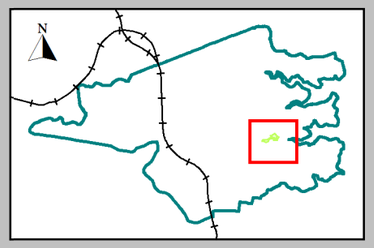
Warners Park Bushland Actions

Priorities will be given to programs for the long term benefit to the reserve. Natural assets at greatest risk will be given priority to avert irreversible deterioration. All measures cannot be implemented simultaneously - resources may not be available or it may not be appropriate.

1. Bushland Contractor to target the removal of Bamboo and weed vine species.
2. Bushland Contractor to monitor large Poplar and Coral Trees in creek line area.
3. Bushland Contractor to complete native plantings into degraded slope to assist in stabilising and reducing sediment run-off into creek.
4. Bushland Contractor to continue incremental weed removal required to maintain habitat for wildlife, particularly small birds.
5. Bushland Contractor to continue work targeting the removal of Bamboo. Native plantings will be required with mid-storey plants and grasses to assist with revegetation.
6. Community Garden to be relocated to former bowling green (see action 27) and replaced with small polyhouse and benches for plant propagation, as per the Warners Park Master Plan.
7. Bushland Contractor to maintain native garden beds surrounding the Warners Park Centre, the outdoor map and recreational grass area and plant replacement native plants if existing plantings senesce or die.
8. Bushland Contractor to complete weed removal to maintain clear vehicle access. After weeds have been removed plant native plants along the fence line.
9. Bushland Contractor to maintain existing plantings and assist with infill planting to revegetate. Monitor Poplar trees in this area.
10. Bushland Contractor to complete secondary weed removal to maintain access along the track.
11. Bushland Contractor to target the removal of Fishbone Fern to encourage natural regeneration of bushland.
12. Bushland Contractor to complete weed removal and follow-up with plantings to revegetate worked area.
13. Bushland Contractor to plant natives south of path along the top of the cliff to create a buffer with edge.
14. Bushland Contractor to target weed vine species and maintain visitor access to Morotai Crescent including removing Agapanthus and Asparagus Fern from entrance pathway.
15. Bushland Contractor to target weed vines and Asparagus Fern.
16. Bushland Contractor to continue with creek line restoration work removing weed vines and woody weeds.
17. Bushland Contractor to remove weed vines, woody weeds and annuals in heath vegetation.
18. Bushland Contractor to target the removal of weed vines to assist with natural regeneration.
19. Bushland Team to target the removal of Fishbone Fern, Ivy, Madeira Vine, Asthma Weed and Staged removal of Bamboo.
20. Bushland Team to remove weeds and encourage bushland regeneration with native plantings.
21. Park boundary to be defined with markers and existing lawn and garden encroachment to be removed. Weeds to be removed from boundary and replaced with native plantings to provide screening of property.
22. Bushland Contractor to target the removal of weeds in Warners Park and Watergate Reserve.
23. Bushland Team to target the removal of weeds along Park boundary that encroach onto private property.
24. Bushland Team to maintain access and monitor the condition of all tracks within the Park.
25. Bushland Team to maintain bushland furniture within the Park.
26. Keep Reserve Bushcare group to periodically work in areas of Warners Park close to Keep Reserve.
27. Construction of new Community Garden, as per the Warners Park Master Plan.

RESERVE ACTION PLAN
WARNERS PARK



Plan details

Status:	Final
Prepared by:	N. Yu
Drawn by:	N. Prasad
Date printed:	30/11/2022
Approximate Scale:	1:1500 on A3

Legend

- Property number
- Action plan activity
- Stormwater node
- Approximate fire hydrant location
- 5m contours
- Stormwater network - Underground *
- Stormwater network - Overground / Unknown *
- Bush track / Path *
- Property boundary
- Reserve / bushland
- Council bush regeneration contractors
- Council staff regeneration site

* The accuracy of this data is not guaranteed and must be verified prior to use.

