



St Leonards Park



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

ST LEONARDS PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

FOREWORD

St Leonards Park is a place of beauty, nature, sport and culture with a diversity of landscapes and a variety of opportunities for recreation and relaxation. With its distinctive Victorian landscape character and its numerous heritage items, St Leonards Park is one of our most significant urban parks.

The park contains our premier sportsground, North Sydney Oval, as well as the Bon Andrews Oval, netball courts and cricket nets. The open lawns play host to picnickers, dog walkers and joggers and to people playing informal sports and games. Park facilities such as the Music Shell, the Bowling Club and the War Memorial attract people from all over Sydney.

Accommodating all the different user groups, with their differing needs and requirements is a challenge for Council. Conflicts can occur between the local community who use the park as their backyard - as a place to play and socialize - and visitors from further afield who are drawn to the park for sporting and other large-scale special events. Another challenge is maintaining the park and its facilities in a clean, tidy and attractive condition in the face of such high levels of use.

The past few years have seen numerous improvements in St Leonards Park; flood lights now illuminate the Tunks Fountain in the evenings, the Artillery Gun has been restored, the amenities block has been upgraded and reused stormwater now irrigates many parts areas including the sportsfields. Future works include the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan and a Master Plan, comprehensive refurbishment of the Cunningham Pavilion and upgrading the shared pedestrian/cycle paths that run through the park. These will all help ensure that St Leonards Park remains not only an important recreational destination, but a special place for our community.



GENIA McCAFFERY
MAYOR

ST LEONARDS PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 **Management Context**

Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long-term management of all land owned by Council or under Council's control. Land affected by this Plan of Management is Crown reserve land. As such, the St Leonards Park Plan of Management takes into account the intentions of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and the principles of Crown Land Management, as well as being consistent with the Local Government Act 1993. This document supersedes Council's St Leonards Park Plan of Management 2003.

This Plan of Management examines the broad range of issues associated with St Leonards Park in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Plan draws on information contained in other significant planning documents as well as in previous in-house studies, incorporating them into a useful document that functions as one of Council's management tools. The major relevant documents and studies include:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- North Sydney Council 2020 Vision
- North Sydney Council Delivery Program
- Local Environmental Plan 2001, North Sydney Council
- Recreation Needs Study 2005
- Open Space Provision Strategy 2009
- Towards Sustainability Plan 2004

Council's generic Sportsgrounds and Playgrounds Plans of Management should also be referred to when reading this document, as specific features of the Park including the Bon Andrews Oval and associated structures, the netball courts and the children's playground are also discussed in these documents.

Note: Detailed discussion and analysis of issues relating to the North Sydney Oval Complex are excluded from this Plan of Management. This sportsground and the related infrastructure are dealt with in a separate Council document; the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management, as many issues relate only to it. However the impact of the Complex on the rest of St Leonards Park has been considered in this Plan.

1.2 **Structure of the Plan of Management**

The St Leonards Park Plan of Management is divided into 6 parts.

Part 1 examines what a Plan of Management is, outlines the purpose and scope of the Plan, explains the linkage between this Plan of Management and Council's land management goals, and sets out the principles of Crown land management. This Part also sets out the importance of community involvement in the planning process.

Part 2 indicates the location of St Leonards Park, and examines its characteristics and resources. The function and use 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 St Leonards Park 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 discrete 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, provide an important resource base for appreciating the value of St Leonards Park.

1.3 Purpose of the Plan of Management

Public open space is an important component of the urban environment, providing opportunities for recreation and leisure. The St Leonards Park Plan of Management provides an overall framework for management of this significant park for at least the next 5 years.

The production of this Plan of Management is closely linked with Council's overall land management objectives, as set out in the North Sydney Council Delivery Program:

The 4 year fixed term Delivery Program replaces the former 3 year Council Management Plan, and describes the actions required to achieve the objectives outlined in the 2020 Vision. North Sydney Council's 2020 Vision is our most important strategic document; it sets a strategic direction for where the North Sydney community wants to be in the year 2020.

The following information, relevant to St Leonards Park, has been taken from the North Sydney Council Delivery Program.

Council's goal with regard to public open space (encompassed in the Delivery Program under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') is to:

- 1.4 'provide appropriate public open space, recreation facilities and services'.

The following objective is derived from this goal:

- 1.4.1 'To ensure existing parks and reserves meet the community's recreational needs'.

The following strategies will help achieve this objective:

- 1.4.1.2 'Provide a range of recreational facilities for people of all ages'.
- 1.4.1.3 'Secure additional grant funding for the upgrade of recreational facilities'.

- 1.4.1.4 'Work with neighbouring councils and other land managers to accommodate regional demand for sporting facilities.'
- 1.4.1.5 'Improve equity of access to open space and recreation facilities'.

This Plan of Management examines the present-day condition and characteristics of St Leonards Park. It identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance. It clarifies and establishes management policy and direction, both to Council staff and the general public. The Plan of Management provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed regularly to assess implementation. A major review after approximately 5 years will allow policy and planning issues to be revisited and updated.

The land covered by this Plan of Management is zoned 'Public Recreation' under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2001. Refer Appendix 1.

1.4 Use and Management of Crown Land

St Leonards Park is located on Crown land, and this Plan of Management takes into account the following principles of Crown Land management as set out in the Crown Lands Act 1989 (Section 11):

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interest of the State consistent with the above principles.

Uses and activities on land reserved for public purposes are broadly defined by the public purpose of the reservation, in conjunction with any conditions and provisions within the specific zoning in the relevant local Council's Local Environmental Plan. The land uses are then more specifically defined either by Plan of Management, leases and licences or a combination of both.

1.5 Community Consultation

Community consultation plays an important role in the production of Plans 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 St Leonards Park Plan of Management.

Since the adoption of the previous St Leonards Park Plan of Management in 2003, a new Recreation Needs Study has been carried out. Completed in 2005, the Study entailed a high degree of community and stakeholder involvement in its preparation and it provides information regarding recreation needs in St Leonards Park that have been incorporated into this document.

Exhibition of the draft St Leonards 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 notices in Council's corporate advertisement in the Mosman Daily
- Posting the draft document on Council's website for information and comment and providing details of how to make a submission
- Hard copies of the new draft Plan sent to all Precincts immediately surrounding the Park
- Letters and/or emails sent to known user and interest groups including all Precincts and major sports club users informing them that a new draft Plan is on display, and inviting comments
- Hard copies of the draft document available from Council's Customer Service Centre, free of charge, upon request

Writing a Submission

Submissions give stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to Council's proposed management strategies for St Leonards Park in the coming 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

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time. Each Plan of Management is reviewed regularly, and at the time of the review new issues and actions can be incorporated and existing actions amended. All adopted Plans of Management are available on Council's website: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

2.0 **Park Characteristics and Resources**

2.1 **Site Location and General Description**

St Leonards Park is one of North Sydney's oldest and most significant parks. It covers approximately 15 hectares and compares favourably with some of Sydney's other historic urban parks including Hyde Park and Victoria Park. The Park is bounded by Miller, Falcon and Ridge Streets and by the Warringah Expressway, and is a short walk from the North Sydney CBD. Refer Map 1.

St Leonards Park is a large park with a wide range of facilities for both active and passive recreation, and it serves both the local community and users from further afield. The Park is home to North Sydney's preeminent sportsground; the nationally significant North Sydney Oval which has been used for cricket and football since the late 1800's. Other sports facilities include the Bon Andrews Oval, netball courts, cricket nets, a synthetic cricket wicket for junior players and a Bowling Club. The Park also has extensive open lawns suitable for informal sports and games and for more passive forms of recreation.

Other significant features of St Leonards Park include the Music Shell, the War Memorial and Tunks Fountain and the grandstands and other buildings associated with North Sydney Oval. Specimen trees and formal avenues of mature trees give the Park its distinctive 19th century landscape character. There is a custom-designed children's playground, and ancillary features include shelters, seats, picnic tables, public amenities and barbecues. The south-eastern section of the Park offers panoramic harbour views. Adjoining properties include residential, commercial and institutional land uses.

North Sydney Council is responsible for the care control and management of St Leonards Park on behalf of the Crown.

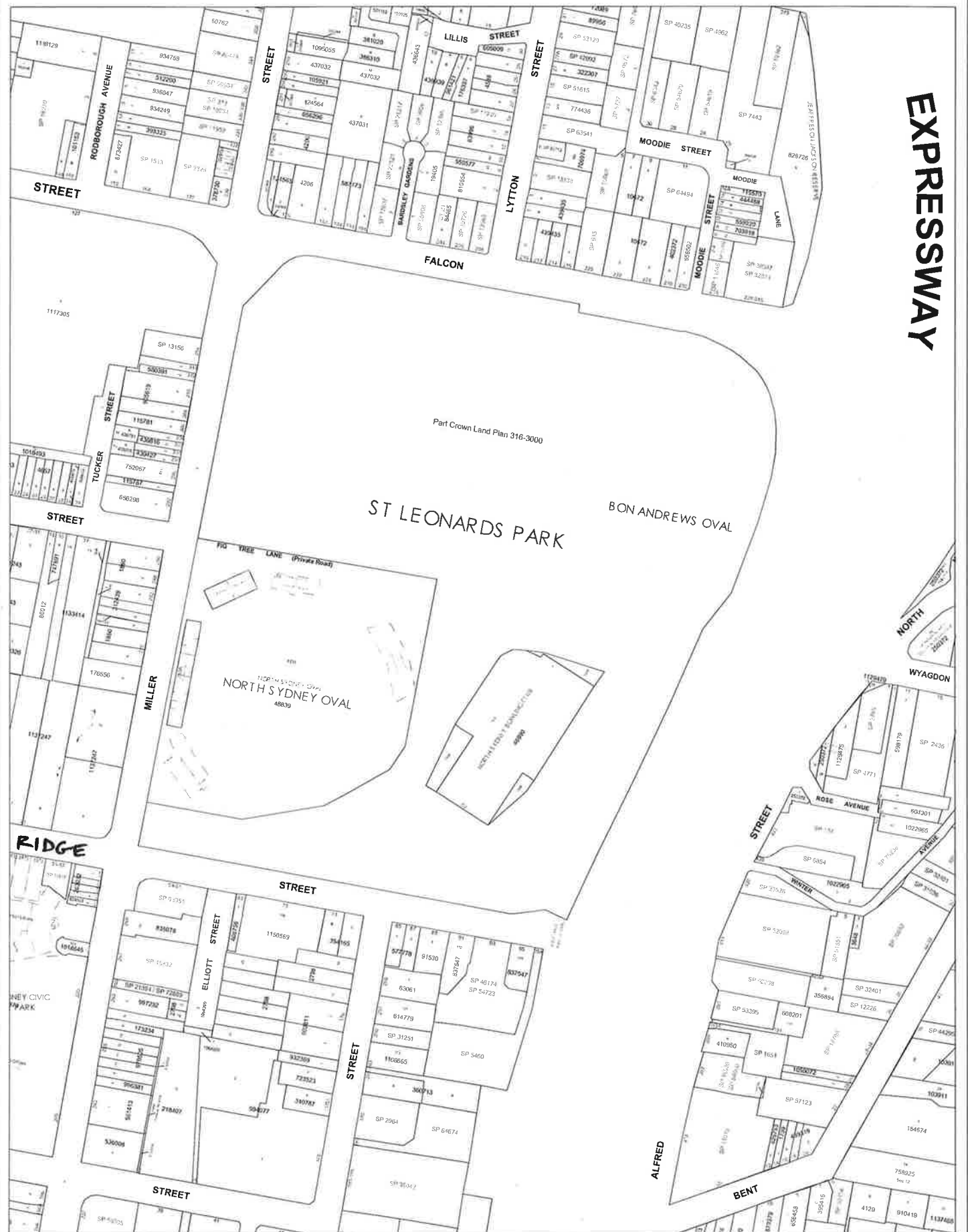
2.2 **Significance of St Leonards Park**

St Leonards Park has considerable heritage, recreational, social and environmental significance. It is an attractive, high profile green space that contrasts with the surrounding densely built-up urban areas and provides many and varied opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

The Park is important to locals and the wider Sydney community. North Sydney Oval, the Bowling Club, the Music Shell and the War Memorial all attract specialist user groups, while the open lawn areas regularly host large-scale community events.

