

# SMOOTHEY PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

## FOREWORD

Smoothey Park is one of our most significant parks. Located on Council's western boundary, it is an important part of an open space corridor that extends from Newlands Park in the north to Berry Island Reserve and Sydney Harbour in the south.

Smoothey Park is largely bushland, with some open lawn areas studded with ornamental trees. The Park has a shady, treed environment that is popular with bushwalkers and joggers. The open, manicured lawn areas are used for more passive forms of recreation. Commuters arriving at or leaving Waverton railway station are also frequent users of Smoothey Park.

Smoothey Park is a challenging asset to manage. Maintaining the unique landscape character of the Park, providing appropriate circulation paths for all users, managing and promoting the bush walking track, overcoming threats to the bushland sections of the Park, and encouraging the community to become involved in the life of the Park are all relevant issues which this Plan of Management addresses.

In the past, the bushland sections of Smoothey Park have been significantly degraded due to the impact of nearby residential development and the Park's proximity to the north shore railway line. However over the past 8 years the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group and Council's bushland management team have successfully rehabilitated many degraded areas and improved the biodiversity of the Park. The upgrading of the Gore Cove walking track in 1996 not only provides a better link to other open space areas, but significantly enriches the experience of Park users by providing informative interpretive signage.

Smoothey Park has come a long way in 5 years, and many of the issues raised in the first Plan of Management in 1996 have now been successfully addressed. This document sets out management objectives for the next 5 years and establishes a framework for the Park's future. The Smoothey Park Plan of Management aims to ensure that all new work in the Park is sympathetic to the Park's character, and that the distinctive qualities of the Park are conserved and enhanced for the benefit of all users.

**GENIA McCAFFERY**  
**MAYOR**

# SMOOTHEY PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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## 1.0 **Introduction**

### 1.1 **Preamble**

The Smoothey Park Plan of Management is an attempt to examine the broad range of issues associated with this area of public open space in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Plan of Management draws on information contained within Council's Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999, as well as previous studies including a Fauna Survey prepared in December 2000, a Recreational Needs Study carried out in 1997 and Council's Area Character Study, incorporating them into a useful document. This document complies with the Local Government Amendment Act 1998, and supersedes Council's Smoothey Park Plan of Management 1996.

Council's Bushland Plan of Management should also be referred to when reading this document. This generic Plan of Management provides general information regarding Council's management of bushland areas that supplements the information contained within this document which specifically relates to Smoothey Park.

The Smoothey Park Plan of Management examines the present-day character and condition of the Park and the factors that impact upon it, and establishes clear directions for future management and development. The Plan of Management aims to provide guidelines to ensure the conservation of the Park's unique qualities and to ensure that future development is appropriate and sympathetic to the desired character of the Park.

The plan is divided into 6 parts:

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

Part 2 indicates the location of Smoothey Park, and examines its characteristics and resources. The function and usage of the Park is also discussed.

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

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

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

Part 6 contains the appendices as well as supporting material and background information which, though not essential to the basic understanding of the Plan, provides an important resource base for appreciating the value of Smoothey Park.

## 1.2 **Community Consultation**

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

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

Since the adoption of the original Smoothey Park Plan of Management in 1996, a Recreational Needs Study has been undertaken and a Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/Gore Cove has been prepared. These studies, which entailed a high degree of community and stakeholder involvement in their preparation, provide information regarding community and stakeholder needs in Smoothey Park that have been incorporated into this document.

Exhibition of the draft Smoothey Park Plan of Management for a 28-day period, followed by a 14-day period to receive submissions allows interested parties to comment on and have input into the final document. In order to generate widespread community awareness of the draft Plan of Management, the following steps have been undertaken:

- regular advertisements in the Mosman Daily
- letters sent to all surrounding Precincts
- letters sent to known user groups
- copy of the draft document posted on Council's website

### Writing a Submission

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

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible:

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

Written submissions should be sent to:

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

Attention: Ms Megan White  
Landscape Planner

Fax No 9936-8177

Email [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

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

### 1.3 Purpose of the Plan of Management

Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long-term management of all land owned by Council or under Council's control.

The rationale for this Plan occurs from the legal requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government Amendment Act (community land management) 1998, and North Sydney Council's desire to produce an up-to-date, consistent and useful set of guidelines governing the direction of management of public open space.

Open space is recognised as an important component of the urban environment, providing opportunities for recreation and leisure. The Plans of Management provide a framework within which managers can develop a balanced response to current opportunities and address future pressures.

Smoothey Park is a prominent piece of open space within the North Sydney area, containing a number of distinctive features. The diverse range of issues that relate to the Park including the presence of bushland and a public hall warrant the development of a significant Plan of Management.

The Plan of Management identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. It clarifies and establishes Council policy and direction, both to Council staff and the general public. The Plan of Management provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed regularly. An annual review will assess implementation and performance, and a review after 5 years will allow policy and planning issues to be revisited and updated.

## 1.4 Land Categorisation and Core Objectives

Council's previous Smoothey Park Plan of Management, 1996, categorised Smoothey Park within 2 of the designated categories. Portions of the Park were categorised as 'park', whilst other sections of the Park were categorised as 'bushland'. It is proposed to retain these categorisations. The Local Government Amendment Act 1998, provides more detail regarding the categorisation of community land, including detailed guidelines for categorisation of land, and core objectives for each land category.

The location map contained within this document indicates which parts of Smoothey Park are categorised as 'park' and 'bushland'.

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

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

The Amendment Act also provides core objectives for management of land categorised as a park that are applicable to Smoothey Park.

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

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

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

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

- (a) is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or*
- (b) although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics or structure and floristics of the natural vegetation*

*Such land includes:*

- (a) bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and which contains a range of*

*habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or*

- (b) moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees or even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion, or*
- (c) highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.*

The Amendment Act also provides core objectives for management of land categorised as bushland that are applicable to Smoothey Park.