The information contained herein has been provided in good faith. Effort has been made to ensure it's accuracy and completeness.

Willoughby City Council does not take any responsibility for errors or omissions nor any loss or damage that may result from the use of this information.

Warners Park Reserve Action Plan

Reserve Profile

Warners Park, located in Northbridge, is a multi-purpose open space consisting of bushland, recreational grass areas, a children's playground, the Warners Park Community Centre, the Willoughby Community Garden, a car park and the former Northbridge Bowling Club. This Reserve Action Plan is responsible for the management of bushland only. Direct impacts to bushland are listed but recreational assets and other issues are not addressed within the plan.

The Park is a little over 3 hectares in size and borders with Eastern Valley Way to the west and houses to the north and south. Keep Reserve and Watergate Reserve connect to the east. The former Bowling Club and Warners Park Centre are adjacent to bushland. Bush tracks pass through bushland allowing public access between Eastern Valley Way and Castlecrag. Walking tracks continue throughout Castlecrag and in the other direction to Market Garden Park which links to Flat Rock Gully and Artarmon.

Warners Park is located within the Sailors Bay Creek catchment. Sailors Bay Creek begins just a short distance away in Market Garden Park and flows under Eastern Valley Way into Warners Park. It travels both above and underground through the Park and then flows into Watergate Reserve and finally exits into Middle Harbour. The Sailors Bay Creek catchment is dominated by Hawkesbury Sandstone. It is situated within a steeply V- shaped valley with rocky outcrops, overhangs and escarpments.

Much of the land here was cleared for a dairy farm from 1914 to the 1940s and sections are now revegetated.

PLANT COMMUNITY: The majority of the Park is classified Urban Exotic/Native (Urban_E/N) because a great proportion of vegetation is regrowth after the dairy was removed. East of the children's playground there is remnant vegetation with a small community of Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest (S_WSF02) and also a community of Coastal Sandstone Gully Forest (S_DSF09), which extends into Watergate Reserve.

HABITAT: Warners Park contains a low rocky escarpment with many crevices and areas of deeply cut overhangs with narrow cave like formations predominately in water run-off areas below the Castlecrag Preschool. These caves are damp from constant run-off and provide habitat for invertebrates, frogs, and reptiles and may be suitable for microbats. One domed sandstone cave is utilised by reptiles and is suitable for antechinus, microbats and bird species such as owls and tree creepers.

From Eastern Valley Way, vegetation along the creek is thick in sections with predominately privet that provides habitat for riparian species including frogs, macroinvertebrates and small birds. Due to the past land use, vegetation around the Warners Park Centre is highly modified and includes a Community Garden and native garden beds that provide food for mammal species like possums. There are areas of open woodland with large trees particularly behind the children's playground that allow larger bird species to roost and hunt, however there are few trees with hollows. There are sections of weed outbreaks that provide habitat for small birds and reptiles. East of the playground vegetation is mostly remnant, south facing and transitions into a moist gully forest with rainforest species.

Statement of Significance

Much of Warners Park consists of bushland as defined in State Environmental Planning Policy No 19 (*Vol 1, 7.2), and is protected under State and Commonwealth Legislation (*Vol 1,1.4). The majority of the Park is classified as RE1 Public Recreation. The area east of the playground extending to the Park boundary is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation in the Willoughby Local Environment Plan (WLEP) 2012.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Gamaragal people originally occupied the area, however there are no recorded archaeological sites in the Park.

NATURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE: The Park forms a continual linkage of habitat along the foreshore of Middle Harbour from Northbridge to Castlecrag and beyond to Flat Rock Gully via Market Garden Park and the playing fields of Shore School. The connectivity with other surrounding bushland and open recreational areas allows species to migrate with less pressure from urbanisation. Wildlife find refuge in bushland and weed vegetation. Four species of frog inhabit the Park. The Powerful Owl which is listed as vulnerable uses the Park to hunt and has been seen preying on Ringtail Possums.