Given the high cost of land and the developed nature of North Sydney, opportunities to acquire significant new areas of open space are limited. It is therefore vital to ensure that our existing network of major parks is managed to meet the recreation needs and expectations of all user groups. Continuing enhancement of all North Sydney's parks and reserves is an ongoing commitment for Council.

EXPRESSWAY



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MAP 1 ST LEONARDS PARK



North Sydney Council

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Further details can be obtained by calling (02) 9936 8100 or e-mail mapping@northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

MAP 2 AERIAL PHOTO

2.3 Heritage Value and Conservation Status

St Leonards Park has a rich heritage and a unique combination of physical and cultural characteristics. The entire Park is protected under the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2001 and it houses a number of significant local monuments and features that are individually heritage listed. In 1994 the National Trust of Australia included the whole of St Leonards Park in its register, describing the area as "a rare example of an urban 19th century park in the English 'gardenesque' landscape tradition of the period." The National Trust also assessed the Park as "being more intact than Hyde Park" with remnants of original flora and the evolution of plantings over time contributing to its significance.

North Sydney Council's Heritage Study Review, prepared by Godden Mackay, recognised the heritage significance of the Park as a whole as "rare" on a regional level for its historic, aesthetic and social value. Individually recognised heritage elements include the War Memorial, Tunks Fountain, the Music Shell, the Entry Gates and North Sydney Oval with its associated grandstands, scoreboard and turnstile booths.

Other Park monuments which are valuable to the cultural identity and history of North Sydney include the World War I artillery gun, the Fig Trees Avenues, various Depression Relief Works and the Bon Andrews Oval. Among the many memorials and plaques to be found in St Leonards Park are the Rotary Wheel Rose Garden, the North Sydney Bowling Club Memorial Entrance Gates, the J. D. Fletcher Tree, the North Sydney Diamond Jubilee foundation stone, the Judge Boulter Tree and the McCartney Stand foundation stone.

2.4 Site History

St Leonards Park was the first civic work undertaken by the first Mayor of St Leonards Municipality, Alderman William Tunks. Originally known as "The Reserve", 40 acres of public park was dedicated in 1867 by Alderman Tunks to serve as the centrepiece of the developing urban area, echoing the spirit of previous plans prepared as early as 1928. Prior to European settlement the local Cammeraygal people would have occupied the area.

Tunks personally involved himself in the layout of the Park including the positioning of the paths and the planting of trees and shrubs. By 1873 funds raised by local residents had been used to fence the Park and to plant ornamental trees including pines, camphor laurels and figs. Walker and Carlow Streets which ran through the Park were closed in 1874.

In 1883, whilst at a construction site within The Reserve, Tunks fell and sustained fatal injuries. In 1884, St Leonards Park was proclaimed under the Public Parks Act and in 1885 a memorial fountain was erected in Tunks' honour. The first pavilion for spectators at North Sydney Oval was built in 1879 and the Bowling Club opened in 1888. In 1893 the By-Laws for management of St Leonards Park were gazetted.

Air raid trenches stretching 4,690 lineal feet were built in the Park during World War I, and the War Memorial, designed by Peddle, Thorp and Walker, was completed 1926. Additional plaques have since been added to the Memorial to commemorate subsequent wars. A rustic stone building for use by old age and invalid pensioners was constructed in 1943. The Music Shell, also designed by Peddle, Thorp and Walker, opened in 1948.

By the end of the 19th century, North Sydney Oval had become popular for cricket and football. In 1904 the original stand was replaced with a more substantial structure. Also at this time a small picket fence was erected around North Sydney Oval No 2. By 1909, the main oval was enclosed with a paling fence and in 1936 the fence was replaced by a brick wall, necessitating the removal of a double avenue of large Moreton Bay Fig trees (*Ficus macrophylla*) along Miller Street. A large grandstand seating 772 spectators replaced the existing stand in 1928. From the late 1930s through to the early 1960s the Oval Complex remained largely unchanged with a spectator capacity of approximately 20,000.

During the 1960s portions of St Leonards Park were reclaimed for construction of the Warringah Freeway. The 1970s brought increased demand for active recreation areas, particularly for football, resulting in declining field conditions and conflicts with other sporting bodies, particularly cricketing clubs. In 1983 in response to these pressures construction of a 'new-look' North Sydney Oval began with the relocation of the Bob Stand from Sydney Cricket Ground to North Sydney Oval and refurbishment of the Duncan Thompson Stand. This was followed by reconstruction of the playing surface and the addition of a picket fence within the Complex. The Mollie Dive Stand, the O'Reilly Stand and the Macartney Stand were opened in 1987.

In conjunction with the new look North Sydney Oval Complex, cosmetic upgrading of other areas of St Leonards Park was carried out with the addition of fresh paint and new park furniture including light-poles, bollards and paving. North Sydney Oval No 2 was also re-fenced with a low picket fence at this time.

In 1995 Council changed the name of North Sydney Oval No. 2 to the 'Bon Andrews Oval'. This move recognised the services to the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club of Gavin John 'Bon' Andrews, a long-time resident of North Sydney who played over 600 grade matches, encouraged and advised young players and worked as the Club's gear steward for many years. Other recent upgrading and refurbishment projects have included the Tunks Fountain in 1988, the Music Shell in 1993 (and again in 2002 when it won the National Trust Award for adaptive reuse), and the children's playground in 2001.

2007 saw the completion of the St Leonards Park section of the North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project. Reused stormwater is pumped from a storage dam in Cammeray Park to St Leonards Park, providing irrigation for many areas of the Park including North Sydney Oval, the Bon Andrews Oval, the open lawn areas and the North Sydney Bowling Club. This stormwater reuse system has eliminated the need for the Park to have a separate water storage facility and extraction system.

2.5 Physical Characteristics

2.5.1 Topography

St Leonards Park is located on a ridge that extends diagonally through the Park in a north-easterly direction between North Sydney Oval and the Bon Andrews Oval. The land falls gently towards the northwest corner and forms a low-lying area in the vicinity of the Music Shell. Whilst the original undulating topography is still evident, much of the Park has been modified over time. Prior to being diverted into underground pipes, a tributary of the original Willoughby Falls Creek crossed Miller Street at Carlow Street and continued through the Park where the Music Shell now stands, crossing Falcon Street at Bardsley Gardens. This creek provided the local water supply and had several bridges.

A low-lying swamp area existed where Carlow Street crossed Alfred Street (now the expressway). At the end of Ridge Street was a cliff and stone quarry.

The lowest point in the north of the Park today is several metres from Falcon Street on the course of the original creek. The land rises from this point to Miller Street. On the other side of the ridge to the southeast, the land falls steeply to the Warringah Freeway cutting. Other modifications to the original topography have included grading the sportsfields and creating earth mounds. The gentle nature of the topography means that St Leonards Park is well-suited to cyclists, walkers and joggers, as well as to elderly and less-mobile users.

2.5.2 *Geology and Soils*

St Leonards Park is situated in 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 Wianamatta groupings. Hawkesbury sandstone is the major rock type in St Leonards Park and is commonly found in massive units with the occasional thin layer of shale or siltstone. The sandstone bedrock can be clearly seen in the Warringah Freeway cutting.

Soils in St Leonards Park closely reflect the nature of the sandstone geology. The topsoil is a brown silty sand, low in organic matter and deficient in nutrients due to leaching. The subsoil varies between clay, silty sand, sandy clay with ironstone accretions, and weathered sandstone. In many areas of the Park soil depth over bedrock is minimal, evidenced by retarded tree growth.

Development of St Leonards Park has caused extensive changes to the original soil profiles. The establishment of ornamental gardens and lawn areas required soil modification and the importing of more arable soils. Grading of the sporting ovals entailed extensive modification of the existing soils. Topsoil removed from North Sydney Oval during its redevelopment was used to create mounds in the east of the Park. In low-lying poorly drained areas, such as adjacent to the Music Shell, the netball courts and the freeway, soils are heavily compacted.

2.5.3 *Vegetation*

Very little of the original vegetation exists at St Leonards Park, aside from a small remnant of Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*). Studies indicate that the indigenous vegetation would have been predominantly Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) - Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) association on the west of the ridge merging into Smooth-Barked Apple (*Angophora costata*) and Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) associations along the ridge and to the east.

Today the Park has a variety of tree species scattered throughout. Stands of mature figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*, *F. macrophylla* and *F. hillii*) planted as early as 1873 form strong avenues along pathways and are positive contributions to the landscape character. Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) are another strong element, occurring as a row along the Park's northwest perimeter, at entrance points and as an avenue extending up to the War Memorial. Mature eucalypts including Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) and Eurabbie (*Eucalyptus bicostata*) dominate the parkland areas.

In the northwest of the Park there is a diverse species mix including Turpentines

(*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Jacarandas (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), palms and ferns. The south-east perimeter is defined by Coral Trees (*Erythrina indica*). Mature Brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*) are planted as street trees along Miller Street in front of North Sydney Oval, and the main entrance to North Sydney Oval is reinforced by Cocos Palms (*Cocos australis*). Other species in the Park include English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and Camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*). Hoop Pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) have recently been planted at the eastern end of the Park, adjacent to Ridge Street.

Shrub planting is minimal and is mainly confined to the two entrances to North Sydney Oval, Council's staff building and the perimeter of the children's playground. Attractively planted beds are maintained in the high-profile, northwest corner of the Park. Park grasses include Couch, Kikuyu, Buffalo and Rye.

2.5.4 Fauna

The present day fauna of St Leonards Park bears little resemblance to that which would have existed prior to European settlement. The most commonly occurring species are those that have adapted to live in close proximity to human settlement. Native birds seen in the Park include rainbow lorikeets, cockatoos, galahs, currawongs, magpies, willy wagtails, swallows, noisy miners and tawny frogmouths. Their habitats include tree hollows as well as both tree and mud nests. The swallows favour nesting sites within the park buildings. Fruit bats have also been seen in the Park. Introduced bird species include Indian mynahs, sparrows and pigeons.

Native animals seen in the Park include skinks, blue tongue lizards, native rats, mice and brush tail possums. Introduced species include both domesticated and feral cats, rats, mice and the occasional fox.

2.6 Existing Site Features

St Leonards Park contains a variety of features and facilities in a gardenesque setting, linked by a red bitumen pathway network. The major features of the Park are:

- North Sydney Oval Complex
- Bon Andrews Oval
- Netball Courts
- North Sydney Leagues Bowling Club
- Music Shell Entertainment Area
- War Memorial and Tunks Fountain
- World War I Artillery Gun
- Children's Playground
- Formal Avenues
- Open Parkland
- Park Edges
- Park Entry Points

Note:

Although the North Sydney Oval Complex is dealt with in the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management, (due to the numerous issues relating specifically to it), the impact of the Complex on the rest of the Park is relevant to this Plan of Management.

2.6.1 North Sydney Oval Complex

One of Sydney's premier sporting venues, North Sydney Oval is primarily used for soccer, football and cricket fixtures. It is also used as a venue for various one-off sporting and cultural special events. The high-standard playing surface is surrounded by five covered spectator stands. The Complex also includes Council's Parks Depot, commercial/retail outlets facing Miller Street, a childcare centre with adjoining playground, and a function centre.

While the original concept for North Sydney Oval was based on the idea of a village green; the present-day Complex is a first class sporting facility. The structures associated with the Complex generally relate poorly to the surrounding parkland, and the spectator stands and surrounding brick wall dominate and turn their back on the St Leonards Park landscape.

Unlike the rest of the Park, the North Sydney Oval Complex is owned by North Sydney Council. The playing field is 'community' land, while the remainder of the Complex is classified 'operational' land.