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

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

Zoning details of the community land covered by this Plan of Management are detailed in Appendix 1 – Explanation of Relevant Zoning.

## **1.5 Council's Land Management Goals**

The production of this Plan of Management is closely linked with North Sydney Council's overall land management objectives, as set out in the North Sydney Council Management Plan 2000 - 2003.

Council's land management objectives relevant to Smoothey Park are:

- *To provide a network of parks, sporting fields and open spaces that meet in the most cost-effective manner the outdoor passive recreation/leisure needs of the community.*
- *To enhance the conservation of local native flora and fauna and actively manage the rehabilitation of bushland sites.*
- *To increase the levels of community awareness and participation in bushland management.*

## 1.6 **Leasing of Community Land**

The granting of a lease formalises the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, commercial organisations or individuals who are providing facilities or services for public use. The term ‘estate’ is defined as an interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien or encumbrance, whether by law or in equity.

A lease, licence or other estate is required where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a party is proposed or desirable in the interests of management of an area. Activities under a lease 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 a lease should ensure that the lessee undertakes proper management of the facility such that it is maintained in a safe and visually pleasing condition, and that the interests of Council and the public are protected.

The Local Government Amendment Act, 1998 sets out requirements for the granting of a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land.

A new, short-term lease of the public hall located within Smoothey Park to the Scouts Association of Australia is currently being negotiated. Subject to performance, this lease may be extended, however the total length of the lease shall not exceed 5 years. The lessee performance criteria are set out in Council’s Management Plan for the Halls. The main objective of this Management Plan is to ensure that the public have reasonable access to use the halls on the basis that the lessee is responsible for taking bookings and maintaining the Hall.

### **General Conditions**

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

- for a purpose specified as a core objective for land categorised as a park (refer section 1.4)
- for activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the community in relation to wide public purposes such as public recreation and cultural development
- for short term casual purposes as listed below:
  - the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  - engaging in a trade or business
  - delivering a public address
  - commercial photographic sessions

- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
- filming for cinema or television

(Note:

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

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

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

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

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

A notice of the proposal must include:

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

Other requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Use and occupation of the land for events such as:
  - (i) a public performance (that is, a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the amusement of the public)
  - (ii) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  - (iii) playing of any lawful game or sport
  - (iv) delivering a public address
  - (v) conducting a commercial photographic session
  - (vi) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
  - (vii) filming for cinema or television

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

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

## 2.0 **Characteristics and Resources**

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

Located on the western edge of the North Sydney Council area, Smoothey Park is an integral part of the open space corridor that extends from Newlands Park in the north, south to the Sydney harbour foreshore. Comprised primarily of bushland, this corridor provides opportunities for recreational pursuits such as bushwalking, jogging, relaxing and picnicking. The Park has significant ecological value: providing habitat for fauna and linking other bushland areas. Bush regeneration work and other activities carried out under the auspices of Council's Bushcare program assist in conserving the biodiversity of the area as well as maintaining its aesthetic value.

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

The portion of Smoothey Park that is not zoned 'bushland' is made up of tracts of open lawn dotted with non-indigenous specimen trees. Beside the railway line is a purpose-built scout hall reached either by a footpath from within the Park or by a sealed road off Russell Street. This road also provides access to the railway line and associated railway lands. The Park is popular as a starting and finishing point for bushwalks, otherwise it is used predominantly as a thoroughfare, and a series of paved paths channel pedestrian movement.

In 1988, members of a Redcore Employment Project constructed the Gore Cove Walking Track. The track was significantly upgraded in 1996 as a combined initiative of North Sydney and Lane Cove Council's and the State Government's Greenspace Program. The aim of the upgrading works was to improve access and to provide interpretive and directional signage to further assist and educate reserve users.

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

### 2.2 **Physical Characteristics**

#### 2.2.1 **Topography**

The relatively steep terrain in the Gore Cove area was the primary reason that this area was not considered for development. Smoothey Park consists of a curving hillside that falls in an east-west direction. The ground immediately adjoining the railway line is the highest in the Park, and from here the land slopes down to Berry Creek which feeds into Gore Cove.

The creek forms the boundary between the North Sydney and Lane Cove Council areas. There have been no significant modifications to the original physical form of the Park.

### 2.2.2 Geology

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

### 2.2.3 Vegetation

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

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

The bushland areas of Smoothey Park have been impacted upon by the development of nearby residential areas, the presence of the north shore railway line, stormwater received from Berry's Creek and past management practices that have excluded fire and resulted in the development of a 'mosaic' of lawn and bushland areas. Consequently the bushland areas are degraded and in some cases have been substantially modified. However since the preparation of the initial Smoothey Park Plan of Management in 1996, work by Council's bushland management team, Smoothey Park Bushcare volunteers and contract bush regenerators has significantly improved the quality of the bushland in the Park and reduced the 'mosaic' effect. The spread of weed species (linked to the presence of residential development around the perimeters of the Park) has been largely brought under control, and native vegetation species are being successfully re-established.

### 2.2.4 Fauna

Prior to European settlement, the rugged topography and dense bushland of Smoothey Park would have provided habitat for a variety of fauna. Mammal species likely to have frequented the area include wallabies, bandicoots, possums, and quolls. A variety of lizards and snakes would have also been found especially around the sandstone outcrops. A diversity of avifauna (birds and bats) would have existed in the tree canopies and shrub layers.

European settlement and urbanisation have resulted in the fragmentation of natural areas and most urban reserves are now too small in size to support many indigenous fauna species. The introduction of non-native fauna species such as cats and dogs in urban areas and the associated increase in feral populations has resulted in higher levels of predation and increased competition for resources. This has further impacted upon indigenous fauna and has led to a loss of species diversity.

