

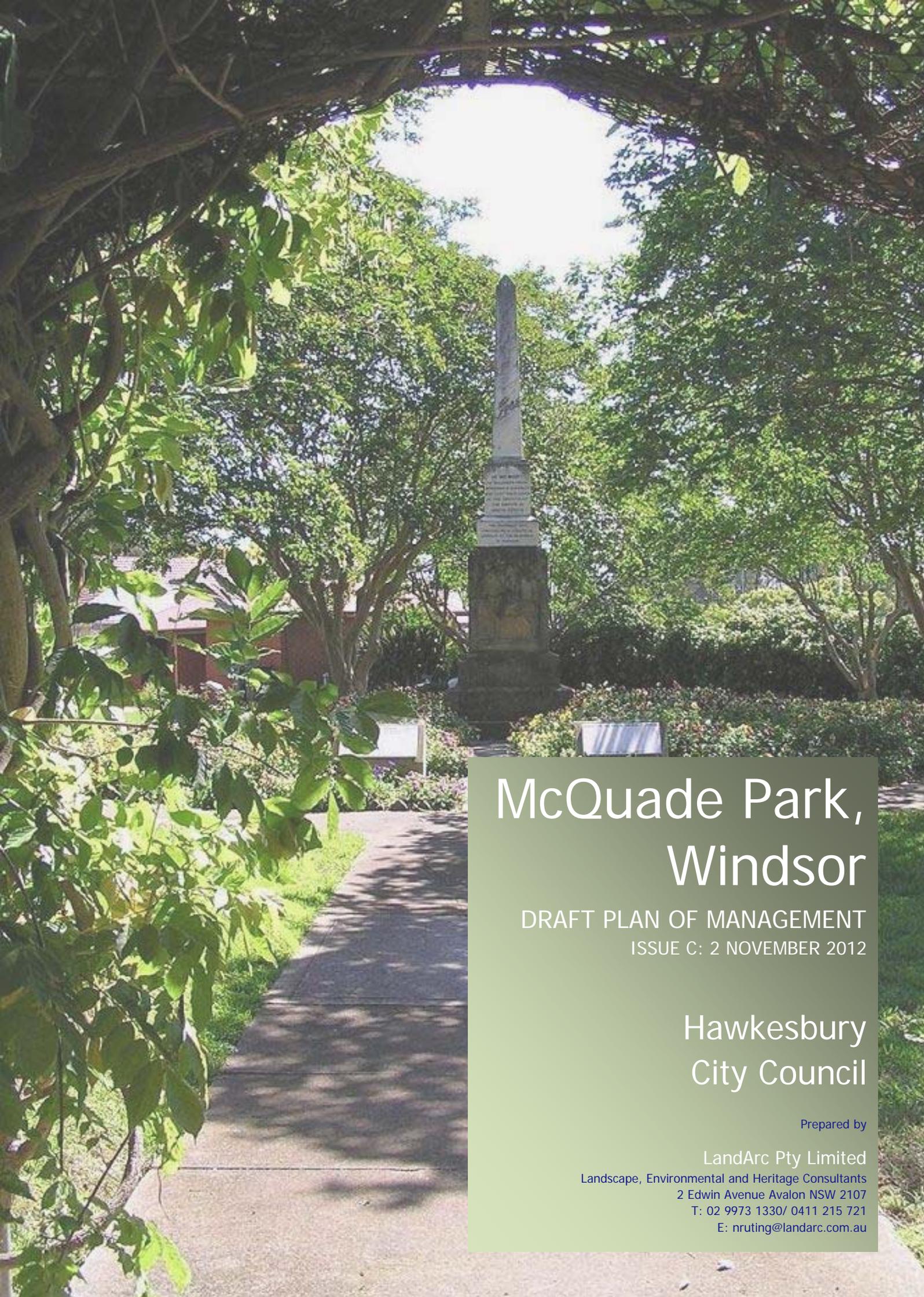


Hawkesbury City Council

attachment 1
to
item 211

Draft
McQuade Park
Plan of Management

date of meeting: 27 November 2012
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.



McQuade Park, Windsor

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

ISSUE C: 2 NOVEMBER 2012

Hawkesbury
City Council

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Executive Summary

A. Statement of Significance

McQuade Park was listed as an item of State heritage significance in 2011. This park was originally conceived by Governor Macquarie as a central public square and parade ground in the new town of Windsor. Although many changes have occurred throughout the park's long history its key values are clearly legible in this cultural landscape. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Outstanding and rare feature of Macquarie's concept of a planned town;
2. Retention of the park's pivotal role as a central square (public open space);
3. Protection of its important relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery (including open vistas and linkages with the park);
4. Tangible evidence of the intimate association with Macquarie himself and with his chief surveyor, James Meehan reflected in the accommodations made over landowners rights;
5. Retention of early adjustments in the form of a pentagon shape (as a result of these accommodations);
6. Accumulation of further items (many of local significance) and functions have not obscured the original purpose of a great square; and
7. Addition of items of rare State significance – Boer War memorial with O'Kelly's carvings of mounted troopers.

The park's State significance is closely linked with the landscape setting and the opportunities it provides. Values associated with visitor experience, accessibility, social, cultural and recreational values, and the way the park is managed all share these links.

B. Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles have been developed to inform the management of McQuade Park. They have been developed in conjunction with the legislation and policy framework that apply to this community land:

- Acknowledge the park's values and significance;
- Sustainable management;
- Conserve for the future;
- Promote the park's historic heritage significance;
- Continue to improve social, cultural and recreational opportunities;

- Assist integration of sporting and social infrastructure;
- Enhance connectivity between the park's different precincts;
- Improve pedestrian access and connectivity for all visitors;
- Provide an integrated and quality landscape setting;
- Promote use of water sensitive urban design strategies;
- Restrict and regulate uses and activities which threaten values;
- Continue to engage with the community.

C. Values and Threats Statements

Cultural heritage values and threats which may impact upon these values have been identified and assessed. Some of the major threats include:

- Potential loss of visual and aesthetic values (including historic vistas);
- Maintenance regimes including management of open spaces, recreational facilities, landscaping and heritage trees;
- Parking infrastructure and vehicular access including issues of erosion and compaction (affecting heritage trees);
- Restrictions on pedestrian access, linkages and circulation;
- Lake eutrophication and stormwater management, including runoff and nutrient enrichment favouring weed species; and
- Climate change, especially altered rainfall patterns.

D. Key Desired Outcomes

1. Protection of the park's State heritage significance

- protecting the cultural landscape setting
- protecting local heritage elements
- enhancing sporting and passive recreational facilities
- maintaining the park and facilities to a high standard

2. Heritage landscape management

- managing significant trees
- whole-of-life cycle tree management
- commemorative trees and plaques
- ecological restoration

3. WWI Memorial site and memorial gardens

- extension of the forecourt area – pedestrian precinct
- protecting the memorial gardens
- Boer War memorial – protecting sandstone reliefs
- field artillery guns – conservation management

4. Upgrading car parking areas

- Tebbutt Street and George Street car parking areas
- pedestrian linkages and connectivity

5. CWA health centre/ meeting hall – proposed adaptive re-use

- refreshment kiosk/ cafe & visitor centre
- creating a new social, cultural and recreational focus

6. Lake-side precinct improvements

- lake restoration strategy
- improving lake-side opportunities and synergies

7. Community engagement

Desired outcomes are consistent with community land categories and their respective core objectives.

E. Action Plan

This plan of management provides an Action Plan (see Table 7: Action Plan) including:

- Performance targets (management objectives);
- Management actions (means of achievement);
- Means of assessment (of the actions); and
- Priority ranking (for each action).

Priorities and opinions of probable construction costs (based on the Landscape Masterplan) are provided in the capital works program.

F. Landscape Masterplan

The Landscape Masterplan (see Figure 7: Landscape Masterplan) identifies key management actions to be implemented throughout a prioritised capital works program, subject to available funding.

1.0 Introduction

A Macquarie Park – The Great Square

McQuade Park, also known as The Great Square, Church Green and Windsor Park is located at 361 George Street, Windsor. The park is bounded by George Street, Hawkesbury Valley Way, Moses Street and Tebbutt Street. The total site area is 8.125 hectares (Ha). McQuade Park, originally Crown reserve, was planned by Governor Macquarie as ‘a parade or park for the use of the Town’ - The Great Square for the new town of Windsor (State Heritage Register, p.5., 2011). The park is now community land owned by Hawkesbury City Council.

State Heritage Significance

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage – Heritage Branch Online Database Statement of Significance identifies McQuade Park as a landscape heritage item of State heritage significance ‘because it is an outstanding and rare feature of Governor Macquarie’s concept of a planned country town in 1810’ (SHR, p.1., 2011) and ‘because it is a powerful testimony to the first stage of formal town-planning in New South Wales’ (SHR p.8., 2011).

This plan of management follows a detailed study of the park and its heritage values commissioned by Hawkesbury City Council – *McQuade (Windsor) Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP)* (Morris, C., Jack, I. and Britton, G., unpublished report, 2004) and State heritage listing in 2010. The CMP was developed in consultation with the local community. Together the CMP and State heritage listing have guided preparation of this plan of management.

The Brief

Hawkesbury City Council’s Brief highlights the State government’s vision ‘to enhance the recreational opportunities of the Hawkesbury-Nepean area for the people of, and visitors to Sydney’. Hawkesbury City Council is seeking to ‘create an integrated mixed-use recreational space’ [for McQuade Park] – a park which ‘allows for various recreational pursuits and provides attractive, popular public open space with appropriate recreational and cultural elements’ (HCC, p.3, 2011).

An opportunity exists to revitalise Macquarie’s concept of the central public domain for the enjoyment of local residents and regional visitors alike. Accordingly, the

Brief identifies the objective of preparing a 'detailed Plan of Management and Masterplan pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*'.

What is a Plan of Management?

A community land plan of management provides the framework for protecting and managing community land on a sustainable basis. The ways in which community land can be used and managed are strictly governed in accordance with an adopted plan of management and any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating its use. These plans of management must be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation and policies.

Hawkesbury City Council has identified a number of significant parks which require the preparation of more detailed plans of management. McQuade Park is one of these significant parks. This plan of management has been prepared by LandArc Pty Limited in accordance with the objectives of the Brief and under the direction of Hawkesbury City Council's Parks and Recreation staff. It supersedes information for this park in Council's PARKS – Draft Generic Plan of Management (2011).

Strategic Direction

This plan of management aims to contribute towards Hawkesbury City Council achieving its strategic goals, vision and strategic outcomes identified in the *Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2010-2030*. Hawkesbury City Council has developed a strategic framework for a green, connected and sustainable environment. This key policy document reflects the community's visions, values and aspirations and provides an important guide for developing objectives for this plan of management.

The strategy aims to connect and expand opportunities for communities and neighbourhoods creating a more diverse and vibrant environment. Connectivity involves ecological, social and economic choices for a greener more sustainable living environment. This plan of management can play an important part in this process offering significant opportunities to improve connectivity and appreciation of this park's significant cultural heritage values, its recreational facilities and quality parkland setting.

Key Objectives

A plan of management establishes measures of value, environmental performance and sustainability. This plan of management confirms Council's commitment to protecting and maintaining this asset. This document provides a rationale for decision making and consistency in the management approach and follows a values-based approach rather than being simply issues-driven.

The following steps have guided preparation of this plan of management:

A. Land Description and Planning

- Identify cultural heritage significance and management context
- Ensure consistency with the *Local Government Act 1993*
- Establish the park's location, ownership/ land tenure, encumbrances on the title, easements, encroachments and the types of adjoining land uses
- Identify existing land uses, facilities and improvements, the condition, scale and intensity of existing development and improvements
- Review existing zoning provisions under Hawkesbury City Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP 1989 as amended)
- Identify issues in relation to specific legislative requirements and policies (e.g. *Heritage Act 1977* and *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*)
- Establish community land categories in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and identify core objectives for each of these categories
- Establish future permitted uses and development (including intensity and scale), existing and future leases/ licences.

B. Community Consultation

- Ensure inclusive models of collaboration and transparent decision-making processes that promote positive engagement with the community
- Identify and assess community and stakeholder issues
- Determine community goals, values, needs and expectations for the future use and management of the park.

C. Basis for Management

- Define the park's role within the local government area and regional context (Western Sydney)
- To identify the park's key values and significance including the cultural landscape setting, cultural heritage, social and recreational values

- Assess the impact of existing uses, activities and management regimes or future development and leases and licences on identified key values
- Establish the framework for sustainable management strategies consistent with legislation and key policy documents.

D. Desired Outcomes and Implementation Plan

- Provide a balanced and sustainable management approach to conservation, the recreational needs of the community and environmental quality
- Establish priorities for healthier, cleaner, greener infrastructure, enhanced ecosystem services and networks in the urban environment
- Specify the purposes for which further development of the land, buildings or improvements will be permitted, whether under lease/ licence or otherwise
- Describe the scale and intensity of such permitted use or development
- Develop performance targets (management objectives), means of achieving these targets (management actions) and means of assessing Council's performance with respect to objectives
- Assign directions and priorities for implementation (spanning the next 5-years)
- Develop a Landscape Master Plan.

List of Abbreviations

CMP	Conservation Management Plan
OE&H	Office of Environment and Heritage
HRCC	Hawkesbury River County Council
LEP	Hawkesbury City Local Environmental Plan 1989
LGA	Local Government Area (Hawkesbury City Council)
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SREP	Sydney Regional Environmental Plan

2.0 Land Description + Planning

Study Area

This plan of management applies to McQuade Park (Lot 1 in DP556829), located at 361 George Street, Windsor. The park is bounded by Hawkesbury Valley Way (known as Richmond Road until 2009), George Street, Tebbutt Street and Moses Street. The total site area is 8.125 hectares (Ha). In 1970 Windsor Bowling Club on Tebbutt Street, described as Portion 346 (Lot 346 in DP752061) was excised from the original reserve and land grant. Accordingly, Portion 346 is not included in this plan of management. See *Table 1: Land Tenure* and *Figure 1: Study Area*.

TABLE 1 – LAND TENURE

Park Name	Lot/ Plan	Owner	Classification
McQuade Park, Windsor	Lot 1 in DP 556829	Hawkesbury City Council	Community Land

Historic Context

Deerubbin – before European settlement

McQuade Park is located within a traditional resource area of the Darug Aboriginal people. The floodplain of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River (known as 'Deerubbin' or 'Dyarrabin' by the Darug people) has been a focus for human communities for many thousands of years providing an abundance of natural resources. It was also a place with strong social and spiritual significance (Benson and Howell, 1994). McQuade Park has a long history of disturbance, modification and development spanning more than two centuries and there is no current record of Aboriginal archaeological relics or deposits for this site (Office of Environment & Heritage).

The Great Square and Church Green

McQuade Park was conceived originally by Governor Macquarie in 1810 as “a central square, a parade ground and a park” for the planned country town of

Windsor. The area was already “roughly cleared in Macquarie’s time” and likely used for grazing livestock (Morris, et al., p.17, 2004).



Scale approx. 1:5,108 @ A4

FIGURE 1 – STUDY AREA

Source: Hawkesbury City Council, 2001

The park still retains its ‘pivotal role’ in public activities, open space and its relationship with “one of the great early churches and cemeteries of New South Wales (St Matthews Anglican Church)” (SHR, p.1., 2011). The square provided the landscape setting for construction of the Church, rectory, stables and cemetery in 1817. Described as one of Australia’s most beautiful churches, this landmark building was designed by Francis Greenway under instruction from Governor Macquarie. St Matthews Anglican Church still retains an intimate connection with this parkland.

By the mid-1820s the park boundaries had been expanded and realigned to the present size and the original ‘square’ reserve evolved into an irregular pentagon shape (Morris, et al., p.12, 2004). The greatest changes in alignment occurred along the park’s north-western and western boundaries (Moses Street) and southern boundary (Richmond Road/ Hawkesbury Valley Way). The south-eastern boundary (George Street) was unchanged and the north-eastern boundary

(Tebbutt Street) only slightly re-aligned. Significantly “this process provides uncommonly legible evidence of the accommodations which colonial governments made with landowners to respect existing rights” (SHR, p.2., 2011).

During the 1830s-40s the ‘square’ was known as the ‘Church Green’ or the ‘open space in front of the [St Matthews Anglican] Church’ (Morris, et al., p.17). There is no evidence of McQuade Park being used as a market place (as in Richmond Park). Both parks however share a long sporting history. Cricket has been played in this open space in front of the Church since Macquarie’s time and continues to this day (ibid, p.17).

Military, commemorative and recreational themes have shaped McQuade Park’s landscape character and setting throughout its long history. Originally envisaged as a parade ground by Macquarie, the park hosted the governor’s presentation to the local Volunteer forces in 1861 and later became the official parade ground for the Windsor Volunteers (SHR, p.7, 2011). Local volunteers, who served in the Boer War campaign (1899-1902), are commemorated in the Boer War memorial (1903). This memorial was supplemented by the WWI memorial (1923) and later honour lists to servicemen who died in WWII and subsequent conflicts. Commemorative tree planting and memorial gardens were also added during these phases of the park’s development.

McQuade Park has continued to expand its sporting, recreational and social infrastructure including the cricket oval (1891), tennis courts (1923), bowling green (1931), grandstand (1937), CWA health centre (1938), Don’t Worry cricket pitch (1945) and other more recent features (ibid., p.4, 2011). McQuade Park is ‘an outstanding and rare feature of Governor Macquarie’s concept of a planned country town’. It is now listed as a landscape heritage item of State significance (SHR, p.1., 2011).

Park Gazettal

In 1868 the ‘Church Green’ encompassing an area of 21 acres 1 rod (8.58 Ha) was gazetted as a ‘public reserve’. Six years later the New South Wales government transferred the reserve from the Crown as an ordinary land grant into ownership of the newly formed Windsor Municipal Council. This grant was specifically for the purpose of ‘public recreation’ (Morris, et. al., p.18, 2004). In 1970 a rectangular parcel of the reserve adjoining Tebbutt Street was resumed by the Crown for Windsor Bowling Club (Portion 346). A new land grant was made to Council in 1972 formalising ownership of the remaining 8.125 hectares of reserve (ibid, p.18).

Naming the Park

McQuade Park was named after Councillor (and Mayor) John McQuade in 1872 however the naming remained a contentious issue for some years resulting in a

series of rescission motions and reinstatements of the names of 'Windsor Park' and 'McQuade Park'. Although a final rescission motion in 1878 changed the name to 'Windsor Park', the name 'McQuade Park' continued to be recognised as the accepted name (ibid, pp.19-20). The CMP (item 6.4.2) recommended the action to "officially gazette the name of the park as either McQuade Park or Windsor Park" (Morris, et. al., p.46, 2004). Hawkesbury City Council later resolved that the name be 'McQuade Park' (placed in Government Gazette on 12 May 2006).

Physical Context

Climate

This north-western portion of the Cumberland Plain has a warm temperate climate with considerable diurnal and seasonal ranges in temperature and little variation in average monthly relative humidity (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). The climate is characterised by warm to hot summers (mean summer max. 29.6°C) and mild winters (mean winter min. 3.6°C). Frosts occur during the winter months. The nearest weather station (Richmond RAAF) has a mean annual precipitation of 809mm (Bureau of Meteorology, 2012). McQuade Park, Windsor has a slightly lower average annual rainfall (approx. 800mm) (ibid, 1990).

Topography, Slope and Aspect

McQuade Park is located on a Tertiary terrace of the Hawkesbury-Nepean system on the Cumberland Plain (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). The topography is characterised by a gently undulating low rise from the floodplain. The ridgeline along the north-western boundary divides the sub-catchments of South Creek (to the east) and Rickaby's Creek (to the west). The natural slope falls from this ridgeline near St. Matthews Anglican Church (approx. 22m) to the south-east near the intersection of George Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way (approx. 14m). Refer to *Figure 2: Topographic Map and Figure 3: Aerial Photo Map* of Windsor. Average grade is approximately 2-3% (slightly steeper towards the south-east corner). The park's natural overland flows are in the South Creek sub-catchment boundary. Natural ground levels have been modified to varying degrees throughout most of the park.

Geology and Soils

McQuade Park is located on a Tertiary terrace of the Hawkesbury-Nepean system and the soil landscape is mapped as Fluvial – Berkshire Park (Soil Landscape Series Sheet 9030 – Penrith, Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). This soil landscape consists of tertiary sediments overlying Wianamatta Group shales. The soils are weakly pedal with low fertility, consisting of orange heavy clays and clayey sands derived from Tertiary alluviums deposited on the ancient floodplain. These soils have a relatively high water holding capacity with a tendency to water-logging during wet periods due to impermeable subsoils. During long hot summers and drought periods these soils dry out and crack and are susceptible to wind erosion when cleared (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990).