2.6.2 Bon Andrews Oval

The Bon Andrews Oval is situated in the north-eastern section of the Park. This sportsground is used for various codes of football in winter and for cricket in summer. Floodlights make it suitable for training in the afternoons and evenings throughout the year. Sporting organisations, schools and other groups may hire the Bon Andrews Oval. Fees are payable and bookings are taken, ensuring exclusive use. Local schools regularly use this sportsground for athletics carnivals and sports training. The Bon Andrews Oval is also popular for informal recreation when not being used for organised sport.

The Bon Andrews Oval has a pleasant and very attractive village green atmosphere, similar to that originally envisioned for North Sydney Oval. Although seating shortages can occur at peak use times, provision of additional seating would have a negative impact on the village green concept, and has therefore not been pursued to date.

A timber picket fence defines the perimeter of the playing field, and established fig trees on the north and western Oval edges create an attractive landscape character. A wire fence defines the eastern boundary between the Oval and the freeway. Adjoining the Bon Andrews Oval is the Cunningham Pavilion, a brick building dating from the 1930s that houses changing rooms and toilets.

2.6.3 Netball Courts

The Park's two unfenced netball courts are located in the south-eastern corner, between the Bowling Club and Ridge Street. For many years the netball area consisted of grassed playing surfaces in poor condition, and they were mainly used for practice by local schools. In 1993 the courts were upgraded to competition-standard hard courts, and they are now regularly used for netball, particularly on weekday mornings (from 6.45 to 8 am), and afternoons (3.30 to 5.30 pm).

There is a high level of demand for the netball courts, given the lack of other similar facilities in North Sydney. Time slots in the afternoon are the most sought-after, and the courts cannot accommodate all interested groups at these times.

Although of competition standard, the courts are generally not used for netball on weekends, as competition is played at sites where there are a large number of courts together, such as at Willoughby Park. The courts are used for other activities including basketball, roller-blading and other ball games when not being used for netball.

Adjoining the netball courts is a small covered picnic area for spectators. The design of the shelter complements the other modern buildings in St Leonards Park.

2.6.4 North Sydney Leagues Bowling Club

Located in the exposed south-eastern section of St Leonards Park, the Bowling Club Complex consists of three greens, a main clubhouse building containing a function centre, a smaller maintenance building and a car park that accommodates up to 50 cars. The Club was opened in 1888 as the North Sydney Bowling Club and the present clubhouse building opened in 1961. It is the only example of 1960's architecture in the Park. Although the building is not of heritage significance its paintwork colour scheme was chosen to complement the other Park buildings.

The area of the Park occupied by the Club was revoked from the Crown reserve and is leased to the North Sydney Bowling Club Ltd by the Land and Property Management Authority (formerly the Department of Lands) in accordance with special lease No. 1960/227. The current lessee is the North Sydney Leagues Club Ltd, and the Leagues Club is responsible for the running and maintenance of all facilities associated with the Club. The total area in use by the Club includes a 3 metre wide access way from Ridge Street, a parking area, clubhouse and greens. The land in the access way is excluded from the leased area, and is vested in Council's care and control as part of the reserve.

The leased area may only be used for the purpose for which the lease is granted; i.e. recreation, bowling greens, buildings, clubhouse, garage and car park. The Minister has the right to terminate the lease if he is of the opinion that the purpose for which the lease is granted is not being carried out in a cleanly manner, is offensive to persons in the neighbourhood, constitutes a nuisance or is dangerous to health. The Minister has the right to withdraw from the lease any land required for any purpose. However if this were to occur, the Club would be entitled to a fair and reasonable compensation for their interest in any improvements on the land so withdrawn.

The lease was granted in 1960 for a term in perpetuity, and the annual rental is payable to the Crown. The term and conditions of the lease are determined and administered by the Land and Property Management Authority. Any proposed changes to the term, terms or bounds of the lease would require Ministerial consent.

2.6.5 Music Shell Entertainment Area

The Music Shell is the major feature in the north-western section of St Leonards Park. Operational since 1948, this entertainment area has been used for activities such as music concerts, children's holiday programs, carols by candlelight and plays. In 1993 the Music Shell underwent extensive restoration work, and in 2002 further renovation and upgrading works were carried out. The structure currently houses the Planet X Youth Centre which provides facilities, activities and services for young people between 12 and 20.

In front of the Music Shell stage is a large grassed amphitheatre which provides informal

seating and a space for passive recreation or informal sports. The stage and the amphitheatre area are available for hire by public and commercial users. Mature trees around the edge of the open lawn define the spectator area.

2.6.6 War Memorial and Tunks Fountain

The War Memorial and Tunks Fountain are important features of the southern section of St Leonards Park. Designed by Frank Thorp of Peddle, Thorp and Walker Architects, the War Memorial was officially unveiled in 1926. Although now dwarfed by the North Sydney skyline, the War Memorial still commands a prominent position at the top of Walker Street and is visible from many areas both within and outside of the Park.

The War Memorial is used for Anzac Day and other commemorative ceremonies. Wide red bitumen paths and shrub planting emphasise the War Memorial, and a double row of palms reinforces the War Memorial vista.

Close by and on the same axis is the ornate tiered Tunks Fountain, dedicated to the memory of William Tunks, Mayor of East St Leonards from 1867 to 1882. The fountain was erected in 1885, and was restored and rededicated in 1988. The fountain is surrounded by a bed of flowering annuals within a palisade fence enclosure, and is at the meeting point of several paths. The previously strong visual connection between the War Memorial and the Tunks Fountain is interrupted by red-poled park lights, installed more recently in the middle of the pathway that links these significant elements.

2.6.7 World War 1 Artillery Gun

Another feature of the north-western section of the Park is the World War 1 artillery gun. North Sydney Council was allotted this War Trophy gun by the State War Trophy Committee in 1921. The field gun was captured from the Germans in August 1918 in France. The gun was mounted on a pedestal in St. Leonards Park, and was unveiled by Major-General Sir Granville Ryrie.

2.6.8 Children's Playground

The children's playground is located in the centre of the Park, surrounded by a low, depression-era masonry wall. The playground was substantially upgraded in 2001 and today it contains custom designed play equipment including both junior and senior multi-purpose items. Specifically designed with mobility impaired users in mind, the playground features extensive areas of rubberised paths and many accessible activities and facilities including a swing, picnic table with chess set, music room instruments and bubbler.

The playground connects to the Park's existing pathway system, and border plantings of flowering shrubs and hedges visually integrate the playground in the Park. Play equipment and park furniture such as picnic tables and seats are coloured to complement the Park's heritage palette, and a picnic shelter in the playground area accommodates parents and carers supervising the children. Adjoining the playground is a picnic area with gas barbecues, and there is a public amenities block nearby.

Since its upgrading, the popularity of the playground has significantly increased, and it has become a destination in its own right. Given the status of St Leonards Park as a regionally significant park, it is appropriate to consider expanding the existing playground beyond the boundaries of the heritage sandstone walling that currently contains it. There

is an opportunity to install a greater range of facilities to meet the needs of older children, together with cross-over facilities (for example exercise equipment) that can be used by adults supervising children's play as well as other park users, including seniors.

2.6.9 Formal Avenues

St Leonards Park is dissected by a number of formal pathways flanked by avenues of established trees. Consisting primarily of mature Figs (*Ficus* sp.) and Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*); these avenues give a structure and legibility to the Park that is reinforced by the repetition of items of park furniture including bollards and pathway lighting. There are also several well-established but less formal Eucalypt avenues and several incomplete avenues.

The formal avenues continue to be under threat as mature trees reach the end of their lives or are uprooted during storms. Many of the figs in the Park, including most of those in Fig Tree Lane and a number of others on the western side of the Bon Andrews Oval have been replanted in recent years. Replanting of other incomplete avenues is ongoing.

2.6.10 Open Parkland

The remainder of St Leonards Park has a gardenesque character. Mature specimen trees are dotted around open lawns in strong contrast to the formal avenue plantings.

The open parkland is popular with picnickers and people relaxing, as well as with people walking, jogging and playing ball games and informal sports. A red bitumen pathway system extending throughout most of the Park provides easy access for pedestrians, cyclists and people pushing prams and for others with mobility constraints. Park furniture includes bollards, lighting and seating painted in heritage colours.

A stone shelter containing picnic tables and benches to the west of Bon Andrews Oval accommodates large groups. Several picnic tables are located in a shady area where the pathways linking North Sydney Oval and the Music Shell converge.

2.6.11 Park Edges

Established perimeter plantings are a feature of St Leonards Park. Otherwise the Park edges are generally open to the adjoining roads, with the exception of a high fence on the freeway boundary, a low timber barrier on the northeast edge and a steel safety fence on top of the sandstone retaining wall (part of) along Falcon Street. Pedestrian paths run along the northern and western perimeters of the Park, and there are several of Council's heritage-style bus shelters on Miller and Falcon Streets.

Buildings adjoining the Park include free-standing houses, residential flat buildings and schools and churches in a variety of architectural styles that are generally sympathetic to the adjoining parkland.

2.6.12 Park Entry Points

Paving, landscaping and mature specimen palms and fig trees reinforce the entrances to St Leonards Park on the western boundary off Miller Street (opposite Carlow Street), and the corner of Miller and Ridge Streets. The Park entrance off Ridge Street is flanked by mature palms and accentuated by the War Memorial which is a focal point when

approaching from Walker Street. Beds of coloured foliage plants provide a colourful display at the corner of Miller and Falcon Streets; highlighting this entry point and imparting a degree of detail often lacking in large urban parks.

2.7 Views

The Park provides adjoining residential and commercial properties with an attractive green outlook. The multi-storey apartment blocks along Falcon Street and parts of Miller and Ridge Streets in particular have excellent views of the Park. However views from the southwest and northeast boundaries are restricted by the North Sydney Oval Complex, the Warringah Freeway cutting and the general topography of the area. The Mollie Dive Function Centre, located in the North Sydney Oval Complex, provides views over both the parkland and North Sydney Oval itself.

Structures associated with North Sydney Oval including the television tower and the grandstands dominate many views from within the Park due to their height. The War Memorial is a strong visual element at the southern end of the Park while the Music Shell dominates the open, grassy northern section. The Bowling Club occupies a relatively low-key position towards the centre of the Park. The eastern area of the Park commands expansive harbour views.

3.0 **Planning Issues**

3.1 **Background**

St Leonards Park is subject to pressure from a variety of sources. The Park's close proximity to a large commercial centre, the diverse range of user groups, the intensity of use and the impact of adjacent transportation corridors all increase the Park's susceptibility to a range of management problems.

3.2 **Landscape Character and Heritage**

St Leonards Park's landscape character has evolved in response to various physical, social and economic influences, and these variables continue to influence the ongoing development of the Park. By identifying and evaluating these influences, those contributing to desirable landscape quality can be encouraged, and those negatively impacting on the Park can be reduced and/or removed.

Landscape elements including trees, shrubs and ground covers contribute significantly to the visual character of St Leonards Park, and the ongoing health of trees, shrubs and groundcovers in St Leonards Park is vital to maintaining a quality park environment. The loss of significant trees especially those within avenues has a major effect on landscape character and on the overall structure of the Park, and it is therefore important that the health of all significant trees in the Park be monitored on a regular basis. Existing gaps in avenue plantings should continue to be filled with replacements of appropriate species as quickly as possible.

In 1998 an assessment by consultant arborists found that many of the Morton Bay and Port Jackson figs planted along Fig Tree Lane were in poor condition, and Council commenced a staged tree replacement and replanting program. The importance of all the mature tree avenues to the overall structure of the Park warrants a significant commitment to ongoing tree management. Regular inspections by arborists and maintenance work including removal of deadwood, treatment of pests and fertilising are some of the steps Council is currently taking to be pro-active in this area.

Trees create shady areas enjoyed by people relaxing and socialising, and the formal tree avenues and specimen trees are attractive landscape features. Mature trees visually soften many of the buildings in St Leonards Park; however the large structures associated with the North Sydney Oval Complex dominate and have a poor relationship with the rest of the Park. The brown brick wall surrounding North Sydney Oval creates an unattractive physical and visual barrier, and there is no effective screening to lessen its impact.