Smoothey Park currently provides a diverse range of habitats supporting a range of native fauna. There are a wide range of bird species including Kingfishers, Robins, Wrens, Parrots and Rosellas. Ring-tailed Possums also inhabit the bushland as indicated by the numerous dreys found in the midstorey and canopy of native vegetation. The Eastern Rosella, Crimson Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra and Tawny Frogmouth are occasionally seen in bushland along Berrys Creek. Numerous Pied Currawongs and Noisy Miners are frequently seen throughout Smoothey Park. Because bushland in Smoothey Park is contiguous with bushland in the adjoining Gore Cove Reserve as well as bushland in the Lane Cove Council area, the area of habitat available to fauna is larger than exists in Smoothey Park alone.

In December 2000 a Fauna Survey of six of Council's bushland reserves, including Gore Cove (including the Gore Cove Walking Track and Smoothey Park), was carried out. The Survey aimed to:

1. Catalogue the mammals, reptiles, birds and frogs that occur in the Reserves;
2. Identify threatened or endangered species or species of local significance;
3. Assess the extent of habitat for wildlife;
4. Recommend methods that might improve the habitat value of the Reserves for native wildlife.

The species lists that resulted from the Fauna Survey are shown as Appendix 3.

### **2.3 Built Form**

The public hall located alongside the railway line is the most significant building in Smoothey Park. Currently used by the Scouts, this hall is a relatively unobtrusive feature, being screened from the rest of the Park by dense vegetation. The character of the Park in the vicinity of the hall is markedly different due to the presence of the railway line and the visual connection to medium density residential development on the far side of the railway line. In addition to the hall, the Park also contains a small workers shed. Located beside the access road that leads off Russell Street, the shed currently houses equipment used in bush regeneration activities.

The two pedestrian bridges that cross Berrys Creek and link the North Sydney Council area to the Lane Cove Council area are significant structures in the Park. The high level bridge in particular is a well-used and visually dominant element in the landscape.

## 2.4 Current Activities within the Park

The Park is connected to Newlands Park, Greendale Park and Holloway Park in the Lane Cove Council area, and an interpretive walking track through the Gore Cove foreshore bushland connects Smoothey Park to Berry Island Reserve; an attractive waterfront area which combines developed foreshore open space and bushland. Due to its proximity to Wollstonecraft railway station, the Park functions as a starting or finishing point for a variety of walks.

A high proportion of people use Smoothey Park as a thoroughfare; a pedestrian bridge crosses Berry Creek and links the Greenwich residential area with the railway station, and a path from nearby Russell Street through the Park also connects to the station.

Through Council's Bushcare Program, volunteers from the local community and Council staff have rehabilitated bushland areas in the Park. The Smoothey Park Bushcare Group, formed in 1994, has made good progress in rehabilitating a number of degraded areas. The area below the Scout Hall, the bushland along Berrys Creek and the land alongside the North Shore Railway line have all been regenerated to a condition of native bushland. Contracted bush regenerators also work in the Park under Council's direction.

The Smoothey Park Bushcare Group meets twice a month and carries out a variety of activities including bush regeneration, revegetation, bank stabilisation and erosion control, and plant identification. A qualified Bush Regenerator employed by Council provides the group with on-site training, technical advice, tools, and materials, and Council officers from the Bushland Management Team support the group by removing vegetative material, spraying weeds, and organising ecological burns to aid the regeneration of native plants.

The open lawn areas scattered throughout the Park are suitable for informal recreation activities such as picnicking, sitting and reading, however the level of use for this type of activity is relatively low. Due to its secluded nature and the density of the bushland, the Park is perceived more as a pleasant area to walk through than as a place to stay.

### 3.0 **Planning Issues**

#### 3.1 **Background**

The existing character of Smoothey Park has evolved over time in response to a number of factors. These physical and social influences continue to mould the present Park environs. Problems such as the pressures from urban development increase the Park's susceptibility to a number of management problems including an influx of weeds, siltation of the creek, accumulation of debris along the creekline and the dumping of rubbish. Prolonged pressure can lead to a significant degrading of the park environment. Following is a brief outline of the current main planning issues relevant to Smoothey Park.

#### 3.2 **Landscape Character**

Smoothey Park consists of remnant bushland and open areas of lawn scattered with exotic trees and shrubs. Berrys Creek which forms the western border of the Park is the longest stretch of natural open creekline left in North Sydney. It is also the area of the Park with the most scenic potential. The graded pathways and the overhead footbridge provide interesting and varied viewpoints. Built structures do not dominate the landscape and there is a sense of the Park as being removed from development.

Vegetation has a major influence on the landscape character of the Park. The bushland vegetation in Smoothey Park forms part of a much larger area of contiguous bushland and wildlife corridor, linking the bushland areas in Holloway Park and Greendale Park in the Lane Cove Council area to Gore Cove and Berry Island Reserves in the North Sydney Council area.

Although comprised primarily of bushland, Smoothey Park is not entirely a bushland reserve. Its modified environment blends a conventional "European-style" parkland with natural bushland areas. Near Russell Street, a more formal park setting with benches and mown lawns has been created. There is another lawn area at the southern end of the Park where the paths from Greenwich and Russell Street converge. Lawn areas bordering the pathways connecting the station with Russell Street give this area of the Park a more open character, and create areas for sitting and contemplation.

Weeds from a variety of sources are an ongoing problem in Smoothey Park. Many areas of the Park are steep and rocky, making eradication difficult. Weeds growing upslope on the railway land which borders the Park in the east may also spread into the Park. Weed stocks are continually being replenished via agents such as wind, water, birds and other animals as well as through the movement of people. Over the past 6 years activities undertaken by the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group and Council's Bushland Management Team have been beneficial in significantly reducing the number of weeds in Smoothey Park.