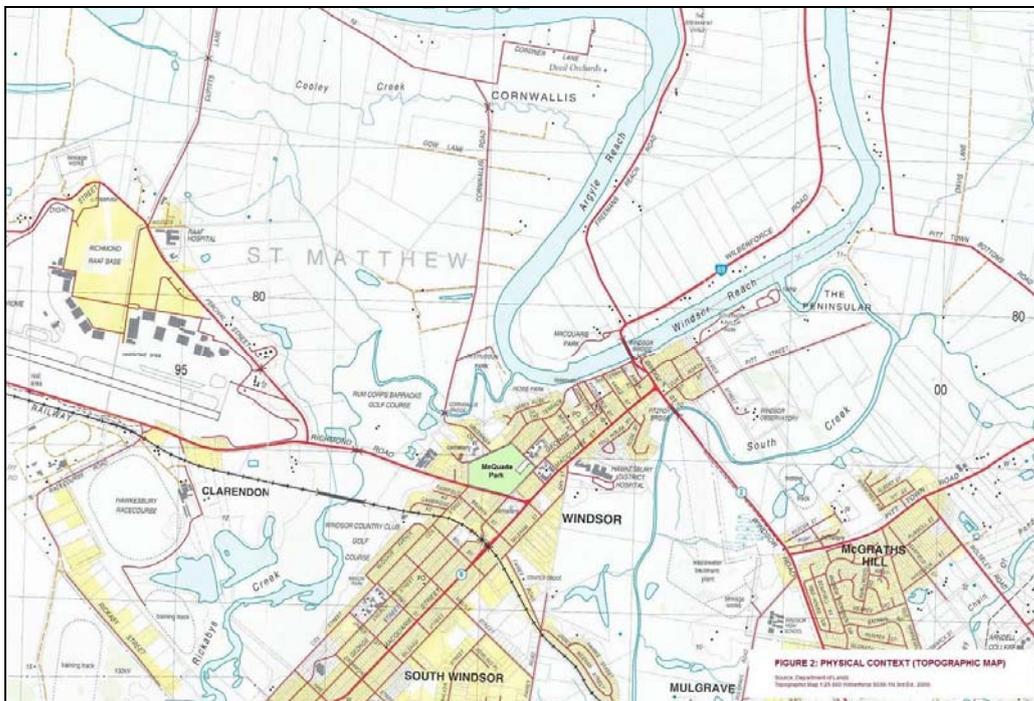


FIGURE 2 – TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (PHYSICAL CONTEXT)

Source: Department of Lands, Topographic Map 1:25 000 Wilberforce 9030-1N 3rd Ed., 2000

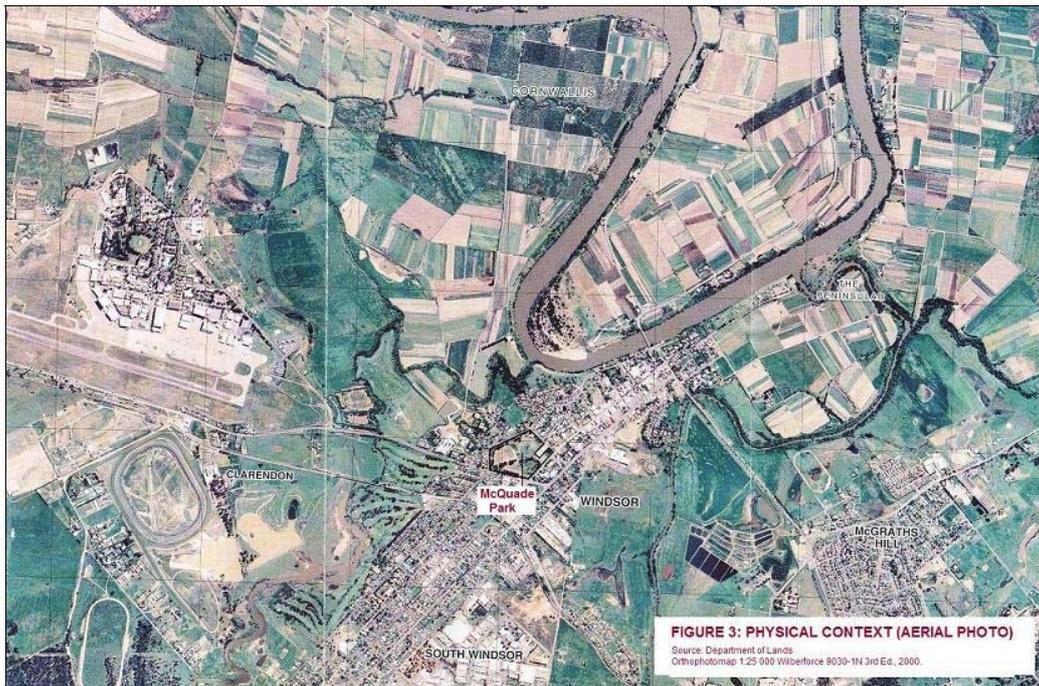


FIGURE 3 – AERIAL PHOTO MAP (PHYSICAL CONTEXT)

Source: Department of Lands, Orthophoto Map 1:25 000 Wilberforce 9030-1N 3rd Ed., 2000

Landscape Context

Precinct character

The park has a gentle slope from the ridgeline near St. Matthews Anglican Church (Moses Street) to the ornamental lake in the south-eastern corner of the park (near the intersection of George Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way). Natural ground levels have been modified to varying degrees throughout the park. The State Heritage Register notes that the park's history '*is one of regular modification over two centuries*' (SHR, 2011, p.4).

These park improvements include the cricket oval (created in this location in 1891), Boer War and WWI memorials, tennis courts, grandstand, CWA health centre, Don't Worry cricket pitch, the lake and many other more recent features. Refer to *Table 2: Existing Facilities and Improvements* for a detailed inventory of buildings, recreational facilities, memorials and other park infrastructure. An internal bitumen roadway linking George and Moses Streets separates the lower and upper portions of the park. The landscape character of McQuade Park can be divided into three major areas or precincts (refer to *Figure 4: Landscape Context*):

1. Upper north-east precinct (active sports and commemorative);
2. Upper and lower western open space (passive/active recreation); and
3. Lower south-east lake-side open space (passive recreation).

The north-eastern sports and commemorative precinct is separated from the park's upper north-western open space by the Bowling Club. The north-east corner is the site of a memorial garden – a quiet contemplative space. Windsor Bowling Club, McQuade Park Oval, the children's playground, tennis courts and amenities buildings divide this precinct into a series of separate fenced parcels of land dominated by sporting infrastructure.

Sports facilities

Historically, the relatively flat upper north-east corner of the park was the focus for active sports, especially cricket and later tennis and lawn bowls. Cricket was played in the park during Macquarie's time. Improvements include the cricket oval, grandstand and amenities block, a summerhouse (rotunda), cricket nets, children's playground, tennis courts, clubhouse and amenities and car parking areas. These facilities attract a range of user groups including cricket, rugby, touch football, tennis, cycling, exercise, jogging and personal training.

**TABLE 2:
EXISTING FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

ITEM DESCRIPTION	Condition
Buildings:	
McQuade Oval Grandstand (1937 - brick w. galv. steel roof/ timber bleachers)	good
Amenities block (brick/ metal roof incl. change-rooms, amenities, kiosk, storage room)	good
Tennis clubhouse (brick/ metal roof)	good
Amenities block (brick/ metal roof incl. storage room)	good
CWA cottage (1938 - brick / tiled roof w. brick/ wrought -iron walls & fences)	good
Summerhouse/ rotunda (rendered brick base/ timber posts/ rails & slate/ terracotta roof)	good
Picnic Shelter w. BBQ/ seating (metal roof/ concrete slab)	good
Picnic Shelter/ seating (metal roof/ concrete slab)	good
Storage room (brick/ metal roof adj. to cricket nets)	good
Sporting fields, tennis courts, etc:	
McQuade Oval (incl. metal picket boundary fence, floodlighting)	good
Don't Worry cricket pitch (synthetic turf wicket)	fair
Tennis courts (2) (incl. synthetic turf surfaces, floodlighting and mesh fence)	varies
Cricket nets (2) (synthetic turf/ mesh fencing)	good

Memorials & displays:	
Boer War obelisk & sculptures (1903 – sandstone plinth/ marble w, O'Kelly carvings)	good
WWI (1923 – incl. WWII, Korean and Vietnam conflicts - honour lists & flagpoles)	good
Field artillery guns (2)	good/ fair
Macquarie memorial (1994- brick walls/ aggregate paving & signage)	good
Memorial gardens (including Crepe Myrtle bosquet, Wisteria pergola/ trellises)	good
Commemorative plaques/ tree planting (Bicentennial pioneer families)	varies
Roads/ car parking areas:	
Central/ internal bitumen road	fair
Car parking area – bitumen (George St)	poor
Car parking area – unsurfaced (Tebbutt St)	poor
Passive Recreation:	
Ornamental lake (incl. island, bridge, timber walls, channel/ ponds & reticulation)	varies
Children's playground & soft fall (incl. swing set, platforms/ climbing frames & rockers)	good
Pathways/ paved areas	varies
Picnic seating/ park benches	good/ fair
Lighting	good/ fair
Signage	good
Litter bins	varies
Vehicular barriers/ bollards (timber)	good/ fair
Sandstone/ brick walls	good
Timber walls/ terracing	fair/ poor

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 Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm
 Phone: 02 459 4444



- KEY:**
- PRECINCT 1 ACTIVE SPORTS & COMMERCIAL RECREATION
 - PRECINCT 2 PASSIVE/ACTIVE RECREATION
 - PRECINCT 3 LAKE-SIDE PASSIVE RECREATION



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FIGURE 4: LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2012



PHOTO 1: McQuade Oval– Cricket has been played in the park since Governor Macquarie's time (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 2: Boer War memorial (1903) with rare O'Kelly sandstone carvings (State heritage significance) (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 3: World War I memorial (1923) with honour lists (WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars) (18/10/2011).

War memorials

The park has a long association with the military dating from Macquarie's time (SHR, p.7, 2011). The war memorials and commemorative gardens, located in the north-eastern corner of the park are an important focus for Anzac Day celebrations. This built heritage includes an obelisk, plaques and rare carved sandstone reliefs of mounted troopers commemorating local volunteers who died in the Boer War. Following World War I a substantial brick and sandstone memorial was also erected in this corner of the park. Honour lists have been added for subsequent engagements in WW2, Korea and Vietnam. This precinct also includes field artillery guns on display.

Passive open space

McQuade Park's passive open space is a key value identified by the community workshop (see 3.0 *Community Engagement*). The upper north-western portion of the park adjoining Moses Street has a memorial to Governor Macquarie, tree planting, a barbeque shelter and seating, and a second cricket pitch known as the 'Don't Worry Field'. A similar passive seating area has been developed adjacent to the Hawkesbury Valley Way. Significantly, these spaces remain uncluttered with buildings and major facilities. The open quality protects important historic vistas and the relationship between the park (as the central square) and St. Matthews Church group on Moses Street. The western paddock also hosts temporary and special events including circuses.



PHOTO 4: View of north-western precinct – McQuade Park's open vistas and historic relationship with St. Matthews Anglican Church [background] have been protected (18/10/2011).

The lower south-eastern corner of the park has an ornamental lake with an island and other water features. This lake was designed by leading landscape architect and academic Professor Peter Spooner and constructed in 1970. Historically this low point in the park was periodically waterlogged. The Park Committee's Minutes (1874) indicate the area retained a body of water, at least during wetter periods. The picnic facilities, shaded areas and lake-side setting are popular features of the park attracting family groups, couples and individuals to simply sit, relax and enjoy the quality of these spaces and opportunities for unstructured play or special uses such as weddings.



PHOTO 5: Lake precinct (passive recreation) – View over the lake
[designed by P. Spooner] (18/10/2011).

Historic vistas and relationships

The State heritage listing for McQuade Park identifies the significance of the open uninterrupted views across the park from Moses Street and how this 'lack of built elements' in this part of the park has retained 'the original relationship of the Great Square with the Anglican complex of St. Matthews and its rectory' (SHR, p.3., 2011). It is important that this plan of management establishes how these values should be protected and managed on a sustainable basis.

Remnant native vegetation and cultural planting

The original native vegetation has been almost totally cleared from this terrace and the park since Macquarie's time. The natural vegetation was likely Shale Plains Woodland or Castlereagh Ironbark Woodland (i.e. types of Cumberland Plain Woodland and now scheduled as critically endangered under the TSC Act 1995). Many tree stumps remained scattered within the park 'well into Victoria's reign' (SHR, p.6., 2011) and it is possible that some of these native trees may have grown from cut-stumps (i.e. regrowth specimens).

These trees are now old growth specimens – Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus crebra* and *E. fibrosa*) and Forest Red Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and may be representative of a regrowth community on these tertiary alluviums. Alternatively, they may have been planted as ornamental trees during an early phase of park embellishment. It appears that many Ironbarks were planted along the boundaries and central roadway in later phases of the park’s development. Together they make a significant contribution to the park’s visual character and historic setting.

McQuade Park also conserves a significant collection of generic native and exotic specimen trees dating from the late nineteenth century. These specimens include native Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var. *australasica*) as well as exotics such as Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). The park’s Inter-war Period plantations include an avenue of Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) near the western side of the oval and a row of Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) in the memorial gardens.

The formal group of five pruned Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) planted around the Boer War memorial is likely a Post-war period addition. This is an outstanding group in this commemorative garden. The Chinese Wisteria on the central pergola and pathway trellises are also notable elements. The native and exotic tree plantations around the ornamental lake, including commemorative (Bicentenary) planting, are also significant park components. Most of these trees have been planted over recent decades. The significance of this collection is discussed in further detail in 4.0 *Basis for Management*).



PHOTO 6: Narrow-leaved Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus crebra*) in paved area near Moses Street and St. Matthews Church. These trees make a significant contribution to the park’s visual character and historic setting (18/10/2011).

Community Land Management

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 sections 25 and 26* all public land must be classified as either Community land or Operational land. McQuade Park is community land owned in fee simple by Hawkesbury City Council.

Community land must be managed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation and policies. The ways in which community land can be used and managed are strictly governed in accordance with an adopted plan of management and any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land. The nature and use of community land may not change without an adopted plan of management. The use and management of Community land must be consistent with its designated categories and core objectives.

Community land must not be sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of except in the instance of enabling the land to be added to Crown reserve or a protected area under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Categorising Community Land

Community land must be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) a natural area
- b) a sportsground
- c) a park
- d) an area of cultural significance
- e) general community use

A further requirement is that land categorised as a 'natural area' must be further categorised as 'bushland', 'wetland', 'escarpment', 'watercourse', 'foreshore' or a category prescribed by the regulations. The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* provides guidelines for community land categorisation. 'A natural area' and related sub-categories are not applicable to McQuade Park's cultural landscape setting. The Hawkesbury City Council Community Land Generic Plans of Management (2011) categorised McQuade Park as follows:

1. Park;
2. Sportsground; and
3. General community use.

The community land categorisation is consistent with guidelines of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. This plan of management retains these categories and mapping. Refer to *Figure 5: Community Land Categorisation*.



Park

“Land should be categorised as a park under s.36(4) of the Act if the land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others”.

Section 104, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Most of the park (with the exception of McQuade Park Oval and facilities, ‘Don’t Worry’ cricket pitch, the Tennis Club/ facilities and CWA curtilage) is categorised as park in accordance with its landscaped character of open grassed areas, cultivated native and exotic trees and passive recreational uses.

Sportsground

“Land should be categorised as sportsground under s.36(4) of the Act if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games”.

Section 103, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

McQuade Park Oval, the ‘Don’t Worry’ cricket pitch, cricket nets and Tennis Club courts are categorised as ‘sportsground in accordance with existing sporting uses.

General Community Use

“Land should be categorised as general community use under s.36(4) of the Act if the land:

- (a) may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public, and*
- (b) is not required to be categorised as a natural area under section 36A, 36B or 36C of the Act and does not satisfy the guidelines for categorisation as a natural area, a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance”.*

Section 106, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

The Country Women’s Association (CWA) health centre and curtilage are categorised as general community use. This plan of management identifies opportunities for adaptive reuse of the CWA hall and adjoining outdoor spaces.

Discussion

McQuade Park has not been categorised as “an area of cultural significance” as the core objectives for this category are primarily concerned with conservation measures (i.e. processes of continuous protective care and maintenance including restoration, reconstruction, adaptive re-use and/ or preservation in a particular state). The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and State heritage listing however identify the park’s continuing role in the community, offering a range of sporting, cultural, social and passive recreational opportunities. This is a cultural landscape which has continued to accommodate change while still conserving historic values of State heritage significance.

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for McQuade Park and the State heritage listing identify the cultural significance of this park (refer to CMP policy discussion in this section and review of cultural significance in *4.0 Basis for Management*). It is important to recognise that this cultural landscape setting has played host to a broad range of recreational, social and cultural uses and development throughout its history. Military, commemorative and sporting functions have all been an important part of this history (e.g. the Boer War memorial is an item of State heritage significance). Furthermore, the park has accumulated many items of local heritage significance as well as other sporting and recreational infrastructure. Notably, McQuade Park retains its original relationship and open vistas connecting with St. Matthews Church.

The categorisation of this community land has focussed on this active role in the community as a “park” and a “sportsground” rather than categorisation as “an area of cultural significance”. It is important that McQuade Park is maintained as “a community park, freely accessible to, and for the continuing enjoyment of, the general public consistent with its high cultural value...” (Morris, et al., p.46, 2004) The core objectives for categorisation need to provide for this ongoing role and function. Moreover, this plan of management establishes an appropriate and balanced framework for conserving and managing these values and significance.

Leases, Licences or Other Estate

Prescribed Purpose

A lease, licence or other estate may be granted, in accordance with an express authorisation by this plan of management, providing the lease, licence or other estate is for a purpose prescribed in s.46 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The purpose must be consistent with core objectives for the category of community land (refer to *5.0 Management Strategies - Table 6: Schedule of Core Objectives*).

Express Authorisation

There are no current leases or licences over this community land however this plan of management provides express authorisation for leases, licences and other estate in relation to the tennis courts and CWA building/ curtilage. For express authorisation of current and future permitted leases, licences or other estate refer to *Table 7: Action Plan (Item A15)*.

General Terms and Conditions

Council must not grant a lease, licence or other estate for a period (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option) exceeding 21 years. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted only by tender in accordance with s.46A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and cannot exceed a term of 5 years (including any period for which the lease could be renewed by the exercise of an option) unless it satisfies the requirements as scheduled in s.47, or is otherwise granted to a non-profit organization (refer to *Leases, licences and other estate in respect of community land – s.46, 46A, 47 and 47A Local Government Act 1993*).

Other Relevant Legislation and Policies

In addition to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* this plan of management has been prepared in accordance with provisions contained in other relevant legislation and policy, including but not limited to the following:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- NSW Heritage Act 1977
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999
- Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act 1995
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- NSW Flood Policy 1984

- ❑ Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2010-2030
- ❑ Hawkesbury City Council Charter
- ❑ Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 1989
- ❑ Section 94 Contributions Plan Review 2001

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A) 1979* forms the basis of statutory planning in New South Wales. The Act includes preparation of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) which broadly regulate land use and development. The LEP incorporates standard heritage provisions including schedules of items and places of heritage significance.

Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (HLEP)

Hawkesbury City Council, as the consent authority under the *Local Environmental Plan 1989* controls development and the use of land on parks and reserves in the Hawkesbury City Council local government area. The most recent amendment to the LEP was gazetted on 8 June 2011.

Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan

Council has prepared a draft local environmental plan in accordance with the NSW Government's Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006 (as amended). In accordance with Standard Instrument requirements, the draft local environmental plan adopts standardised zonings, definitions and mapping. It also incorporates amendments and corrects anomalies in the written instrument and maps. These corrections include heritage item descriptions, wetland locations, National Parks, open spaces and minor mapping errors. The draft plan was placed on public exhibition in 2010 and Council resolved in June 2011 to forward the draft plan to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for finalization and gazettal.

Under the Draft Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (HLEP 2011) McQuade Park is zoned RE 1 PUBLIC RECREATION. Windsor Bowling Club is zoned RE 2 PRIVATE RECREATION (not part of this community land plan of management).

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* provides a systematic approach to protecting state heritage. The Act establishes principles that are fundamental to planning the care of heritage items and places. The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A) 1979* provide the legislative framework and responsibility of local government for heritage management in New South Wales.

