WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

WILLOUGHBY PARK : NAREMBURN PARK BALES PARK : O H REID RESERVE GREVILLE STREET RESERVE

1995

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PLANS OF MANAGEMENT
WILLOUGHBY PARK • NAREMBURN PARK •
BALES PARK • O H REID RESERVE •
GREVILLE STREET RESERVE

AUGUST 1995

prepared by

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Summary

Management objectives

- No major change of use is proposed for any of the five parks.
- The overall objective should be to maintain, strengthen and upgrade existing attractions to maximise use, without impacting on the park, nearby residents or, in the case of O H Reid and Greville Street Reserve, on adjacent bushland.

Priority actions

- At Willoughby Park, upgrade Willoughby Park Centre and surrounds as a major community focus; upgrade the children's play area to a regional level; create new recreational opportunities for teenagers such as new half-basketball courts and a bicycle track; address the erosion and dust problems; and consider the long-term use of the Willoughby Park Bowling Club given declining use.
- At Naremburn Park, upgrade and landscape the car park, and upgrade the children's play area.
- At all parks, continue to plant additional perimeter trees, make entries more welcoming and upgrade seating.
- At all parks, reconsider Council policy regarding dogs. Consider increasing dog licences to help pay for extra rangers and dog catchers; installing dog toilets; and increasing education through local papers to make owners more responsible for their dogs' actions.
- At all parks, Council should only consider long-term leases and licences where capital improvements are proposed for the land and its facilities, and the broad approval of local residents has been established for the lease or licence and the proposed capital improvements.

Introduction

1.1 Background

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that all community land be the subject of a plan of management. Currently, Willoughby City Council is preparing — or commissioning — plans of management for all its community land. Willoughby has 147 open space areas covering about 424 hectares. Of these, 95% are administered by Council and 5% by other government authorities. Because of the large number of open spaces, Council has decided to, wherever feasible, have all areas of open space with a similar function be covered by a single plan of management, as allowed by the Act.

This plan of management pertains to five parks with playing fields and adjoining facilities. The parks are zoned 6(a) Open Space under the Willoughby Planning Scheme and owned by Council. The plan of management must therefore be approved by Council. These parks, shown on Figure 1, are:

- ➤ Willoughby Park, Willoughby.
- Naremburn Park, Naremburn.
- > Bales Park, Chatswood.
- > O H Reid Memorial Park, Chatswood West.
- ➤ Greville Street Reserve, Chatswood.

1.2 Aim of this report

The overall aim of this report is to provide a generic plan of management to comply with the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to the subject parks, and to accord with the aims and directions of the Willoughby Open Space Plan (1995). The report contains the major issues identified by the community, as well as those by the consulting team and Council, and provides a framework for action. It is intended as a working document for Council that may be referred to on a regular basis, particularly for the purposes of annual works estimates.

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Figure 1 — The study area

1.3 The open space system and recreation trends

In recent years, Willoughby City Council has commissioned two major studies focusing on the area's recreation needs and resources. The first, the Willoughby Recreation Plan (Willoughby City Council, 1993), is an extensive document that aims to provide a framework for recreation provision within the City. The Plan formulated the following mission statement for recreation:

The provision of quality recreational opportunities in order to provide al sectors of Willoughby's community with diverse and satisfying experiences.

The Willoughby Recreation Plan listed the following general recreation needs relevant to this report:

- More public seating.
- Dutdoor asphalt courts for basketball, tennis, roller-blading, skateboarding.
- Improved maintenance of sports grounds, and more secondary services such as garbage bins, bubblers, seating and toilets at grounds.
- Improved drainage of playing fields.

The report also listed the following pertinent trends:

- In terms of number of participants, the most popular sports are basketball, touch football and baseball.
- Increased participation in all sports except bowling and junior cricket.
- The major growth sports are likely to be soccer, basketball, netball and baseball.

The second report, Open Space Plan (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 1995), focused on the overall open space system. It records open space supply, assesses demand for different recreation settings and facilities, matches existing supply with existing and future demand, assesses the role of each open space area in terms of its environmental value, and develops strategies for the provision of open space and recreation opportunities. The Open Space Plan formulated the following goals for open space in Willoughby:

- To satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of the community through the open space system.
- To protect and enhance the natural and built environmental qualities of the City through the management of the open space system.
- To encourage wider participation in the management of open space.

1.4 Characteristics of the parks

- Willoughby Park. This is the City's premier community-based park. It has a predominantly district catchment, though it does attract people from beyond the City boundaries, and is well used. Its major elements are a picturesque oval with an 'A' class turf wicket and floodlighting, a junior (half-size) playing field, Willoughby Park Bowling Club, the Willoughby Park Recreation Centre containing the Albert Chowne VC Memorial community hall and a pre-school, and a playground. Due to the close proximity of the hall, pre-school and playground, the park is a major focus for community activities particularly those involving family-based activities.
- Naremburn Park. This is a major sports-based park with a predominantly district catchment. Its major elements are two floodlit playing fields separated by a picturesque avenue of trees, the First Naremburn Cub Hall, a large amenities block with a flat roof used for casual roller-blading, two netball courts, two bocce courts and a playground. Due to the availability of floodlighting, the park is very intensively used for training in winter.
- Bales Park. This is a well-used sports-based park with a 'village green' or English common atmosphere created by the proximity of houses, which back onto the park on three sides. The park has a mainly district catchment, attracting visitors from throughout Willoughby City. Its major elements are a large playing field, a clubhouse and kiosk (previously used by netball teams that once played here), two bocce courts and a playground. The previous use of the ground for netball had a major impact on local residents, who objected to the intensity of the use with the attendant problems of weekend traffic and noise.
- ➤ O H Reid Memorial Park. This is a tranquil park in a bushland setting. The park has a mainly district catchment, attracting visitors from throughout Willoughby City. Its major elements are a playing field, and small pavilion; and an adjoining picnic area. A recent proposal for a synthetic hockey field and floodlighting drew a very strong negative response from local residents, who are keen to have the park remain a low-key recreation venue. This is reflected in the relatively high number of written responses from residents focusing on this issue.
- ➤ Greville Street Reserve. This is a small, quiet park in a bushland setting. The park has a mainly local catchment, attracting visitors from the local suburb. It has a half field used for junior soccer, an informal picnic area overlooking nearby bushland and some basic play equipment.

Characteristics of the parks are listed in **Table 1** and park locations are shown in **Figures 2-6**.