Swamp Wallabies utilise upper sections that connect to Keep Reserve. Also in this area Long-nosed Bandicoots have been spotted as well as a breeding pair of Superb Lyrebirds. Lace monitors are known in the area and unusual species such as the Rose-crowned Fruit Dove and Pheasant Coucal have been sighted here. Australian Brush- turkeys are common throughout the Park.

HISTORIC CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Warners Park previously was a 23 acre dairy farm, established in 1914. The dairy named 'Waratah' was operated by J.R. (Reg) Warner. His motto was 'Service, hygiene and pure raw dairy milk'. He subdivided the dairy in 1942 and donated 5 acres to Willoughby Council for public recreation. During 1949-51 more land was purchased and resumed to enlarge the Park and improve access.

The Northbridge Men's Bowling Club opened in 1954 and closed in 2015. The neighbouring Women's Bowling Club operated from 1957 to 2001.

Reserve Impacts

Stormwater off Eastern Valley Way enters Warners Park from Sailors Bay Creek and it carries gross pollutants and nutrients in fine sediments which are deposited along the creek line. Three major above ground stormwater lines running off surrounding road catchments also make their way through bushland, which has added to the moisture and nutrients within the Park. After heavy rain, large amounts of stormwater can scour the creek bank and stormwater lines and flush macroinvertebrates living in the creek downstream.

Sewer access chambers are located along the boundary of 3 The Palisade up towards The Rampart and behind 28-30 Morotai Place. Disturbance occurred during installation of the sewer and pollution from occasional overflows encourages weeds.

Tracks dissect this already narrow reserve reducing the size of continuous wildlife habitat. Visitors, particularly children occasionally stray from tracks into bushland and disturb habitat.

Previous farming history has changed the soil structure.

ENCROACHMENTS: Encroachments have been recorded between The Outpost and The Palisade.

Dense weeds in areas provide shelter habitat for fauna such as Swamp Wallabies and birds. Privets and Camphor Laurels also provide frugivores with food sources. Clearing weeds, such as Lantana and Privet, should be staged to allow for establishment of dense stands of native mid-storey vegetation.

There is a lack of logs, rocks, leaf litter and dense ground covers which is detrimental to terrestrial ground dwelling species including invertebrates and reptiles.

Excess water flows from stormwater lines reduces the value of riparian zones as high flows and the deposition of silts impact on species that utilise these water courses for breeding and shelter. Management of silt deposition, control of flow and addition of sedges would benefit these species.

Foxes, feral and domestic cats and off-leash dogs are a threat to all wildlife, particularly to lyrebirds and whip birds which forage and nest near the ground. However, due to its small size and close proximity to houses, fox-baiting is not permitted. Trapping for feral animals is restricted but possible. Signage and educational programs could help to encourage residents to keep their cats out of bushland and dogs on a leash.

Achievements

An informal children's bush play area was created in 2019, consisting of small log seats.

A post marker and handrail where installed at Eastern Valley Way entrance to promote public access into the park.

Primary bush regeneration works boarding Warners Park and Watergate Reserve was completed in 2019, with secondary works continuing annually.

Track upgrades from KU Crastlecrag Preschool to Moratai Crescent were completed in 2018, with realignments occurring in 2020.

Bank stablisation works were completed and a weir was installed in 2020 on the western side of the park.

Bushland Management Goals – Warners Park

The following management aims from the Urban Bushland Plan of Management 2014 are priority objectives:

5.3b: To create and or maintain conditions in which creek and drainage lines are protected from increased erosion and / or sedimentation due to urban impacts.

5.6e: To provide recreational facilities in bushland without significant adverse effects on flora and fauna.

6.2 f: To preserve and increase ecological links across the LGA and regionally to assist the movement of fauna

6.3 b: To implement weed control programs which are based on regeneration and restoration principles and which increase the bushland resilience to further weed infestation.

8.2b: To ensure that essential pedestrian and vehicular access through or into bushland minimises the impact on the area.