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) outlines these values and policies and the means for conservation. Following listing of McQuade Park on the NSW Heritage Register, works within the park require prior consent (or exemption from consent) from the Heritage Council of NSW to ensure compatibility with heritage values and desired outcomes. This requirement applies to alterations, excavation or construction of new elements. See www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/development

Hawkesbury Heritage

Hawkesbury City Council has a vision for 'sustainable and liveable communities that respect, preserve and manage the heritage, cultural and natural assets of the City' (HCC website, 2012). It is important that the objectives of this plan of management, particularly with regard to heritage conservation, are consistent with Council's LEP, State Heritage listing and McQuade (Windsor) Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP, 2004).

Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

In 1983 McQuade (Windsor) Park was listed under a Landscape Conservation Area – Upper Hawkesbury (non-statutory listing) by the National Trust of Australia. In 2004 a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for McQuade (Windsor) Park was prepared by Colleen Morris, Geoffrey Britton and Ian Jack in accordance with NSW Heritage Office guidelines.

Dr James Kerr describes the purpose of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) as *"...a document which sets out what is significant in a place and, consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. For most places it deals with the management of change."* (Kerr, J. *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust NSW, Sydney 2000: 1). Refer to: http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/13_subnav_04.htm

The CMP noted the listing of the War Memorial, on the corner of George and Tebbutt Streets, as a heritage item in the Local Environmental Plan 1989 (Schedule 1). The bandstand rotunda or summerhouse (c.1910), located between the grandstand and Bowling Club, is also scheduled in the current LEP (last updated June 2011). Apart from these two listed items, the CMP established McQuade Park's broader heritage significance at the state level. The CMP provided a comprehensive assessment of the park's significance using State Heritage Criteria, confirming its standing as *'a powerful testimonial to the first stage of town-planning in NSW'* (Morris, et al., p.40, 2004).

Furthermore, the CMP described the significance of the contextual setting of McQuade Park with St. Matthews Anglican Church and the park's continuing role in the community, offering a range of active and passive recreational pursuits. It also highlighted the nationally significant Boer War memorial as well as other items of local significance including the WWI memorial and Inter-war garden, the bandstand rotunda (summerhouse), Macquarie statue, the lake, significant early plantings and more recent commemorative plantings. This findings contained in the CMP formed the basis for listing of McQuade Park on the State Heritage Register.

Heritage Council policy recommends revision of CMPs every five years to keep them current with regard to owner requirements, changing uses or circumstances. This plan of management recommends revision or addendum to the current CMP prepared in 2004 (see *Table 7 – Action Plan, Item A2*).

Conservation Policy Objectives

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP, 2004) established conservation policy in accordance with the definitions contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter). The following is a selected summary of general policy objectives identified in the CMP:

“Maintain McQuade Park as a community park, freely accessible to, and for the continuing enjoyment of, the general public consistent with its high cultural value as the Macquarie-planned public reserve for the township of Windsor, public safety considerations and with reference to the following policies” (Morris, et al., p.46, 2004).

- Conserve park integrity as a key component of the Macquarie-planned town of Windsor;
- Ensure retention and maintenance of park boundaries and traditional open space character;
- Enhance and reinforce existing planting around the park perimeter and internal road corridor;
- Avoid introducing permanent monuments, memorials or artworks that have no direct, compelling relevance to the site;
- Enhance passive recreational focus and visual connectivity to the lake with additional planting of shade trees (and where appropriate, related structures);
- Consider introducing native wetland species as a means of interpreting the Macquarie era vegetation;
- Enhance and reinforce avenue plantation near Macquarie memorial;
- Ensure conservation of war memorial structures and gardens;

- Establish an integrated formal car parking area for north-east precinct (possibly combined with upgrade to grandstand and playground);
- Provide wheelchair access into the park at entry points;
- Initiate tree replacement plan based on historic evidence of early planting layouts and suitability in the local area
- Consider seeking advice from an arborist on condition of trees and works in close proximity to significant trees to be in consultation with an experienced and qualified arborist;
- Ensure that all photographs, histories and plans in relation to the park are catalogued and made available in the Local Studies section of the Hawkesbury City Council Library (including records of the 1993 pioneer families commemorative planting project);
- Ensure interpretive signage or installations are sympathetic to the park's historic context and subservient to the cultural significance of the place;
- Maintain the 'Don't Worry' pitch as an active sports field;
- Provide adequate seating and picnic facilities in the park (including opportunities for disabled access);
- Ensure the continued use of the oval for community sporting events;
- Review the use of the CWA building with a view to optimising the opportunities provided by its location and facilities;
- Ensure a stormwater management plan is prepared for the park;
- Ensure no subdivision of the park, or excisions from, or alienation of parts of the park;
- Maintain an ongoing documentation system for recording any changes to plantings, layout or materials within the park;
- Continue to provide for ongoing security;
- Ensure adequate provision of park lighting;
- Signage for commemorative trees should remain simple and unobtrusive;
- Future development to be consistent with the significance of the open space character of the park, passive recreational aspects and continuing importance for sporting events;
- Replacement structures to be of an appropriate design standard sympathetic to context and subservient to cultural significance of the place.

State Heritage Register

The *Heritage Act 1977* was amended to create the NSW State Heritage Register, a listing of heritage places and items of state heritage significance. McQuade Park was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register on 14/01/2011. The Conservation Management Plan, prepared in 2004, outlines these heritage values and policies for conservation. Refer to *4.0 Basis for Management* for a detailed review of State significance. Proposed works within the park (including alterations, excavation or construction) require prior consent (or exemption from consent) from the Heritage Council of NSW. For further details: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/development

Section 57(1) and (2) of the *Heritage Act 1977* refers to standard and specific exemptions to allow work to be carried out with respect to the heritage place or item. A list of specific exemptions for McQuade Park is scheduled in *Table 7: Action Plan- items A7-A13* and the NSW Heritage Branch Online Database. Refer to: http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_02_2.cfm?itemid=5053906

...

3.0 Community Engagement

Introduction

Hawkesbury City Council promotes the use of inclusive models of collaboration and transparent decision-making processes. This approach provides opportunities for members of the community to engage in these processes, helping to raise public awareness of issues and to contribute comments and submissions. Public workshops relating to the management of McQuade Park have been held during preparation of the *McQuade (Windsor) Park Conservation Management Plan* (CMP, 2004) and again during preparation of this draft plan of management.

The NSW Heritage Branch (formerly NSW Heritage Office), Office of Environment and Heritage is a key stakeholder in this process. The Heritage Branch administers the State Heritage Register and advises on heritage policy and guidelines. A meeting was held with Stuart Read, Heritage Officer, on 29 November 2011 to discuss conservation management issues. A number of key points were identified and these items provided the structure for exploring community issues at the workshop (for further details refer to *Community Workshop – Proceedings* in this section and *4.0 Basis for Management*).

Public Exhibition

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* the draft plan of management must be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days (four weeks). A further two weeks are provided for completion of written submissions. During the public exhibition period the draft plan of management will be available for viewing at the Hawkesbury City Council Administrative Offices, Hawkesbury Central Library (in the Deerubbin Centre) Windsor and on Council's web-site:

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/

Public submissions and comments submitted by other government agencies will be reviewed by Hawkesbury City Council. The draft plan of management, as amended following public submissions and review, will be submitted to Council for adoption.

Community Workshop

Purpose

The main purpose of the community workshop is to learn more about how the community values this park. It also aims to identify the issues affecting these values and to promote opportunities for future sustainable management and conservation. Sustainability is a key principle guiding this process. The workshop aims to engage the community and to provide a transparent and equitable forum for all user groups, stakeholders and individuals.

A community workshop was held at the Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor at 6.00pm on 28 February 2012. The workshop was advertised by Hawkesbury City Council in the local press and notices in Council's Administrative Offices and Hawkesbury Central Library. Council also contacted relevant stakeholders. The workshop was attended by thirteen (13) residents from the local community including key stakeholders – Hawkesbury Sports Council and Windsor Bowling Club. Stakeholders who were unable to attend have been contacted and specific issues discussed.

Proceedings

The workshop commenced with a description of the plan of management process, expected outcomes and a short power-point presentation by Noel Ruting, Director of LandArc Pty Limited (see *Appendix I: Community Engagement – Preparing plans of management*). This presentation gave a brief overview of the context, administrative and legislative requirements and the park's heritage significance at the state level. Some key management issues were raised including:

- Protection and management of cultural heritage significance
- Protection and management of cultural setting and visual character
- Access, circulation and linkages (vehicular traffic movement, pedestrian/ bicycles, exercising/ jogging, disabled access)
- Car parking areas (Oval and Bowling Club)
- Boer War and WW I memorials (Anzac Day/ public safety)
- Sporting and recreational facilities (maintenance and upgrades)
- Tree protection and improved management of ageing trees (soil compaction, arboricultural care, safety and risk management)
- Lake management and enhancement
- Opportunities for adaptive re-use and integration of existing facilities (including CWA cottage)
- Visitor information, interpretation and education

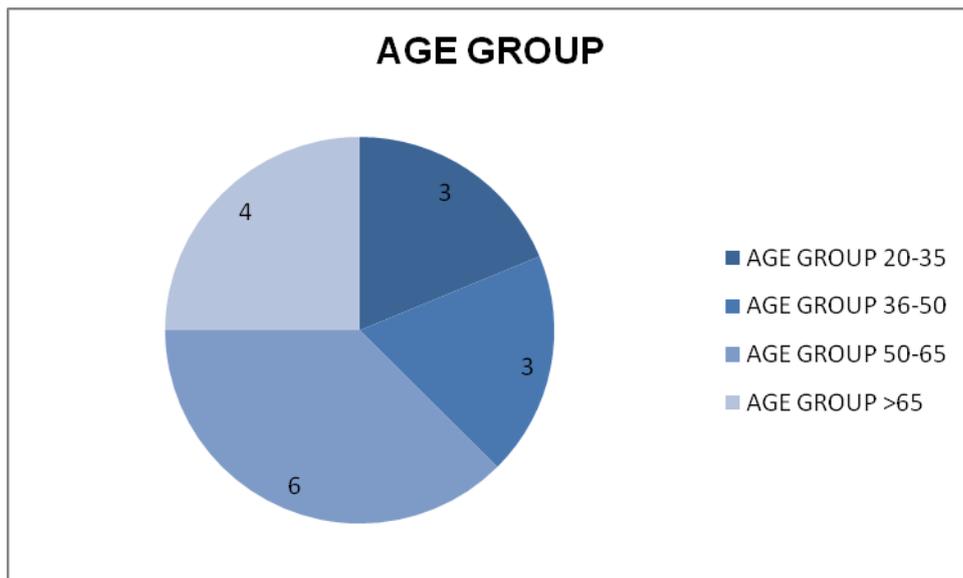
Participants were able to engage in a broad discussion of issues at the workshop. Council staff also provided clarification of specific items.

Values and Issues

Workshop and Questionnaire

Most of the workshop discussion centred on current issues affecting the park, particularly public access and the quality of open spaces, sporting and recreational facilities. It is also important to understand what is it that attracts visitors and how is the park valued? To help answer these questions a Community Issues Questionnaire (see *Appendix II – Questionnaire Pro Forma*) was distributed to participants at the workshop. Copies were also sent to other stakeholders who were unable to attend. A total of sixteen (16) written responses were received. Although this sample size is only very small in comparison to the population of Hawkesbury LGA, it provides important community feed-back from individuals and groups who use the park on a regular basis and have an interest in its future management.

FIGURE 6: AGE GROUPINGS OF RESPONDENTS

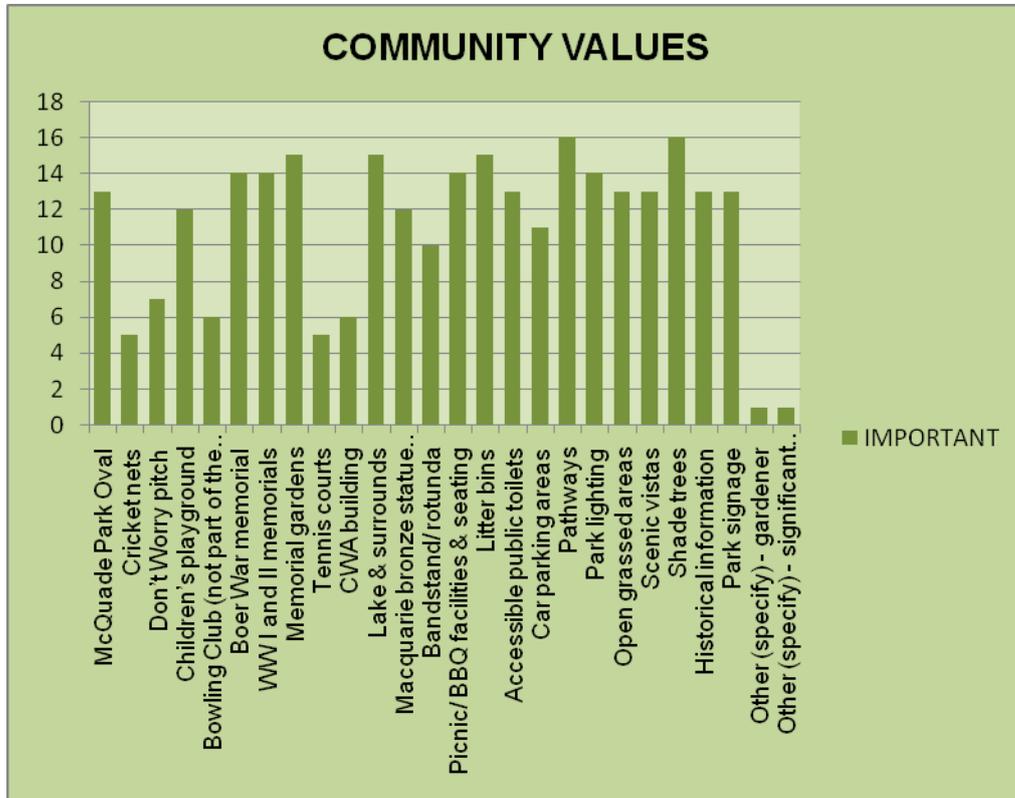


All respondents indicated that they are frequent visitors to the park (most days or every day all year round) with no specific seasonal preference. A total of 14 of 16 respondents live in the Hawkesbury LGA. All age groups were represented except for youth (<20 years old). The absence of specific input from youth groups is an ongoing issue for local community forums, particularly the plan of management process. Refer to *Figure 6: Age Groupings of Respondents*. The Questionnaire lists park features and facilities and asks respondents to assign a value (i.e. important, neutral or not important). A summary of responses is tabled below see *TABLE 3: Community Values – Park Features and Facilities*).

**TABLE 3:
COMMUNITY VALUES (PARK FEATURES & FACILITIES)**

Feature/ Facilities	Important	Neutral	Not Important
McQuade Park Oval	13	3	0
Cricket nets	5	8	3
Don't Worry pitch	7	6	3
Children's playground	12	3	1
Bowling Club (not part of the park)	6	6	4
Boer War memorial	14	1	1
WW I memorial (incl. WWII honour lists)	14	2	0
Memorial gardens	15	1	0
Tennis courts	5	10	1
CWA building	6	4	6
Lake & surrounds	15	1	0
Macquarie bronze statue (Chapeau)	12	2	2
Bandstand/ rotunda	10	5	1
Picnic/ BBQ facilities & seating	14	1	1
Litter bins	15	0	0
Accessible public toilets	13	3	0
Car parking areas	11	4	1
Pathways	16	0	0
Park lighting	14	1	1
Open grassed areas	13	3	0
Scenic vistas	13	3	0
Shade trees	16	0	0
Historical information	13	3	0
Park signage	13	3	0
Other – garden maintenance	1	0	0
Other – significant trees	1	0	0

**TABLE 4:
PARK FEATURES & FACILITIES – WHAT IS IMPORTANT?**



Community Values

TABLE 4 ranks the level of importance (according to respondents) for each of the listed park features and facilities. The top nine (9) items out of an original list of twenty-four (24) include:

1. Pathways and shade trees (16 out of 16)
2. Memorial gardens, lake & surrounds and litter bins (15 out of 16)
3. Boer War memorial, WWI memorial, picnic/ BBQ facilities & seating and park lighting (14 out of 16).

These were followed by McQuade Park Oval, accessible public toilets, open grassed areas, scenic vistas, historic information and park signage (all with 13 out of 16) and children's playground and Macquarie bronze statue (12 out of 16).

The list of park features and facilities (Table 3) is not exhaustive and other items were added by respondents including gardener (garden maintenance) and significant trees – some dating from the nineteenth century. Notably, key value preferences relate to the passive recreational setting, its pedestrian linkages and aesthetic/ environmental qualities such as shade trees, memorial gardens, lake-side setting and picnic facilities. Historic features such as the war memorials are also identified as important.

Items scoring the lowest values for importance included the cricket pitch, tennis courts, Don't Worry Pitch, CWA building and Windsor Bowling Club. Most of these items relate to organised sports and active recreational facilities, located within the north-eastern corner of the park. Issues were raised at the workshop regarding the use of the Country Women's Association (CWA – Windsor Branch) building and opportunities for improving integration within the park. A Questionnaire response has been received from the CWA (refer to key stakeholders).

Although the Windsor Bowling Club is not part of this plan of management it is nevertheless an integral part of the park's infrastructure and a key driver in terms of the way it functions. The Bowling Club attracts a large number of visitors to its facilities and shares a car parking area located within the park.

Key Issues

The community workshop and questionnaire identified a broad range of issues. Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to identify the three most important issues affecting the park and what actions would you suggest to address these issues? A summary of responses to the Community Issues Questionnaire identifies each of the issues and includes suggestions for improvements (see *Appendix III – Summary of Community Responses to Questionnaire*). The following discussion reviews these issues, identifies potential threats and challenges and examines opportunities for improved management.

Park maintenance

General maintenance issues were raised with regard to the oval and grandstand, tennis courts, parking areas, pathways, lawns, trees and open spaces, the lake, outdoor lighting, watering systems, cleanliness of BBQ facilities and recycling/ rubbish collection. There was considerable concern by workshop attendees over a general lack of maintenance services and standards with comments that these had been deteriorating in recent years. Many of these issues can be addressed in day-to-day maintenance scheduling while others will require considerable capital expenditure, particularly improvements to car parking areas, pedestrian linkages, memorial gardens and the lake precinct (refer to these items below).

McQuade Park has a broad range of passive and active recreational facilities requiring regular maintenance and upgrading. These include:

- Oval, grandstand and amenities block
- Children's playground
- Tennis courts and clubhouse (incl. amenities buildings and lighting);
- Cricket nets (2)
- Picnic shelters (2) (incl. 1 X BBQ/ bench tops)
- Large paved picnic settings (2) (incl. 5 X picnic tables)
- Picnic tables/ settings (16)
- Bench seats (8)
- Litter bins (16)
- Fencing and bollards
- Park lighting
- Signage

Although these structures may be of varying age and condition, in general, they provide a high level of service for visitors across a range of settings within the park. The State Heritage listing notes that *'the present fabric is well maintained and reflects well the various stages of the Park's usage'* (SHR, p.4, 2011).

Passive open space

Workshop attendees raised issues over frequently unmown grass, patchy dry areas requiring turf, failure of watering systems to prevent a 'dust bowl', lack of edging and general maintenance of oval surfaces. Historically, this park has experienced long periods of drought turning areas into a 'dust-bowl' only to be followed by shorter periods of wet weather and 'boggy conditions'. The central road was constructed to provide access during these times. The park's longer term management needs to be viewed in terms of these cyclical events and it is important to recognise sustainability as a key driver in these decisions.

Notably, the recent La Nina event has revitalised the park's groundwater reserves providing significant opportunities for the growth of trees, gardens and lawns. In comparing McQuade Park with other similar and larger size parks in the Sydney metropolitan area (including heritage listed parks), it has a relatively high standard of presentation with memorable visual and aesthetic qualities. The memorial gardens and lake-side plantings, in particular, are outstanding park features displaying a very high standard of care and maintenance.

Issues were raised over rubbish collection and recycling. A number of local metropolitan councils make no provision for litter bins or recycling within parks (e.g. North Sydney). There are sixteen (16) litter bins spread throughout this park.

The status of the park as a State heritage item ensures that available resources are committed to sustainable management practices and appropriate conservation measures. In this context, it is simply not feasible to establish an exotic landscape of irrigated lawns, European-style plantings, clipped-hedges and display gardens throughout the park. These embellishments would require significant capital expenditure and an ongoing commitment to high maintenance costs.

Sports facilities

Since 1992 Hawkesbury City Council has delegated care, control, management and development of sporting facilities to the Hawkesbury Sports Council so that decisions regarding resource allocation for sports facilities are made by the sporting public. Hawkesbury City Council provides the Sports Council with an annual budget. The Sports Council collects and retains all hire fees, applies for any available grants and employs contractors to carry out maintenance of facilities (Hawkesbury City Council website).