Table 1 — Characteristics of the parks

Park	Area (ha)	Facilities	Operating costs pa	Category *	Setting #
Willoughby	4.9128	2 playing fields	\$54,400	Sportsground Park	Outdoor sports
		Bowling club		General	Civic space Indoor facility
		Bowling / Bocce greens		community use	indoor raciiity
		Recreation centre			Playground
		Play equipment			
		Floodlights			
		Cricket nets			
		Amenities block			
		Grandstand			
		Car parking			
Naremburn	4.2207	2 playing fields	\$28,380	Sportsground	Outdoor sports
		Floodlights		Park	Playground
		Play equipment		General community use	Indoor facility
		Scout Hall			
		Amenities block			
		Netball courts			
		Bocce			
		Car parking			
Bales	1.6652	Playing field	\$20,476	Sportsground	Outdoor sports
		Play equipment		Park	Playground
		Clubhouse		General community use	Indoor facility
		Bocce			
		Car parking			
OH Reid	8.6059	Playing field Picnic area	\$13,504	Sportsground Park	Outdoor sports Adjacent
					bushland
		Toilets			
		Play equipment			
		Car parking			
Greville Street	0.7179	Playing field	\$4292	Sportsground	Outdoor sports
		Play equipment		Park	Adjacent bushland
		Picnic tables			

Source: Open Space Plan (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 1995)

^{*} As per 1993 Local Government Act

[#] As per Department of Planning's Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines, 1992

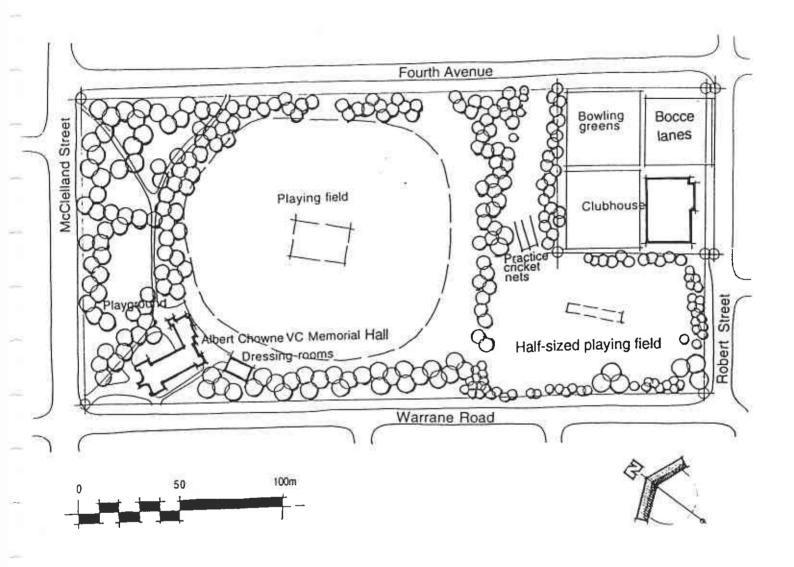


Figure 2

WILLOUGHBY park

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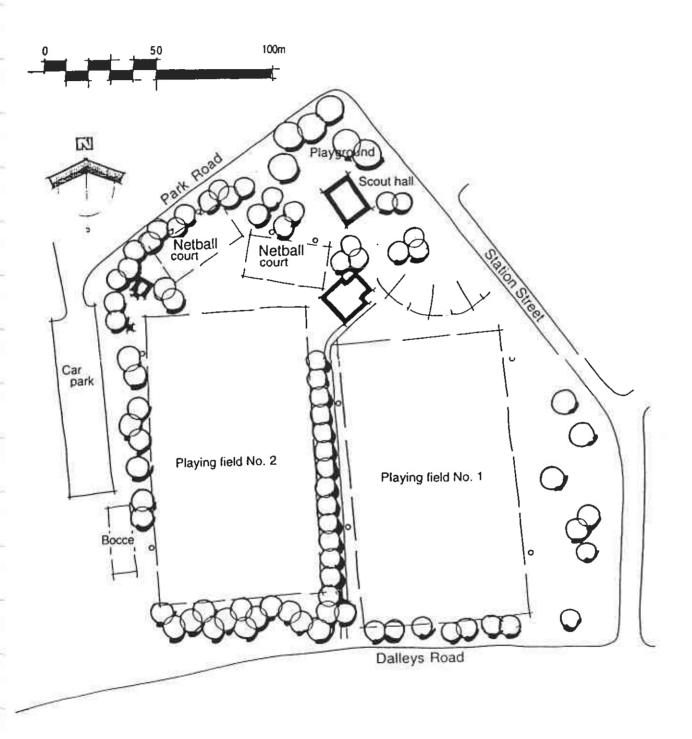


Figure 3 NAREMBURN park

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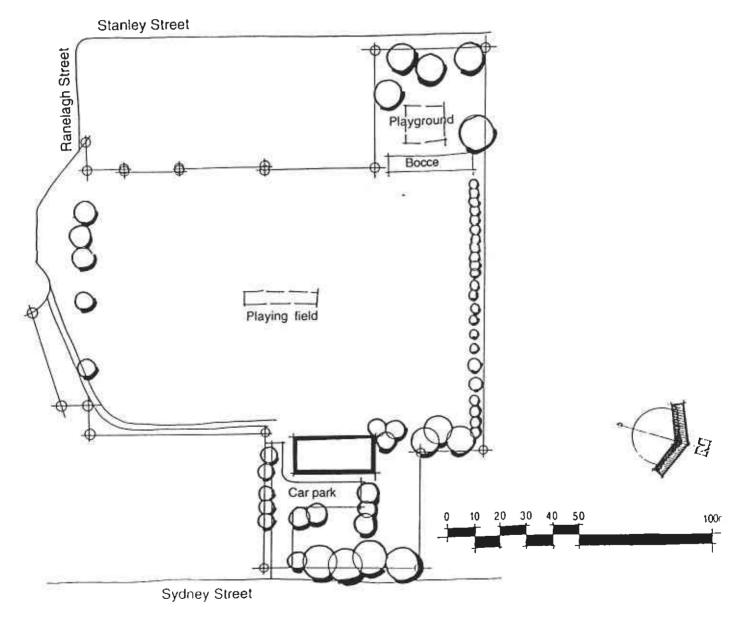


Figure 4

BALES park

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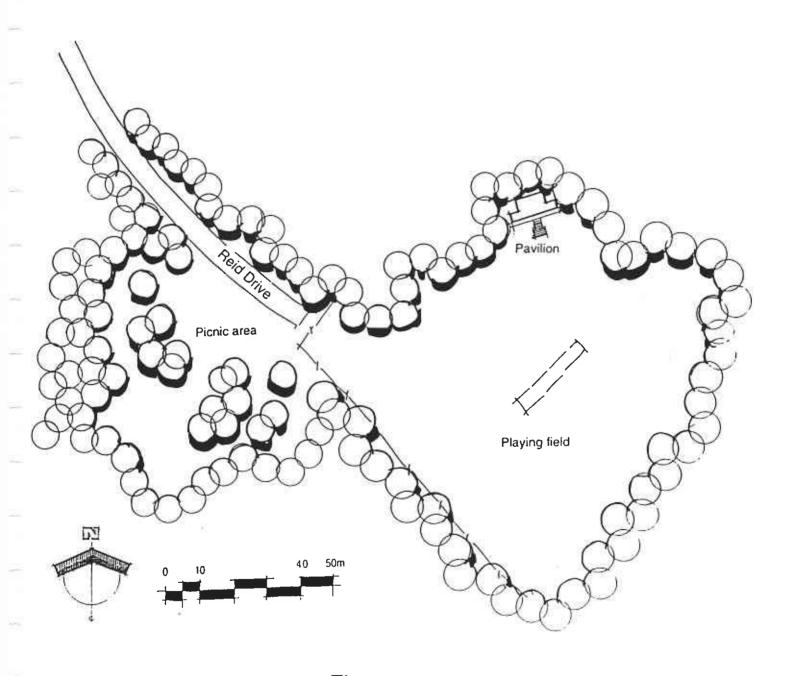