### 3.3 Access and Circulation

Smoothey Park is used primarily as a thoroughfare and consequently has a comprehensive and well-established system of pedestrian pathways running through it. A well-graded pathway connects Russell Street to Wollstonecraft Railway Station, and another major pathway links the station to the Greenwich residential area via a high-level pedestrian bridge. A low-level bridge which also crosses Berrys Creek forms part of the Gore Cove walking track.

The internal circulation system in Smoothey Park forms an important component of the overall recreational experience. The existing pathways adequately cater for the majority of pedestrian movement, are mostly suitable for wheelchair users, and are generally in good condition. The pathway leading down to the creek however is steep and incorporates steps. The grassed areas located throughout the Park provide staging points from which to view Smoothey Park's diverse range of vegetation. Due to the dense nature of much of the bushland in the Park and the well-sited pathways, pedestrians do not generally stray from the formal paths, and consequently there is little environmental damage caused by the creation of informal tracks.

A major regional bushwalking track, the Gore Cove Interpretive Track, links Holloway, Smoothey and Greendale Parks with Berry Island Reserve via Gore Cove Reserve. The track provides access to a remnant bushland reserve in an area where public access was previously awkward and in poor condition. Interpretive signage along the way adds significantly to the visitor experience.

A major problem connected with the use and appreciation of some parks and reserves in the North Sydney area is the limited supply of car parking. While there are opportunities to park in Milray Avenue and Russell Street, the Park's proximity to Wollstonecraft railway station provides an excellent opportunity for visitors who are unable to reach the Park on foot or by bicycle to access Smoothey Park without a car.

Council's current policy is to encourage the use of public transport and to discourage reliance on private cars. This policy aims to reduce the impact of the car on the environment, to reduce problems associated with traffic congestion and parking and to relieve pressure on local streets. Whilst general vehicular access to Smoothey Park is prohibited, adequate access for service and emergency vehicles must be provided. The service road that enters the Park from Russell Street provides access to a stormwater pollution trap and to the railway land beside the public hall.

The North Shore Bicycle Group has identified Smoothey Park as being a component of a low-stress cycle route linking the North Sydney and Lane Cove Council areas. In July 2000 a new section of pathway was constructed to create an improved link to Russell Street. Opportunities to upgrade identified pathways to function as shared pedestrian/cycleway zones should be investigated.

### 3.4 **Recreational Opportunities and Constraints**

In addition to its ecological function, Smoothey Park caters for the recreational needs of people living in the North Sydney area. This Plan of Management aims to provide guidelines that will ensure the provision of a high quality recreational facility and an attractive visual amenity.

Smoothey Park provides a variety of opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Its pathways are used by commuters, bushwalkers, joggers and by people walking dogs. The Park is a starting and finishing point for bushwalks such as the Gore Cove Interpretive Track. Other, less frequently occurring activities include the more passive pursuits of sitting, relaxing and picnicking on the level lawn areas.

The Scout Hall, currently leased from Council by the Scouts Association of Australia, houses the only formalised recreational facility in the Park.

Smoothey Park is an important recreational resource for both local and regional users. Management strategies within this Plan of Management need to be flexible and adaptable to provide for the changing recreational needs of the community in relation to Smoothey Park.

### 3.5 **Structures**

This Plan of Management needs to consider long-term policy for park furniture, lighting, signage and other structures in Smoothey Park. Adequate facilities which meet identified levels of community need should be provided.

Effective directional and interpretive signage can assist user circulation and enrich the general recreational experience. While the total amount of signage in Smoothey Park should be controlled, the extensive nature of the Park warrants the development of signage that directs people to the walking track and other features of interest, and provides interpretive information for park users.

Solar powered lights were installed in the Park along the pathway that connects Russell Street with the railway station in response to an identified need. Other existing items of park furniture in Smoothey Park, are in reasonable condition. Any new items should be sympathetic to the predominantly native, natural character of Smoothey Park.

The public hall adjacent to the railway line is a significant structure in Smoothey Park. The hall has an unkempt appearance, and has been subjected to substantial vandalism; graffiti on the side of the building facing the railway line is particularly bad. Substandard paving and exotic shrubs surrounding the hall detract from the overall appearance of the Park. Prevention of vandalism in this area is difficult due to the concealed nature of the site and its current low level of use, however more frequent patrols by Rangers may be effective in deterring potential vandals. The small workers shed located beside the access road to the hall is in reasonable condition.

The high-level pedestrian bridge that crosses Berrys Creek and links Wollstonecraft railway station to the Greenwich residential area is maintained by Lane Cove Council.

### 3.6 **Pollution**

Pollution in any form is detrimental to quality of life. In the case of Smoothey Park, the presence of various forms of pollution detracts not only from the overall recreational experience, but from the calibre of the bushland environment as well. This issue needs to be examined closely in order to develop management strategies that will make the Park a more attractive and more desirable place to be, and will improve the quality of the bushland.

Litter problems are evident in a number of areas of the Park and rubbish is occasionally dumped in Berrys Creek. A stormwater pollution trap installed in the Park separates solids from the rest of the stormwater that enters Berrys Creek. Litter levels in the Park have been reduced in recent years with the introduction of the Bushcare program, and with higher levels of Park maintenance.

Cityrail has commenced a program of work to control noxious weeds in the Rail corridor. In the area bordering Smoothey Park, the weeds blackberry, lantana and privet have been targeted.

Stormwater enters Berrys Creek from the large pipe at the northern end of Smoothey Park (adjacent to Russell Street) delivering urban runoff, waste water and pollutants from the upper catchment. Runoff also enters the Park from open pipes at the rear of residential properties that carry road runoff and other hard surface runoff from driveways, roofs and cemented areas. This water moves through the bushland and enters Berrys Creek.

The issues of urban runoff, nutrient pollution and the impacts on bushland from adjacent developments are all highly relevant to Smoothey Park. These issues are dealt with in depth in the Council's Bushland Plan of Management and the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove.