Cricket oval and 'Don't worry' pitch

Cricket has a long history in this park (played since Macquarie's time) with the cricket oval created in 1891, grandstand in 1937 and 'Don't Worry' cricket pitch (concrete wicket constructed in 1945 on the upper western paddock). McQuade Park is used for training by local rugby clubs and for Saturday morning rugby games. It is also one of the training grounds in Windsor used by Sydney rugby clubs for training of local teams. The Sports Council also encourages other uses of the park such as jogging and playing touch football (Hawkesbury Sports Council website).



PHOTO 7: McQuade Oval grandstand (1937) [foreground], new amenities block [mid-background] and children's playground [right background] (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 8: Passive recreational facilities – picnic shelter next to McQuade Oval (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 9: 'Don't worry' cricket pitch with Inter-war period avenue [left background] and cricket nets [right background] (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 10: View of tennis courts [centre background] and clubhouse [right] from memorial gardens (18/10/2011).

Cricket nets

The two cricket nets are new fixtures and in good condition. These facilities are popular. Siting however should have considered existing sight lines and alignment of an Inter-war period avenue plantation of Camphor Laurels. The cricket nets and a storage room are located within a cleared central section of the avenue and currently restrict opportunities for replacement planting.

Tennis courts

Tennis courts were first built in 1923. The current clubhouse was opened in 1987. The tennis courts, clubhouse facilities and amenities, playing surfaces and court lighting are generally in good condition however the perimeter mesh fencing is in need of refurbishment. This item visually detracts from the quality of the setting. Landscaping along the frontage (adjoining George Street) could also be introduced with improvements to public access (see following section). The courts are open to the public and have a booking system through the Bowling Club.

Car parking areas and vehicular access

Workshop participants identified parking issues as a priority, particularly during events or church services and functions. This issue is having an increasing impact on local residents who live near the park. Apart from on-street parallel parking in George Street and Tebbutt Street, seventy-nine (79) line-marked car spaces (90° angle parking) are provided adjacent to the northern boundary and verge to Moses Street.

Off-street car parking areas are provided in two locations and accessed from the following streets:

1. Tebbutt Street (northern – adjacent to grandstand and oval); and
2. George Street (eastern – adjacent to Windsor Bowling Club, tennis courts and CWA building).

These car parking areas service the active sporting precinct of the park and Windsor Bowling Club. They are unformed, inefficient in holding capacity and in need of significant re-design.

Tebbutt Street Car Park

The Tebbutt Street car park is used to access the oval, grandstand, amenities block and children's playground. It is unsurfaced and has no formal entry/ exit points, no signage or delineation of parking spaces and no control barriers and/ or bollards to manage or restrict traffic movements. The surface is uneven with large pot-holes. In wet weather the area becomes 'boggy' and in windy drier months it is

a source of dust and discomfort for visitors. Vehicles are regularly driven onto the park's grassed areas to access preferred locations without having to walk. This includes access to sporting facilities (e.g. cricket nets). Unrestricted vehicular movements also raise significant safety issues in a public park.

Significant heritage trees, including three Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and an old growth Ironbark dating from the nineteenth century, have no protection from vehicular incursion and are being adversely affected by cars parking under their canopies. This is causing soil compaction and erosion around their root zones and threatening long-term sustainability. The upgrading of this car parking area to manage these issues is considered to be a high priority.

George Street Car Park & Windsor Bowling Club

This sloping eastern car park provides easy access to the Windsor Bowling Club, tennis courts and the lake area (to the south). It has only a partial bitumen seal and is in very poor condition with large pot-holes and uneven surfaces. The partially sealed north-eastern section provides twenty-six (26) car spaces and the unmade southern section has spaces for approximately twenty-one (21) cars. People also park along the internal roadway (parallel) and in other available spaces. Line marking delineating car spaces is difficult to see and this creates further parking issues. Car movements are generally restricted by bollards and low fencing along the car park perimeter.

The primary function of this car parking area is to service the Windsor Bowling Club. It provides easy pedestrian access for patrons and delivery access to the clubhouse. Although the club is not part of this plan of management it physically takes up a large parcel of land within the broader park perimeter and provides a major recreational and social focus within this space. The Club's facilities include a licensed bar/ bistro, entertainment area, amenities and two bowling-greens. The workshop raised a number of issues regarding the Bowling Club including:

- Location within the park's broader perimeter and lack of integration within the parkland and heritage context;
- Physical separation of the north-eastern corner of the park (i.e. memorial gardens and tennis courts) from the rest of the park;
- Perceived alienation of the spaces between the car parking area and memorial gardens (tennis courts also have an impact on this space);
- Car parking area is located on community land but its primary role is to service the Bowling Club;
- Visual appearance of the car park reflects the club's service functions;
- Negative impact on the park's aesthetic and visual qualities;

- Lack of any landscape treatment, screening or enhancement of this space and its state of disrepair;
- Restriction on public access and circulation (see Public access, pedestrian circulation and linkages).

It is important that these issues can be examined in more detail with continuing dialogue and partnership. It is envisaged that this car parking area should receive a high priority for remedial works, upgrading and enhancement. An appropriately funded capital works program would establish a greater sense of integrated quality spaces within the park allowing significant expansion of opportunities for visitors (see Country Women's Association – health centre).

Central (internal) access road

An internal bitumen road provides a cross-park linkage between George Street/ car parking area (eastern boundary) and Moses Street (west boundary). The road divides the lower and upper portions of the park and was originally designed to provide all-weather access through the park. The Park Committee's report in 1874 stated that this central road was constructed across the end of the waterhole – an area described formerly as a 'bog' and adjacent to another waterhole 'of good dimensions' [the present lake] (Morris, et al., p.21, 2004). As traffic volumes and speeds have increased the need for this thoroughfare is now in question. Options include:

- Retain status quo;
- Restrict public access (as a thoroughfare);
- Retain only as a (park) service/ emergency vehicle road.

The roadway has a bitumen seal and is visually defined by an informal avenue of planted mixed Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus* spp.). A continuous low post and rail fence and bollards restrict traffic movement, at least along this road corridor. The eastern portion currently acts as a car park overflow area further impacting on the park's landscape setting and character. The roadway also creates a division within the park's open spaces. The combined infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance.

This issue requires further investigation as emergency vehicles may need access at times. Buses also use the roadway. Options include liaison with traffic authorities and emergency services with a view to closing the road to through traffic (i.e. no public access) or narrowing of the roadway, installation of speed humps and speed limits (10 kph) to reduce speed. These measures are effective in other similar parks (e.g. Governor Phillip Park, Palm Beach). These modifications could be monitored for a period of time inviting feed-back from the community.



PHOTO 11: Tebbutt Street car parking area – significant trees are impacted by vehicle damage and soil compaction (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 12: Windsor Bowling Club car parking area – poorly defined parking spaces and broken bitumen (18/10/2011).



PHOTO 13: Central/ internal access road – view looking southwest adjacent to oval [right] (18/10/2011).

Public access, pedestrian circulation and linkages

Workshop participants highlighted the need for better pedestrian access and linkages throughout the park and surrounding streets. Notably, questionnaire responses identified 'pathways' along with 'shade trees' as the two most important values in the park (16 out of 16). Respondents would like to see improved connectivity into and within the park, particularly where pathways simply end or deteriorate into unsurfaced tracks or worn, dusty and times boggy 'desire lines'. Five locations were highlighted in community feed-back:

- Need for a formalised pedestrian crossing on George Street linking the Council Chambers to the park between the CWA building and car park entry/ exit point similar to the crossing on Tebbutt Street (opposite St. Matthews Catholic Church)
- Memorial Gardens – corner George and Tebbutt Streets elimination of kerb and gutter trip-points (including provision for subsurface drainage) adjacent to the war memorial honour wall. Remedial works should include widening (removal of two sections of low brick wall) at the entry point and installation of metal bollards to define the pedestrian precinct and provide a safer, pedestrian-friendly environment, particularly for Anzac Day dawn services (refer to following discussion).
- Memorial gardens to the lake area (eastern precinct) via Bowling Club car parking area. The concrete pathway finishes abruptly at the edge of the gardens. Park visitors must either walk back along George Street or cross open lawns and uneven surfaces through the car park and on to the grassed area beside the lake;
- The 'pinch-point' created between the western edge of the Bowling Club (clubhouse) and oval picket fence restricts pedestrian flow along an unsurfaced narrow track. The picket fence physically defines the oval playing field and its alignment as a continuous curved edge has effectively restricted pedestrian traffic through this key access point. A boxed service fixture, adjoining walls, a concrete ramp, metal railing support and level changes create a narrow and difficult thoroughfare for pedestrians. A formalised pathway would require a re-design of these ad hoc elements (including relocation of some services and modifications to ramped access). This pathway should be connected to Tebbutt Street crossing, the playground and grandstand area car park;

- Grandstand forecourt, hardstand area and grassed banks need regrading, terracing and re-surfacing to address concentrated pedestrian loadings and soil erosion in this high use area. Various phases of construction works have created a space with many disjunctive finishes and materials including narrow concrete steps to the oval, CCA treated log retaining walls, concrete unit pavers and brick paving. Proposed works should aim to provide an integrated forecourt space, including easy ramped access/ entry onto the oval and elimination of ongoing remedial/ maintenance work.

All paving in the park should aim to provide a broadly consistent and even finish throughout (i.e. eliminate abrupt changes in levels, materials and finishes). In particular, disabled access needs to be better integrated within the park allowing ease of movement and circulation. The quality of maintenance, repairs and replacements should be consistent with the park's state heritage listing.

Furthermore, multiple uses should be promoted where possible including wide shared pathways for walking, jogging, bike riding and exercising (subject to appropriate tree protection). Exercise facilities (i.e. stations with exercise equipment) would provide a further asset enhancing opportunities for park visitors.

Grandstand, amenities block and playground

The existing Inter-war period grandstand, built in 1937, is in good condition and has an ongoing program of building maintenance works and refurbishment. The building is of local heritage significance. The adjacent brick amenities block, constructed only a few years ago, is located within a concrete hardstand area next to the heritage-listed grandstand. The new building has an off-set alignment with the grandstand and shares no contextual relationship with this older building. The vandal-resistant metal-barred windows and roller-shutter doors serve a functional role but detract from the visual and aesthetic quality of this space. There is no landscaping to screen, filter or soften the bulk of this new building and hardstand.

Although located next to McQuade Oval and a popular children's playground, this building's public amenities are locked during daylight hours on most days. No signs redirect the public to nearby amenities (located near the tennis court). It is suggested that these amenities should be unlocked during daylight hours or signs installed to re-direct the public.

This sports precinct, including the grandstand, forecourt and hardstand areas, the amenities block, car parking area and children's playground are in need of a more integrated design approach. Subject to funding, an option may be to incorporate existing structures (i.e. the grandstand and amenities block) into one building with a design that encourages community, social and recreational use of these spaces. All works should be sensitive to the park's outstanding heritage values and include measures to protect significant trees and to provide a quality landscape setting.

Memorial Gardens (including war memorials)

Anzac Day services and pedestrian access

The Memorial Gardens and war memorials commemorating the Boer War, WWI and WWII, Korea and Vietnam conflicts are located in the north-eastern corner of the park, adjacent to the George and Tebbutt Streets intersection. The honour wall, originally constructed after WWI, attracts large crowds during the Anzac Day service. These crowds spill out onto the roadway. Although the streets are temporarily closed to traffic, space is limited by adjoining low walls and changes in levels (i.e. kerb and guttering and sloping roadway surfaces). These changes in level and surfaces pose significant access and personal safety risks for people with disabilities attending the dawn service.

War Memorial – Honour Wall

A request has been received from the RSL Club to relocate the honour wall to a location further inside the park boundary within the existing gardens and away from the intersection. This would have the advantage of increasing the area in front of the honour wall so that people could gather in a safer environment. The wall however is a complex structure composed of detailed brickwork, ashlar sandstone banding, cornices, arches and marble plaque inlays. There are significant questions over the feasibility of relocating the wall in terms of its intricate detailing, likelihood of damage and overall costs for relocation.



PHOTO 14: World War I memorial (1923) and honour lists, Wisteria pergola & Boer War memorial [background] (18/10/2011).

Boer War Memorial and Gardens

Notwithstanding these issues, the Boer War memorial (i.e. marble obelisk and sandstone plinth with relief sculptures) would also be impacted by relocation of the walls. The Boer War memorial, erected in 1903, commemorates local men and women who volunteered to serve in this conflict. Notably, it has state heritage significance in terms of its rarity and quality of two stone relief carvings of mounted troopers.

The spatial quality of the Boer War memorial and garden setting would be significantly reduced by the relocation of the walls. The geometric pattern of paving and edging, annual flower beds, a timber pergola structure with mature Wisteria vines (*Wisteria sinensis*) and at least part of the formal bosquet of Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) would need to be removed or displaced. Together these components form an outstanding landscape composition. They evoke a distinctive sense of place, order and serenity. The mature trees and vines have been nurtured for many years. The five Crepe Myrtles surrounding the Boer War memorial have been carefully pruned to develop a highly sculptural and multi-stemmed display. These are outstanding examples of the taxa and as a formal memorial group they have significance at the local level.



PHOTO 15: Boer War memorial (1903) [centre background] & formal group of Crepe Myrtles [right foreground] (18/10/2011).

Extension of the forecourt area – Pedestrian precinct

Relocation of the walls is therefore not recommended. The preferred alternative would be to retain the walls and garden in situ with a redesign of the pedestrian-roadway interface. This would include removing kerb and guttering adjacent to the intersection, reducing the cross-falls, providing sub-surface drainage and paving over with an even surface similar to the treatment near The Cenotaph, Martin Place/ George Street, Sydney. The low brick walls in front of the two honour walls should also be partially removed to open up the forecourt area to pedestrian flow. Paving should be in a consistent unit paver for strength, durability and low maintenance. Metal bollards should be installed to further define the roadway edge and pedestrian precinct.

Boer War Memorial – Sandstone reliefs

The Boer War memorial marble obelisk and sandstone plinth conserves an outstanding work carved by J. O’Kelly – two carved sandstone reliefs on opposite panels depicting mounted troopers. These stone reliefs are slowly weathering and precious details are being lost in the process. It is recommended that conservators be commissioned to investigate and direct Council in the best methods for future conservation and interpretation of these reliefs. This may include taking mouldings and providing a protective coating to these works.



PHOTO 16: Sandstone carving of mounted trooper by O'Kelly (18/10/2011).

Field Artillery Guns

Two field artillery guns are permanently displayed on the paved area of the memorial gardens (western side of the WWI memorial and honour wall). Both guns are de-activated and have received ongoing maintenance and some restoration work over the years however they are exposed to the weather in this outdoor location. Hawkesbury City Council recently commissioned a report on these guns to establish their provenance, rarity value, technical significance and legal constraints, and to make recommendations on their conservation.

The 25 Pounder Mk II Field Gun (Serial number L/7474), a British (1939) design, was assembled in Sydney in 1942. This was the standard Commonwealth field gun during WWII. There is no service history for this gun however they were used in front line service until the mid-1960s. These guns are not uncommon following disposal in 1975 primarily to RSL clubs and councils. The gun is relatively well-maintained and considered to be in “generally good condition with no significant rust-outs” (HCC, Artillery Report, p.5, 2011).

The second gun, a Krupp Rumanian 75mm Field Gun with restored timber-spoked wheels (Model 1904 Serial number 153) was assembled in 1904. It is one of only 408 manufactured for the Rumanian government and bears the crest of King Carol the First of Rumania. This gun, a WWI trophy gun, is considered to be rare. It is in reasonable condition with some parts suffering from “increasing corrosion” particularly in the rear trail. The gun was possibly captured by Turkey during the Balkan wars (before WWI) and later used against British and Australian forces in Palestine. This Rumanian 75mm gun is one of only six captured from Turkish forces in 1917 or 1918 by the Australian Light Horse (ALH). An image taken in Beersheba 31/10/1917 suggests that this gun could have been one of the guns captured on this day by the 12 ALH (NSW) and 4 ALH (VIC). WWI trophy artillery, particularly an item associated with the ALH cavalry charge on Beersheba would have “iconic value” as part of Australia’s involvement in WWI. If this provenance can be confirmed the gun’s conservation and market value would increase significantly. A similar Rumanian 75mm gun has been recently restored in Deniliquin and is now housed indoors (HCC, Artillery Report, pp.14-16, 2011).

The report suggests that if restoration was undertaken this gun would need to be housed either in a special enclosure or indoors as a museum piece. Council should seek further professional advice on confirming the capture provenance of this gun and recommendations for conservation and interpretation.



PHOTO 17: Australian Light Horse trophy gun – in need of restoration works and further investigation of capture provenance (18/10/2011).

Country Women's Association (CWA) – health centre

The Country Women's Association of New South Wales was formed in 1922. It is a not-for-profit organisation and part of the largest voluntary women's organisation in Australia. Members aim to improve the welfare of all women and their families in country areas and the city and are engaged in representation at all levels of government, fundraising events and the teaching of life skills (source: CWA website).

The Country Women's Association (CWA) health centre and meeting hall, an Inter-war period brick cottage (c.1938) has local heritage significance. The building, located on George Street, immediately south of the car parking area appears to be in good condition. Access was not possible during inspections. The location is on a low rise over-looking the park's lake precinct (refer to following discussion). The community workshop raised issues over the use of the hall and its lack of connectivity or integration within the park.



PHOTO 18: Country Women's Association (CWA) health centre – opportunities for adaptive re-use of the cottage (18/10/2011).

The property retains a brick and wrought-iron front boundary fence (likely Post-war period additions) with two original sandstone piers either side of the single entry gate. This gate has a CWA inscription. A concrete pathway leads to the cottage. The side and rear boundaries are enclosed with a weld-mesh fence. The lawns and garden are kept in fair condition. The austere character of the building, its functional fencing, walls and garden however provide little aesthetic value to the park. Although delineation of boundaries may be a response to past vandalism, this approach reinforces a perception of 'private space' within a public park.

The CWA advised that the building is used regularly by members for meetings and is available to the public on a rental basis. These rentals are important as they cover basic services. There is no current lease on the building. The CWA has expressed an interest in any new and innovative ways for promoting other uses of the cottage.

Adaptive re-use – café/ refreshment kiosk extension

Subject to funding availability and the support of the CWA, the cottage and location offer significant opportunities for broader integration and engagement with the park and user groups. The rear garden could accommodate an extension with decking to provide an outdoor café/ kiosk with elevated views over the lake precinct. These facilities could be leased, potentially generating an important source of funding for both the CWA and the park. Further options for adaptive re-use of the cottage may include a visitor information centre. Part of the building could be retained for existing CWA uses and functions. These improvements are likely to deliver further benefits to the community, promoting greater diversity for park visitors, enhancing social, cultural and recreational opportunities and establishing broader connectivity with the central business district and surrounding areas.

Lake and surrounds

The park has ‘a tradition of a lake’ as recognised in the Conservation Management Plan (Morris, et al., 2004). The park’s lower south-east corner near George Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way had a history of a ‘waterhole’ and likely supported a wetland or swamp woodland community in Macquarie’s time. This feature however was an impediment to access and use of the park. In 1873-74 a roadway was constructed ‘across the end of the waterhole’ but ‘leaving another waterhole of good dimensions on the opposite side of the road, which will be an ornament to the Park as well as useful if the Park is let for agistment’ (ibid, p.21, 2004).

The ‘waterhole of good dimensions’ is now the location of the present lake designed by landscape architect, Professor Peter Spooner. This lake and island with foot-bridge, completed in 1970 for the Captain Cook celebrations, reflects a style and period of park embellishment which was popular during the 1960-1980s. It has been suggested that the lake is significant “as a piece of rare modernist park design” (Read, S., Heritage Council, letter undated file no.10/17346). The CMP makes no mention of the lake’s significance in these terms other than noting the “tradition”. It is recommended that further research is undertaken to establish heritage significance. The design included the planting of two Willows (*Salix babylonica*) on the island but these were later removed following tree-root damage to the lake-walls. Artificial ponds and lakes remain popular but have proved to be expensive to maintain.

They are subject to a range of ongoing environmental factors which tend to compromise water quality and public amenity. This lake is a key landscape element in the park, defining the quality of this setting however it continues to present as a murky and turbid drainage retention pond.