Figure 5 O.H. REI memorial reserve

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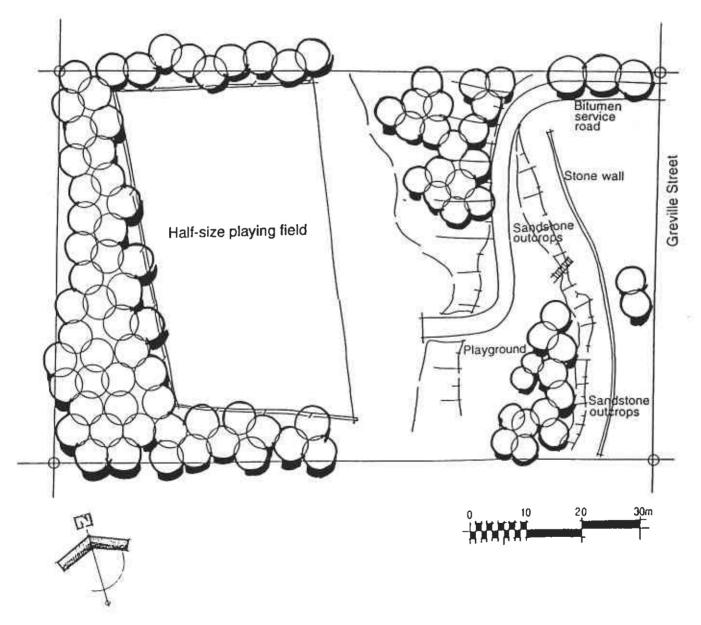


Figure 6

GREVILLE STREET reserve

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Basis for management

Because this plan of management is intended to outlive many of the actions outlined, and to be used as a resource for responding to future issues, it is critical to present management objectives for each park. These objectives should have a lifespan of some 20 years from the date of approval of this plan of management.

The management objectives are based on the values of the parks, and the role that each park will play within Willoughby's open space system.

2.1 Values and roles of the parks

A community's shared values reflect the reasons why that community enjoys a particular resource, and what it likes about it. These values help define the role the resource should play and also to give direction to the recommended strategies and actions for the resource. The values and roles of the parks are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 — Values and roles of the parks

Park	Value	Role
Willoughby	➤ Recreational	 Major venue for community-based non- sporting recreation and learning
		➤ Major venue for unstructured recreation
		➤ Major venue for organised sport
	> Children's recreation	➤ Major venue for children's recreation
	➤ Social	E Civic space / meeting place
Naremburn	➤ Recreational	 Major venue for organised sport and night- time training
		➤ Venue for bocce for ethnic community
		➤ Venue for unstructured recreation & children's play
	➤ Social	➤ Meeting place for cubs and scouts
Bales	> Recreational	➤ Venue for sport
		 Venue for unstructured recreation & children's play
O H Reid	➤ Recreational	➤ Venue for sport
		➤ Venue for unstructured, nature-oriented recreation
	➤ Environmental	 Venue for environmental education and bush regeneration
Greville Street	➤ Recreational	➤ Venue for junior sport
		> Venue for unstructured recreation
	➤ Environmental	➤ Venue for bushland observation

2.2 Management objectives

2.2.1 Willoughby Park

Willoughby Park should continue in its role as Willoughby's major community-based park. The overall management objective should be to maintain, strengthen and upgrade existing attractions to maximise use. No major change of use is envisaged for the park, other than the bowling club, which may undergo a change of focus should interest in bowls continue to decline. This change of focus could include activities such as tennis, basketball, netball or touch football.

2.2.2 Naremburn Park

Naremburn Park should continue in its role as a major sports-based park and nighttime training venue catering mainly for traditional sports such as rugby, soccer and cricket. The overall management objective should be to maintain, strengthen and upgrade attractions to maximise use, without affecting the recreational resource or the amenity of nearby residents. No major change of use is envisaged for the park.

2.2.3 Bales Park

Bales Park should continue in its role as a primarily district park offering structured and unstructured recreation in a village green atmosphere. The overall management objective should be to maintain existing attractions and manage the park in a way that does not cause undue impact on residents bordering the park. No major change of use is envisaged for the park.

2.2.4 O H Reid Reserve

O H Reid Reserve should continue in its role as a primarily district park offering a balance of structured and unstructured recreation in a bushland setting. The overall management objective should be to maintain existing attractions and manage the park in a way that does not cause undue impact on the bushland and residents bordering the park. No major change of use is envisaged for the park.

2.2.5 Greville Street Reserve

Greville Street Reserve should continue in its role as a local park offering a balance of low-key structured and unstructured recreation against a bushland backdrop. The overall management objective should be to maintain existing attractions and manage the park in a way that does not cause undue impact on the bushland and residents bordering the park. No major change of use is envisaged for the park.

2.3 Guiding principles

The following guiding principles have been formulated to help guide all decisions for the ongoing management of the parks. They represent a synthesis of views expressed by the community and user groups during the consultation process for the plan of management.

- Ensure an equitable balance of opportunities for both structured and unstructured recreation.
- Ensure the parks are able to accommodate increased visitation without a corresponding reduction in the quality of the recreation experience.
- Ensure equal access to open space areas for all community members, without exclusive use rights by any one user group.
- Maximise accessibility to facilities for all people, and ensure access is safe.
- Minimise impacts of park users on surrounding residents and bushland.
- Ensure the parks relate to their local environment, aesthetically, in scale of facilities and intensity of use.
- Provide an over-riding aesthetic that emphasises the natural, soft-edged and native/indigenous.
- Minimise Council's exposure to possible public liability litigation.
- ➤ Where feasible, enforce Council regulations to maximise protection and enjoyment of the parks.
- Establish formal communication links between user and residents groups.
- Ensure the parks are an appropriate standard for the level of usage.

Consultation & identification of issues

Community consultation has been integral to the preparation of this plan of management, and builds on the substantial consultation that occurred during the preparation of the Willoughby Recreation Plan (1993). To date, consultation has involved meetings with user groups of each park and a questionnaire survey distributed to residents living near each park. Key findings are summarised below.

3.1 Issues raised by user groups

Issues raised at meetings with user groups are listed below for each park. No priority order is given.

3.1.1 Willoughby Park

- Extend children's bike track/pram /foot path around park perimeter to include exercise use for jogging and roller-blading.
- Tables and chairs, and BBQs at the McClelland Street end of the park, especially near play area.
- ➤ Clear undergrowth at the top of the Bowling Club to improve child safety
- Create a meeting place on Warrane Road under the trees outside the entry to the Willoughby Park Centre, with paving, benches, low shrubs; ameliorate dust bowl problems.
- Upgrade play equipment to create an imaginative regional playground (eg creative space with sculptures as useable structures for children to climb, and water play areas). Consider wider swings to accommodate adults holding young children, and structures to enable use by children with disabilities. Fully enclose playground and make McClelland Street gates self-closing.
- ► Landscape treatment of corner McClelland Street and Fourth Avenue.
- ➤ Upgrade and maintain existing footpaths.
- Roller-blade/skateboard/bicycle facility (eg basin or doughnut) near cricket nets.
- Improve lighting for safe access and to deter vandalism, particularly around the Willoughby Park Centre.

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- ➤ No 2 Field under-used. Kuringai soccer would use it if surface upgraded.
- ➤ Better signage to promote the Centre and make it more welcoming.
- > Open main gates during daytime for stroller and wheelchair access.
- Liaise with football teams to make them more responsible for their actions (eg anti-social behaviour, litter). Need for spot checks by Council ranger during football season.
- Improve parking provision. Current problems with cars parking on nature strips, etc.
- Dog droppings a problem, especially from professional dog trainers. Need for spot checks by Council ranger, use of dog loos and education programs.
- ➤ Problem of dwindling membership and use of bowling club. Bocce lanes now occupy one of the greens, but no other initiatives in place to arrest the problem. Concern regarding renewal of lease in 1997.
- ➤ Focus on improving non-sporting areas.
- Park needs a full-time custodian (add ranger costs to licence fees for clubs).
- ➤ Changing sheds/toilets needed near the No 2 field, and more toilet facilities for women (there is only one female /disabled toilet in the park).
- ➤ Willoughby Park Centre needs renovation and extension to cater for growing demand, including pre-school. The Centre needs a management plan.
- ➤ Better access for elderly needed. Provide ramps to Willoughby Park Centre.
- > Provide bubblers near play area.
- Provide basketball half-court, handball court, practice hoops and a wall for ball games, perhaps near No 2 field or near play area.
- Provide terracing/steps to practice wickets.
- > Provide syringe disposal units in public toilets, but out of reach of children.