The current lack of low or medium height shrubs also means that St Leonards Park generally lacks intimate spaces. The parkland behind the Music Shell is visually cut off from the rest of the Park due to the location and dominance of this building, and areas to the sides and back of the Music Shell are poorly integrated with the rest of the Park landscape.

The placement of light-poles in the centre of many of the major pathways has a negative impact on the Park's landscape character, especially in areas where there are significant avenue plantings and in the area between the War Memorial and Tunks Fountain. Light-poles placed beside pathways, as is currently the case in various other locations around the Park, are much less visually (and physically) intrusive.

Planting trees that complement the established Park plantings in adjacent streets will visually integrate the Park into its surrounding urban context, establishing a consistent and cohesive landscape character. This occurs at the intersection of Miller and Falcon Streets where established Phoenix palms are planted; and the concept could be extended along avenues such as Walker and Carlow Streets where historic vistas already exist.

Council's Tree Management Section is currently working to 'shore up' the Park's existing planting layout. The existing Canary Island Date Palms on the corner of Falcon and Miller Streets are being interplanted with Cabbage Tree Palms to combat the likely impact of Fusarium on the Date Palms, Morton Bay Figs are being established along the Park's Miller Street frontage in stages as the existing Brushbox and Bottlebrush decline, and declining Eucalypts in the north eastern area of the Park are also being replaced as and when necessary.

3.3 Access and Circulation

Council encourages people to use public transport to reduce the impact of cars on the environment, and to reduce problems with traffic congestion and parking. Although St Leonards Park is a 10-15 minute uphill walk from North Sydney railway station, many buses link the Park with the railway station, the City and other parts of the North Shore. A shuttle bus service runs between the railway station and the Park when major fixtures are held at North Sydney Oval.

Parking in the streets surrounding St Leonards Park is generally adequate; however it can be difficult at peak times and shortages are often experienced during major events. Parking in the adjacent streets is restricted to metered spaces outside of clearway hours. Council's Ridge Street car park (diagonally opposite the Park) offers reduced rates for patrons attending major events and fixtures.

The North Sydney Leagues Bowling Club provides members-only parking on-site for up to 50 cars within the Park.

Several of the major paths through St Leonards Park are designated as shared pedestrian/cycle paths, and are marked on the Northern Sydney Cycling Map. However these pathways are currently in poor condition and not of sufficient width. Upgrading and formalising these designated shared pedestrian/cyclist pathways will encourage commuters (both pedestrians and cyclists) to use the Park, and could help to reduce traffic congestion in the surrounding streets. Providing pedestrians and cyclists with an opportunity not to use their cars also helps reduce greenhouse gases and is consistent with Council's 2020 Vision.

Conflicts between vehicular and pedestrian/cyclist traffic can occur in areas such as Fig Tree Lane which is one of the most well used pedestrian paths in the Park. Vehicle speed limits are imposed in the Lane to minimise potential conflicts between commuters (pedestrian and cyclists), pedestrians accessing the Daycare Centre (which has no on-site parking facilities) and other areas of the Park, and Council staff accessing the Parks Depot.

During large sporting events pedestrian flow increases considerably. This results in congestion, particularly on some of the smaller pathways and at constriction points such as Oval entries. Light-poles centred in some of the main pathways contribute to restricted movement for maintenance vehicles and for pedestrians, especially those with mobility impairments.

3.4 Use

St Leonards Park is a significant park and an important recreation resource. Premier sporting fixtures at North Sydney Oval and large-scale special events held in other areas of the Park attract visitors from all over Sydney, and the Park is also popular with local residents, schools and businesses. Management strategies in this Plan must consider the significance of the Park to both the local and wider community, and they must be flexible enough to provide for changing recreational needs as they arise.

St Leonards Park is of regional significance, and Council has a responsibility to manage it for both the local and for the wider community. Local residents have a strong sense of ownership over the Park, and some events that provide for the wider community (with the attendant social benefits) can alienate locals if not managed carefully. Council employs best practice management techniques to ensure large events in St Leonards Park run smoothly and to minimise the impact on local residents and on users of other parts of the Park. For example Council addresses issues including how best to manage large groups of people arriving at and leaving the Park simultaneously, and other potential impacts such as noise, litter, traffic and parking.

St Leonards Park provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation and it is a popular meeting place for people of all ages. The sportsgrounds cater primarily for people playing and watching organised sports, while the large open lawn areas are popular with school and social groups who use them for informal games of cricket, touch and T-ball.

Other areas of St Leonards Park are used for smaller-scale, more intimate activities including picnicking, barbecuing, dog walking and general socialising and relaxation. Park features such as the playground and the Music Shell attract specific user groups, and cyclists, joggers and commuters regularly pass through the Park. The War Memorial is a focus for Anzac Day commemorations. Members of the local business community have lunch and play informal sports and ball games in the Park.

While most parts of St Leonards Park are well used, some areas such as the large open space in the south-east corner of the Park and the Park edges receive few visitors. Unappealing factors in these areas include exposure to vehicular noise and exhaust fumes, unfavourable microclimatic conditions, uneven topography and a lack of features or focal points that specifically attract users. Opportunities to enhance these areas and to spread patterns of use more evenly throughout the Park should be investigated.

As the population in the North Sydney area continues to grow and as housing densities increase, so the role of public parks in the life of the community becomes more significant. Parks, particularly large urban parks such as St Leonards Park which offer a myriad of recreation opportunities and enough space to accommodate many users are increasingly becoming the venues for social events, from group picnics to family gatherings and birthday parties.

In many ways St Leonards Park is all things to all people; a situation which generates a range of management issues that this Plan of Management seeks to address.

3.4.1 Recreation Needs Study 2005

Consultation with users and the general community carried out as part of Council's Recreation Needs Study 2005 identified that while North Sydney's network of parks and

reserves was generally highly regarded, there was potential for further improvement. The Study found there were opportunities to optimise and enhance existing open spaces, especially given the comparatively low level of provision of open space and parkland in North Sydney relative to the area's population.

Key recommendations of the Recreation Needs Study relevant to St Leonards Park include:

- Reviewing the current location and standard of ancillary facilities including seating, tables, barbecues and bubblers with a view to installing additional or replacement facilities as required
- Continuing to install exercise and fitness equipment in appropriate parks and reserves
- Improving basic maintenance standards for ancillary facilities including seating, tables, playground equipment and public amenity blocks
- Continuing to upgrade playgrounds, and to provide equipment and facilities for children of all ages, and those with special needs
- Improving lighting of sportsfields to extend the hours of use and better meet the high level of demand for facilities

3.4.2 Use of Sportsgrounds for Organised Sport

Note: The following information applies primarily to the Bon Andrews Oval and the netball courts. North Sydney Oval has its own Plan of Management.

The primary role of the Park's ovals and courts is to accommodate users involved in organised sport. Use of the sportsgrounds by hirers is carefully regulated by Council as factors such as rising participation in sport and a growing community awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle place ever-increasing demands on North Sydney's public sports facilities.

Fees are charged for the use of sportsgrounds for organised sporting activities, and bookings must be made to secure their exclusive use. The income generated assists with maintenance of the sportsgrounds.

Council manages all seasonal use of sportsgrounds with an allocation and booking system that divides the year into two seasons; summer and winter. The allocation of fields and courts is determined by considering traditional patterns of use, demand from the community and the need to provide opportunities for new sports and for minority sports and groups. The aim of the system is to ensure that turf playing fields remain in good condition throughout the playing seasons.

Bookings for the netball courts, cricket nets and the synthetic cricket wicket in St Leonards Park are managed by Council's Booking Services while bookings for North Sydney Oval and the Bon Andrews Oval are managed by Council's Sportsfields Curator.

A Council-facilitated meeting for potential sportsfield hirers is held before the start of each season to identify potential problems (such as booking clashes) and to find mutually-acceptable solutions. With regard to St Leonards Park, this meeting deals with potential hirers of the netball courts only.

Note: *Additional detailed information about the use of sportsgrounds for organised sport can be found in Council's Sportsgrounds Plan of Management. This document addresses issues*

including fees, booking and allocation of sportsgrounds, maintenance, safety and planned improvements in detail.

3.4.3 Use of Sportsgrounds for Other Activities

Council manages its open space network for the use and enjoyment of all members of the community. While the primary use of sportsgrounds is to cater for organised sports, at other times (when the fields are not booked) they may be used by the general community for informal sports and games and for other, more passive recreational pursuits.

When choosing to use a sportsfield for informal sports and games, users must keep in mind that these specialist facilities require a high level of upkeep to remain in appropriate condition for the fee-paying groups who use them for organised sport. North Sydney currently welcomes casual sportsfield users, however playing fields are easily damaged, and casual groups must be thoughtful and considerate. Casual users who cause undue damage to the playing surfaces will be asked to modify their activities. Use of sportsfields which are designated as 'closed' by sporting clubs, schools, social groups, dog walkers and all other users, whether casual or organised, is prohibited. Council Rangers patrol the Park to ensure and enforce compliance.

3.4.4 Other Uses of St Leonards Park

The Park's open lawns are used by people picnicking, barbecuing, jogging, walking and for general relaxation and recreation. They are popular with school and social groups who use them for informal sport and games. Use of these areas by groups of under 60 people is on a first-come-first-served basis; no fees are charged and no bookings are taken. Council staff working in St Leonards Park monitor those areas used regularly by groups, and sections of the Park may be temporarily closed for repair and restoration if wear and tear levels become significant. Use of these closed sections is prohibited.

The open lawns may also be used for private functions and special events under certain conditions. Bookings are taken and fees are charged for the use of a Council owned or managed park for a group of 60 people or more holding a private function or for a special event. Permission is granted for appropriate functions and events at Council's discretion, with factors including the size of the proposed function, the 'carrying capacity' of the park, the area of the park still available for general public use, the likely impact of the event on the park and the likely impact on neighbouring residents all being considered.

In recent years the use of North Sydney's public parks and reserves by fitness trainers has increased, reflecting a nationwide trend. North Sydney has recently developed and adopted a fitness code that outlines 'common sense' guidelines designed to ensure that people involved in these activities do not have a significant negative impact on other park users and neighbouring residents.

If issues arise with fitness trainers or with any other sportsground or park user, Council staff communicate directly with the relevant group. To date the most prevalent issues have been those associated with the need for groups to respect and be considerate of other park users and neighbouring residents. If necessary, fitness trainers and the like may be reminded of their responsibilities under state government regulations regarding noise and advertising on community land.

3.4.5 *Dogs in Parks and Reserves*

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

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

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

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

All dogs in public places must be under the control of a competent person. Council is required by the State Government to enforce the laws concerning dogs, and Council Rangers may issue on-the-spot fines for infringements including those listed above.

3.5 **Built Structures and Park Furniture**

St Leonards Park contains many interesting and attractive structures. The Music Shell and the Cunningham Pavilion in particular are sympathetic to the overall form and character of the Park. Park furniture including shelters and seats and picnic tables is generally well maintained and of an appropriate style. The heritage colour scheme used on buildings, other structures and items of park furniture creates visual cohesion.

The Recreation Needs Study 2005 determined that the most used facilities in all Council parks and reserves were seats, picnic tables, shelters, toilet blocks, fences and playground equipment, and that additional seating is needed in St Leonards Park to meet demand at peak times.

The Park has a variety of pedestrian and vehicular barriers including bollards and numerous fence types. While the existing light-poles are a strong landscape feature, their central positioning on several of the main pathways hampers pedestrian and cyclist movement and is visually intrusive.

When new structures and facilities are installed, Council carefully considers their placement, appearance and their suitability for all users. All new developments in the Park

cater for mobility-impaired users where practical. Significant new work for which a Development Application is required necessitates an audit by an independent auditor to ensure all proposed work meets Australian Standards regarding accessibility.

Any new structures should be sympathetic to the character of St Leonards Park. Unsympathetic existing structures such as the large brick wall of the Oval Complex that borders the open area of the Park detract from the Park's visual appeal, and should be softened through appropriate landscape works where possible.