Workshop participants expressed concern over continuing maintenance issues, weed growth, algal blooms, poor water quality, bad smells (anaerobic conditions) and stockpiling of waste after collection from the pond. Water quality is a key issue. Stormwater management has been improved through installation of gross pollutant traps however the lake, located at the lowest point in the park, still acts as a sink for collection of debris, leaf litter and organic matter, chemical residues and nutrients. The reticulation system pumps water from the lake up to a small artificial pond and fountain on the adjoining slope. This water is fed back to the lake via a series of ponds. A narrow concrete channel below the internal roadway also feeds stormwater runoff into these ponds. The constructed lake is shallow with a clay liner and ageing CCA treated timber edging.

The lake experiences significant temperature fluctuations (at the surface) and poor circulation leading to low oxygen levels in the water column. This lack of oxygen leads to poor water quality and during drought conditions, algal blooms and eutrophication. In addition, water birds add nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in their faeces which are washed into the lake. The exotic water-lilies, although providing an attractive flower-display, contribute significantly to the level of organic matter and nutrients. Leaf fall from surrounding trees, particularly exotic deciduous species, mowing and overland flows further elevate nutrient levels in the lake. Exotic pest species like the European carp are favoured by these conditions, disturbing bottom sediments with feeding further increasing turbidity.



PHOTO 19: Ornamental lake – water quality issues are exacerbated by nutrient loadings and poor water circulation (18/10/2011).

Council has a maintenance program of periodic draining, clearing of debris and rubbish and removal of carp however poor water quality conditions quickly return. Furthermore, timber edging and the bridge to the island are in need of repair. The bridge is being replaced with a durable galvanised steel frame and perforated fibreglass decking. It is clear however that the lake's long term management, as an important focus for the park, needs to be reviewed.

One option would include a significant upgrade to the pump and reticulation system with an improved capacity to increase water flows and enhance oxygen levels. The island may need to be reconfigured or removed to reduce pockets of stagnant water. The work may require installation of a new liner to reduce turbidity, repairs and/ or replacement of timber edging and bridge. The exotic water-lilies should be removed. The European carp require an ongoing control program supplemented with introduction of native Australian bass. Native aquatic and shallow water plant species would help to improve habitat qualities by filtering dissolved pollutants such as phosphorus. This option raises issues with respect to capital expenditure, sustainability and long-term community benefits. Ongoing maintenance costs are likely to remain high. This solution would also require ongoing testing of water quality including nutrients, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature and blue green algae analysis.

As an alternative, the ornamental lake could be modified to provide a valuable demonstration site for ecological restoration and renewal reinforcing Council's key sustainability principles. A restored freshwater wetland using local native sedges (to filter nutrients), forbs and grasses could replace the hard timber edges and artificial stream. This approach has been very effective in parts of Centennial Parklands restoring water quality and biodiversity to the constructed lake system and Botany Wetlands. A further alternative would be a hybrid version of these two options – redesign of the ornamental lake and reticulation system with partial wetland restoration to some edges. It should be noted that the CMP suggested *“incorporating indigenous wetland species as a means of interpreting the earlier (Macquarie era) vegetation regime in this area”* (Morris et al., p.47, item B5).

A number of community responses highlighted opportunities for integrating native regeneration and restoration strategies within the park. This strategy would attract native wetland birds and other native species (including insects, amphibians, reptiles, etc.) providing educational opportunities and enhanced environmental interactions with the public. Interpretive signage and boardwalks could be added. Furthermore, this solution would reduce ongoing maintenance costs and provide a distinctive environmental focus for this precinct.

The lake redesign could create synergies with adaptive re-use of the CWA cottage as a refreshment kiosk/ café and/ or visitor information centre.

Tree Management

Significance of the collection

McQuade Park conserves a significant collection of mature native and exotic trees, some of which date from the late nineteenth century (including Ironbarks, Bunya Pines, Stone Pine, Monterey Pine and White Cedar). These mature trees are an integral component of the park's landscape character and history. This collection is considered to have significance at the local level. See *4.0 Basis for Management* for a detailed description and *Appendix IV - Tree Species List*.

Landscaping with exotics vs. ecological restoration

It was suggested in the workshop that a new approach to planting be introduced, focusing more on ornamental exotics (deciduous and evergreen) so that the park may reflect a more vibrant European aesthetic. Criticism was levelled over the 'drab' nature of the park's native trees and lack of adequate irrigation and maintenance. Their persistence in this difficult environment, along with a small palette of hardy exotics, underlines the importance of selecting species adapted to prevailing climate, geology, soils, topography, and maintenance regimes.

An alternative and ecologically sustainable approach was also discussed at the workshop. Some respondents suggested that the dusty bare ground under the canopies of ridgeline trees (near Moses and Tebbutt Streets) would be significantly enhanced by restoration using local native grasses and herbs such as *Themeda*, *Oplismenus*, *Entolasia*, *Lomandra* spp. This action would have a positive impact on the park's existing old growth native trees and broader ecological health, reducing compaction around trees and increasing infiltration rates. Park safety, visibility and security issues would need to be addressed (i.e. no shrub/ screen planting).

Arboricultural management

Arboricultural management was also raised in community responses. Some of the parks mature and senescent trees have significant storm damage, cavities and/ or insect attack. Some older trees may need to be removed. Whole-of-life-cycle management principles should be promoted including phased replacement and renewal with appropriate species consistent with the park's heritage values.

Soil compaction

Soil compaction within drip-lines is another important issue affecting the health and longevity of some of the park's more outstanding heritage trees. Issues such as uncontrolled vehicular movements causing physical damage and soil compaction around these trees need to be addressed.

Commemorative trees

In 1994, as part of the Hawkesbury Bicentenary celebrations, the families of pioneers of the Hawkesbury commemorated this legacy with tree planting throughout the park. Some of these trees and/ or treated timber stakes with inscription plates have been lost. It is important that this local heritage is protected and maintained. Replacements should be installed as a priority measure. These issues are discussed in further detail in *4.0 Basis for Management*. ...

4.0 Basis for Management

Objectives

This section of the Plan of Management has the following objectives:

1. *To define the park's role in the local area, Hawkesbury LGA and broader context of State heritage significance;*
2. *To identify the park's key values and significance including the cultural landscape setting, cultural heritage, social and recreational values;*
3. *To establish the framework for sustainable management strategies consistent with State heritage significance and community land objectives;*
4. *To provide a vision for the future.*

Key Values and Significance

McQuade Park's values can be simply described as the things which make this place important (refer to discussion in *3.0 Community Engagement*). Guiding principles and management objectives must be based on a sound understanding of the resource base and associated values. The following key values have been developed through consultation, review of the literature, thorough site investigations, analysis and assessment. They are divided into four categories:

1. Historic Heritage Values
2. Cultural, Social and Recreational Values
3. Visitor Experience and Access
4. Park Management

The park's values are assessed in terms of their State or local significance. The NSW Heritage Branch has adopted two levels of heritage significance (State or local) and these levels have been retained here to ensure consistency in this process (refer to *Table 5: Key Values and Level of Significance*).

TABLE 5: KEY VALUES AND LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Key Values	Level of Significance	
	Local	State
Historic heritage values		
Macquarie's vision for a planned central square		State
Relationship with St Matthews Anglican Church group		State
Complex pentagon shape reflects early land-holdings		State
Parade ground and military history		State
Boer War memorial and stone relief carvings		State
Field artillery guns (incl. WWI gun)	Local	(possible) State
WWI memorial (incl. honour lists for WWII & other conflicts)	Local	
Significant trees (dating from 19thC and early 20thC)	Local	
Memorial garden (Boer War memorial setting)	Local	
McQuade Oval (cricket oval - 1891) & pavilion (1937)	Local	
Summerhouse/ bandstand rotunda (c.1910)	Local	
Tennis courts (original 1923)	Local	
CWA hall (1938)	Local	
Don't Worry cricket pitch (1945)	Local	
Ornamental Lake (P. Spooner, 1970)	Local	
Commemorative tree planting and plaques (1994)	Local	
Bronze statue of Macquarie (F. Chepeaux, 1994)	Local	
Cultural, Social and Recreational Values		
Open spaces and vistas – St. Matthews Anglican group		State
Sandstone carvings (O'Kelly – Boer War memorial)		State
Commemorative infrastructure (incl. war memorials)	Local	
Cultural landscape setting	Local	
Sporting facilities (oval, pavilion, tennis courts)	Local	
Passive recreational facilities (incl. playground)	Local	
Visitor Experience and Access		
Public access, circulation and linkages (incl. parking)	Local	
Commemorative events/ Anzac Day celebrations	Local	
Sports events	Local	
Other events (e.g. circus)	Local	
Park Management		
Protection of scheduled heritage items		State
Open space maintenance	Local	
Tree maintenance (arboricultural management)	Local	
Facilities and infrastructure maintenance	Local	

NOTE: Individual heritage items such as the WWI memorial (and honour lists), significant trees, commemorative planting and memorial gardens, oval and pavilion, summerhouse, tennis courts, CWA hall, Don't Worry cricket pitch, lake and bronze statue are assessed as local heritage significance. Each element however makes a distinctive contribution towards the significance of the park as a whole.

Historic Heritage Values and Threats

State Heritage Significance

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) formed the basis for establishing the heritage significance of McQuade Park and eventual listing on the State Heritage Register in 2011. The Statement of Significance describes why this item is of State significance:

“McQuade Park is of State heritage significance because it is an outstanding and rare feature of Governor Macquarie's concept of a planned country town in 1810.

A central square played a pivotal role in a Macquarie town and McQuade Park retains this role in relation to public activities and open space, as well as its relationship to one of the great early churches and cemeteries of New South Wales (St. Matthews).

The intimate association with Macquarie himself and with his chief surveyor, James Meehan, is of state significance.

The early adjustment in the shape and dimensions of the park is significant because it offers uncommonly legible evidence of the accommodations which colonial governments made with landowners to respect existing rights.

The later extensions of functions within the park, including sporting, recreational and commemorative, have not obscured the original purpose of Macquarie's Great Square, though many of these additional functions have local rather than state significance.

The Boer War Memorial is, however, an exception because of its rarity and because of the aesthetic merit of O'Kelly's carvings of mounted troopers from the South African engagement.”

Source: State Heritage Register (On-line)
Gazettal date: 14/01/2011 (No.01851)
Last updated 20/01/2012

Archaeological integrity

The State Heritage Register notes that the history '*is one of regular modification over two centuries*' and that '*the potential for meaningful archaeological excavation*' is not considered to be high (SHR, 2011, p.4). Nevertheless, as a state heritage listed park, any proposed works within McQuade Park (including alterations, excavation or construction) require prior consent (or exemption from consent) from the Heritage Council of NSW. Refer to: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/development

Protecting this heritage landscape

Overview

Most of the key values identified with the park's State significance are concerned with a legible process starting with Governor Macquarie's concept, a purpose and plan, developing key associations, implementation and adjustments and delivery of a final form – a place which has been further shaped over two centuries. Although there's been many changes these key values are clearly legible in this historic landscape. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Outstanding and rare feature of Macquarie's concept of a planned town;
2. Retention of the park's pivotal role as a central square (public open space);
3. Protection of its important relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery (including open vistas and linkages with the park);
4. Tangible evidence of the intimate association with Macquarie himself and with his chief surveyor, James Meehan reflected in the accommodations made over landowners rights;
5. Retention of early adjustments in the form of a pentagon shape (as a result of these accommodations);
6. Accumulation of further items (many of local significance) and functions have not obscured the original purpose of a great square; and
7. Addition of items of rare State significance – Boer War memorial with O'Kelly's carvings of mounted troopers.

The park's State significance is closely linked with the landscape setting and the opportunities it provides. Values associated with visitor experience, accessibility, social, cultural and recreational values, park aesthetics and the way the park is managed all share these links. The following section examines this cultural landscape setting, how it came about and current threats to these values. The discussion leads on to how this landscape should be managed and protected for the benefit of existing users and for future generations.

Significance of old growth remnants and former natural communities

The original native vegetation had been largely cleared by Macquarie's time. Many tree stumps however remained scattered within the park 'well into Victoria's reign' – their presence being noted for their nuisance to cricket matches (SHR, p.6., 2011). The NPWS (now OEH) Cumberland Plain Vegetation Mapping Project (1997-2002) identified only a few scattered remnant pockets of Shale Plains Woodland and Alluvial Woodland along the Windsor terrace. No native vegetation was mapped in McQuade Park (due to the aerial mapping polygon size and limited ground truthing). The Tertiary alluviums however likely supported a mix of Shale Plains Woodland and Castlereagh Woodland (including Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and Castlereagh Swamp Woodland). These are now scheduled as endangered ecological communities under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (TSC Act 1995). The upper ridge and lower slopes were likely dominated by open-canopied trees such as Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*), Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*).



PHOTO 20: Some of the park's older native Ironbarks may be remnant old growth specimens [right background] (18/10/2011).

There may have also been a sub-canopy/ shrub layer including paperbarks (*Melaleuca decora* and *M. nodosa*) and other shrubs such as *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Acacia pubescens*, *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Pultenaea villosa* and *Grevillea juniperina*. The ground layer of grasses and herbs in this community is typically diverse including *Lepidosperma laterale*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Opercularia diphylla*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Themeda australis* and *Pratia purpurascens* (OEH, CR/CIF listing 2011). The park has been subject to over two hundred years of modifications and native shrubs from these communities are no longer extant.

The only native ground covers still present include common colonisers such as *Einadia trigonos* and *Dichondra repens*, usually around the bases of native trees. Notably, the park conserves a number of native old growth specimens in excess of 100-120 years old along the upper terrace adjacent to Tebbutt and Moses Streets (10+) and along the eastern end of the central road corridor and Hawkesbury Valley Way (<6). It is possible that a few old growth Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus fibrosa* and *E. crebra*) and two Forest Red Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) may be representative of a remnant regrowth community. An aerial photo of the park, taken in 1938, shows a scattering of mature trees, particularly along the upper north-eastern and north-western boundaries and along the central road corridor (Morris, et al., p.23, 2004). Most of these trees would have been planted during successive phases of embellishment, and likely included local Ironbarks, but others may be remnant old growth specimens from the original community.

Significance of cultural plantations

The size and structural characteristics of most of the Ironbarks along the park boundaries and central roadway group would suggest planting during the Post-war period. Some larger trees may have been planted during the Inter-war period or represent remnant regrowth specimens. These mixed informal, linear groups define much of the landscape character and aesthetic quality of the park. These groups are dominated by Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*) with Beyer's Ironbark (*E. beyeriana*) and Mugga Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*) also present but in small numbers.

The central roadway was constructed and heavily planted with trees in 1873-74 but it is believed that the existing Ironbarks represent a later phase of embellishment. The central roadway provided safe easy access across the wetland, described as a 'bog' near George Street, linking to Richmond Road (now Hawkesbury Valley Way). The Committee's report at the time noted that trees were planted within the road corridor and in time would 'afford an agreeable shade when the trees are grown & ornamental as well' (ibid, p.21, 2004). It is unclear as to which species were planted and whether any of these survived. The 1938 aerial image shows only a few mature and some immature trees along the central road corridor.

Apart from these native Ironbarks, the park conserves an important collection of significant specimen trees dating from the late nineteenth century. The initial phase of tree planting likely took place in 1873-74 (ibid, p.19, 2004). The Richmond Park CMP noted that in 1870 and 1873 Charles Moore, Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens (1848-1896), was asked to provide suitable trees for Richmond Park (Morris, et al., p.10, 2003).

In 1874 the report of the McQuade Park Committee of Council made no mention of this source but noted 'trees presented by Messrs Ferguson of Camden & other trees to the number of about 250 have been planted & are doing well' (Morris, et al., p.21, 2004). This plantation, located opposite McQuade's house in Moses Street, was given considerable preparation including ploughing and harrowing.

A community planting exercise may have been undertaken in 1891. Further planting programs were undertaken during the Inter-war and Post-war periods and in recent decades. It is unclear as to the species selection and number of trees planted in each of the successive phases but a constant would have been the difficulty in establishing trees on this site, particularly during periods of drought. The surviving collection includes four native Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and a White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var. *australasica*) as well as exotics such as a Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). It is believed that these specimens date from the earliest phase of planting (1870s and/or 1890s). This group is clustered along Tebbutt and Moses Streets in the vicinity of McQuade Oval and grandstand car parking area.

McQuade Park's Inter-war period was a time of reflection and commemoration following the Boer War and World War I. Planting included an avenue of Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) along the western side of the oval between Moses Street and the central roadway. A memorial garden was established in the north-eastern corner of the park, site of the Boer War and World War I memorials. This planting included the row of Washington Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) in the memorial gardens. The formal bosquet of five Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) is a more recent addition (Post-war period) but makes a significant contribution to this commemorative garden. Other miscellaneous Inter-war period planting include Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), Maiden's Gum (*Eucalyptus maidenii* syn. *E. globulus* subsp. *maidenii*), Cottonwood Poplar (*Populus deltoides*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *Italica*).



PHOTO 21: Inter-war period plantation – Camphor Laurel avenue and Governor Macquarie memorial [background] (18/10/2011).

The generic native and exotic plantations around the ornamental lake are also notable elements providing a distinctive sense of place to this setting. Most of these trees have been planted over recent decades and include Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*), Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), Pepper Tree (*Schinus areira*), Chinese Tallowwood (*Sapium sebiferum*), Cherry Blossom (*Prunus* sp.) and many others. For a full list of species refer to *Appendix IV - Tree Species List*. In 1994 a new phase of tree planting was initiated to commemorate two hundred years of European settlement in this area. Each tree was given an inscription plate bearing the names of family members (including the pioneers and descendants) on a CCA treated timber stake. Pioneer plaques were also installed for some of the park's mature trees.

Threats to significance – landscape management

This cultural landscape is a function of prevailing climatic conditions, topography, geology, soils, disturbance history, maintenance regimes and time. The trees which have proved successful over time are adapted to the many challenges posed by diurnal and seasonal temperature extremes, frosts, periods of drought and flooding rains, low soil fertility, impermeable subsoils, water-logging and cracking. Climate change will likely exacerbate these extremes posing a further challenge to management and sustainability of this population (BOM, 2007).

The persistence of local native species in this difficult environment, along with a relatively small palette of hardy exotics, highlights the importance of selecting appropriate species to meet these conditions and maintenance regimes. This



PHOTO 21: Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*)
Tebbutt Street car parking area (18/10/2011).

collection of significant trees also continues a thematic approach which parallels many other public planting schemes of similar age structure throughout the Cumberland Plain and the greater Sydney metropolitan area. Although many trees have been lost over time this heritage landscape continues to display a high level of integrity and consistency in its planting palette.

This is an ageing population of trees living in an increasingly urbanised environment. Notably, recent inspections indicate a number of mature specimens are showing elevated levels of stress, long-term decline and significant crown die-back (refer to *Key Desired Outcomes and Priorities – Item B: Heritage Landscape Management*).

Key Desired Outcomes and Priorities

A. Protection of the park's State heritage significance

Previous sections of this plan of management have examined the importance of protecting McQuade Park's historic and cultural setting. The open, uncluttered landscape quality of the park's passive open space provides a tangible link with other historic elements, particularly the St. Matthews Church and cemetery group. While there have been many changes to the park since the Inter-war period, particularly in the north-eastern and south-eastern precincts, these developments and functional differences have tended to be contained in this area. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) identified this as a negative impact on the park's character, affecting its cohesiveness as an entire entity (Morris, et al., p.32, 2004). This issue was also raised in the community workshop and questionnaire responses.

It is important that future park development, including the location and intensity of recreational uses, activities and buildings, protects the integrity of existing passive open space. Sporting and social infrastructure need to be better integrated in terms of the park's broader cultural setting and connectivity. The approach to improving landscape quality, aesthetics, social and recreational opportunities, in these areas and throughout the park, should be guided by the following principles:

- Manage the park on a sustainable basis, acknowledging its values and significance, and conserve for the future;
- Protect open quality, significant vistas and relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery;
- Ensure a high standard in park presentation and maintenance consistent with heritage significance;
- Promote the park's historic heritage significance and avoid introducing elements with no compelling relevance to this context (e.g. unsympathetic and/ or 'faux-heritage' additions);
- Continue to maintain and improve social, cultural and recreational opportunities (including promoting multiple-uses of facilities and potential synergies);
- Restrict and regulate uses and activities which threaten the park's integrity and landscape setting;
- Enhance connectivity between different precincts by removing obstructions, improving pedestrian access for all visitors and providing an integrated and quality landscape setting;
- Assist integration of sporting and social infrastructure (including amenities buildings, car parking areas and other hardstand areas, etc.) through the use of appropriate landscaping using a heritage palette (see *Appendix IV*);
- Promote use of water sensitive urban design strategies to improve water collection, infiltration, retention and recycling within the park;
- Enhance ecological connectivity, habitat values and opportunities for visitor interaction and interpretation;
- Provide consistency in materials, finishes and workmanship to enhance connectivity and integration of landscape precincts, uses and activities;
- Continue community engagement and involvement in future management and conservation decisions affecting this park.

