ground at Oatley Park under the Federal Government telecommunications legislation. Both the Council and the Hurstville community strongly opposed the erection of the tower and as a consequence the tower has been removed.

The consultation process for this Plan of Management clearly confirmed the opposition to the Mobile phone tower. The Oatley West Public School in particular strongly objected to the erection of the phone tower.

The staff expressed strong opposition to the exposure of students to the relentless fall out of EMR emissions, which they believe are potentially injurious and harmful and present a real hazard under the occupational health and safety of the school community.

Discussions with Council officers indicated that Hutchinson telecommunications took the case on appeal to the High Court of Australia. The High Court determined the tower should not be located in Oatley Park.

4.14 MOUNTAIN BIKE USAGE

The issue of Mountain Bike usage within the Park was identified as one of the key areas causing damage to the natural environment. There was strong opposition to the usage by mountain bikes of the path and trail system within the Park by a number of key stakeholders. The main concerns centred around the damage being caused to the natural environment and the public liability risk to other users of the Park.

The Georges River Mountain Bike Club was primarily established to represent the view of mountain bike riders to Council. Discussions with club representatives indicated that they were willing to work with Council to develop an information campaign to educate riders about the use of bushland areas.

Although this intent is commendable, the apparent damage caused to the Park, the potential public liability risk, the high existing usage of the Park by a range of both formal and informal activities and the relatively small size of the Park supports the need to review the use of the Park for Mountain Bike activities.

Although a more detailed risk assessment would need to be undertaken, there is a need for Council to work with the Mountain Bike Club to identify alternate locations that would be more suitable for mountain biking.