### 3.7 **Maintenance and Management**

This Plan of Management aims to provide guidelines for the future use, development, management and maintenance of this important area of open space. All bushland areas within Smoothey Park should be managed as per Council's Bushland Plan of Management and in accordance with the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No 19.

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

Currently the mown lawn areas of Smoothey Park are being maintained, areas of bush in poor condition are being planted with native trees and shrubs indigenous to the North Sydney area, and areas of bush in good condition are being regenerated. Additionally,

lawn areas near the creekline that have a natural regeneration capacity (ie that contain dormant native seed in the soil) are being reclaimed.

The incorporation of community participation in the planning process is also an important management tool. Ways in which the community can participate in the management and maintenance of Smoothey Park such as the Bushcare program should be expanded, as a sense of community ownership can lead to a reduction in anti-social activities such as vandalism. Opportunities to involve the community in upgrading works and in the ongoing maintenance of Smoothey Park should be investigated, and initiatives by residents to become involved in the life of the Park should be encouraged within the parameters of this Plan of Management.

#### 4.0 **Basis for Management**

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

The primary aim of the Smoothey Park Plan of Management is to provide guidelines for future use, development, management and maintenance of the Park. Smoothey Park is an important piece of open space; serving both the informal active and the passive recreational needs of local residents and visitors coming from further afield. It is the responsibility of management to maximise the potential of the Park, ensuring that it is adequately maintained, that it continues to cater for a range of activities, and that any future development of the Park is compatible with the desired landscape character.

Management must be responsive to the changing needs of the community and users, and the Plan of Management must have the flexibility to incorporate and take advantage of future requirements and changing needs as they arise. The Plan must provide both short and long term policy, and be flexible enough to respond to social changes.

#### 4.2 **Management Objectives**

Based on legislative requirements, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of Smoothey Park itself, the following broad, primary management objectives have been identified:

- To manage the land for public recreation in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Management Plan 2000 - 2003;
- To manage the area of the Park zoned 'bushland' as per Council's Bushland Plan of Management and in accordance with the provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy No 19;
- To provide and maintain a high quality recreation facility which meets the needs of the local and wider community;
- To define, promote and maintain an appropriate landscape character for Smoothey Park;
- To upgrade the existing recreational environment and the aesthetics of the Park where required;
- To ensure the Park is accessible to the general community;
- To take a consistent approach to management of Smoothey Park and to maintain the Park to an acceptable standard;
- To ensure the Plan of Management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitudes;
- To provide for public safety;
- To cater for people with physical impairments where appropriate and practical;

- To encourage community involvement in the management and maintenance of Smoothey Park.

A number of objectives that specifically relate to the bushland component of the Park have been developed as part of Council's Bushland Rehabilitation Plan for Smoothey Park/Gore Cove. These objectives are:

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

All the objectives listed above have been used in the following section of the Plan of Management 'Policy, Implementation and Performance', to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

## 5.0 Policy, Implementation and Performance

The policies established in this plan provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends. The priority ratings outlined on the following pages are subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds, and may require modification if special circumstances arise.

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

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

\* **Note:**

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

## 5.1 **Matrix**

Because much of Smoothey Park is bushland, Council's Bushland Plan of Management should also be referred to when reading this document. This generic Plan of Management provides general background information regarding Council's management of bushland areas that supplements the information contained within this document which specifically relates to Smoothey Park.

Additionally, a large number of the issues applicable to the bushland areas of the Park have been dealt with in Council's Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. Rather than reiterate the information and management strategies contained within this document here, a list of the issues dealt with in the Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove is provided under the relevant matrix section heading, to facilitate cross-referencing.

5.1 Matrix

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

| Issue             | Objective  | Action   | Comments | Priority | Performance Indicators             | References |
|-------------------|--|--|----------|----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Landscape Amenity | To ensure all new plantings are appropriate and enhance the existing bushland character of the Park. | Select, plant and establish suitable native species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers. |          | O        | All new plantings are appropriate. |            |

| Issue                         | Objective   | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators  | References              |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|----------|---|-------------------------|
| Exotic Vegetation in the Park | To preserve and enhance existing appropriate exotic vegetation. | Conserve, maintain and enhance areas of parkland consisting of lawns and exotic specimen trees.          |   | O        | Lawn areas and exotic specimen trees maintained in good condition.      |                         |
|                               | To remove selected lawn areas and rehabilitate them.            | Carry out ecological burning to stimulate dormant seed in the soil and rehabilitate selected lawn areas. | The lawn areas being removed are located near the creekline. These areas are rarely used for recreation, and their existence in this location is a threat to the bushland areas of the Park. This work is being carried out by bushland regeneration contractors. | O        | Selected small lawn areas near the creekline removed and rehabilitated. |                         |
|                               | To control noxious and environmental weeds in the Park.         | Implement programs of weed control and removal.  | Techniques such as spot spraying, hand pruning and cutting are used by Bushcare volunteers, Council's Bushland Management Team and Contractors working in the Park.   | O        | Reduction in weed levels in the Park.                                   |                         |
|                               |   | Implement the Noxious Weeds Act consistently and effectively.  |   | O        | Noxious Weeds Act implemented by staff and contractors.                 | Noxious Weeds Act 1993. |

| Issue                             | Objective  | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators                              | References |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------|---|------------|
| Coral Trees (Erythrina x sykesii) | To manage the impacts of the population of coral trees in Smoothey Park. | Remove specimen coral trees in lawn areas near the creekline which are being rehabilitated gradually in conjunction with planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees. | Coral trees are an invasive species. They are self-propagating and capable of displacing remnant bushland.                          | O        | Number of established replacement indigenous trees. |            |
|                                   |  | Conserve specimen coral trees in lawn areas. As the health of these trees decline, they will be removed but not replaced.  |   | O        | Health and vigour of specimens.                     |            |
|                                   |  | Phase out coral trees in bushland areas gradually in conjunction with planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees.  | Coral trees are a significant food source for indigenous fauna. The replacement indigenous trees will supplement the food resource. | O        | Number of established replacement indigenous trees. |            |
|                                   |  | Prevent all coral trees in the Park from further colonisation.   |   | O        | No new coral trees in Smoothey Park.                |            |