B. Heritage landscape management

Significant trees and whole-of-life cycle tree management

Whole-of-life-cycle management principles should be promoted including phased replacement and renewal with appropriate species consistent with the park's heritage values. Refer to *Appendix IV - Tree Species List*. As a high priority it is recommended that a Tree Management Plan be prepared by a qualified arborist experienced in the management of heritage trees. This report would need to address current health, status, condition/ SULE, provide recommendations for remedial treatment and an appropriate successional planting strategy. The park's trees should also have regular inspections by a qualified arborist and remedial work undertaken in accordance with recommendations.

Trees should be mulched to increase infiltration rates and water holding capacity, improve soil health and restrict mechanical damage during mowing and edging. Heavily compacted soils should be tested for elevated levels of toxicity and/ or deficiencies affecting health and longevity of ageing population (e.g. mature and senescent trees in older parks are often suffering from potassium deficiency). New tree planting programs should aim to source and establish super-advanced or semi-mature specimens including appropriate soil preparation, fertilizing, mulching, watering, protection and maintenance.

Soil compaction within canopy drip-lines is an important issue affecting the health and longevity of some of the more outstanding heritage trees (e.g. three Bunya Pines and an Ironbark in Tebbutt Street unformed car parking area). These significant trees need to be protected from uncontrolled vehicular movements, physical damage and soil compaction within the root zones. The mature Ironbark in this location is displaying partial crown die-back and a high level of parasitic Mistletoe within its canopy reflecting the tree's poor health and vitality. The ground level around its base is highly compacted (see Item E. Car parking areas).

Similarly, other old growth Ironbarks adjacent to Tebbutt and Moses Street are displaying the same symptoms of distress and decline. Furthermore, a number of mature and senescent trees have significant storm damage, cavities and/ or insect attack. Some older trees may need to be removed and/ or replaced. For example, a mature Maiden's Gum (*Eucalyptus maidenii*), located in the memorial garden, has suffered extensive storm damage and should be inspected by a qualified arborist to determine an appropriate course of action.

Commemorative trees and plaques

In 1994 the families of pioneers of the Hawkesbury commemorated this legacy with tree planting throughout the park. This commemorative planting project is noted in the CMP and State heritage listing as an item of local heritage significance. Some of these trees and/ or CCA treated timber stakes with inscription plates have been lost. It is important that this heritage is protected and maintained. Replacements should be installed in accordance with documentation (see CMP pages 30-31 for details). Management regimes, particularly mowing and edging within grassed areas, should ensure protection of the trees and commemorative plaques. It is recommended that each of the trees and plaques is mulched to establish a defined edge or perimeter for mowing. This will also prevent ongoing mechanical damage to the tree and assist in long-term establishment and sustainability.

Ecological restoration

The quality and health of existing native trees, particularly old growth specimens, would be significantly enhanced by introducing conservation measures such as a restoration strategy. This action would have a positive impact on the park's ecological health, broader integrity and habitat values and sustainability. This work should focus on consolidation of areas under existing mature and old growth native trees (including Ironbarks) and the south-western shoreline of the ornamental lake (refer to Item E. Lake precinct improvements). Initially they should be introduced as small demonstration sites in these locations to promote education and gauge community support. Refer to *Landscape Masterplan* for locations.

Restoration areas under old growth trees should be mulched, clearly defined and signposted with information about the program. Surface run-off in these areas would be reduced allowing greater opportunities for infiltration and soil water retention. The restored areas would also restrict pedestrian movements and reduce compaction around root-zones of old growth trees.

For areas under old growth trees, the planting program should be restricted to ground layer plants only (up to 300-400mm height) to ensure park visibility and security. Subject to availability, local provenance-sourced plants should be used focussing on native grasses and herbs including *Lepidosperma laterale*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Opercularia diphylla*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Themeda australis* and *Pratia purpurascens* (see OEH, CR/CIF listing 2011 for preferred native species). Small shrubs up to 500-600mm height may be used in some locations and may include species such as *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Pultenaea villosa* and *Grevillea juniperina*.

C. WWI Memorial site

Extension of the forecourt area – pedestrian precinct

It is recommended that the existing WWI honour walls, Boer War memorial and gardens are retained and protected in situ. Proposed landscape works include removing kerb and guttering adjacent to the intersection, reducing the cross-falls, providing sub-surface drainage and paving over with an even surface. The low brick walls in front of the two honour walls should also be partially removed and copings restored. The selected unit paver should be consistent with Inter-war period heritage elements providing a durable and low maintenance finish free of any trip-points. Metal bollards should be installed to further identify this heritage precinct and clearly define the roadway edge.

Boer War Memorial – protecting sandstone reliefs

Specialist conservators should be consulted to determine future conservation of the two carved stone reliefs (J. O'Kelly) on the sandstone plinth. This may include taking mouldings and providing a protective coating to these works.

Field Guns – conservation management

The two de-activated field guns on display in the memorial garden have been restored (in part) and are under a regular maintenance program. The outdoor location and exposure to prevailing weather conditions is posing an ongoing issue with corrosion, particularly in the rare WWI artillery gun.

The 25 Pounder Mk II Field Gun is a WWII artillery gun (with front line service until the mid-1960s). This gun is not uncommon and was part of a large artillery disposal primarily to RSL clubs and councils in 1975. It is relatively well-maintained and considered to be in generally good condition (HCC, Artillery Report, p.5, 2011).

The second gun, a Krupp Rumanian 75mm Field Gun with restored timber-spoked wheels is a rare WWI trophy artillery gun from Palestine with an Australian Light Horse capture provenance. It may be one of the guns captured following the cavalry charge on Beersheba, and if so, its conservation and market value would be significantly increased. The gun has been restored once but now has extensive corrosion, particularly in the trail. It is in need of restoration work and will need to be housed inside a weather-proof enclosure or indoors (HCC, Artillery Report, pp.14-16, 2011). Council should seek advice on capture provenance (i.e. Beersheba/ ALH) and recommendations for conservation and interpretation.

An option may include conservation of the guns in situ and construction of a specially designed weather-proof enclosure over this space. This would need to be of a contemporary architectural design enhancing the spatial qualities and heritage values of this site.

D. Car parking areas

There are two off-street car parking areas which service the active sporting precinct of the park and Windsor Bowling Club:

1. Tebbutt Street (northern – adjacent to grandstand and oval); and
2. George Street (eastern – adjacent to Windsor Bowling Club, tennis courts and CWA building).

These car parking areas are unformed, inefficient in holding capacity and in a poor state of repair. The landscape masterplan identifies the location and extent of proposed works for each of these areas. Tebbutt Street car parking area includes formal vehicular entry/ exit points, protection of heritage trees/ restriction of park access and improved integration with existing sporting and recreational facilities. Works would include provision for drainage and water-sensitive design (using central swales/ collection of run-off for re-use in irrigation), all-weather porous bitumen/ aggregate surfacing, delineation of parking bays, low vehicular barriers, landscaping and shared pathway/ bikeway linkages. Heritage trees should be adequately protected during these works and conserved within the proposed layout ensuring appropriate set-backs, arboricultural care and maintenance following completion of works.

Similarly, the George Street car parking area would be re-designed to retain an optimum level of car spaces whilst ensuring improved landscaping (adjacent to clubhouse), water-sensitive design, protection of existing trees and improved park linkages for pedestrians/ bikeway. The car parking area would be re-surfaced and car spaces clearly delineated.

E. CWA health centre/ meeting hall – proposed adaptive re-use (as a café/ refreshment kiosk & visitor centre)

Establish opportunities with CWA for broader integration and engagement with the park and user groups within the lake precinct. Subject to further liaison and support from the CWA, the cottage could be leased (in part) for the purposes of an outdoor café/ refreshment kiosk and visitor information services. The rear (north-western façade) of the Inter-war period cottage could be extended with the inclusion of under-cover and outdoor decking providing elevated views over the lake precinct.

These facilities could be leased generating an important source of funding for the park and the CWA. Moreover, this proposal has the potential to provide the following benefits and synergies for the community:

- A new social, cultural and recreational focus for the park;
- Improved integration of the building within the park providing greater opportunities for broad community use;
- Greater diversity for park visitors and user groups;
- Visual connectivity with the adjoining parkland setting (i.e. opportunities to capture elevated views over the lake) and easy access to the lake and environs; recreational uses and activities;
- Linkages with proposed shared bikeway and exercise facilities/ stations;
- Relocate existing children's playground (from Tebbutt Street) including upgrading play equipment, safety fall and child safety fencing;
- Visitor information services in a central, easily accessed location;
- Broader connectivity with the central business district and surrounding area.

F. Lake precinct improvements

It is recommended that the existing ornamental lake, upstream ponds and fountain be re-designed to address significant long-term issues of sustainability and ongoing maintenance costs. The preferred option would include a redesign of the ornamental lake and reticulation system with partial wetland restoration to some edges. This option would allow the lake to continue its role as an iconic visual element within the park as well as becoming a valuable demonstration site for ecological restoration reinforcing Council's key sustainability principles.

Environmental restoration work would include investigation of stormwater inputs/ adequacy of pollutant devices, earthworks to determine integrity of liner and address stagnant flows within the pond, removal of ageing timber edging and infrastructure, re-grading of edge profiles, upgrading of pumping and reticulation system, removal of pest species and establishment of a freshwater wetland community using local native sedges, forbs and grasses to assist in filtration of nutrients. Broad flat access to the water's edge would be maintained. Visitor safety and risk management issues would need to be thoroughly addressed. The restored lake and wetland ecology would provide an opportunity to assist environmental education and offers potential synergies with adaptive re-use of the CWA cottage.

Vision Statement

The following statement provides a vision for McQuade Park and the basis for establishing desired outcomes:

“To ensure appropriate protection, conservation and sustainable management of the park’s cultural landscape setting, State heritage significance, and social, cultural and recreational values in accordance with the objectives of community land management for the benefit of the broader community and for future generations”.

...

5.0 Management Strategies

Objectives

This section of the plan of management provides a framework for implementing management strategies as follows:

1. Establish Core Objectives for community land categories;
2. Develop an Action Plan for implementation of core objectives and management strategies (i.e. desired outcomes);
3. Establish a framework for future leases and licences;
4. Develop performance targets to assess and monitor strategies;
5. Assign directions and priorities (spanning the next 5-years)
6. Provide a Landscape Masterplan.

TABLE 6 – SCHEDULE OF CORE OBJECTIVES

Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as a Park

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

- a) To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and;
- b) To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and;
- c) To improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management." [LGA 1993 s.36G]

Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as a Sportsground

"The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:

- a) To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and;
- b) To ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences." [LGA 1993 s.36F]

Core Objectives: Management of community land categorised as General Community Use

"The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- a) In relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- b) In relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities)". [LGA 1993 s.36I]

Core objectives

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, McQuade Park is classified as community land and categorised as “a park”, “a sportsground” and “general community use” (see *2.0 Land Description and Planning – Figure 5: Community Land Categorisation*). Each of the categories is provided with a set of core objectives. Refer to *Table 6: Schedule of Core Objectives*. Desired outcomes must be consistent with community land categories and their respective core objectives.

Action plan

The Action Plan (see *Table 7: Action Plan*) contains sub-headings identifying desired outcomes and core objectives. The table is further divided into the following columns:

- Performance targets or management objectives (column 1);
- Item or reference number (column 2);
- Management actions or means of achievement (column 3);
- Means of assessment of the actions (column 4);
- Priority ranking for each management action (column 5).

Performance targets (management objectives)

The *desired outcomes* and *core objectives* for McQuade Park have guided the development of *performance targets* in the Action Plan.

Item number

Each action is assigned an item number based on the desired outcomes.

Management actions (means of achievement)

The performance targets provide the framework for developing *management actions* or the *means of achievement*.

Means of assessment (of the actions)

The Action Plan establishes a system of checks and balances to assess actions in relation to performance (i.e. *means of assessment*).

Priorities

Priorities for each management action are assigned according to relative importance – very high, high, medium and low. It is envisaged that actions will be addressed on a priority basis, by the Policy and Services Unit responsible, and in accordance with the means of assessment as follows:

1 = VERY HIGH

2 = HIGH

3 = MEDIUM

4 = LOW

Capital works program

Priorities and opinions of probable construction costs (based on the Landscape Masterplan) are provided in the capital works program (refer to *Table 8: Capital Works Program*). The Opinion of Probable Landscape Construction Costs should be considered as indicative only and provided for budgeting purposes in relation to government funding applications.

Landscape masterplan

The Landscape Masterplan identifies key management actions to be implemented throughout a prioritised capital works program, subject to available funding. Refer to *Figure 7: Landscape Masterplan*.

...

TABLE 7: McQUADE PARK ACTION PLAN

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate management framework and guidelines for assessing development, land uses, activities, leases, licences and other estate. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Guiding legislation: To ensure the park's planning and management are in accordance with relevant legislation and policy	A1	Implement actions identified in this plan of management in accordance with <i>Local Government Act 1993, Heritage Act 1977, Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and all other relevant legislation and policy.</i>	Adoption of plan of management. Level of implementation over 5-yrs.	High Ongoing
To ensure CMP policy and recommendations are current and up to date	A2	Make provision for revision or addendum to CMP every five years. Ensure consistency with CMP policy and recommendations.	CMP updated/ revised every five years.	Very High
Future development, land uses and activities: To protect the park's State heritage significance, cultural setting, and other identified values from inappropriate uses, activities and development. To protect the park's open visual character, its historic landscape setting and significant relationship with St. Matthews Church group. To ensure consistency with community land categories and core objectives. To actively engage with the community to protect, manage and enhance the park for the community's benefit and for future generations. To protect the park from incremental negative impacts and introduction of unsympathetic elements. To improve access, circulation and connectivity. To promote opportunities for broader multiple uses and adaptive re-use of existing infrastructure. To ensure sustainable solutions are implemented including addressing threatening processes. To ensure that development proposals will have a net positive benefit in relation to identified values. To promote the park's role as a broadly accessible, equitable and safe community asset. To address all public safety and security issues. To improve visitor education and interpretation.	A3	Development proposals, land uses, activities, licences and management practices must be consistent with the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate consistency with park's heritage significance (CMP, State Heritage Register and this plan of management); • Demonstrate consistency with legislative requirements of community land categories and core objectives. • Protection of historic cultural setting, visual quality, open landscape character, biodiversity, commemorative, cultural and sporting values; • Ensure continuing dialogue with the community in relation to future development, uses and activities in the park; • Protection and appropriate management of significant trees; • Contribute to diversity and quality of historic cultural setting, recreational and community uses and activities; • Address public safety and risk management; • Adequately provide for public access, connectivity, equity and broad community use (including disabled access); • Ensure stormwater management issues are addressed and water sensitive urban design principles are implemented; • Improve traffic management and car parking areas including restrictions on unauthorised vehicular movements in the park; • Restrict inappropriate uses and activities, particularly high impact activities affecting environmental sustainability; • Ensure a safe environment for all user groups; • Facilitate programs in community education and interpretation of heritage values. 	Adoption of plan of management. Level of implementation over 5-yrs. Number and % of proposed developments that address and adhere to development guidelines. Measure trends over time.	High Ongoing

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate management framework and guidelines for assessing development, land uses, activities, leases, licences and other estate. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
To protect key values and significance in accordance with the CMP, listing on the State Heritage Register and this plan of management.	A4	Development proposals, uses and activities which may directly or indirectly threaten or adversely impact any key value(s) of historic heritage significance, landscape and cultural setting, aesthetic, visual, social, cultural or recreational values as identified in this plan of management are not permissible.	As above	Ongoing
To ensure consistency in heritage conservation objectives for this park.	A5	Ensure consistency between Council's new Local Environmental Plan (LEP), State heritage listing and this plan of management. Individual items of local heritage significance amended in review.	McQuade Park, as a State heritage item, scheduled in new LEP.	High
To permit appropriate maintenance and development of the park and its community, sporting and passive recreational facilities consistent with the park's heritage significance and within designated precincts.	A6	This plan of management expressly authorises the maintenance, repairs, development and upgrading of the park and its facilities including bike-paths/walkways, signs, children's play equipment, picnic tables, seating, barbecues and shelters [see <i>Figure 7: Landscape Masterplan</i>] subject to compliance with the State Heritage Register listing [Heritage Act 1977, s.57 (2) Schedule C: Exemptions to allow work], core objectives and development guidelines.	Compliance with State heritage listing requirements, Council policies, core objectives and this plan of management.	Ongoing
To permit removal, construction or alteration of garden beds, hard landscaping and plantings to implement the plan of management [Note: excavation work is subject to further compliance].	A7 A8	SCHEDULE C: EXEMPTIONS (as of 14/01/2011) 1. All Standard Exemptions. 2. Removal, construction or alteration of garden beds, hard landscaping and plantings to implement the Plan of Management and other policies (2004 Conservation Management Plan) for McQuade Park where it is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the park as a whole, or the area in which they are to be undertaken. <u>This exemption does not apply to excavation, unless Council can demonstrate the subject site is previously disturbed or comprises previous fill.</u>	As above As above	Ongoing Ongoing
To permit maintenance of any building, monument or work on the site [subject to further compliance].	A9	3. The maintenance of any building, monument or work on the site, where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing or non significant material.	As above	Ongoing
To permit general horticultural maintenance and arboricultural management.	A10	4. Horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, field maintenance, cultivation, pruning, fertilising, aerating, and remedial tree surgery.	As above	Ongoing
To permit removal of dead or dangerous non-significant trees and replacement [subject to compliance as described]. See further details items B5-B16].	A11	5. Removal of non-significant trees considered by a qualified tree surgeon to be dead or dangerous and replacement where it is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the park as a whole, or the area in which they are to be undertaken.	As above	Ongoing

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate management framework and guidelines for assessing development, land uses, activities, leases, licences and other estate. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
To permit erection and dismantling of temporary structures associated with special events, sporting activities and functions held in the park [any excavation work is subject to further compliance].	A12	6. Erection and dismantling of temporary structures, signs, crowd control barriers, banners, stages, lighting and sound, and public address equipment associated with special events, sporting activities and functions held in the Park. This exemption does not apply to excavation, unless Council can demonstrate the subject site is previously disturbed or comprises previous fill.	As above	Ongoing
To permit maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, fences, gates, sporting amenities, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities [all excavation work is subject to further compliance].	A13	7. Maintenance and repair of existing roads, paths, fences, gates, sporting amenities, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities. This exemption does not apply to excavation, unless Council can demonstrate the subject site is previously disturbed or comprises previous fill.	As above	Ongoing
Leases, licences and other estate: To provide express authorisation for appropriate leases, licences or other estate over community land. To ensure consistency with relevant legislation affecting the uses and activities on community land. To permit the granting of leases, licences or other estate which are consistent with relevant legislation, community needs and community land core objectives.	A14	This plan of management expressly authorises the granting of leases, licences or other estate over the community land for the purposes of providing goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities appropriate to current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public recreation, social and educational activities; The physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons; and Only if the purpose for which it is granted is consistent with the State heritage listing and core objectives of the categorisation. 	Leases, licences or other estate granted in accordance with relevant legislation, State heritage listing and this plan of management. Assess against Council policies, principles and permitted uses consistent with community land categories and core objectives.	Ongoing
To provide express authorisation for appropriate leases, licences or other estate over community land.	A15	This plan of management expressly authorises the granting of a lease or licence over community land categorised as general community use for the following uses and activities, subject to further consultation, investigation and compliance with core objectives and development guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive re-use/ extension of CWA cottage as a café/ refreshment kiosk and/ or visitor centre including proposed outdoor area with decking; and Tennis courts and associated facilities. 	Subject to further consultation and investigation, lease or licence granted in accordance with relevant legislation, Council policies, State heritage listing and this plan of management.	Medium