3.1.2 Naremburn Park

- There is a problem with the over-intense use of the ground, leading to surface deterioration, due to the general lack of lit training grounds in the City.
- Improve walkways around the park.
- ➤ Parking problems, especially freight trucks using car park for commercial purposes on weekday afternoons, and illegal parking on Dalleys Road.
- More seats needed.
- ➤ Landscaping needed to screen railway line end.

- Warning signs for drivers to beware of parking in car park while cricket game in progress due to risk of windscreen damage.
- ➤ High cost of casual hiring vis-a-vis regular users.
- ➤ Gordon Rugby keen to invest in ground and building improvements, including landscaping, and maintenance, provided it can gain a minimum 10-year lease and establish the park as a permanent training venue Monday to Thursday, and for Saturday morning games for juniors.
- Poor drainage on lower ground.
- Better maintenance of synthetic wickets needed to prevent them deteriorating quickly (twice yearly vacuuming needed).
- ➤ Gordon Rugby Club container is unsightly and poses a safety risk due to its location outside the toilet entry.
- ➤ Long leases to individual clubs not wanted by resident group.
- ➤ Graffiti on Council signs, buildings and equipment.

3.1.3 Bales Park

Kuringai soccer is keen to use the field for afternoon soccer provided residents have no major concerns.

3.1.4 O H Reid Reserve

- Kuringai soccer is keen to use the oval. Residents group is keen for soccer or a similar low-key sport to gain a long lease of the ground.
- Residents group is keen to open regular communications channels with the main user groups.
- Bush regeneration group is seeking assistance in terms of taps in areas near the regeneration work, and donation of plants.
- Residents group is strongly against any redevelopment of the park that would change its character, including training lights.
- ➤ Need for dog-owner education.
- More seating in shady places.
- Cycle track around perimeter.

3.1.5 Greville Street Reserve

- It was stated that there are no major issues and that the ground is well maintained by Council and residents, who have a regular ground clean-up.
- ➤ Kuringai soccer would like a basic toilet block near the field.

3.2 Issues raised by residents

Five hundred letters (500) were delivered to residents living around each of the five parks. The letters requested input to the plan of management. In addition, an advertisement was placed in the North Shore Times targeting the wider community and seeking comments. Sixty-one (61) written responses were received. Issues raised in these letters are presented in the following tables.

3.2.1 Willoughby Park

Twelve written submissions were received in relation to the park. The issues raised, and the number of times they were raised, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 — Willoughby Park: issues raised by residents

Issue	Times raised
➤ Dogs — child safety and droppings a problem. Dogs to be kept on a leash	4
 Traffic speeds a problem on roads around the park 	3
➤ Upgrade maintenance in non-sport areas	2
➤ Upgrade play area and fence off	2
➤ Install bike track for children	2
 Provide a cafe in the Willoughby Park Centre 	2
➤ Plant more trees, particularly native	2
➤ Upgrade field No 2	1
➤ Provide wheelchair access to Willoughby Park Centre	1
➤ Footballers littering in winter	1
► Improve security lighting	1
➤ Increase surveillance	1
► More seating, BBQs	1
► Keep main gates open in daylight hours	1
Increase parking around the oval	1
Attend to erosion problems at corner of Warrane and Robert Streets	1
Expand the Willoughby Park Centre to cater for increased demand	1
► Upgrade entry near Bowling Club	1
Attend to dust bowl problem along McClelland Street, north from the pathway	1

3.2.2 Naremburn Park

Seven written submissions were received in relation to the park. The issues raised, and the number of times they were raised, are shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4 - Naremburn Park: Issues raised by residents

Issue	Times raised
Attention to parking issues (eg car park used for commuter parking and as transfer depot for couriers in afternoon)	3
 Upgrade fencing around play area 	3
Toilets not open during the day, standard poor	3
- Upgrade netbali courts	3
Noise on training nights	2
- Road safety issues due to through traffic	2
Picnic shelters needed	1
- More seating	1
- Improve pathway lighting	1
Better drainage of retaining wall needed	1
- Upgrade play equipment	1
Do not allow Gordon Rugby exclusive use of the park	1

3.2.3 Bales Park

Seven written submissions were received in relation to the park. The issues raised, and the number of times they were raised, are shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 — Bales Park: issues raised by residents

Issue	Times raised	
➤ Vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, especially at night	5	
➤ Toilets needed near play area	2	
➤ Trim trees, especially Norfolk Pines	1	
➤ Higher tences needed to stop cricket balls going into residences	1	
➤ Upgrade play equipment	1	
➤ Enhance landscape planting at Sydney and Stanley Street entrances	1	
➤ The park is great just as it is	1	
➤ Bubblers needed near pavilion	1	
Move bocce lanes to another park	1	
➤ Dog droppings a problem	1	

3.2.4 O H Reid Reserve

Thirty-three written submissions were received in relation to the park. The issues raised, and the number of times they were raised, are shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6 — O H Reid Reserve: issues raised by residents

Issue	Times raised		
➤ Keep as is — no more development	29		
➤ Assist/encourage bush regeneration/ weed clearance	9		
 Overwatering by park sprinklers into bushland a problem 	3		
➤ Upgrade play equipment	2		
 Improve stormwater drainage from oval to protect properties from flooding 	2		
Dog toilet needed / make dog owners more responsible			
Anti-social behaviour in car park at night because gate left open			
➤ Keep toilets open more often	1		
Noise and litter from bus loads of daytrippers a problem	1		
 Provide new steps from 26/28 Valerie Avenue to oval 	1		
Provide shade in picnic area	1		
 Provide firebreak between south-east corner of oval to golf course at tidal head of Swaines Creek to allow firefighters access to protect park and homes 	1		
Provide bicycle path around the oval	1		
► Bubblers needed	1		

3.2.5 Greville Street Reserve

Five written submissions were received in relation to the park. The issues raised, and the number of times they were raised, are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 — Greville Street Reserve: issues raised by residents

Issue	Times raised
More /better play equipment	2
Need a railing along pathway to oval	2
► Keep as is	1
 Establish regular means of communication for residents 	1
More shade trees needed	1
New entry needed at southern end to gain access to top area	1
► Toilet block needed	1
► Upgrade parking in Greville Street	1
Dog droppings a problem	1
- Upgrade seating	1

3.3 Issues raised in the 1995 Open Space Plan

Some of the high priority strategies in the *Open Space Plan* (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 1995) that are relevant to this report are to:

- ➤ Develop regional-scale play facilities at Willoughby Park.
- Develop facilities for adolescents including half-basketball courts and skateboard and roller blade facilities.
- Develop a coordinated signage system for all parks in Willoughby.

Specific actions in the *Open Space Plan* as they relate to the parks under consideration in this report are shown in **Table 8**.