Installing public art can add interest and new layers of meaning to a place. A Public Art Guide and Walking Map available on Council's website provides information about various pieces of public art located around North Sydney. Public art projects range from items commissioned for specific projects to existing artworks which may be suitably placed in one of Council's parks or reserves. Artworks in public open space can increase user appreciation and enjoyment of an area, providing a point of interest and stimulating discussion, and Council pursues opportunities where appropriate.

3.6 Improvement Works

Many of the projects and tasks identified in the previous Plan of Management for St Leonards Park are now complete. Carrying out these works has directly and significantly contributed to the improved condition and functioning of the Park. Following are summaries of some of the more significant projects that have been undertaken since 2003.

- North Sydney Stormwater Reuse Project

In 2005 the first stage of the extensive Cammeray Golf Course Water Reuse project commenced with the construction of a storage dam in the Cammeray Golf Course to capture water from the adjoining catchment area to reuse for irrigation of the golf course and the adjoining Cammeray Oval. Water is pumped to the storage dam allowing finer sediment to settle out of it before it is used for irrigation.

The amount of water collected in Cammeray dam significantly exceeds that required by the golf course and adjacent soccer field, and the second stage of the scheme involved the construction of the necessary infrastructure to provide reused stormwater to St Leonards Park. North Sydney Oval, the Bon Andrews Oval, the open lawn areas and North Sydney Bowling Club all previously relied upon potable water from Sydney Water's supply. The project, completed in October 2007, eliminated the need to have a separate water storage facility and extraction system in St Leonards Park.

- Playground Pathway

A paved pathway was constructed to connect the children's playground with the Park's existing pathway system and make access easier.

- Tree Management Plan

A Tree Management Plan was prepared for significant avenues within the Park, especially the fig avenues, to guide future management and maintenance.

- Restoration of the World War I Artillery Gun

This was carried out in accordance with relevant and appropriate conservation practices.

- Flood Lighting of the Tunks Fountain

New up-lighting of the Fountain makes an attractive feature of this element in the evenings.

- Upgrading of the Amenities Block
Upgrading work included construction of an accessible toilet, and other general improvement works.
- Upgrading of the Bon Andrews Pavilion
Largely cosmetic work to improve the appearance and condition of this facility was carried out in accordance with the Sportsgrounds Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report prior to commencement of the Women’s World Cup Cricket tournament in 2009.
- Preparation of a Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report
This Report has established level of provision, location and condition of ancillary facilities associated with sportsgrounds including picnic and barbecue facilities, seating, tables, shelters, cricket nets, tennis practice walls, basketball hoops etc. This has allowed Council to plan for and to prioritise required future works. With regard to St Leonards Park, recommendations to install bike racks at appropriate locations within the Park and to upgrade the cricket nets will be acted on in the coming years.
- Development of a Fitness Code
A code of conduct for personal trainers and the like who wish to use Council’s parks and reserves (including sportsgrounds) has been developed. It provides ‘common sense’ guidelines that aim to minimise conflict between user groups and minimise impacts on local residents.
- General Projects relevant to St Leonards Park
 - Preparation of a Sportsground Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report
 - Preparation of a Sportsfield Lighting Assessment Report
 - Preparation of a Synthetic Sportsfield Feasibility Study
 - Preparation of a Parks Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report.
 - Preparation of a new sport and recreation facilities guide: ‘Sport and Recreation in North Sydney’ (available on Council’s website, or as a hard copy)

Improvement works identified in the previous St Leonards Park Plan of Management but not yet commenced.

- Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Master Plan
The previous Plan of Management acknowledged St Leonards Park’s local, metropolitan and regional significance and identified the need to prepare a landscape Master Plan to guide the upgrading of this large and historically significant park. The North Sydney Oval Complex will be excluded from the Master Plan, (although its relationship with the rest of the Park will be included). All other elements and features in the Park, including the Bon Andrews Oval, the Bowling Club site, the Music Shell and so on, will be included in the Master Plan.

Preparation of a landscape Master Plan for such an important park will be a complex and time-consuming process. Before design work commences a Conservation Management Plan is required to provide baseline information that will inform the

Master Plan. The Master Planning process itself will incorporate an extensive program of community and stakeholder consultation. The final Master Plan will include a comprehensive planting plan and an interpretative component to give visitors an insight into the natural and cultural (Aboriginal and European) heritage of the Park.

Other improvement works are scheduled for completion or commencement during the life of this Plan of Management. These include but are not limited to:

- Preparation of a Conservation Management Plan
This will be undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced consultants in the 2011/12 financial year.
- Refurbishment of the Cunningham Pavilion
Work will involve a major internal refit, and include provision of storage areas, an accessible toilet and shower facilities.
- Upgrading of the shared Pedestrian/Cycle Path
The Park pathways that connect Falcon Street in the north east corner with Fig Tree Lane and Ridge Street (near Walker Street) have been identified for upgrading. They are too narrow to fulfill their designated purpose as shared pedestrian/cycle facilities, and are in poor condition with numerous trip and cycle hazards.
- Implementation of the Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report
In accordance with this report, bike racks will be installed at appropriate locations within the Park and the cricket nets will be upgraded. (This work was completed in late 2011 with the installation of 4 bike racks and the upgrading of the cricket nets).

3.7 Management and Maintenance

St Leonards Park is a Crown reserve under the care, control and management of North Sydney Council. This Plan of Management provides guidelines for the future use, development, management and maintenance of this significant park.

Currently management of St Leonards Park focuses on meeting a range of recreational needs both active and passive, fostering an appropriate landscape character sympathetic to the Park's heritage status, and maintaining the Park in a clean and attractive condition. Although staffing levels and budgets for maintenance and management may change over time as community needs and priorities change and new issues become relevant, this Plan seeks to establish a clear management direction and to achieve an holistic approach to the ongoing stewardship of the Park.

Structures in St Leonards Park are generally maintained to a high standard, and maintenance work is tailored to the specific needs of heritage items. Vandalism and graffiti continue to be an issue, however vandalised structures are repaired and graffiti is removed as quickly as possible as experience has shown that this discourages further incidents in the long term.

An Alcohol Free Zone operates in all areas of the Park (excepting the North Sydney Oval Complex and the Bowling Club), in order to curb anti-social behaviour. Notices in the Park prohibit the consumption of alcohol between 8.00pm and 6.00am, 7 days a week.

This Plan of Management encourages the involvement of the community. Opportunities for the community (including local residents, sports clubs and other stakeholders) to

become involved in the upgrading and ongoing maintenance of St Leonards Park are encouraged, and all new projects (in particular the preparation of a Master Plan for the Park) will have significant opportunities for community involvement and participation as they get underway.

Other Council Plans of Management including the generic Playgrounds and Sportsgrounds Plans and the significant area North Sydney Oval Plan provide additional information that guides Council's operations in St Leonards Park.

3.7.1 Management of Organised Sporting Facilities in St Leonards Park

Council's sportsgrounds are a vital recreational resource for both local users and the wider sporting community. The organised sports facilities in St Leonards Park include the regionally significant North Sydney Oval (which is owned by Council), the Bon Andrews Oval and the 2 netball courts which are managed by Council on behalf of the Crown, and the Bowling Club which is leased by the North Sydney Leagues Club Ltd directly from the Crown.

Good management of the organised sports facilities is important to ensure that they cater for an appropriate range of activities, that conflicts over availability are kept to a minimum, that non-sporting users still have some access to them and that they are appropriately maintained. Management strategies aim to maximise use of Council's sportsgrounds within acceptable limits, as defined by their carrying capacity.

The development and management of high quality sports facilities requires significant financial resources. Funding for long term improvements to playing fields and supporting infrastructure such as amenities blocks, drainage and irrigation currently comes from a variety of sources including Section 94 contributions and general capital reserves. Council keenly explores other opportunities to maximise funding for sports development (such as grants), as the level of funding currently available is less than what is required to meet the needs and expectations of the sporting community.

The Bowling Club site is neither owned nor operated by Council; however the lease sets out conditions regarding the way in which it is required to conduct its business and to manage its facilities.

4.0 **Basis for Management**

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

The St Leonards Park Plan of Management guides the future use, development, management and maintenance of this important urban park. The Park serves the recreational needs of both local residents and visitors and contributes to the visual beauty of North Sydney. Management seeks to maximise the potential of St Leonards Park, ensuring that it is appropriately maintained, that it continues to cater for a range of activities, that conflicts between user groups are kept to a minimum, and that any future developments are appropriate and sympathetic to the established landscape character.

The Plan of Management provides both short and long term policy. It has the flexibility to respond to the changing needs of the community and users and to incorporate future requirements and changing needs as they arise.

4.2 **Core Values and Management Objectives**

4.2.1 Core Values

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

Cultural Heritage & Aesthetics

- St Leonards Park contains numerous items of European heritage significance which are valuable to the cultural identity and history of North Sydney including the Music Shell, the North Sydney War Memorial, the World War I Artillery Gun, the Tunks Memorial Fountain, the Fig Trees Avenues, various Depression Relief Works, North Sydney Oval and its stands and grounds, the Bon Andrews Oval and the Cunningham Pavilion.
- The Park is one of the largest in North Sydney's open space network. It is highly valued by the community for the open space it offers and for its visual amenity and green character, which contrasts with the surrounding built-up urban environment.

Environmental

- Due to its size and its location, adjoining high density urban residential land use and major transport corridors, St Leonards Park plays an important environmental role. This large pocket of urban forest provides major benefits to the community including such things as reduction of atmospheric contaminants and atmospheric purification, carbon storage and sequestration, reduction of urban heat island effects and reduction in storm water run-off.
- The North Sydney Stormwater Reuse project has provided various areas of St Leonards Park including North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews (No.2) Oval, open grassed areas and North Sydney Bowling Club with reused stormwater suitable for irrigation, and has eliminated the need to have a separate water storage facility and extraction system in the Park.

Social/Recreational

- St Leonards Park is an essential recreational resource for the local and wider community. It caters for picnickers, dog walkers and joggers as well as for people playing organised sport or just relaxing and socialising.
- St Leonards Park has regional significance due to its unique combination of scenic, recreational and heritage features, due to the presence of North Sydney Oval and due to its ability to accommodate large scale public events.
- Major sporting fixtures and other cultural events are held in the Park. These attract people from all over Sydney who come to spectate or to participate in park life.
- The sportsfields and courts in St Leonards Park provide a wealth of active sporting, recreational and cultural experiences for North Sydney residents and people living in surrounding areas. They are the home venues for many long established sporting clubs and associations. People come to the fields for their weekly gathering and sporting competitions, coaching, school carnivals and occasionally other community activities and events.
- The Park functions as an informal meeting place and facilitates community interaction. As population numbers grow and density increases, the importance of St Leonards Park as a venue for social events and occasions also increases.

Health

- Providing a number of sporting venues that cater to a variety of organised sporting activities (as well as to other forms of recreation) plays an important role in increasing participation and in increasing the range of community health benefits.
- Increasing levels of physical activity has been shown to help with both physical and mental health problems. Regular participation in physical activity allows individuals to improve their overall health and functioning including balance and co-ordination, mental alertness and stress management.