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To establish an appropriate management framework and guidelines for assessing development, land uses, activities, leases, licences and other estate. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Easements: To permit the granting of easements which area consistent with the <i>NSW Heritage Act 1977</i> and <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .	A18	This plan of management expressly authorises the granting of easements over the community land for the purpose of providing pipes, conduit or other connections under the surface of the ground. This is limited to easements that connect land adjoining community land to an existing water, sewer, drainage or electrical facility of Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land. Refer to item A16, 1) in relation to excavations within the park.	Easements granted in accordance with relevant legislation, State heritage listing [see exemptions] and this plan of management. Assess against Council policies, principles and permitted uses consistent with community land categories and core objectives.	Ongoing
Desired Outcome: To conserve the park's cultural heritage significance and maintain mix of community, sporting and passive recreational opportunities. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Protection of historic relationships and vistas: To protect open space, cultural landscape setting and relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery. To maintain historic "Don't Worry" cricket pitch. To maintain existing passive recreational facilities and to ensure they remain low-key and unobtrusive. To provide for special events (e.g. circus activities).	B1	Ensure protection of significant heritage values along the upper north-western and western portions of the park. Protect and maintain existing clusters of boundary trees, open mown grass and unobstructed vistas across the park.	Open vistas and historic relationships conserved.	High Ongoing
	B2	Maintain "Don't Worry" cricket pitch as a passive/ active recreational area with no fixed boundary fences. Continue to permit matches on this pitch.	Traditional uses and activities maintained.	Ongoing
	B3	Existing and any proposed upgrades or additional picnic facilities (including picnic tables and seating, benches, litter bins, BBQ area and open shelters) are to remain low-key and non-obtrusive (i.e. no buildings in this area).	To maintain existing passive open spaces and facilities.	Ongoing
	B4	Continue special events uses on western portion of park. See item A17.	Uses for special events maintained.	Ongoing
Tree protection, management and replacement (including significant trees): To protect park trees from ongoing physical damage and soil compaction issues and to improve soil health and longevity of tree population. To provide urgent remedial arboricultural work on ageing and significant trees. To provide a detailed assessment of the health and status of the park's significant tree population and to make recommendations for further actions.	B5	Reduce the impact of inappropriate maintenance regimes on establishing saplings, immature and mature trees (i.e. mowing/ slashing and edge trimming including removal of bark at bases of trees and soil compaction issues due to vehicular and pedestrian traffic movements). Aerate soil (as necessary), add amendments, including fertilizing, watering and mulch around bases of trees (taper mulch near stem base). For trees in car parking areas see item C3.	Enhanced health, growth and longevity of tree population. Park maintenance regime visibly enhanced. Measure changes in community responses/ complaints.	High Ongoing
	B6	As a priority, inspections and urgent remedial action should focus on ageing, old growth trees displaying physical decline, crown die-back, storm damaged trunks and limbs, cavities, diseased or defective branches and insect damage.	Urgent arboricultural work on significant trees undertaken.	Very High
	B7	Engage a qualified arborist, experienced with heritage or significant trees to prepare a Tree Management Plan to report on health, condition/ SULE, status and risk management issues of the park's significant native and exotic trees and to make recommendations for remedial work and implementation of an appropriate successional planting strategy.	Tree Management Plan prepared and implemented in accordance with arborist's recommendations.	Very High

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To conserve the park's cultural heritage significance and maintain mix of community, sporting and passive recreational opportunities.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
<p>Tree management [continued]: To provide a regular monitoring program of all the park's trees and to ensure appropriate arboricultural methods and whole-of-life-cycle management. To ensure adequate protection of trees during and after proposed capital works projects or general maintenance within the park.</p> <p>To ensure pruning of trees complies with best practice methods in accordance with appropriate standards. To ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. To provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for visitors.</p> <p>To provide a rapid response to emergencies.</p> <p>Soil testing and amendments: To clarify soil chemistry issues and to amend soils as necessary to enhance longevity of the park's significant tree population.</p> <p>Tree replacement program: To enhance and reinforce existing planting around the park perimeter, lake-side and internal road corridor. To maintain historic integrity and to provide visual and aesthetic continuity in the cultural landscape setting. To establish a tree replacement program based on historic evidence and site suitability.</p>	B8	Prepare a Tree Inventory data base and establish a regular monitoring program to assist phased/ staged program of replacement tree planting and to address losses due to ageing, senescence and climate change (see item B7).	Tree Inventory/ data base prepared with regular monitoring and tree replacement program implemented.	High Ongoing
	B9	All building, maintenance or services work adjacent to trees within the park should be in accordance with AS4970 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites, including establishment of Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) for potentially impacted trees and an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) where significant trees may be impacted.		Works adjacent to trees (including significant trees) implemented in accordance with this plan of management.
	B10	All tree pruning to comply with AS4373-1996 Pruning of Amenity Trees. General maintenance pruning includes crown cleaning pruning to remove dead, diseased or defective branches, selective clearance pruning, crown lifting for pedestrian and vehicle access, pruning to improve sight lines and park lighting and removal of dead, dying, hazardous or unsuitable trees. For native old growth habitat trees – see item D4.	Park trees maintained to a high standard. Number of tree issues/ complaints registered per annum. Measure trends over time.	High Ongoing
	B11	In emergency situations, risk to public safety or property will take priority over tree protection measures in the park.	Implementation of emergency procedures in accordance with Council's policies and protocols.	Ongoing
	B12	Conduct minimum of five soil test locations of A and B horizons (including report on chemical analysis with recommendations for soil amendments) adjacent to significant trees on Tebbutt Street (car parking area), Moses Street boundary, internal roadway (central), lower lake precinct (near George Street) and the memorial gardens precinct. Subject to recommendations of report, provide necessary amendments to soils as required.	Soil tests completed and report recommendations implemented.	Very High
B13	Provide an appropriate whole-of-life-cycle tree management regime that ensures sustainable health and integrity of all the park's tree plantations in accordance with items B5-B11. The replacement tree planting program must be based on historic evidence of early planting layouts, suitability to the local area and site conditions. Avoid the use of generic native Australian tree/shrub species and use of modern cultivars with no reference to historic palette.	Replacement planting program in accordance with this plan of management.	High Ongoing	

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To conserve the park's cultural heritage significance and maintain mix of community, sporting and passive recreational opportunities.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Protecting integrity of commemorative plantations: To protect, maintain and reinstate commemorative planting and plaques (1994 Hawkesbury Bicentenary). To ensure adequate documentation and retrieval of information on local heritage values. Reinstate Inter-war period avenue: To reinstate continuity and integrity of historic Camphor Laurel avenue (along western edge of oval).	B14	Continue to maintain existing commemorative trees and plaques (including edging/ mulching – see item B5). Reinstate lost, dead or non-performing trees (in accordance with item B13) and/or replace vandalised or missing plaques.	Works completed in accordance with CMP details.	Very High
	B15	Ensure that commemorative tree and plaque details are recorded and catalogued in the Local Studies section of Hawkesbury City Council Library.	Items recorded and catalogued.	Very High
	B16	Relocate cricket nets and storage room. Remove small grove of immature Broad-leaved Paperbarks (considered intrusive in this context). Reinstate Inter-war period avenue of trees (i.e. planting in existing gaps using appropriate species). Camphor Laurel is an invasive exotic and not recommended. Inter-war period plantations often included mixed Camphor Laurel/ Brush Box and this latter species is recommended in this location.	Recommendations implemented in accordance with this plan of management.	Low
Protection of Boer War memorial, WWI memorial & honour walls and memorial gardens: To protect integrity of setting, gardens and rare heritage values of State significance. Boer War Memorial – Sandstone reliefs: To conserve rare carved sandstone reliefs (State heritage significance). Memorial gardens: To protect and manage key planting elements in the memorial gardens. To continue tradition of providing high standard and quality of landscape maintenance. Proposed extension of forecourt area (to WWI memorial and honour walls) – pedestrian precinct (corner of George and Tebbutt Streets) To provide a safe pedestrian precinct for large gatherings on Anzac Day dawn services. To protect local heritage values, formal landscape setting and integrity of the memorial gardens. To continue consultation with RSL club and local community.	B17	Protect and maintain existing Boer War memorial (including marble obelisk, plaques and rare O'Kelly sandstone reliefs of mounted troopers of State heritage significance), WWI memorial (including honour walls for WWII, Korean and Vietnam conflicts) and memorial gardens in situ.	Heritage values and setting conserved in situ in accordance with this plan of management.	Very High
	B18	Specialist conservators to be consulted to determine future conservation of the two carved stone reliefs (J. O'Kelly) on the sandstone plinth. This may include taking mouldings and providing a protective coating to these works.	Investigations conducted and works implemented in accordance with best practice methods.	Very High
	B19	Ensure adequate protection and ongoing maintenance of formal Crepe Myrtle bosquet (including appropriate pruning), row of Washington Palms, Wisteria climbers and other key elements in the memorial gardens (adjacent to Boer War memorial). Take measures to protect all trees, shrubs and climbers in these gardens during and after proposed works in the vicinity (see item B9).	Key planting elements protected and maintained in accordance with this plan of management.	Very High
	B20	Proposed paving and landscape works include removing kerb and guttering trip-points, reducing cross-falls, providing sub-surface drainage and paving over with an even surface. The low brick walls in front of the two honour walls are to be partially removed and copings restored to widen key access point. The selected unit paver should be consistent with Inter-war period heritage elements providing a durable and low maintenance finish free of any trip-points. Metal bollards to be installed to delineate the expanded pedestrian forecourt and to clearly define the roadway edge. Refer to Landscape Masterplan. Continue consultation with RSL club and community.	Capital works implemented in accordance with consultation, available funding and this plan of management.	Very High

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To conserve the park's cultural heritage significance and maintain mix of community, sporting and passive recreational opportunities. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Conservation of field artillery guns: Continue to protect and maintain existing field guns and ensure best practice methods of conservation. To investigate ALH capture provenance of WWI trophy artillery gun and ensure appropriate conservation.	B21	Continue to protect and maintain two de-activated field guns on display in the memorial garden. Provide necessary conservation work to address corrosion, particularly in the rare WWI trophy Krupp Rumanian 75mm Field Gun. Council should seek advice on capture provenance (possibly one of the guns captured by the ALH following the cavalry charge on Beersheba) and recommendations for conservation and interpretation. This gun is in need of urgent restoration work and may need to be housed inside a weather-proof enclosure or indoors. Review options subject to investigations.	Investigations and conservation works implemented in accordance with this plan of management.	Very High
Desired Outcome: To maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities and provide an improved level of visitor access, public safety and connectivity within the park. Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Car parking areas and vehicular access: To provide remedial works to address the poor quality and state of repair of off-street car parking areas servicing the park's active sporting precinct and Windsor Bowling Club. To address inefficiencies and cumulative negative impacts on the park's landscape setting, sporting and recreational values. To provide improved traffic management, control of unauthorised vehicular access and optimise car spaces. To improve visitor access and integration with existing sporting and recreational facilities. To provide an integrated landscape solution enhancing the park's cultural landscape setting. To minimise erosion and compaction issues. To address the poor visual quality of service areas. To protect and manage significant trees (located within Tebbutt Street parking area) threatened by ongoing detrimental effects.	C1	Tebbutt Street car parking area (adjacent to grandstand and oval): Capital works would include construction of formal vehicular entry/ exit points, provision for drainage and water-sensitive urban design solutions (using swales/ collection of run-off for re-use in irrigation, all-weather porous bitumen/ aggregate surfacing), delineation of parking bays, low vehicular barriers, integrated landscaping (within car parking area) and shared pathway/ bikeway linkages. Provide adequate protection of heritage trees during and after building works. Refer to Landscape Masterplan for conceptual layouts and extent of proposed works.	Capital works implemented in accordance with this plan of management, subject to available funding.	Very High
	C2	George Street car parking area (adjacent to Windsor Bowling Club): Consult with Windsor Bowling Club. Capital works would include formalising existing car park circulation, re-surfacing with porous bitumen finish, optimising car spaces (clear delineation), introduction of water-sensitive urban design solutions and appropriate landscaping within the car parking area and adjacent to clubhouse (screening service area). Provide improvements to park linkages for pedestrians/ bikeway (see item C5). Provide adequate protection of existing trees. Refer to Landscape Masterplan for conceptual layouts.	Capital works implemented in accordance with consultation, available funding and this plan of management.	High
	C3	Heritage trees should be adequately protected during these works and conserved within the proposed layout ensuring appropriate set-backs, arboricultural care and maintenance following completion of works.	Works adjacent to significant trees implemented in accordance with this plan of management.	Very High

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities and provide an improved level of visitor access, public safety and connectivity within the park.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
<p>Central (internal) access road: To address vehicular traffic issues (as a short cut through the park), speeding and safety issues. To consult with traffic authorities and emergency services to develop options for internal roadway. To seek community submissions.</p> <p>Public access, pedestrian (and shared) circulation and linkages: To enhance connectivity into and within the park and its various precincts by removing obstructions, improving surfaces (all-weather) and safety for all visitors. To provide a connected landscape setting with multiple options for passive and active recreation. To enhance connectivity between different precincts by removing obstructions, improving pedestrian access for all visitors and providing an integrated and quality landscape setting. To address concentrated pedestrian loadings and soil erosion in high use areas with low durability. To address public safety and risk management issues.</p> <p>To provide a pathway system with a high standard of workmanship and consistency in finishes. To provide broad visitor access including disabled access throughout the park, its facilities and amenities.</p>	C4	Review options with traffic authorities and emergency services to retain status quo, restrict public access and/or retain as a service road only. Measures may include partial narrowing of the roadway, installation of speed humps and speed limits (10kph). Modifications could be monitored for a period of time inviting community feed-back.	Options investigated and recommendations implemented following consultation.	Medium
	C5	Capital works improvements to public access should focus on the following key locations (refer to Landscape Masterplan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Gardens forecourt area – corner George and Tebbutt Streets including elimination of kerb and gutter trip-points and widening of pedestrian footpath to provide a safer, pedestrian-friendly environment for Anzac Day services (see item B20). George Street – provide formalised pedestrian crossing linking Council offices to the park between CWA building and car park entry/ exit point similar to Tebbutt Street crossing (opposite St. Matthews Catholic Church). Eastern precinct/ tennis courts – construct pathway (missing connection) between memorial gardens and lake-side pathway via Bowling Club car parking area (including pedestrian crossing). The 'pinch-point' between Bowling Club (clubhouse) and oval picket fence – construct new formalised pathway. Design will require relocation of some services and modifications to adjoining ramped access and external walls. Provide pathway connection to McQuade Oval, children's playground and car park (see item C1). Grandstand forecourt, hardstand area and grassed banks – remedial works including regrading, terracing and re-surfacing. Proposed works should aim to provide an integrated forecourt space, including wider steps and ramped access to entry gates onto oval and elimination of ongoing remedial/ maintenance work (see item C12). 	Capital works implemented in accordance with consultation, available funding and this plan of management. Capital works implemented in accordance with this plan of management and subject to available funding. As above.	Very High Very High Medium
	C6	Provide consistency throughout the park (i.e. eliminate abrupt changes in levels, materials and finishes). Design for connectivity and integration of park spaces, particularly disabled access and opportunities for multiple uses.	As above.	Medium
				As above.

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities and provide an improved level of visitor access, public safety and connectivity within the park.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Shared bikepaths and exercise circuit: To promote opportunities for fitness, exercise and multiple uses and to integrate recreational opportunities, where possible, within the park. Park lighting: To ensure that pathways are adequately illuminated at night to provide a high level of visitor security. To protect and manage heritage values.	C7	Install a series of exercise stations along the lower eastern lake-side and southern pathway system. Provide appropriate upgrading to shared pathway system with standard width, signage and line marking. Ensure functionality, safety and durability of surfaces, finishes and new equipment.	Capital works implemented in accordance with this plan of management and subject to available funding. Maintenance and upgrades in accordance with service standards.	Medium
	C8	Maintain and upgrade existing park lighting as necessary, including security and ambient lighting, within major nodal areas of social and recreational activity. Retain and restore historic standards and fixtures. Ensure consistency in selection of new lighting. Avoid use of "faux-heritage" park lighting.		Ongoing
CWA health centre/ meeting hall – proposed adaptive re-use (café/ refreshment kiosk & visitor centre): To continue liaison with CWA with respect to leasing and adaptive re-use of existing cottage. To establish opportunities for broader integration and engagement with the park and lake-side precinct. To permit sympathetic development of community and recreational facilities consistent with the park's traditional character and cultural heritage significance. To improve diversity for park visitors and user groups, providing opportunities and synergies for social, cultural and recreational opportunities. To establish a new focus for social, cultural and recreational activities in the park creating opportunities for synergies.	C9	Continue engagement with Country Women's Association (CWA) for adaptive re-use of the cottage (see item A14). The proposal would involve development of part of the cottage as a refreshment kiosk/ café and/ or visitor information centre. Option to retain part of the cottage for current uses/ functions. The rear (north-western façade) of the Inter-war period cottage could be extended with the inclusion of under-cover and outdoor decking providing elevated views over the lake precinct. These facilities could be leased generating an important source of funding for the park and CWA.	Capital works implemented in accordance with further consultation and agreement, and subject to available funding. Broader community use of the park (% increase over time). Measure trends over time. Capital works projects implemented on a staged basis, subject to available funding and this plan of management.	High
	C10	Subject to agreement and seed funding, the project has the potential to deliver further community benefits and synergies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new social, cultural and recreational focus for the park; • Integration of the cottage with the park's uses and activities; • Improved connectivity with landscape setting including views over the lake precinct and easy access to the lake and surrounding environs within the park; • Opportunities to link new recreational infrastructure including shared pedestrian/ bikeway and exercise stations (see items C5-C8); • Opportunities to relocate the children's playground (currently located near Tebbutt Street) including upgraded range of play equipment, safety fall and child safety fencing (see item C17); • Visitor information services in a central, easily accessed location with opportunities to enhance visitor experience linked to lake environs and proposed restoration works; • Broader connectivity with the central business district and surrounding area. 		Medium Ongoing

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities and provide an improved level of visitor access, public safety and connectivity within the park.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
<p>McQuade Oval, Don't Worry pitch and cricket nets To continue to provide a high level of playing field/ turf maintenance throughout the year. To maintain strong historic links with cricket on the oval and to encourage other appropriate sports uses. To improve oval access for players and maintenance. To provide a high standard of facilities maintenance. To address negative impacts on cultural heritage.</p> <p>Grandstand, amenities block and environs To investigate future option to expand grandstand and integrate amenities building. To provide improved visual and aesthetic integration of buildings, hardstand area and car parking area. To enhance landscape setting and improve connectivity between oval and facilities. To improve day-time accessibility to public amenities.</p> <p>Children's playground To ensure public safety and address all health and risk management issues. To provide regular maintenance of play equipment and soft-fall surfaces.</p> <p>Tennis courts and environs (landscaping) To continue to maintain and improve the quality of recreational facilities and playing surfaces. To improve integration and connectivity of sports facilities and passive recreational spaces. To ensure consistency in landscaping quality and to address public safety issues.</p>	C11	Continue to maintain and upgrade playing surfaces on McQuade Oval, Don't Worry pitch and cricket nets. Continue to promote multiple uses of oval (e.g. training by local rugby clubs, rugby games, jogging and playing touch football).	Maintenance in accordance with service standards. Multiple uses/ bookings per annum.	Ongoing
	C12	Upgrade forecourt area of grandstand including replacement of narrow concrete steps/ log wall with wider steps, terracing with low brick walls and wide ramped access linking to oval entry/ exit point. Ensure consistency in materials and standards (see Landscape Masterplan).	Capital works implemented in accordance with this plan of management and subject to available funding.	Medium
	C13	Review options for relocating cricket nets to allow reinstatement of the Inter-war period avenue (see item B16).	Review conducted and recommendations implemented.	Low
	C14	Continue building maintenance works and refurbishment. Review options to improve integration of recently constructed amenities block and grandstand (including future expansion of grandstand and facilities under one roof).	Maintenance as above. Investigations completed and recommendations implemented.	Ongoing Low
	C15	Hardstand areas surrounding buildings to be landscaped with garden beds (including forecourt areas and formalised car parking area). See items C1 and C12 and Landscape Masterplan) Provide consistent paving materials and workmanship throughout linked to upgraded shared pathway/ bikeway.	Capital works implemented subject to available funding.	High
	C16	Public amenities in new building are locked during daylight hours on most days. Amenities need to be unlocked during daylight hours or signs installed to re-direct the public to amenities near tennis clubhouse.	Works implemented subject to policy review.	Very High
	C17	Continue to maintain existing play equipment and synthetic safety fall area to relevant safety standards. Review options for upgrades in situ or relocation (see item C10).	Maintenance in accordance with safety standards and policy. Capital works implemented (relocation) subject to funding and other works.	Ongoing Medium
	C18	Continue to maintain tennis courts, clubhouse facilities and amenities, playing surfaces and court lighting. Replace existing perimeter mesh fencing and upgrade synthetic surfaces.	Maintenance in accordance with service standards. Capital works completed subject to funding.	Ongoing High
	C19	Remove existing hedges of Oleanders along George Street boundary and other locations within the park (including CWA gardens and western boundary to Bowling Club). This species is poisonous and should be replaced with a more appropriate shrub species (e.g. <i>Viburnum</i> , <i>Murraya</i> or <i>Syzygium</i> spp.).	Works completed in accordance with this plan of management.	High