| Issue                                 | Objective   | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators                              | References |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|------------|
| Camphor Laurels (Cinnamomun camphora) | To remove all camphor laurels from Smoothey Park over time. | Phase out all camphor laurels gradually in conjunction with the planting and establishment of more suitable replacement trees in appropriate locations. | Camphor laurels are an invasive species. The seeds are dispersed by birds. The trees have been responsible for displacing remnant bushland. | O        | Number of replacement indigenous trees established. |            |

| Issue                                  | Objective  | Action  | Comments | Priority | Performance Indicators                      | References |
|--|--|---|----------|----------|---|------------|
| Brush Boxes<br>(Lophostomen confertus) | To manage the impacts of the population of brush boxes in Smoothey Park. | Conserve specimen brush boxes in lawn areas.  |          | O        | Health and vigour of specimens              |            |
|  |  | Remove specimen brush boxes and replace with trees of an appropriate species as the health of these trees decline.                    |          | O        | Removal and replacement occurs as required. |            |
|  |  | Gradually phase out brush boxes in bushland areas in conjunction with the planting and establishment of replacement indigenous trees. |          | O        | Number of replacement trees established.    |            |

| Issue                 | Objective   | Action  | Comments | Priority | Performance Indicators                   | References |
|-----------------------|---|---|----------|----------|--|------------|
| Other Bushland Issues | To prepare a number of strategies which will assist with the management of bushland in Smoothey Park. | Prepare a Creekline Management Strategy for Berrys Creek. |          | CP       | Creekline Management Strategy developed. |            |
|                       |   | Prepare a Fire Management Strategy.                       |          | MT       | Fire Management Strategy developed.      |            |
|                       |   | Prepare a Fauna Study.                                    |          | C/O      | Fauna Study prepared.                    |            |
|                       |   | Prepare a Feral Animal Control Program.                   |          | C/O      | Feral Animal Control Program prepared.   |            |
|                       |   | Prepare a Wildlife Corridor Strategy.                     |          | C/O      | Wildlife Corridor Strategy developed.    |            |

### Other Issues

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Vegetation Management in Bushland Areas | - Refer Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. North Sydney Council |
| Creekline Vegetation                    | - Refer Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. North Sydney Council |
| Fauna                                   | - Refer Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. North Sydney Council |
| Bushland Structure                      | - Refer Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. North Sydney Council |
| Fire                                    | - Refer Bushland Rehabilitation Plan – Smoothey Park/Gore Cove 1999. North Sydney Council |

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

| Issue                   | Objective   | Action   | Comments   | Priority | Performance Indicators                                    | References |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|----------|---|------------|
| Access to Smoothey Park | To overcome perceived problems associated with the limited carparking facilities. | Encourage the community to use public transport to reach the Park.   | This is consistent with Council's aim to reduce the number of cars in the North Sydney area. | O        | Reduction in vehicular congestion in surrounding streets. |            |
|                         |   | Liaise with Cityrail to investigate the opportunity to install bike lockers and/or bike racks at Wollstonecraft railway station. | This safety measure should encourage more cyclists to visit and use Smoothey Park.           | ST/MT    | Liaison with Cityrail commenced.                          |            |

| Issue            | Objective                                     | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators                            | References |
|------------------|---|--|---|----------|---|------------|
| Vehicular Access | To control vehicular access to Smoothey Park. | Prohibit and prevent general vehicular access to the Park. | A private vehicle requiring access to the Park must obtain written consent from Council.  | O        | General vehicular access to the Park prevented.   |            |
|                  |   | Allow service and emergency vehicles to enter the Park.    | Regular access through the Park is required by the State Rail Authority and by Council service vehicles to reach the stormwater pollution trap and bush regeneration sites. | O        | Ease of entry for service and emergency vehicles. |            |

| Issue                       | Objective  | Action  | Comments   | Priority | Performance Indicators                             | References |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|----------|--|------------|
| Circulation within the Park | To provide a useful and safe circulation system within the Park. | Carry out regular inspections of all pathways.  |  | O        | Monthly inspections carried out.                   |            |
|                             |  | Carry out corrective pathway works if and when required to ensure all pathways are in good condition.                               |  | O        | Corrective works carried out in a timely manner.   |            |
|                             |  | Assess the feasibility of upgrading existing pathways used frequently by cyclists to better function as pedestrian paths/cycleways. | The North Shore Bicycle Group has identified Smoothery Park as being a component of a low-stress route linking the North Sydney and Lane Cove Council areas. | ST       | List of pathways used most frequently by cyclists. |            |
|                             |  | Upgrade pathways used by cyclists if feasible.  | Liaise with the North Shore Bicycle Group, the Roads and Traffic Authority and other relevant organisations to identify routes and to source funding.        | MT       | Upgrading works commenced.                         |            |

| Issue                                | Objective  | Action   | Comments   | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------|--|------------|
| Gore Cove Interpretive Walking Track | To encourage public use and appreciation of the track. | Promote the track to the community and visitors to encourage higher levels of use. | Promotional outlets include Bushcare Newsletter, Precinct Newsletter, Council's website, Council's bushwalking track brochure. | O        | Track promoted within Council publications.  |            |
|                                      |  | Use the track for Council activities.  | For example: guided interpretive walks as part of Council's Bushcare Adventures program.                                       | O        | Annual number of scheduled activities taking place on the track.                               |            |
|                                      |  | Inspect interpretive and directional signage regularly to minimise vandalism.      |  | O        | Damaged signage repaired in good time.   |            |
|                                      |  | Maintain the track in good condition.  |  | O        | Track maintenance activities carried out regularly.<br>Annual number of complaints to Council. |            |