4.2.2 Management Objectives

Based on legislative goals, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of St Leonards Park, the following broad management objectives have been identified:

- To manage St Leonards Park in accordance with the objectives of the North Sydney Council 2020 Vision and the North Sydney Council Delivery Program;
- To manage St Leonards Park taking into consideration the Crown Lands Act 1989, the principles of Crown Land Management and the Local Government Act 1993;
- To provide a range of recreational activities commensurate with the Park's capacity as a significant urban park and a major open space resource;
- To provide and maintain high quality recreation facilities that meet the needs of the local users and the wider community, based on identified needs and within budget;
- To recognise, conserve, enhance and interpret features of historical and heritage significance in the Park;

- To protect and enhance the recreational, heritage, scientific and natural qualities and values of the Park;
- To upgrade the existing recreational environment and the aesthetics of St Leonards Park where required;
- To ensure the Park (including the sportsgrounds) is culturally, physically and economically accessible to the general community;
- To cater for users with mobility impairments where practical within the physical constraints of the Park;
- To provide for public safety;
- To allow use of the Park by groups, and for appropriate special events;
- To minimise conflict between appropriate user groups;
- To manage large-scale events in the Park using best-practice techniques to minimise potential negative impacts on surrounding residents and other park users;
- To ensure that management of the Park is sustainable in environmental, social and economic terms, and that any new development considers environmentally sustainable principles;
- To take a consistent approach to management of the Park and to maintain it to a standard commensurate with its high public profile;
- To encourage community involvement in the management and maintenance of the Park;
- To provide and maintain high quality specialist facilities for organised sport that meet the needs of local users and the wider community, including visitors to North Sydney, based on identified needs and within budget;
- To take a regional approach to the management of North Sydney's organised sporting facilities;
- To upgrade the existing sportsfields and courts and their associated facilities as required in accordance with identified needs;
- To manage the Bon Andrews Oval Complex and the netball courts as per Council's generic Sportsgrounds Plan of Management;
- To manage the North Sydney Oval Complex in accordance with Council's North Sydney Oval Plan of Management;
- To manage the playground as per Council's generic Playgrounds Plans of Management;
- To manage the Music Shell in accordance with Council's Community Centres Policy and the Planet X Plan of Management.
- To ensure this Plan of Management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community needs and attitudes;

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

5.0 **Policy, Implementation and Performance**

The policies established in this document provide the framework for management consistent with the anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends. The priority ratings outlined on the following pages may need to be modified if special circumstances arise.

Codes used to define priorities in the following matrix:

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

* Note:
This Plan of Management is designed to be relevant for at least 5 years. As defined by this document, long-term projects are those that are scheduled for commencement but not completion within 5 years.

The timelines for projects drawn from the Sportsground Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report and the Parks Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report run for a 10-year period. Thus projects drawn from these documents and designated ‘Long Term’ may not be completed or even commenced within the life of this Plan.

Matrix

St Leonards Park contains various facilities for organised sport and a children's playground. The generic Sportsgrounds and Playgrounds Plans of Management provide additional information regarding Council's management of these facilities that supplements the information in this document. The North Sydney Oval Plan of Management provides specific information regarding the management of that unique sporting facility.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND HERITAGE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Landscape Amenity and Aesthetics	To use planting as a means of complementing and enhancing the Park's special qualities and character.	Select, plant and establish suitable species of trees, shrubs and ground covers.	Consider character of existing plantings, aesthetic appeal of the proposed planting and impact on views.	O	Objectives of planting achieved. All new plantings are appropriate.	
		Complete the planting of Hoop Pines in the eastern area of the Park adjacent to Ridge Street	Planting work is almost complete.	ST	Planting work complete. Health and condition of new trees.	
		Plant small ornamental trees along the eastern boundary wall of North Sydney Oval no. 1.	This will help soften the visual impact of this imposing brick structure. Dwarf magnolia would be an appropriate species.	MT	Planting work complete. Health and condition of new trees.	
		Investigate the feasibility of mass planting native trees and shrubs at the northern end of the existing Warringah Freeway planting.	This would create habitat as well as visual interest. This sloped area is currently grassed, and district views would not be affected by additional planting in this area.	ST	Investigation complete and recommendations made.	
		Schedule implementation if the above action is found to be feasible.		MT	New planting work complete (if found to be feasible).	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To manage existing vegetation using best-practice horticultural techniques.	Carry out regular ongoing maintenance work as required to conserve appropriate existing vegetation in good health.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'.	O	Vegetation is maintained in a healthy condition.	
		Remove inappropriate species and replace with more suitable species.	Inappropriate species include self-seeded trees and shrubs.	O	Inappropriate species removed and replaced with more suitable species.	
		Continue the staged establishment of Moreton Bay Figs along the Miller Street frontage as and when the existing Brushbox and Bottlebrush trees in this location decline.		O	Brushboxes and bottlebrushes removed and replaced by Figs as deemed necessary by Council arborists.	
		Interplant the existing Canary Island Date Palms in the garden bed at the corner of Falcon and Miller Streets with Cabbage Tree Palms.	This work is required due to the likely effects of Fusarium on the existing Date Palms.	ST	Interplanting work complete. Health of new Palms.	
		Remove the Eucalypts in the vicinity of the north eastern pathway as and when necessary, and replace with a more appropriate species.	These Eucalypts are currently in decline.	ST	Eucalypts removed and replaced as deemed necessary by Council arborists.	
		Establish a more formal tree avenue along the north eastern park pathway in conjunction with the above action.	A new avenue of deciduous trees will add seasonal interest to the area without shading the grass so heavily that it will not grow.	ST	Planting work complete. Health of new trees.	
		Control any activities that may harm existing trees.	Potentially harmful activities may include tree climbing and digging around roots.	O	Existing trees are maintained in a healthy condition.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To maintain all significant trees in the best possible condition.	Inspect all significant trees in the Park regularly.	St Leonards Park contains significant avenue trees as well as specimen trees. Inspections to be carried out by a qualified arborist.	O	All significant trees maintained in a healthy condition.	
		Manage significant trees proactively.	Over-mature, diseased, dying or damaged trees are removed and replaced with trees of the same or similar species on an ongoing basis. Removal of large trees should be staged to minimise the visual impact on the Park.	O	Significant trees managed proactively and removed and replaced as required.	
		Implement the recommendations of the most recent 'Hazard Assessment Report' for the mature Figs lining Fig Tree Lane.	The third Report is due shortly. Future management (including replacement and replanting) will be guided by the Report's recommendations.	ST-O	Recommendations implemented (following receipt of Report).	
		Take a cutting from the Park's existing <u>Ficus superba</u> and establish it in an appropriate area of the Park.	Establishing the cutting will ensure the continuation of this iconic species in the Park.	MT	Cutting taken and established in Park. Health of new tree.	
		Continue to plant new trees to replace 'missing' trees from existing avenues in the Park.		O	New trees planted in incomplete avenues to restore the avenues as funding permits.	
	To control noxious and environmental weeds in the Park.	Undertake weed removal programs when and where necessary.	Weed removal is a standard component of Council's maintenance operations.	O	Weed levels in the Park remain low.	
		Implement the Noxious Weeds Act consistently and effectively.		O	Noxious Weeds Act implemented by staff.	Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To retain and enhance the high amenity and heritage value of St Leonards Park.	Consider the impact on significant park features, views and vistas when siting new furniture, planting trees or carrying out any other work in the Park.	Significant features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entry points - All formal avenues - War Memorial - Tunks Fountain - Music Shell - Entry Gates - Main Oval and Grandstand - Artillery Gun etc 	O	New work does not negatively impact existing park layout, formal avenues, features and vistas or the heritage items.	
		Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for St Leonards Park.	Qualified heritage consultants will be engaged to carry out this work.	ST	Conservation Management Plan completed.	
		Prepare a comprehensive landscape design Master Plan for St Leonards Park.	The Master Plan will be informed by the Conservation Management Plan, and will be prepared with a high level of community consultation.	MT-LT	Landscape design Master Plan completed.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Park Furniture and Other Structures	To install new structures and upgrade existing structures to better meet user needs.	Implement the recommendations of the Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report in relation to St Leonards Park.	This report establishes level of provision, location and condition of ancillary facilities near Council's sportsfields and courts, allowing Council to plan for required future works.	C-O	Implementation of recommendations commenced.	Recreation Needs Study 2005.
		Upgrade the cricket practice nets.	This action was a recommendation of the Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report. Work completed in late 2011.	CP	Cricket nets upgraded on time and to budget.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Install bike racks at 4 locations in the Park.	This action was a recommendation of the Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report. Bike racks will be installed near North Sydney Oval no. 1, near the Bon Andrews Oval, near the cricket practice nets and near the netball courts. Work completed in late 2011.	CP	New bike racks installed at selected locations on time and to budget.	
		Upgrade the shared pedestrian/cycle paths through the Park.	The paths connecting Falcon Street in the north east corner of the Park with Fig Tree Lane and Ridge Street (near Walker Street) have been identified as part of an 'off-road bike route/shared paths' on the Northern Sydney Cycling Map. These paths are currently too narrow for this purpose, and are in poor condition. Shared pathways can help reduce traffic congestion on surrounding streets.	ST-MT	Relevant shared paths upgraded.	Northern Sydney Cycling Map. 'Walk North Sydney' Walking Map.
		Refurbish the Cunningham Pavilion.	Work will involve a major internal refit including provision of storage areas and an accessible toilet and shower facilities.	MT	User satisfaction with new facilities. Project completed on time and to budget.	Sportsgrounds Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007.
		Upgrade the public amenities in St Leonards Park.	Although generally in good condition, work required in the coming 10 years will include repair of plumbing fittings, minor electrical repairs and repainting.	O	Work undertaken on time and to budget.	Parks Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Submit a Development Application where required for proposed structures and other major works to be carried out in St Leonards Park in accordance with Council's LEP.		O	New developments in the Park comply with Council's LEP.	Local Environmental Plan 2001 NSC.
		Consult with and elicit comments from users and other stakeholders prior to commencing any significant new development.	This is in addition to consultation undertaken as part of the Development Application process. For example liaise with local Precincts, sports clubs or other relevant interest groups.	O	Appropriate stakeholder consultation carried out.	
	To provide park furniture that complements the Park's established landscape character.	Continue to install required new park furniture in St Leonards Park.	Council's Recreational Needs Study identified the need to install additional park furniture including seats and picnic tables to better cater for groups.	O	New park furniture installed in appropriate locations.	Recreational Needs Study 2005.
		Assess the need for additional park furniture and other structures on a case-by-case basis as they are identified.	Additional needs not identified in the Recreation Needs Study may be brought to Council's attention by stakeholders from time to time.	O	Needs assessed on a case-by-case basis.	
		Consider accessibility for people of all abilities when installing new park furniture.		O	Appropriate structures only installed.	
		Consider removal and/or replacement of inappropriate or older-style structures that are not consistent with the Park's established character as they reach the end of their lifespan.	Issues such as the appropriateness of the red light-poles located in the centre of some major pathways will be considered as part of the Master Planning process.	O	Removal and/or replacement of old/inappropriate structures where practical.	
		To encourage appropriate public art projects in St Leonards Park.	Pursue opportunities to place public art in St Leonards Park as they arise.		O	Increase in the amount of public art in the Park.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Conservation of Heritage Items	To protect and conserve all identified heritage items.	Consult with the National Trust, the Heritage Council and other appropriate organisations on the management of heritage items in St Leonards Park and fulfil requirements of the Heritage Act, 1977.	The whole of the Park is heritage listed under Council's LEP. Items of heritage significance identified in the North Sydney Heritage Study Review include: - War Memorial - Tunks Fountain - North Sydney Oval Group - Bowling Club entry gates - Music Shell Other significant features include the WWI Artillery Gun, depression-era stone walling, formal planted avenues and specimen trees and various small monuments and plaques.	O	Co-ordinated and effective management of heritage items.	NSW Heritage Act, 1977. Local Environmental Plan 2001 NSC. North Sydney Heritage Study Review.
		Carry out any work necessary to maintain heritage items in good condition.	Work on buildings and structures should be carried out by appropriately qualified heritage consultants and contractors. Work on significant trees should be carried out by appropriately qualified arborists.	O	All heritage items maintained in good condition.	
		Submit an archaeological assessment with any Development Application for work that involves excavation of St Leonards Park.		O	Archaeological assessments submitted as required.	NSW Heritage Act, 1977.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Recognition of Park Heritage	To recognise, conserve and interpret the cultural and natural heritage of St Leonards Park.	Prepare an Interpretation Plan for St Leonards Park.	This will be prepared as part of the Master Plan to assist visitors to interpret the natural and cultural (Aboriginal and European) history of the Park.	LT	Interpretation Plan prepared.	
		Install interpretive material in the Park.	The Master Plan will explore the most appropriate methods for presenting the information. Any signage should be low-key and visually unobtrusive.	LT	Installation of appropriate and useful interpretive material in the Park.	