Table 8 - Recommendations of the Open Space Plan

Park		Recommendation			
Willoughby	>	Install basketball half-court			
	>	Develop regional play facility with shade structure			
	>	Provide disabled parking facilities and kerb ramps			
	>	Ensure protection and staged replacement of mature trees			
Naremburn	>	Install basketball half-court			
	>	Provide kerb ramps			
	>	Provide shade structure over play equipment			
Bales	>	Install basketball half-court			
	>	Provide shade structure over play equipment			
O H Reid	>	Provide disabled parking facilities and kerb ramps			
Greville Street	>	No specific recommendations			

3.4 Summary of major issues

Table 9 — Summary of major issues

Park	Issue		
Willoughby	The need to upgrade the area containing the Willoughby Park Centre as a focus for community uses and children's play.		
	Considering the long-term use of the bowling club given the declining membership (100 total), the declining use of the greens, and declining participation rates in the sport generally		
	 Dust problems from denuded / eroded areas around the park 		
Naremburn	Intensity of use of winter training space under lights, leading to deterioration of the playing surface		
	 Use of the car park for commercial uses, and general layout and appearance of the car park 		
Bales	 Ensuring that structured recreation has acceptable impacts on local residents 		
O H Reid	Maintaining the park generally in its present state (ie no major new facilities) and not allowing exclusive use rights to any one group, or inappropriate intensification of use		
Greville Street	➤ No major issues		

Action plan

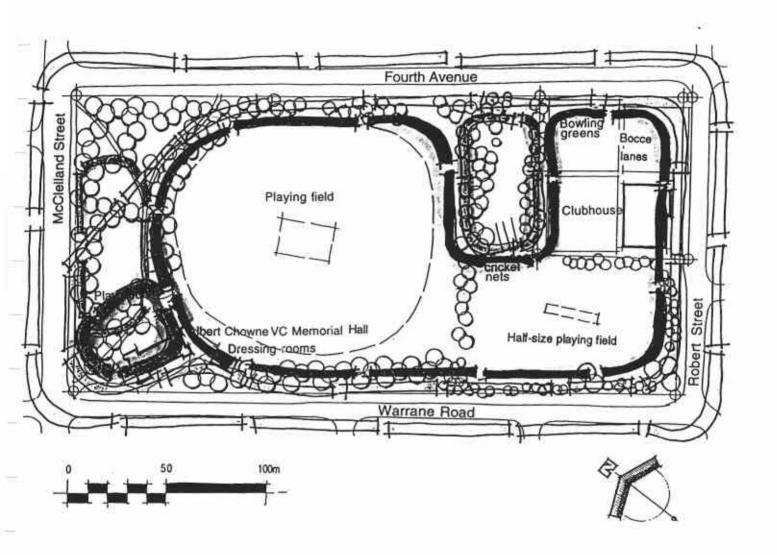
This chapter lists the actions required to respond to the issues raised by user groups and residents who have been involved in the plan of management, as well as those raised in previous studies, and those identified by the consulting team. Actions are listed according to the broad use zones, in Figure 10.

Table 10 - Management zones

Zone	Description
Park perimeter and entries	Applies to all parks and includes surrounding streets
Structured recreation zone	Includes areas where structured recreation occurs, such as playing fields and bowling greens
Community zone	Includes all areas used by the general community, such as formal and casual picnic areas ,and meeting areas
Children's zone	Includes areas with play equipment, and is mainly geared to needs of children requiring some supervision
Teenage zone	Applies to Willoughby Park and refers to a zone geared towards the needs of teenagers and children requiring little or no supervision
Park-wide issues	Management, maintenance and aesthetics

Table 11 — Willoughby Park: action plan

	Action	Priority		Performance target
Pa	ırk perimeter & entries			
>	Replace dying and inappropriate plants. New plants should be able to tolerate both wet and dry conditions, and be bird attracting. Plants should be diverse and could include Mallees and Melaleucas. Consider new plantings along Fourth Ave, and on the bank above Robert St, provided the increased shade does not worsen existing dust problems	High	>	Stronger local identity of park Increased bird numbers
>	In the short term, minimise erosion and dust by mulching denuded areas. In the longer term, consider planting out denuded areas. Use a mixed range of native species to create a relatively natural looking and diverse understorey which does not need irrigation after establishment, and that can tolerate deep shade. Species could include Wallaby grass, Lomandra, Xanthoria minor (dwarf Grass trees), and vines, such as Hardenbergia. Planting to be preceded by establishment of a mulch layer. (CSIRO is also currently trialing species of shade-tolerant grasses)	High	•	An end to erosion and dust problems for local residents and park visitors
>	Provide disabled parking and associated kerb ramps, particularly near Willoughby Park Centre. Consider signs to prevent parking on nature strips	High	>	Problem-free access to park, particularly Willoughby Park Centre, by people with disabilities
>	Consider traffic management measures on perimeter roads	High	>	Increased pedestrian safety
-	Consider providing a 2.5 metre wide bicycle/ roller blade path around perimeter	High	۶	Increased unstructured recreational use, particularly by children and teenagers
	Upgrade entries to make park more welcoming. Focus on improved and unified signage (see Open Space Plan) and plantings. Major focus should be on main entry near Park Centre (see below) and corner Fourth Ave/ McClelland St, which suffers from a lack of cohesion. Increase planting in this area, remove the old garden bed which contains unsuitable plants, and reshape and replant as an entry boulevard. Also in this area, rationalise the untidy assemblage of small structures (eg pump shed, water tank, water mains)	High	>	An enticing entry to the park to help increase visitation and visitor enjoyment
Coi	mmunity zone			
-	Enhance the area between the main gates, Park Centre and playground to create an attractive, welcoming meeting place. Pave and landscape to	High	>	An attractive meeting place in the area already used by visitors to the Willoughby Park Centre and nearby playground
	overcome dust problems, and include attractive seating (positioned at right-angles to encourage		*	A stronger community / family ' focus, attracting increased visitors and a longer stay
	communication) and tables, BBQs, etc. It should have visual access to the play area.		>	An end to erosion and dust problems in this area
	Consider feasibility of a small, low-key outdoor cafe in this area to provide informal refreshments	Low	>	A new dimension to the park, further increasing its appeal
	Undertake a feasibility assessment of upgrading and extending Willoughby Park Centre	High		Increased use and improved useability of Centre to cater for existing and expected uses
	Provide wheelchair access to Park Centre by ouilding a ramp from the path	High		Problem-free access to Centre by people with disabilities
	mprove security lighting along main pathways	Med	>	Increased night-time security for park visitors



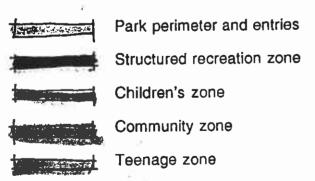


Figure 7

WILLOUGHBY park

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants

Table 11 — Willoughby Park: action plan (continued)