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

| Issue           | Objective   | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References  |
|-----------------|---|--|---|----------|--|---|
| Use of the Park | To manage the Park to provide a range of recreational and cultural opportunities for a variety of users, and to facilitate a high level of use. | Ensure all activities occurring within the Park are consistent with the 'core objectives' (refer section 1.4), and lie within the 'carrying capacity' of the Park. | Suitable activities include bushwalking, walking, jogging, picnicking, sitting and relaxing.  | O        | Level of use for recreation<br>Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park. |   |
|                 |   | Restrict active recreation to informal sports and games played in areas of the Park zoned 'Public Open Space'.   | Refer Appendix 2 for definitions of appropriate activities (informal sports and games) and inappropriate activities (organised sports). | O        | Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park.                                |   |
|                 |   | Allow dog-walking in accordance with the principles set out in Council's Dog Control Policy.   |   | O        | Annual number of infringements.  | Dog Walking In Public Places Policy 7.3.160 North Sydney Council. |
|                 |   | Patrol the Park to ensure compliance with the above action.  | Council Rangers carry out patrols.  | O        | Regular Ranger patrols carried out.  |   |

| Issue          | Objective   | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators                                     | References |
|----------------|---|---|---|----------|--|------------|
| Interpretation | To facilitate an understanding and awareness of the environmental values of the Park. | Investigate feasibility of carrying out interpretive activities such as school holiday programs and guided walks. | Features of interest could be identified, and information (eg signage or brochures) supplied where appropriate. | ST/O     | Interpretive walks with signage and/or brochures provided. |            |

## STRUCTURES AND PARK FURNITURE

| Issue            | Objective  | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References  |
|------------------|--|---|---|----------|--|---|
| Built Structures | To provide built structures that are appropriately sited and that are compatible with the landscape character of the Park. | Install new structures in the Park that are consistent with Council's identified corporate image and compatible with the character of the Park. | Structures may include shelters and toilet blocks.<br>New structures to be installed in response to identified community needs. | O        | Appropriate structures only installed in the Park.                               |   |
|                  | To seek community input into any proposed significant upgrading of structures in Smoothey Park.                            | Submit a Development Application for all proposed structures to be built in the Park in accordance with Council's Local Environmental Plan.     |   | O        | New developments to comply with North Sydney Council's Local Environmental Plan. | Local Environmental Plan, 2001. North Sydney Council. |
|                  |  | Consult with and elicit comments from users of the Park and the general community prior to the commencement of any new development.             | Eg Liaise with relevant Precincts and other interested groups and individuals.  | O        | Satisfaction of users and the general community with the consultation process.   |   |

| Issue          | Objective   | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References |
|----------------|---|--|---|----------|--|------------|
| Park Furniture | To provide park furniture which is appropriately sited and in accordance with Council's standard style. | Assess the need for new park furniture regularly.  |   | O        | Annual assessment carried out.                                   |            |
|                |   | Install new park furniture if a need is identified.  | All new park furniture installed to be compatible with the desired character of the Park. Park furniture may include seats, tables, signage, lights and bollards. |          | New park furniture which meets user needs installed if required. |            |
|                |   | Carry out maintenance work as required to maintain existing park furniture within Smoothey Park in good condition. |   | O        | Maintenance work carried out on a regular basis.                 |            |

## MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

| Issue                              | Objective  | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References                                  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|----------|--|---|
| Leases, Licences and Other Estates | To allow the use of Smoothey Park for a range of cultural and recreational activities. | Grant leases, licences and other estates to cultural and recreational organisations for use of Smoothey Park (including the public hall) as a venue for appropriate events. | Occasional or one-off use of the Park may not require a lease – refer section 1.7 ‘Use of community land for which leases, licences and other estates are not required’.<br>Proposed uses must comply with core objectives for Smoothey Park – refer section 1.4. | O        | Cultural or recreational activities held in Smoothey Park are appropriate.                     | Local Government Act 1993, as amended 1998. |
|                                    |  | Raise revenue by granting leases, licences and other estates to assist with ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the Park.  |   | O        | Revenue raised from leases, licences and other estates contributes to maintenance of the Park. |   |
|                                    | To maximise use and community benefit from the public hall in Smoothey Park.           | Review current lease when it expires in light of this aim, and in light of Council’s Management Plan for Halls.   | Current lessee is the Scouts Association of Australia.  | O        | Lease reviewed and assessed upon expiry.   | Management Plan for Halls.                  |

| Issue                 | Objective   | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References                 |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|----------|--|----------------------------|
| Community Involvement | To provide opportunities for local residents and other stakeholders to be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Smoothey Park Plan of Management. | Encourage community involvement through the provision of information via Council's Precinct system.   | Articles regarding the Plans of Management regularly appear in the Precinct Newsletter.<br>Local Precincts are informed when new draft Plans of Management are available for public comment.  | O        | Appropriate information distributed to Precincts.                              |                            |
|                       |   | Encourage stakeholders to provide written submissions to Council that can be incorporated into the annual review and amendments made to the Plan of Management. | Details of how to make a submission are contained within section 1.2 of this document.<br>The adopted Plan of Management can be downloaded from Council's website.                            | O        | Annual review of Plan of Management considers all new submissions.             | www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au |
|                       | To seek community input into any proposed significant upgrading of Smoothey Park.   | Consult with and elicit comments from users of the park and the general community prior to the commencement of any new development.                             | This is in addition to consultation undertaken as part of the DA process.<br>Eg liaise with the Smoothey Park Bushcare Group, relevant Precincts and other interested groups and individuals. | O        | Satisfaction of users and the general community with the consultation process. |                            |
|                       | To achieve greater community participation in the Smoothey Park Bushcare Program.   | Actively promote the Bushcare Program.  | Methods of promotion include: field days, displays, talks, media etc.   | O        | Number of new enrolments at the Forsyth Park Bushcare site.                    |                            |
|                       |   | Encourage Bushcare volunteers and other interested individuals to participate in Council's Wildlife Watch Program.  | This program involves individuals recording sightings of wildlife in the Park.  | O        | Number of Wildlife Watch forms submitted to Council annually.                  |                            |