Bushland Management – General Principles and Actions

a. Bush regeneration is a long term process that requires staged weed removal to ensure establishment of native plant communities. Work should proceed from good bush to degraded areas with techniques that encourage regeneration, including flame weeding, rather than spraying with herbicide.

b. If possible, all weed refuse and natural debris to be composted or retained on-site.

c. When natural regeneration is deemed inadequate, supplementary plantings to mimic local plant communities and landscapes will be used with local provenance species.

d. Standing dead trees and forest litter (including logs and branches) to be kept for wildlife habitat unless deemed a risk to safety.

e. Monitor, maintain and enhance vegetation connectivity for wildlife habitat within the reserve and reserve networks.

f. *Phytophthera cinnamomi* (a root rot pathogen) is listed as a key threatening process in NSW and has been identified as a threat to a number of species. Bushland workers are to use hygiene protocols to minimise risk.

g. Report and record all reserve encroachments. Also monitor for tree vandalism and/or removal within the reserve and report to Council's Safe City Unit for appropriate action.

h. Monitor and protect cultural heritage sites within the reserve with Aboriginal heritage to be protected at all times. Bushland staff to notify Aboriginal Heritage Office prior to each burn to identify sites and implement protection measures and post- fire survey.

i. Encourage the community to report wildlife sightings to Council via the Wildlife Watch program to increase the understanding of native wildlife populations.

j. Continue to monitor wildlife habitat requirements and supplement where necessary.

k. Monitor feral animal activity and implement appropriate management actions where necessary.

l. Bushfire management will be achieved through implementation of a strategic hazard reduction program consistent with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

m. Species diversity will be maintained by an ecological burn program in a mosaic pattern.

n. This reserve has a valuable role as an educational resource. Preserve natural features used for educational purposes and continue to inform the community of bushland issues through on-site educational activities and signage. Maintain appropriate signage.

o. Formal tracks to be maintained and informal tracks to be closed to prevent damage to habitat and to impede access of feral animals, unless used for access by bushland workers.

p. Establish photo points to monitor the progress of reserve management actions.

q. Reserve Action Plan progress to be reviewed annually and updated after five years.

Animal List for Warners Park

Warners Park provides habitat for a number native animals. A list of these species can be found at: https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Parks-and-recreation/Parks-reserves-and-playgrounds/Warners-Park