Action		Priori	ty		Performance target
Children's zone					
Upgrade play area to regiona rest of park, but link to comm shade structure. Divide area years from those under five w Equipment and plants to enci (eg water play). Provide equip disabilities, wide swings for a bubblers. Enclose playground gates facing McClelland Stre	nunity zone. Build for children over five vith low hedge. ourage creative play oment for children with dults, and new d with fence and make	High	•	•	Create a major focus for children's play that is innovative, imaginative, safe, and attractive
 Install children's bike track wharea (see concept in 1995 Op 	hich loops around play	Med	>		See point above
Integrate zone better with pre- sensory plantings along pre-s	school perimeter fence	Med	>		Increased visual quality and integration with other park facilities
 More regular maintainf softfal 	l areas	High	<u> ></u>		Increased safety of play equipment users
Structured recreation zone	:				
 Consider strategy plan for lon bowling club and greens giver expiry of lease in January 199 Leases and Licences, this 	n declining use, and 97. Refer also	Med	Å.	•	Long-term viability and best-use of this significant open space area
 Upgrade field No 2: level, restirrigation; and build low perime example is Grant Reserve, Co 	eter bank (a good	Med	>		Improved playing surface ** Increased visual quality
 Increase seating in shady are looking towards, both ovals 		Med	>		Improved facilities for spectators, elderly and people wanting to sit
Teenage zone					
 Provide 2 half-basketball cour court, practice hoops and wall 	for ball games	High	>		Improved recreation opportunities for children and teenagers
 Build skateboard ramp, linked Consider gradual replacementalong Bowling Club fence with (up to 2 metres) native specie 	t of exotic shrubs thick plantings of low	Med Med	* * *		Improved recreation for children and teenagers Increased bird life Improved visual quality
Management and maintena	nce			Т	
 Keep main gates open in dayli consider keeping them permain 		High	>		Easier access for strollers sand wheelchairs, and more welcoming entrance to park
 Reconsider policy regarding m wicket which is costly, and cost to the community area, which it 	nsider diverting funds is more highly used	Med	>		More equitable allocation of open space funds
 Increase surveillance, particul season and to deter dog-relate 	arly during football ad problems	High	>		Reduced impacts on residents and park users
General aesthetics*					
 Unify paved area around Clive grandstand (now paved with d 		Med	*		Improved visual quality
 Remove unneeded structures recycling crate; replace light populace power underground, rem 	oles in play area and	Med	٠	1	Improved visual quality
Leases and licences					
Consider applications for lease terms of compatibility with the management. Refer also Tabl Willoughby Park Bowling Club account of projected demand, club for adaptive re-use to ens	basis for e 16. Renewal of lease in 1997 to take and proposals by	Ongoing	· >	l	Equitable use of public open space



Park perimeter and entries

Structured recreation zone

Community zone

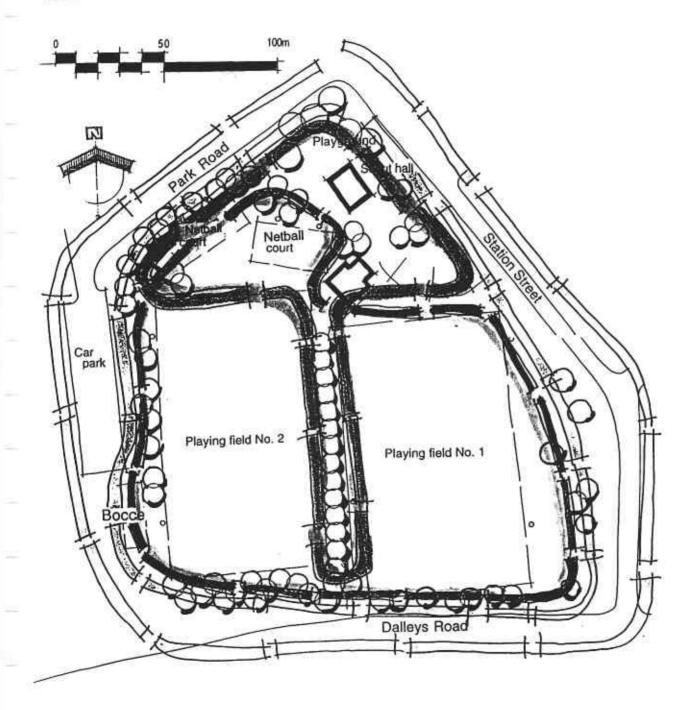


Figure 8

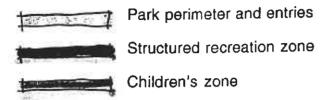
NAREMBURN park

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants

Table 12 — Naremburn Park: action plan

	Action	Priority		Performance target
P	ark perimeter & entries			
>	Upgrade entries and make park more welcoming (improve signage and plantings), and consider extending internal paths	High	>	An enticing entry to the park to help increase visitation and visitor enjoyment
	•		>	, F
>	In main car park:	High	>	Problem-free access to park by people with disabilities
	Provide disabled parking and kerb ramps	115-6		
	Prevent couriers using car park as transfer area Erect warning signs for drivers parking on cricket	High	>	,
	days to reduce chances of windscreen damage	High	>	Reduced risk of windscreen damage and legal liability
	Re-design and re-pave car park to increase safety	High	>	
	(particularly at the intersection of Park Road) and aesthetics, and continue to reinforce perimeter plantings, particularly with native species		>	Increased safety
	Continue to reinforce planting to visually and psychologically soften effects of traffic and trains	High	>	Improved visual quality
>	Consider traffic management measures on all roads bordering the park	Med	>	Increased pedestrian safety on surrounding roads
>_	Improve pathway lighting	Med	>	Increased night-time security for park visitors
Co	mmunity zone			
>	Increase seating and consider picnic furniture, bubblers, etc, particularly near the play area	High	>	Improved facilities for spectators, people supervising children, and those wanting to sit
•	Upgrade play equipment and provide shade structure over play equipment and repair fence around the play area	High	>	Improved venue for children's play, with increased shade
Sti	ructured recreation zone			
-	Consider reducing intensity of training	High	>	Prevent deterioration of park surface
-	Add seats overlooking No 2 oval	Med	>	Improved seating facilities, esp for spectators
-	Locate Gordon Rugby's scrum machine within existing envelope of change room building, and remove container from park	High	>	Improved visual quality and safety
-	Improve drainage on lower oval	Med	>	Improved useability of playing surface
Иa	nagement, maintenance and aesthetics			
-	Consider keeping toilets open during the day	High	>	Improve public convenience
•	Liaise with Northern Suburbs Cricket Assn to improve maintenance of synthetic wickets	Ḥigh	>	Improved cricket playing conditions
-	Liaise with clubs to lessen noise / anti-social behaviour after training. Consider applying a bond	High	>	Increased residential amenity
	Liaise with Sydney Electricity to place powerlines underground and replace lamp poles within park	Med	>	Improved visual quality
.ea	ises and licences			
•		Ongoing	>	Equality of access



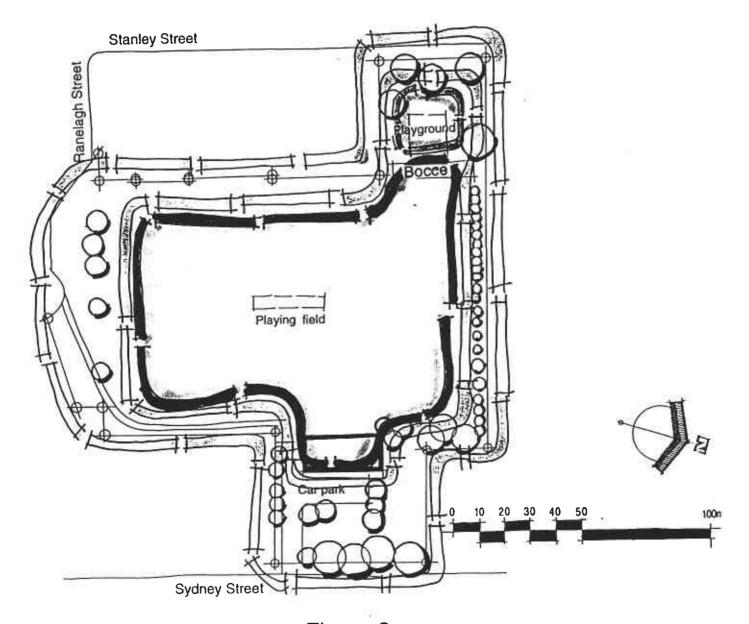
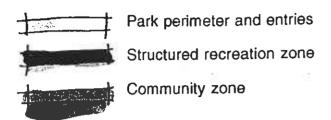