| Issue | Objective  | Action  | Comments   | Priority | Performance Indicators   | References |
|-------|--|---|--|----------|--|------------|
|       | To raise community awareness on activities detrimental to the conservation of bushland in Smoothey Park. | Provide information sessions and information kits to people living close to the Park. | The Backyard Bush-friendly program addresses this issue.                                   | O        | Annual number of information sessions held and information kits distributed. |            |
|       |  | Provide information to the public regarding Council's bushland management program.    | Methods of providing information include: Precinct system, Bushcare Newsletter, media etc. | O        | Annual number of opportunities to provide information acted upon.            |            |

| Issue                        | Objective  | Action  | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators  | References  |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|----------|---|---|
| Maintenance of Smoothey Park | To maintain Smoothey Park to an appropriate standard to respond to the needs and expectations of users and the general community, and commensurate with Council resources. | Carry out regular maintenance to appropriate standards within Smoothey Park.  |   | O        | Maintenance programs prepared. Standard of Park. Level of community satisfaction. | North Sydney Council Management Plan 2000 - 2003. |
|                              |  | Undertake emergency repairs as required.  | Council staff are pro-active, identifying problem areas and responding to requests from the public. | O        | Expenditure/ revenue ratio achieved.  |   |
|                              |  | Ensure adequate allocation of funds and develop comprehensive cost data for determination of the most cost-effective solutions in order to prevent future problems. |   | O        | Cost data recorded and monitored.   |   |

| Issue                      | Objective  | Action   | Comments  | Priority | Performance Indicators                           | References |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|----------|--|------------|
| Safety and Risk Management | To identify, measure and manage potential hazards in a timely manner to minimise Council's exposure to complaints, compensation claims and litigation. | Continue to carry out an inspection program to identify and eliminate all potential hazards.                                   | Refer Issue: 'Maintenance of Smoothey Park'. The regular maintenance inspections also function as risk assessment inspections.  | O        | Inspection program regularly carried out.        |            |
|                            |  | Carry out maintenance and risk management as required.   |   | O        | Reduction in the annual number of claims.        |            |
|                            | To minimise the incidence of vandalism to park furniture and other structures within the Park.   | Carry out patrols of the Park on a regular basis.  | Council Rangers carry out patrols.  | O        | Decrease in annual number of incidents reported. |            |
|                            |  | Remove all graffiti as soon as practicable.  | People are less likely to deface surfaces that are in an undamaged condition or that display artwork such as murals or mosaics. | O        | Speed of repair work.                            |            |
|                            |  | Repair vandalised park furniture and other structures as soon as practicable or removed if damaged beyond repair or dangerous. |   | O        | Speed of repair work or removal.                 |            |
|                            |  | Consider visibility when siting new park furniture.  |   | O        | Visibility assessed and concealed sites avoided. |            |
|                            |  |  |   |          |  |            |

| Issue                            | Objective  | Action   | Comments | Priority | Performance Indicators  | References |
|----------------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|---|------------|
| Monitoring of Management Systems | To review and update the Smoothey Park Plan of Management regularly in order to conserve, maintain and enhance the values and character of the Park. | Review the Indicative Works Program component of the Plan of Management annually.<br>Report progress to Council on an annual basis.<br>Review and update policy and planning issues after 5 years. |          | O        | Achievement of objectives within the stated time frame.<br>Relevancy of the Plan of Management. |            |

## 6.1 Appendix 1 - Explanation of Relevant Zoning

### Bushland Zone

#### 1. Objectives of the zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- (a) protect and preserve bushland so as to provide representation of the natural state and to enable existing animal and plant communities to survive in the long term;
- (b) allow, where appropriate, for low impact recreational opportunities which will protect the values of bushland; and
- (c) protect and preserve bushland for its natural, cultural, historical, scientific, educational, archaeological, geological, recreational, scenic and visual values in accordance with the Bushland Plan of Management adopted by the Council under the Local Government Act 1993.

#### 2. Development or activity which may be carried out in this zone

Any development in accordance with the Plan of Management adopted under Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and for the time being applicable to the subject land; bushfire hazard reduction; bushland regeneration and management; community notice signs; drainage; landscaping; remediation; vehicular access for emergency and maintenance vehicles; visitor facilities; vehicle access to another permissible use within the zone.

### Public Open Space Zone

#### 1. Objectives of the zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- (a) allow for a range of open space areas which meet the needs of the community for both formal and informal recreation;
- (b) ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of the community; and
- (c) allow for the enhancement and management of recreation areas in accordance with Plans of Management adopted by Council under the Local Government Act 1993.

#### 2. Development or activity which may be carried out in this zone

Any development in accordance with the Plan of Management adopted under Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act 1993 and for the time being applicable to the subject land; bushfire hazard reduction; community notice signs; cycle ways; drainage; horticulture; landscaping; park maintenance; recreation areas; refreshment rooms; remediation; temporary signs; temporary structures, including temporary structures for the sale of goods, information displays, and the display and sale of merchandise and produce; utility installations, other than generating works or gasholders; visitor facilities; vehicle access to another permissible use within the zone.

(Source: Local Environmental Plan 2001 North Sydney Council.)

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

### **Organised Sport**

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

### **Informal Sports & Games**

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