RECREATION AND LEISURE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of St Leonards Park	To provide a wide range of recreational opportunities in the Park.	Ensure all activities occurring in St Leonards Park are appropriate, are consistent with Council's goals and objectives (refer Section 1.3), and lie within the carrying capacity of the Park.	St Leonards Park is a large, urban park that accommodates the recreational and social needs of both the local and the wider community.	O	Reduction in number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park per annum.	
		Ensure all activities occurring in the Park are consistent with the relevant zoning.	St Leonards Park is zoned 'Public Recreation'.	O	Reduction in number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the Park per annum.	Appendix 1 – Zoning of St Leonards Park. Local Environmental Plan 2001 NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of the Open Parkland Areas	To encourage use of the open parkland areas of St Leonards Park for appropriate activities.	Permit groups to use the open parkland areas for social gatherings and informal sports and games.	There is no charge for groups of less than 60 people gathering in St Leonards Park for social events or informal sports and games. Space is available on a 'first-come-first-served' basis. No bookings are taken and no structures may be erected. Groups should behave considerately toward other legitimate park users.	O	St Leonards Park maintained in good condition. Level of user satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	Appendix 2 - Definitions.
		Permit groups to hire sections of St Leonards Park for appropriate private functions and special events.	Bookings are taken and fees are charged for the use of part of St Leonards Park for a private function by groups of 60 or more, and for special events (these are open to the public). Permission for functions is at Council's discretion, and factors considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - size of proposed function/ event - area of Park still available for general public use - likely impact on neighbours - likely impact on the Park Revenue raised contributes to park maintenance.	O	St Leonards Park maintained in good condition. Level of user satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	
		Patrol the Park to ensure compliance with the above actions.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers.	O	Regular Ranger patrols carried out.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Implement Council's Fitness Code to regulate the activities of fitness trainers and the like who operate in Council's parks and reserves.	The Fitness Code provides operators with a set of 'common sense' guidelines to ensure their activities have minimal impact on other park users and on neighbouring residents.	ST	Implementation of new Fitness Code commenced.	
		Liaise directly with individuals or groups if complaints are received regarding use of the Park.	All parks users should be courteous and considerate toward other users.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints received.	
	To acknowledge and promote the Park as a focal point and hub for the North Sydney community, and as a venue for outdoor functions and events.	Promote the Park as a suitable venue for a variety of large-scale activities and events.	Large urban parks such as St Leonards Park have an important role to play in the social life of both the local and the wider community.	O	Promotional activities ongoing. Increase in annual number of Park events.	
		Promote and encourage wider use of areas of the Park that are suitable for specialist activities and/or are currently underused.	For example, the Music Shell stage and the amphitheatre adjoining the stage are available for public and commercial hire for functions and activities.	O	Increase in annual number of Park bookings and general Park use.	
	To accommodate schools using the Park for informal sport and recreation without significantly compromising the amenity of other Park users.	Allow informal sports and games to occur in the open areas of the Park.	Teachers/organisers supervise all use of the Park by school children and other groups for activities.	O	Reduction in number of complaints received.	Appendix 2 – Definitions.
		Close parts of the Park temporarily when they are in poor condition due to excessive wear.	All Park users are prohibited from using areas of the Park that are designated as 'closed'.	O	Improvement in the condition of open parkland areas.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsfields for Organised Sport (Excluding North Sydney Oval)	To manage the sportsfields and courts in St Leonards Park for organised sport.	Restrict organised sport to the designated sportsgrounds.	Bon Andrews Oval and the netball courts.	O	Appropriate use of sportsgrounds.	Appendix 2 - Definitions.
		Facilitate the hire of sportsgrounds to appropriate user groups for the purposes of organised sport.	Sporting clubs, schools and commercial hirers who use the fields for training and competition on a seasonal basis are the primary users of Council's sportsgrounds. A series of terms and conditions issued with each seasonal booking govern use.	O	All sportsgrounds are booked by appropriate user groups.	Booking of Sporting Facilities Policy 2009. NSC.
		Continue to implement an efficient and equitable system of ground allocation with clear procedures.	The 2 annual pre-season hirers' meetings give all seasonal hirers a chance to discuss and deal with issues such as potential booking clashes.	O	2 pre-season hirers' meetings occur annually.	
		Facilitate the hire of sportsgrounds for organised sport in accordance with Council's booking policy.	The booking policy aims to be fair and equitable to all hirers including sports clubs, schools, community organisations, commercial operators and the general public. Bookings secure exclusive use of a nominated sportsfield. Bookings for North Sydney Oval no. 1 and the Bon Andrews Oval are managed by Council's Sportsfields Curator, while bookings for the netball courts, the cricket wicket and the cricket nets are managed by Council's Bookings Team.	O	Council's booking policy implemented.	Booking of Sporting Facilities Policy 2009. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Charge fees for sporting clubs, schools and commercial hirers using the sportsfields and courts for organised sport.	Sportsground use by schools and community groups is encouraged and fees are less for these users.	O	Annual revenue generated from use of the sportsgrounds is used to assist with sportsground maintenance.	Schedule of Fees and Charges. NSC.
		Review fees and charges for hire of organised sporting facilities annually.		O	Fees and charges reviewed annually to ensure they are fair and equitable.	
		Restrict the number of hours per week that the Bon Andrews Oval is used for organised sport.	Restrictions are required to maintain the grassed playing surface in good condition.	O	Maximum desirable level of sportsground use per week is not exceeded.	Booking of Sporting Facilities Policy 2009 NSC.
		Ensure pre-season use of the Bon Andrews Oval by hirers does not unduly damage the sportsgrounds.	Conditions of hire include measures such as no use of studs for pre-season games in order to maintain condition. Rangers and Parks Department staff carry out regular checks to ensure compliance.	O	Reduction in number of complaints received annually.	Booking of Sporting Facilities Policy 2009 NSC.
		Close the Bon Andrews Oval during and after rain if play is likely to cause significant damage.	Council Rangers patrol to ensure compliance, and fines may be issued to any user of a sportsfield that has been designated 'closed'.	O	Condition of the sportsground.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsfields for Other Activities (Excluding North Sydney Oval)	To manage Council's sportsfields to accommodate other appropriate activities.	Allow recreational activities that will not cause significant damage to the sportsfields (eg informal sport and games) to take place on sportsgrounds.	Activities such as jogging, ball games and informal sport can be accommodated on the sportsfields when they are not being used for organised sport. No use of closed fields.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use of sportsfields.	Appendix 2 – Definitions.
		Liaise directly with individuals or groups if complaints regarding their use of the sportsfields are received.	In the first instance, sportsfields provide specialist facilities for fee-paying users, and other users must consider this.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints.	
		Allow appropriate cultural activities and events to take place on the sportsfields.	Permission is at Council's discretion, and fees may be charged to offset additional maintenance required to return the fields to playing condition.	O	Range of appropriate non-sporting activities accommodated.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Dog Walking in St Leonards Park	To accommodate dogs in the Park.	Allow dog-walking in the Park in accordance with the Companion Animals Act.	Dogs are not permitted in or within 10 metres of children's play equipment.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints.	Companion Animals Act 1998 (Section 14).
		Allow dog walking on the Park's sportsfields and courts in accordance with the North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan.	Dogs must be on a leash whilst organised sporting events are in progress at the netball courts, and at all times on North Sydney Oval and the Bon Andrews Oval.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints.	North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan 2004.
		Patrol St Leonards Park to ensure compliance with the above action.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers.	O	Regular Ranger patrols carried out.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Music Shell	To manage the Music Shell to maximise community benefit.	Promote the Music Shell to raise public awareness of the facility and to optimise use.	The Music Shell interior currently houses the Youth Group Planet X - providing services and facilities for young people aged 12 to 20. Promotion is carried out by Council's Community and Library Services Division.	O	Level of Music Shell use. Level of revenue generated.	Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy NSC 2009. Planet X Strategic Plan NSC 2009.
		Allow use of the Music Shell for community events.	The Music Shell's stage and the amphitheatre in front of it are available for hire by public or commercial users. Appropriateness of proposed events is determined by relevant Council staff.	O	Music Shell is used for appropriate community events.	Community Centres, Cultural and Recreational Facilities Policy NSC 2009.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
St Leonards Park Playground	To ensure that the existing playground is functional, safe and attractive. To provide a playground that accommodates regional users.	Manage and maintain play equipment and surrounds as per Council's Playgrounds Plan of Management.	The existing playground dates from 2001. It features a 'Music Room' and includes many elements that cater for children of all abilities.	O	Playground managed as per Playgrounds Plan of Management.	Playgrounds Plan of Management NSC.
		Investigate opportunities to expand the playground beyond the bounds of the existing walling to accommodate more users.	Increasing the size and scope of this playground will allow Council to better provide for older children, and to make this playground a truly regional facility, as befitting the status of St Leonards Park.	ST-MT	Investigations complete and recommendations made.	
		Expand the playground to better cater for older children, if feasible.		LT	Playground expansion carried out.	

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Access to the Park	To control vehicular access to St Leonards Park.	Prohibit and prevent general vehicular access to the Park.		O	General vehicular access to the Park prevented.	
		Allow service and emergency vehicles and essential vehicles associated with special events to enter the Park.	All access to the Park for vehicles associated with special events to be supervised by appropriate Council staff to minimise disturbance and ensure safety.	O	Ease of entry for service and emergency vehicles.	
		Maintain access to Bowling Club car park.	The Bowling Club and the associated car park are leased by the North Sydney Leagues Club from the Crown. The car park is for the use of bowling club patrons only.	O	Access to Bowling Club car park maintained.	
		Maintain access for North Sydney Council vehicles to the Parks depot.	The depot is adjacent to the North Sydney Oval Complex. Vehicular access is via Fig Tree Lane which is also a well-used pedestrian route.	O	Access for Council vehicles to Parks depot maintained.	
	To overcome issues associated with the limited availability of car parking near the Park at peak use times.	Continue to provide parking at a reduced rate in neighbouring Ridge Street car park when large-scale special events are being held in the Park, or when major fixtures are occurring at North Sydney Oval.	This car park is a Council-owned facility.	O	Parking at reduced rates is provided when required.	
		Operate a shuttle bus service between the Park and North Sydney railway station for major fixtures and events.		O	Shuttle bus continues to operate when required.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To encourage residents and visitors to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to St Leonards Park.	Provide information to the community and visitors about alternative ways to get to the Park (other than by car).	Relevant information available on Council's website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Walk North Sydney' maps and brochures - 'Northern Sydney Cycling Map' Numerous bus routes service the Park.	O	Decrease in number of complaints regarding lack of parking spaces.	www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
		Install bike racks at key locations in the Park.	Bike racks were installed in 4 key Park locations in late 2011: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near North Sydney Oval no 1 - Near the Bon Andrews Oval - Beside the netball courts - Adjacent to the cricket nets 	CP	New bike racks installed in appropriate Park locations.	North Sydney Council 2020 Vision. North Sydney Bike Strategy 2009.
	To manage parking associated with the childcare centre in Fig Tree Lane to minimise impacts on local residents.	Liaise with Council's Traffic Department and the childcare centre as necessary, and provide information and education for parents and staff on suitable parking sites and existing parking restrictions.	The childcare centre is a part of the North Sydney Oval Complex.	O	Liaison occurs when required. Reduction in number of complaints regarding inappropriate parking.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Circulation through the Park	To provide a safe and secure circulation system for pedestrians in St Leonards Park.	Upgrade the shared pedestrian/cycle paths that run from the north east corner of the Park to Fig Tree Lane and Ridge Street (near Walker Street).	These paths have been identified as off-road bike routes/shared pedestrian paths on the Northern Sydney Cycling Map and part of the regional bike network. However they are currently too narrow to be adequate as shared paths, and they are in poor condition.	ST-MT	Appropriate pathway upgrading works carried out.	Northern Sydney Cycling Map. North Sydney Bike Strategy 2009.
		Identify opportunities to improve circulation routes for people with impaired mobility.	The practicality of opportunities will be assessed when they are identified. Most areas of St Leonards Park are relatively flat, and the existing pathway network is suitable for wheelchairs, prams, etc.	O	Identified opportunities investigated. Improved level of access for all.	Australian Standard 1428.
		Carry out an access audit when undertaking any significant new design works in St Leonards Park.	Design work for which a Development Application is required necessitates an access audit. The audit ensures that all proposed work meets Australian Standards with regard to accessibility.	O	Access audits carried out as required.	