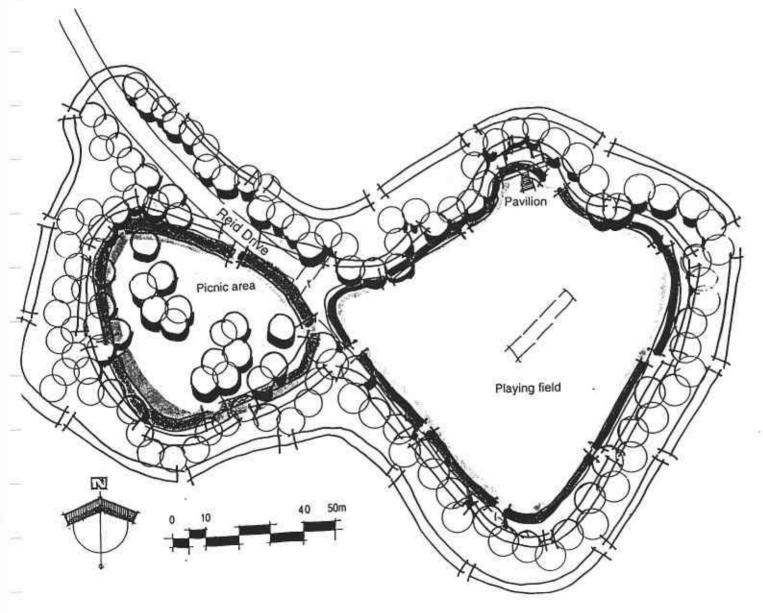
Figure 9 BALES park

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Table 13 — Bales Park: action plan

	Action	Priority		Performance target
Park perimet	er & entries			
welcoming (particular, e and Stanley bean trees r performing r		High	>	An enticing entry to the park to help increase visitation and visitor enjoyment
corners, to i	reinforce planting, particularly in reduce 'squareness' of the park. reinforce planting near Ranelagh Cr	High	>	Increased shade Improved visual quality
plant specin replant pend indigenous s drainage (dr from sprinkle the local vec Between we	meter, replace poor and inappropriate nens with native species. In particular, ill pines on northern side with species capable of withstanding poor ainage in this area is poor due to run off ers). The pines are incompatible with petation and performing poorly. stern fence and the bicycle track, plant sually soften the edge of the park	High	>	Increased shade Improved visual quality
 Add to pavin with amenities 	g from Sydney Street so that it links es area	Med	>	Improved access and visual quality
Children's zo	ne			
 Upgrade play 	y equipment	Med	>	Improved venue for children's play that complements other park uses
lines undergr	ydney Electricity to put lighting power round to increase visual quality and ict with branches	High	>	Improved visual quality
	anting in playground area to increase	High	>	Increased shade
snade, and p	provide shade structure.		>	Improved visual quality
Structured re	creation zone			
	2 basketball half-courts	Med	>	Increased opportunities for teenagers
	sing with Kuringai District Soccer Assn e of field for afternoon soccer	High	>	Meet user demand
 Increase sea shady areas 	ts around ground, particularly in	High	*	Improved facilities for spectators, elderly, and people wanting to sit
Management,	maintenance and aesthetics			
Maintain soft	fall in play area	High	>	Improved safety for children
 Increase night is a problem. and buildings 	nt lighting to reduce vandalism, which Particularly around play equipment	Med	>	Increased security of park assets
 Reconsider p dog dropping 	olicy with regard to dogs to attend to problem	High	۲	Increased hygiene and visitor amenity
Increase patr	ols on weekend nights	High	*	Reduced vandalism and other anti-social behaviour
eases and li	cences			
terms of comp management	lications for leases or licences in patibility with the basis for of the park, and prevent exclusive leases by any one user group	Ongoing	>	Equality of access
Refer Table	16			





O.H. REID memorial reserve

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants

Table 14 - O H Reid Reserve: action plan

	Action	Priority	 y	Performance target
P	ark perimeter & entries			
>		Ongoing	>	Compliance with bushland plan of management
>	Liaise with local bush regeneration teams to provide support and advice on appropriate bush regeneration techniques	High	•	Improved management and maintenance of surrounding bushland
>	Provide disabled parking and kerb ramps	High	>	Problem-free access to park by people with disabilities
>	Upgrade entry to make the park more welcoming (improve signage and plantings), particularly shade trees	High	>	An enticing entry to the park to help increase visitation and visitor enjoyment
Co	ommunity zone			
>	Upgrade play equipment	Med	>	Improved venue for children's play that complements other park uses
>	Replace wood barbeques with electric (free for use, with timer)	Med	×	Reduced risk of bushfires and damage to bush from wood gatherers
>	Plant additional shade trees	High	>	Increased shade
			>	Improved visual quality
<u> </u>	Upgrade all park furniture and introduce a uniform style that is highly vandal-resistant	Med	>	Improved visual quality
Str	ructured recreation zone			
>	Maintain as 'village green' for low-key structured recreation (ie no further development)	High	>	Maintenance of tranquil ambience
>	Liaise with Kuringai District Soccer Assn, which has indicated an interest in using the oval for soccer, which would have broad community support. Consider a long-term lease, as there is also a community request to establish a long-term working relationship with a single user group	High	>	Establishment of long-term user with broad community acceptance
Ма	nagement, maintenance and aesthetics			
	Set up community management committee to assist Council in addressing issues related to the park, especially as they relate to residents, bush regeneration teams and sporting users	High	>	Ongoing — and meaningful — community involvement in park management
	Investigate affect of stormwater drainage from nearby homes onto oval	Low	۲	Minimum impact of oval on nearby residents in terms of stormwater flows
	Increase ranger patrols and ensure gate to oval is shut each night to reduce anti-social behaviour	High	*	Reduced anti-social behaviour in car park at night
•	Consider keeping toilets open during the day	High	>	Increased visitor amenity
	Liaise with commercial bus companies to reduce noise and litter from day-trippers	High	>	Reduced noise and litter impacts
	Reconsider policy in regard to dogs, and consider installing dog toilet	High	*	Increased hygiene and visitor amenity
ea	ses and licences			
t r	Consider applications for leases or licences in erms of compatibility with the basis for management of the park, and prevent exclusive use with long leases by any one user group. Refer Table 16	Ongoing	>	Equality of access