Native Plant List for Warners Park

CONIFERS	EUPHORBIACEAE	*Banksia integrifolia subsp. integrifolia*
CUPRESSACEAE	*Homalanthus populifolius*	*Banksia marginata*
Callitris rhomboidea	*Phyllanthus hirtellus*	*Banksia serrata*
FERNS	FABACEAE-FABOIDEAE	*Grevillea linearifolia*
ASPLENIACEAE	*Glycine clandestina*	*Hakea dactyloides*
Asplenium australasicum	*Glycine tabacina*	*Hakea gibbosa*
BLECHNACEAE	*Gompholobium latifolium*	*Hakea sericea*
Doodia aspera	*Hardenbergia violacea*	*Hakea teretifolia subsp. teretifolia*
CYATHEACEAE	*Indigofera australis subsp. australis*	*Lomatia silaifolia*
Cyathea cooperi	*Kennedia rubicunda*	*Persoonia levis*
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	*Platylobium formosum*	*Persoonia pinifolia*
Pteridium esculentum	*Pultenaea daphnoides*	RUBIACEAE
DICKSONIACEAE	*Pultenaea tuberculata*	*Opercularia aspera*
Calochlaena dubia	FABACEAE-MIMOSOIDEAE	*Pomax umbellata*
GLEICHENIACEAE	*Acacia ulicifolia*	RUTACEAE
Gleichenia dicarpa	*Acacia decurrens*	*Crowea saligna*
LINDSAEACEAE	*Acacia floribunda*	*Phebalium dentatum*
Lindsaea linearis	*Acacia linifolia*	*Zieria smithii*
PTERIDACEAE	*Acacia longifolia subsp. longifolia*	SANTALACEAE
Adiantum aethiopicum	*Acacia suaveolens*	*Exocarpos cupressiformis*
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	*Acacia terminalis subsp. Glabrous form*	SAPINDACEAE
Pellaea falcata	HALORAGACEAE	*Dodonaea triquetra*
Pellaea paradoxa	*Gonocarpus teucrioides*	STERCULIACEAE
THELYPTERIDACEAE	*Haloragis heterophylla*	*Lasiopetalum ferrugineum var. ferrugineum*
Christella dentata	LAMIACEAE	VITACEAE
DICOTS	*Plectranthus parviflorus*	*Cissus antarctica*
ACANTHACEAE	*Clerodendrum tomentosum*	*Cissus hypoglauca*
Pseuderanthemum variabile	LAURACEAE	**MONOCOTS**
APIACEAE	*Cassytha paniculata*	ASPARAGACEAE
Centella asiatica	MENISPERMACEAE	*Lomandra longifolia*
Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides	*Stephania japonica var. discolor*	*Lomandra multiflora subsp. multiflora*
Platysace linearifolia	MORACEAE	*Lomandra obliqua*
Xanthosia pilosa	*Ficus rubiginosa*	*Lomandra fluviatilis*
APOCYNAECAE	MYRTACEAE	ASPHODELACEAE
Marsdenia suaveolens	*Acmena smithii*	*Dianella caerulea var caerulea*
Tylophora barbata	*Angophora costata subsp. costata*	*Xanthorrhoea arborea*
ARALIACEAE	*Corymbia gummifera*	*Xanthorrhoea media*
Polyscias sambucifolia	*Eucalyptus haemastoma*	COMMELINACEAE
ASTERACEAE	*Corymbia maculata*	*Commelina cyanea*
Cassinia aculeata subsp. aculeata	*Eucalyptus pilularis*	CYPERACEAE
BIGNONIACEAE	*Eucalyptus piperita*	*Caustis flexuosa*
Pandorea pandorana subsp. pandorana	*Eucalyptus punctata*	*Gahnia erythrocarpa*
CAMPANULACEAE	*Kunzea ambigua*	*Lepidosperma laterale*
Lobelia andrewsii	*Leptospermum laevigatum*	*Lepidosperma longitudinale*
Lobelia purpurascens	*Leptospermum squarrosum*	*Schoenus melanostachys*
Wahlenbergia stricta subsp. stricta	*Leptospermum trinervium*	ORCHIDACEAE
CASUARINACEAE	*Melaleuca quinquenervia*	*Cryptostylis erecta*
Allocasuarina littoralis	*Melaleuca styphelioides*	PHILESIACEAE
Casuarina glauca	OLEACEAE	*Eustrephus latifolius*
CONVOLVULACEAE	*Notelaea longifolia f. longifolia*	*Geitonoplesium cymosum*
Dichondra repens	PHYLLANTHACEAE	POACEAE
CUNONIACEAE	*Breynia oblongifolia*	*Cymbopogon refractus*
Bauera rubioides	*Glochidion ferdinandi var. ferdinandi*	*Dichelachne crinita*
Callicoma serratifolia	PITTOSPORACEAE	*Digitaria parviflora*
Ceratopetalum gummiferum	*Billardiera scandens*	*Echinopogon caespitosus var. caespitosus*
DILLENIACEAE	*Pittosporum revolutum*	*Eragrostis brownii*
Hibbertia scandens	*Pittosporum undulatum*	*Imperata cylindrica*
ELAEOCARPACEAE	PLANTAGGINACEAE	*Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides*
Elaeocarpus reticulatus	*Veronica plebeia*	*Oplismenus imbecillis*
ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE	PRIMULACEAE	*Themeda triandra*
Epacris longiflora	*Myrsine variabilis*	SMILACACEAE
Epacris pulchella	PROTEACEAE	*Smilax glyciphylla*
Woollsia pungens	*Banksia ericifolia subsp. ericifolia*	