MANAGEMENT

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 St Leonards Park Plan of Management.	Actively seek stakeholder input into the new document by widely publicising the draft Plan of Management.	Major stakeholders including local Precincts are notified when the draft Plan is on public exhibition and are invited to comment. Regular advertisements in the Mosman Daily inform the general community, and the Plan may be viewed at Council or on Council's website.	O	Public exhibition of draft Plan of Management widely publicised.	www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
		Encourage stakeholders to provide written submissions to Council that can be incorporated into the Plan of Management.	Details of how to make a submission are contained within section 1.5 of this Plan of Management. Submissions may be made at any time, and will be considered when the Plan is reviewed. All submissions are considered by Council prior to adopting the final Plan of Management.	O	Review of Plan of Management considers all submissions received from stakeholders.	
		Ensure that both the draft and the final Plan of Management are readily available and easily accessible to the community and stakeholders.	Hard copies of the document are available from Council, free of charge, upon request. All adopted Plans of Management are permanently available on Council's website in the 'Policies and Plans' area.	O	Plan of Management available on Council's website and hard copies available for distribution.	www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To provide opportunities for the public and user groups to become involved in new developments in St Leonards Park.	Consult with stakeholders prior to and during the development of new proposals for the Park and consider comments.	Stakeholders include local Precincts, individual residents and user groups including sporting clubs and other cultural and recreational organisations.	O	Community and user satisfaction with the consultation process as gauged from feedback.	
		Undertake extensive community consultation as part of the process of developing a Master Plan for the Park.	The major project scheduled for the Park is the preparation of a landscape Master Plan. A high level of community and stakeholder consultation will be carried out as part of this project; in particular at the information gathering and design development stages. All Council Master Plans are publicly exhibited in draft form for information and comment before they are finalised and adopted.		Community and user satisfaction with the Master Plan consultation process as gauged from feedback.	
		Lodge Development Applications where required for building and other significant works occurring in the Park and seek public comment.	Community consultation is an important part of the Development Application process.	O	Development Applications lodged for appropriate new works.	Local Environmental Plan NSC 2001.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Management and Administration	To provide efficient, open and responsive administration and management.	Implement efficient and effective systems designed to make the best possible use of financial, human and natural resources.		O	Cost-effectiveness of management systems.	
		Respond to public suggestions, attend to enquiries promptly and provide information to the community as required.		O	Level of community satisfaction.	
	To manage organised sports facilities in St Leonards Park in an efficient, effective and accountable manner.	Manage the organised sports facilities as per Council's Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	All North Sydney Council Plans of Management are available on Council's website.	O	Sports facilities managed and maintained as per Playgrounds Plan of Management.	Sportsgrounds Plan of Management. www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
		Promote sportsgrounds in the community to raise public awareness of the facilities and to optimise expenditure/revenue ratio.		O	Level of use of sportsgrounds by the public. Level of revenue generated.	
		Liaise with sporting clubs and other hirers to monitor the sporting requirements of the community.		O	Satisfaction of user groups as determined by feedback.	
	To consider region-wide issues in the management of the sports facilities in St Leonards Park.	Implement the recommendations of the Regional Sportsgrounds Strategy as they relate to the sportsfields and courts in St Leonards Park.	The Strategy was developed by the Northern Sydney Region of Council's (NSROC). North Sydney is one of the 7 Councils that comprise this organisation.	MT-O	Implementation of strategy recommendations commenced.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Maintenance	To maintain St Leonards 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 in St Leonards Park to a high standard; befitting the status of the Park as a regional recreation facility and to ensure provision of a safe and attractive park.	Maintenance regimes for the Park take into account that the special events that occur periodically require extra maintenance. Council staff are permanently stationed in St Leonards Park.	O	Maintenance program implemented on time and within budget. Condition of the Park.	
		Undertake emergency repairs as required.	Council staff are pro-active; identifying problem areas and responding to public requests.	O	Expenditure/revenue ratio achieved.	
		Monitor the cost of maintenance and replacement work so that adequate resources can be provided to facilitate the required work and to prevent future problems.		O	Cost data recorded and monitored.	
	To ensure the children's playground is functional, safe and attractive.	Manage and maintain the playground as per Council's Playgrounds Plan of Management.	All Plans of Management are available on Council's website in the 'Policies and Plans' area.	O	Playground maintained as per Playgrounds Plan of Management.	Playgrounds Plan of Management. www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
		Inspect the playground on a daily basis to ensure all equipment and ancillary facilities are in good condition.	This playground is occasionally subject to vandalism due to its relatively isolated location in the centre of the Park. A ban on alcohol in the Park has led to a reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour.	O	Playground inspected daily and damage reported and attended to as speedily as possible.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To ensure all sportsgrounds in St Leonards Park are maintained in safe, usable and attractive condition.	Manage and maintain the Bon Andrews Oval and associated structures and the netball courts as per the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	All North Sydney Council Plans of Management are available on Council's website in the 'Policies and Plans' area.	O	Sportsgrounds in St Leonards Park maintained as per Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	Sportsgrounds Plan of Management NSC. www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
		Manage and maintain North Sydney Oval as per the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management.	All North Sydney Council Plans of Management are available on Council's website in the 'Policies and Plans' area.	O	North Sydney Oval maintained as per North Sydney Oval Plan of Management.	North Sydney Oval Plan of Management NSC. www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
	To maintain the Cunningham Pavilion in a safe, attractive and useable condition.	Continue to carry out minor repair works as required.	The Cunningham Pavilion provides facilities for people using the Bon Andrews Oval.	ST-LT*	Work completed as speedily as possibly.	Sportsfields Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007.
		Carry out repair works identified in Council's Sportsfields Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment Report.	Identified works include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renew/upgrade security screens - Repaint exterior and interior - Replace gutters and down pipes - Replace roof membrane in store area and viewing area 	ST-MT*	Work completed on time and to budget.	Sportsfields Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007.
		Carry out a major internal upgrading of the Cunningham Pavilion.	Work will include refurbishment of toilets, provision of accessible toilets, refurbishment of shower areas, provision of storage areas for club gear etc.	MT	Work completed on time and to budget.	Sportsfields Amenities Buildings - Condition Assessment Report 2007.

- The timeline for projects taken from the Sportsground Amenities Buildings Condition Assessment Report runs for a 10-year period.

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 exposure to complaints, compensation claims and litigation.	Continue to carry out an inspection program to identify and eliminate potential hazards.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'. The regular maintenance inspections also function as risk assessment inspections.	O	Inspection program regularly carried out.	
		Carry out maintenance and risk mitigation as required.	The playground and the sportsgrounds will be dealt with as per the relevant Council Plans of Management.	O	Required measures carried out.	Playgrounds, Sportsgrounds, and North Sydney Oval Plans of Management NSC.
	To minimise the incidence of vandalism to play equipment, park furniture and other structures in the Park.	Carry out patrols in 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.	Removing all graffiti as quickly as possible sends the message that Council facilities are well maintained and cared for. Graffiti should be reported to Council as soon as it is noticed.	O	Speed of graffiti removal.	Graffiti Management Plan 2007. NSC.
		Repair vandalised park furniture and play equipment as soon as practicable, or remove if damaged beyond repair.	Park users are encouraged to alert Council to any vandalism as soon as it is noticed.	O	Speed of repair work or removal.	
		Consider visibility and avoid hidden sites when siting any new structures, park furniture or play equipment in the Park.		O	Visibility assessed and concealed sites avoided.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Parks Department Depot	To ensure the Parks depot operates effectively and with minimal impact on the rest of the Park.	Limit depot access to Council vehicles, delivery vehicles and vehicles associated with the operation of major fixtures at North Sydney Oval.	Access to the depot is via Fig Tree Lane. This lane may not be used by any other vehicles, including vehicles wishing to 'drop-off' children at the childcare centre. The lane is regularly used by pedestrians.	O	No access to depot by unauthorised vehicles.	
		Close gates outside Council depot operating hours to prevent unauthorised access.	Gates are open between 6.30 am - 3.45 pm Monday – Friday only.	O	No access to depot outside operating hours.	
		Prohibit vehicles from parking in the depot access road.	This reduces congestion and minimises the likelihood of conflict with pedestrians. Lane may be used by delivery vehicles as a drop-off zone only, under Council supervision.	O	Adherence by delivery vehicles with conditions of use of access road.	
		Screen depot from the rest of St Leonards Park.	Continued growth of young trees reinstated in the fig avenue in Fig Tree Lane is helping to create screen.	O	Effective screen planting in place.	
		Ensure that the appearance of all depot structures is sympathetic to other Park and Oval structures.		O	Visual impact of depot structures on the rest of the Park is minimised.	
		Maintain depot in a clean and tidy condition and ensure all hazardous materials are secured.	Fuels, pesticides and fertilisers are locked up in a designated shed.	O	Depot maintained in a tidy and safe condition.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Monitoring of Management Systems	To review and update the St Leonards Park Plan of Management regularly in order to conserve, maintain and enhance the values and character of this significant Park.	Review the St Leonards Park Plan of Management regularly.	Review implementation and performance regularly. Review and update policy and planning issues after approximately 5 years.	O	Achievement of Plan objectives within the stated time frame. Relevance of St Leonards Park Plan of Management.	

6.0 **Appendices and Supporting Material**

6.1 **Appendix 1 - Zoning of St Leonards Park**

Public Recreation Zone

1. Objectives of the zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- (a) allow for a range of open space areas and public facilities which meet the needs of the North Sydney population for recreation;
- (b) ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents and visitors to the North Sydney Local Government Area; and
- (c) allow for the enhancement and management of both formal and informal 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; child care centers; clubs; community facilities; community notice signs; cycle ways; drainage; horticulture; landscaping; park facilities; temporary structures for the sale of produce and merchandise goods, and for information displays; temporary signs; utility installations, other than generating works or gasholders; visitor facilities; vehicle access to another permissible use within the zone; vehicle access to a permissible use within the Luna Park zone.

Any purpose other than a purpose included in item 1 or 2.

Source: North Sydney Local Environmental Plan, 2001.

6.2 Appendix 2 - Definitions

Organised Sport

Organised sport refers to sporting activities that require use of a marked playing surface provided and maintained by Council. Typically, organised sport is played by clubs, schools, commercial hirers and the like who have an organised administration and/or who are participating in formal competitions.

Fees are charged for exclusive use of marked playing surfaces by the groups listed above, and bookings must be made through Council's Customer Services Department.

No activities are to occur on sportsfields that are designated as 'closed'.

Informal Sport and Games

Informal sports and games are those that do not require use of a marked or designated playing surface. They may be played in Council's parks and reserves (including sportsgrounds when these are not being used for organised sport) 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.

In order to ensure the sportsfields continue to cater for needs of organised, fee-paying sporting groups, Council's sportsground maintenance activities take precedence over use of the sportsfields for informal sports and games. In addition, informal users must ensure they do not unduly damage the designated playing surfaces.

No activities are to occur on sportsfields that are designated as 'closed'.

Sportsground

Sportsgrounds are areas of land used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports. Sportsgrounds include the playing surface as well as related ancillary facilities including infrastructure (flood lights, goal posts, nets etc), amenities buildings (clubhouses, toilets, change rooms and storage areas), and other amenities (seating, shade, shelter, barbecues and picnic facilities).

Sportsfield/ Playing Field

The actual marked or designated playing surface used for playing organised sport. While most playing surfaces in North Sydney are turf, other surfaces can include asphalt, acrylic/hard court and synthetic grass.

Sportsfields in North Sydney include ovals and other grassed playing fields, tennis courts, croquet courts, netball courts and the like.