Park perimeter and entries



Structured recreation zone



Community zone

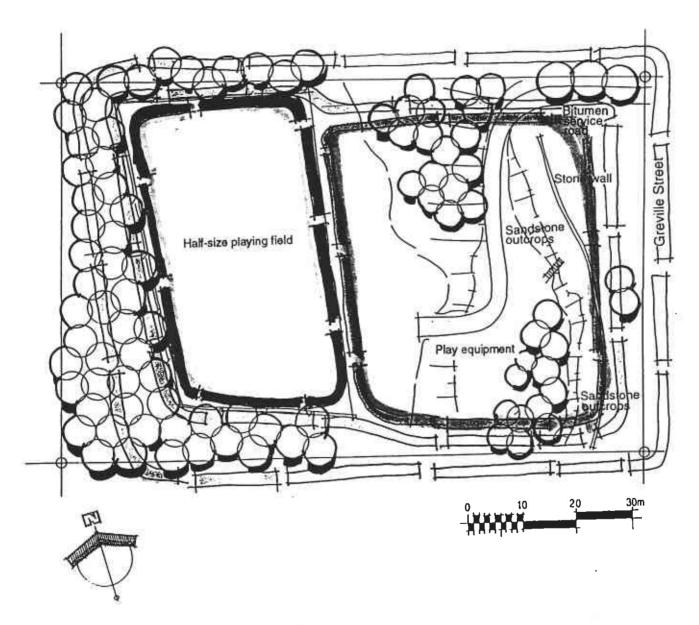


Figure 11

GREVILLE STREET reserve

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants

Table 15 - Greville Street Reserve: action plan

	Action	Priority		Performance target
Pŧ	ark perimeter & entries			
>	Upgrade entry to make the park more welcoming (improve signage and plantings)	High	>	An enticing entry to the park to help increase visitation and visitor enjoyment
>	Continue to manage and regenerate bushland as per Council's generic plan of management for bushland (Perkins and Hill, 1995)	Ongoing	>	Compliance with bushland plan of managemen
>	In the long-term, consider angle parking in Greville Street beside park, if parking becomes a major issue	Low	>	Improved parking for visitors while minimising impacts on residents
Cc	ommunity zone			
>	Upgrade play equipment	High	>	Improved facilities for children's play
>	Upgrade seating	Med	>	Improved facilities for spectators, elderly, and people wanting to sit
>	Provide a railing along path to oval	High	>	Increased pedestrian safety
>	Plant more shade trees in top section of the park,	Med	>	Increased shade
	as well as additional low vegetation at the top section of the park, without detracting from views or use of this area for picnics and ball garnes		>	Improved visual quality
Stı	ructured recreation zone			
>	Maintain for low-key recreation (ie no further development)	High	>	Maintenance of tranquil ambience
_	Consider building new low-key toilet block	Med	>	Increased public amenity
Ma	nagement, maintenance and aesthetics			
>	Establish channel for regular communication with residents	High	>	Increased community involvement in park management
>	Consider policy in regard to dogs to reduce dog droppings problem	High	>	Increased hygiene and visitor amenity
Lea	ases and licences			
•	Consider applications for leases or licences in terms of compatibility with the basis for management of the park, and prevent exclusive use with long leases by any one user group	Ongoing	>	Equality of access
	Refer Table 16			

City-wide strategic issues

A number of issues occur throughout Willoughby, for which a uniform strategy is needed. These issues are shown in Table 16, together with possible actions.

Table 16 — City-wide issues: action plan

Issue		Possible action
Park entries are generally poorly defined and unwelcoming.	>	Some attention is needed in relation to signage and plantings to give visitors to feeling of entering a special place. In particular, a uniform system of signage is needed.
Seating is different at each park. While seats are generally functional and vandal-resistant, they are unstylish.	>	Consider developing a uniform design for all park furniture with the criteria of functionality, vandal resistance and style in mind.
Shade trees are lacking, though Council has begun to replace dying trees and fill gaps.	>	Continue to reinforce these plantings.
Training facilities are generally scarce and in great demand, leading to deterioration of the playing surface.	>	Re-assess policy in regard to training facilities in relation to residential amenity.
Dogs are considered a reasonably high nuisance by many people both in terms of droppings and child safety.	>	Reconsider Council policy. Consider increasing dog licences to help pay for extra rangers and dog catchers.; installing dog toilets; and increasing education through local papers to make owners more responsible for their dogs' actions.
Communication with residents could be improved to enable them to understand Council policy in relation to each park, and any proposals.	>	Establish a channel for regular communication with residents who live near parks.
Long-term leases and licences are generally not supported. Currently, the only leases are for the Willoughby Park Bowling Club and First Naremburn Cub Hall.	>	As a general principle for all Council-owned land, long-term leases and licences should only be considered where capital improvements are proposed for the land and its facilities, and the broad approval of local residents has been established for the lease / licence and the proposed capital improvements.
Exclusive use of any park is strongly and widely opposed.	>	Only consider exclusive use rights on long leases that would not have a likely impact on the long-term use of the park.
Traffic and related road safety issues on surrounding streets.	>	Consider developing traffic management schemes in liaison with local residents.
Maintenance costs appear not to relate well to intensity of use, particularly Naremburn Park relative to Bales Park and OH Reid Reserve.	>	Reconsider allocation for each ground in view of intensity of use (eg increase allocation at Naremburn Park relative to Bales Park and OH Reid).
	Park entries are generally poorly defined and unwelcoming. Seating is different at each park. While seats are generally functional and vandal-resistant, they are unstylish. Shade trees are lacking, though Council has begun to replace dying trees and fill gaps. Training facilities are generally scarce and in great demand, leading to deterioration of the playing surface. Dogs are considered a reasonably high nuisance by many people both in terms of droppings and child safety. Communication with residents could be improved to enable them to understand Council policy in relation to each park, and any proposals. Long-term leases and licences are generally not supported. Currently, the only leases are for the Willoughby Park Bowling Club and First Naremburn Cub Hall. Exclusive use of any park is strongly and widely opposed. Traffic and related road safety issues on surrounding streets. Maintenance costs appear not to relate well to intensity of use, particularly Naremburn Park	Park entries are generally poorly defined and unwelcoming. Seating is different at each park. While seats are generally functional and vandal-resistant, they are unstylish. Shade trees are lacking, though Council has begun to replace dying trees and fill gaps. Training facilities are generally scarce and in great demand, leading to deterioration of the playing surface. Dogs are considered a reasonably high nuisance by many people both in terms of droppings and child safety. Communication with residents could be improved to enable them to understand Council policy in relation to each park, and any proposals. Long-term leases and licences are generally not supported. Currently, the only leases are for the Willoughby Park Bowling Club and First Naremburn Cub Hall. Exclusive use of any park is strongly and widely opposed. Traffic and related road safety issues on surrounding streets. Maintenance costs appear not to relate well to intensity of use, particularly Naremburn Park

References

Willoughby City Council (1993) Recreation Plan.

Manidis Roberts Consultants (1995) Open Space Plan. Prepared for Willoughby City Council

Manidis Roberts Consultants and Dept of Conservation and Land Management (1994) Land Management Training Manual

MANIDIS ROBERTS CONSULTANTS

$A_{\text{ppendix}}\,A$

Consultation

Input to the draft plans of management

- Five hundred letters (500) were delivered to residents living around each of the five parks. The letters requested input to the plan of management in February 1995.
- An advertisement was placed in the North Shore Times targeting the wider community and seeking comments.
- These two actions prompted 61 written submissions. The issues raised in these submissions were compiled and assessed.
- Letters were sent to representatives of all users of the five parks inviting them to meetings to discuss the future of the parks and the direction of the plans of management. Five meetings were held in Council's premises in February 1995.
- A number of phone conversations were held with representatives of park user groups.
- Additional on-site park inspections were held upon request with specific user group representatives.
- Manidis Roberts Consultants would like to thank the representatives of the following organisations who provided input into the draft plans of management:

Gordon District Junior Cricket Association

Gordon Rugby Club

Kuringai and District Soccer Association

Middle Harbour Ward Progress Association

Naremburn Progress Association

Northern Suburbs Cricket Association

O H Reid Memorial and Other West Ward Reserves Residents Assn Inc

Play Alliance Committee

St Aloysius College

The Dalleys Road Consolidation (Naremburn Residents Group)

Willoughby Park Bowling Club

Willoughby Park Centre

Willoughby Park Centre Advisory Board

Willoughby Park Pre-School and Play Group