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To protect, manage and enhance the park's cultural setting and environmental sustainability.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
Lake precinct – proposed improvements (environmental restoration and renewal): To protect and maintain the 'tradition of a lake' consistent with CMP policy (CMP item B5, p.47). To further investigate heritage significance 'as a piece of rare modernist park design'. To provide a valuable demonstration site for ecological restoration and an educational tool reinforcing Council's key sustainability principles. To address issues of water quality, environmental amenity and ongoing maintenance costs. To address issues of public access, safety and risk management. To promote water sensitive urban design strategies including water harvesting and recycling. To enhance the park's ecological function and promote environmentally sustainable management strategies. To promote biodiversity and enhance ecological integrity and function within the park. To ensure park maintenance practices are consistent with ecological restoration and water quality management.	D1	Subject to further heritage investigation and consent, implement the preferred strategy for environmental restoration (See Landscape Masterplan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate stormwater inputs/ adequacy of pollutant devices and lake water quality (monitor seasonal and annual changes); Draining the lake and removal of ageing timber edging and associated infrastructure (retain island and new walkway); Removal of water lilies, aquatic weeds and carp; Investigate integrity of existing clay liner and make appropriate modifications, possibly increasing depth at centre of lake and removal of any obstructions reducing flows and circulation; Re-grade banks to create a shallower edge profile; Modify the stream/ ponds and fountain system and upgrade pumping and reticulation system (i.e. increase circulation); Establish a freshwater wetland community using local native aquatic/ semi-aquatic and water-edge plants (i.e. native reeds, sedges, forbs and grasses) to assist filtration of nutrients; Introduce native freshwater fish and monitor changes in populations (including re-introductions of pest species); Retain open, flat access to the water's edge for visitors (i.e. maintain lawns around most of the lake); Provide educational signage on the lake's history, ecology, restoration and management; Review options to establish a demonstration site for Castlereagh Ironbark Forest/ Swamp Woodland community (including local-provenance sourced native trees and groundcovers) along south-western edge of lake; Options may include establishing a circuit boardwalk/ aggregate track with interpretive signage; Establish new tree planting (screening) to south-eastern corner (adj. to Hawkesbury Valley Way and George Street intersection); All works to be in accordance with Australian Standards and Council's public safety and risk management policies; Continue to maintain the lake, monitor water quality and restrict maintenance practices which may threaten ecological integrity. 	Heritage significance investigated. Item referred to Heritage Council of NSW for consent (or exemption) and subject to recommendations.	High
			Investigations/ detailed design completed and recommendations implemented in accordance with this plan of management and Council's public safety and risk management policies.	Medium
			Capital works completed subject to funding.	Medium
			Maintenance in accordance with service standards.	Ongoing

Performance Target (management objectives)	Item	Management Actions (means of achievement)	Means of Assessment (of the actions)	Priority
Desired Outcome: To protect, manage and enhance the park's cultural setting and environmental sustainability.				
Core objectives: Management of community land categorised as park (36G), sportsground (36F) and general community use (36I).				
<p>Ecological restoration (boundary plantations, central/ internal roadway and Lake precinct): To enhance habitat values in the park and improve connectivity (reconnecting fragmented landscapes) and continuity in ecological processes. To provide opportunities for improving health, resilience and extending longevity of the park's ageing native trees and reduce ongoing impacts. To provide opportunities for ecological recruitment and renewal in the existing tree population. To protect historic park character, retain open vistas and ensure high visibility. To engage with the community in this project and to seek support in extending the program.</p> <p>Old growth trees (habitat protection): To ensure pruning, removal and replacement procedures for habitat trees are consistent with broader habitat protection, recovery and connectivity.</p>	D2	Establish small-scale ecological demonstration sites under existing native trees (including old growth specimen Ironbarks). Refer to Landscape Masterplan. Clearly delineate restoration areas (as mulched/ no-mowing areas), including low-key educational signage. Works should include removal of grass competition, soil preparation/scarifying compacted topsoil, mulching, watering and restoration planting (using only local native grasses and herbs species – preferably local provenance and consistent with Castlereagh Ironbark Forest/ Shale Plains Woodland communities (for Species Lists see <i>Implementation of restoration strategy</i>). Planting should be limited in height <500-600mm HT to protect open vistas and retain park security. Avoid using generic native groundcovers such as <i>Lomandra</i> , <i>Dianella</i> , <i>Poa</i> hybrids/ cultivars.	Demonstration sites established in accordance with this plan of management.	High Ongoing
	D3	Seek to engage with the local community and subject to support, consider expanding program within the broader tree clusters along boundaries to Moses Street, Hawkesbury Valley Way and internal roadway.	Number of community volunteers involved in project. Measure trends over time.	Medium Ongoing
	D4	Pruning of native old growth specimens (e.g. Ironbarks) should take into consideration existing and potential nesting hollows, nests and dreys, food resources and contribution to broader habitat values (including retention of collars for hollows) as part of the arboricultural assessment process.	Habitat trees assessed and appropriate measures implemented.	High Ongoing

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Manage the park on a sustainable basis, acknowledging its values and (state) heritage significance and conserve for the future.
- Protect open quality, significant values and relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery.
- Ensure a high standard in park presentation and maintenance consistent with heritage significance.
- Continue to promote the park's historic heritage significance. Avoid introducing elements with no compelling relevance to the context.
- Continue to maintain and enhance social, cultural and recreational opportunities (including promoting multiple users and synergies).
- Respect and regulate uses and activities which threaten the park's historic integrity and cultural landscape setting.
- Enhance connectivity between different projects by removing obstructions, improving pedestrian access for all visitors and providing an integrated quality setting.
- Promote use of water sensitive urban design strategies to improve infiltration rates, water collection and recycling.
- Improve water quality of lake through appropriate stormwater management, remedial works and restoration of wetland elements.
- Enhance ecological connectivity, habitat values and opportunities for user interaction and observation.
- Continue community engagement and involvement in future management and conservation decisions affecting the park.

Relationship with St. Matthews Church and cemetery

Ensure protection of significant heritage values and open space. Protect and maintain existing clusters of boundary trees, mown grass and unobstructed vistas across the park.

Passive recreational infrastructure

Continue to maintain existing open picnic shelters/ settings, BBQs, paved areas, seating, litter bins and other passive recreational facilities. Retain low-key character and ensure a high standard of maintenance.

Don't Worry cricket pitch

Maintain 'Don't Worry' cricket pitch as a passive/ active recreational area with no fixed boundary fences. Promote opportunities for multi-uses incl. upgrade to AFL size field.

Park lighting:

Maintain and upgrade existing park lighting. Retain and restore historic standards and fixtures. Ensure consistency in selection of new lighting.

Tree management

Prepare a Tree Management Plan to address decline and loss of heritage trees. Promote 'whole-of-life-cycle' management practices and successional planting strategy. Replacement tree planting should be based on historic palette, suitability to local area and site conditions.

Central (internal) access road

Review options to address current traffic issues incl. installation of boom-gates to restrict through traffic (i.e. emergency/ service vehicle use only).

Shared bikepaths and exercise circuit

Install a series of exercise skilions along lower eastern lake-side and southern pathway system. Ensure appropriate upgrading to shared pathway system with standard width, signage and line marking.

Ecological restoration

Establish small-scale ecological demonstration sites under existing native ironbarks. Clearly delineate restoration areas (as matted/ no-mowing areas). Establish local native grasses and herbs – consistent with Castlemoagh Ironbark Forest/ Shale Plains Woodland communities. Protect open vistas.

Reinstale Inter-war period avenue

Relocate cricket nets (see new location) and storage facilities (integrate with grandstand). Remove small grove of immature Paperbarks. Restore historic avenue using Brush Box as wildflower planting. Construct pathway linking to lake precinct.

Car parking area (Tebbutt Street) improvements

Formalise car parking area with single entry/ exit, all-weather porous bitumen/ aggregate finish with collection swales, delineation of parking bays, low vehicular barriers, landscaping and shared pathway/ bikeway linkages. Provide adequate protection of heritage trees during and after building works.

Grandstand and amenities building

Visually integrate buildings with new car parking area, including landscaping and planting to reduce scale and bulk of buildings. Investigate future option to expand and integrate grandstand and amenities building.

Oval embankment and entry/ exit point

Upgrade oval access from grandstand including replacement of narrow concrete steps/ log wall with wider steps, terracing and ramped access ensuring consistency in materials and standards.

Children's playground

Continue to maintain play equipment and safety fall area. Construct formalised pathway to enhance park connectivity (incl. alterations to external walls/ ramped access and services).

Proposed extension of forecourt area – pedestrian precinct

Continue consultation with RSL, club and community to provide a safer, pedestrian-friendly environment for Anzac Day services. Proposed construction of expanded paved forecourt area (in front of honour wall) – narrowing roadway, removing trip-points, reducing cross-baths and installing metal bollards.

Boer War memorial, WWI memorial and memorial gardens

Protect and maintain existing Boer War memorial, WWI memorial (honour wall) and gardens. Investigate options for conservation of rare carved stone reliefs (J. O'Kelly). Protect and maintain formal Crepe Myrtle bosquet and other key elements.

Conservation of field artillery guns

Protect and conserve two field guns (incl. option to design weather proof shelter/ enclosure). Investigate ALH capture provenance of WWI gun and implement recommendations.

Construct new graded pathway linking memorial gardens to Lake precinct via car parking area (including pedestrian crossing near entry/ exit)

Construct new graded pathway linking memorial gardens to Lake precinct via car parking area (including pedestrian crossing near entry/ exit).

Car parking area (George Street) improvements

Consult with Windsor Bowling Club to formalise car parking area including re-surfacing in porous bitumenous finish, defining car spaces, service delivery area and appropriate landscaping adjacent to clubhouse. Provide shared pathway/ bikeway linkages and adequate protection of existing trees.

Bicentenary commemorative plantations

Continue to maintain Bicentenary trees and plaques. Provide replacement trees and plaques as necessary.

Lake precinct – proposed improvement/ restoration

Implement a strategy to restore environmental qualities to the lake. Investigate stormwater inputs/ adequacy of pollutant devices, lake functionality and water quality. Subject to recommendations modify lake to reduce pollutants, improve water circulation, remove weed/ weed species and establish native aquatic wetland plants. Retain open lawns and access to the lake. Establish demonstration site for ecological restoration and education.

CWA health centre/ meeting hall – proposed adaptive re-use

Continue to consult with CWA for adaptive re-use (in part) of the cottage as a refreshment kiosk/ cafe and/ or visitor information centre including outdoor decking area. Option to retain existing uses and functions. Proposal would provide:

- a new social, cultural and recreational focus for the park;
- improved connectivity with park and lake precinct;
- opportunities to link new recreational infrastructure (incl. option to relocate children's playground);
- visitor information services in easily accessed location and linked to lake environs.



FIGURE 7
McQuade Park
LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

**TABLE 8:
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM (KEY ITEMS)**

ITEM	ACTION	CAPITAL COST (\$)
B13-16	Tree replacement program (incl. Bicentenary plaques)	\$10,000.00
B18	Conservation of Boer War sandstone carvings	Not costed
B20	Extension of forecourt area (to WWI memorial and honour walls) – pedestrian precinct (corner of George and Tebbutt Streets)	\$75,000.00
B21	Conservation & investigation of field artillery guns	Not costed
C1	Tebbutt Street car parking area (adjacent to grandstand)	\$47,000.00
C2	George Street car parking area (adjacent to Windsor Bowling Club)	\$70,000.00
C5	Public access, pedestrian (and shared) circulation and linkages (excluding items B20 and C12)	\$48,000.00
C7	Upgrading shared pathway system (incl. exercise stations)	\$70,000.00
C9	CWA health centre/ meeting hall – proposed adaptive re-use (café/ refreshment kiosk & visitor centre)	Not costed
C12	Upgrade forecourt area of grandstand + paved areas adjoining car parking area	\$40,000.00
C17	Relocation/ new children's playground	Not costed
C18	Tennis courts: Replace mesh fence + upgrade synthetic playing surfaces	\$65,000.00
D1	Lake precinct – proposed improvements and restoration works	\$150,000.00
D2	Ecological restoration/ demonstration sites	\$20,000.00
TOTALS		\$425,000.00

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Appendices

Appendix I:	Preparing plans of management
Appendix II:	Questionnaire pro forma
Appendix III:	Summary of responses to Questionnaire
Appendix IV:	Tree species list

Appendix I: Preparing plans of management

McQuade Park, Windsor

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



Why do we need a plan of management?

McQuade Park is community land owned by Hawkesbury City Council. A community land plan of management provides the framework for managing community land and must be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation.

McQuade Park is a State heritage listed park with a range of significant heritage, cultural and commemorative values as well as important recreational, social and environmental values. Sustainability is a key principle guiding this process. The draft plan of management aims to contribute to an ecologically sustainable city and region and add to the quality of life in the Hawkesbury City local government area.

It is important that the draft plan of management establishes how these values should be protected, managed and enhanced for the present community and for future generations.

What is the purpose of a community workshop?

This community workshop will help guide the preparation of the plan of management. The aim is to learn more about how the community values McQuade Park and to identify important issues affecting these values and to suggest ways to improve management. The workshop also aims to provide a transparent and equitable forum for all user groups, stakeholders and individuals to discuss issues specific to this park.

To support any comments you wish to make please fill out the **Community Issues Questionnaire**. Please leave completed issues questionnaires at the desk when you leave or if you need more time these can be mailed to:

LandArc Pty Limited
PO Box 304
Avalon NSW 2107

Please return questionnaires within ten (10) days.

If there are any further issues you need to discuss following the community workshop, please contact the Director of LandArc, Noel Ruting during office hours on 9973 1330. All issues raised at the workshop will be addressed in the draft plan of management. Further comments on the draft will be invited during the public exhibition period.

What are the expected outcomes for the draft plan of management?

The draft plan of management will establish a detailed framework for managing McQuade Park in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation. The following will be addressed:

- ❑ establish the park's role in the Hawkesbury City Council LGA
- ❑ identify existing uses, improvements and condition of facilities and buildings
- ❑ categorise the community land in accordance with relevant legislation
- ❑ identify and assess the park's values (i.e. historic/ heritage, visual, recreational, cultural, social, commemorative and environmental)
- ❑ identify and assess key issues affecting the park's values
- ❑ establish future permitted uses, activities and development (including intensity and scale)
- ❑ develop appropriate management strategies and actions based on a balanced, sustainable approach to resource management
- ❑ assign priorities for a strategic plan (5-years) and estimated capital works expenditure
- ❑ prepare a landscape master plan

When will the draft plan of management be exhibited?

The draft plan of management will go on public exhibition at Council's Administration Centre, Hawkesbury Central Library (in the Deerubbin Centre), Windsor and Council's web-site.

The draft plan of management goes on public display for four weeks and a further two weeks are allowed for final written submissions (i.e. a total of 6 weeks for submissions from commencement of public exhibition to closure).

The public exhibition dates will be advertised by Council.

...



Community Issues Questionnaire

McQuade Park, Windsor

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

McQuade Park, originally planned in 1810 by Governor Macquarie, is community land owned by Hawkesbury City Council. A draft plan of management is being prepared for this State Heritage listed park. Community consultation will help guide the preparation of the plan of management. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following questionnaire.

1. May we have some personal details? (Please circle item)

a) AGE

<20 20-35 36-50 50-65 >65

b) SEX

MALE FEMALE

2. Please provide your residential postcode

3. How often do you visit the park? (Please tick box)

- Less than once a year
- 1-3 times a year
- 4-6 times a year
- Frequent visitor *(please circle item below)*

Monthly Weekly Most days

4. Do you have a seasonal preference for visiting the park?

(Please circle items as applicable)

Summer Winter All year round

5. How important are these features and facilities to you?

(Please tick box)

Feature/ Facilities	Important	Neutral	Not Important
McQuade Park Oval			
Cricket nets			
Don't Worry pitch			
Children's playground			
Bowling Club (not part of the park)			
Boer War memorial			
WW I and II memorials			
Memorial gardens			
Tennis courts			
CWA building			
Lake & surrounds			
Macquarie bronze statue (Chapeau)			
Bandstand/ rotunda			
Picnic/ BBQ facilities & seating			
Litter bins			
Accessible public toilets			
Car parking areas			
Pathways			
Park lighting			
Open grassed areas			
Scenic vistas			
Shade trees			
Historical information			
Park signage			
Other (specify)			

Please continue over page...

6. What do you believe are the three most important issues affecting the park?

What actions would you suggest to address these issues?

a) Please describe below the first issue you wish to raise.

b) Please describe below the second issue.

c) Please describe below the third issue.

Thank you.

Please return this survey to the desk before you leave or mail within 10 days to:

Appendix III – Summary of Community Responses to Questionnaire

ISSUES	DISCUSSION
PARK MAINTENANCE	
Watering system for the park – always looks dry and poorly maintained	Installed system needs repair/ upgrading (incl. more regular watering)
Grounds around the oval and grandstand are in disrepair – bank erosion, huge ants nests, oval fence/ gates maintenance	Upgrade grounds/ surrounds incl. fence/ gates (i.e. formal entry), paving/ access, improvements to parking area/ vehicular entry and exit. Improve maintenance
Improve maintenance and appearance of park	Need higher standard of maintenance and expand memorial gardens
Lake and island are in need of maintenance/ upgrade	Improve maintenance/ upgrade lake and surrounds
Grass in need of regular watering to avoid ‘dust-bowl areas’	Re-turf affected areas. Ensure regular maintenance (incl. edging)
Park maintenance and appearance – dry and drab	Need a good watering system
Not enough recycling bins (only one near the playground)	Install more recycling bins
Much of the park signage/ plaques are unreadable	Improve maintenance and replacement of signage (incl. historic plaques)
Park maintenance/ upkeep needed and reduce vandalism	Gardener position needed
Poor park maintenance	Need permanent grounds-person (like Richmond Park)
PUBLIC ACCESS: PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES & PARKING ISSUES	
Car parking around oval grandstand- dust bowl in summer/ bog in rain	Bitumen surfacing and formalised car parking bays
Vehicles on grassed areas (e.g. formal functions/ events)	Restrict access
Unrestricted vehicular access and parking	Need more restrictions on vehicular access and parking within the park
Existing unformed car parking	Car parking area needs to be upgraded/

ISSUES	DISCUSSION
area at grandstand is very poor	formalised
Car parking area in disrepair/ need for hard stand finishes	Upgrade surfaces to car parking area (incl. removal of all large trees due to risk of branch fall in winds/ storms)
Car parking and park access need to be improved	Make facilities attractive to local community and visitors to the Hawkesbury
Pedestrian access into the park/ safety crossing George Street (high pedestrian zone)	Need pedestrian crossing (George Street) linking to Council building
Bike path along perimeter roads needs to be more user-friendly (i.e. turning lanes and car parking in bike lane)	Address traffic issues (incl. Moses Street - need left turn only into Hawkesbury Valley Way and The Terrace – restrict car parking along bike lane)
Pathways are uneven and poorly maintained	Improve maintenance
Pathways should provide an even surface.	Avoid unit pavers as they become uneven over time creating trip-points. Good lighting is important.
Lack of interest for pedestrian users/ poor scenic qualities	Introduce clear focal point(s) and provide more sealed walkways through the park
Improve connectivity in and around war memorial gardens	Extend pathway/ pergola (with wisteria) to end of tennis courts. Plant hedge around courts.
Restricted access to public toilets near the children’s play area (during daylight hours)	Provide access to public toilets or provide directional signage to other toilets nearby
Accessible toilets – opening hours and where are they?	Signage/ improved accessibility
SPORTING & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	
Keep the park as it is (maintain status quo)	Improve quality of playing/ sports areas
Park is untidy – tennis courts are in poor condition and pathways are deteriorating	Improve frequency of park maintenance. Upgrade tennis courts.
Park improvements to attract more people to the park	Install exercise equipment/ circuit around the park
Not enough park facilities - benches/ shelters	Install more benches/ shelters and shady trees
BBQs are not cleaned/	Improve maintenance and cleanliness

ISSUES	DISCUSSION
maintained	
LIGHTING & PARK SECURITY	
Existing park lighting/ maintenance issues	Need to improve maintenance/ replacement of poles and light fixtures
Park security	In conjunction with improved lighting, review after hours security to reduce vandalism/ fire damage to grandstand and rotunda
SOCIAL ISSUES	
Homeless people 'living' in the grandstand	
HERITAGE PROTECTION	
Existing buildings have historic significance	Need to maintain buildings and provide more landscaping Protect heritage values
LANDSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT	
Park always looks drab and dry/ lack of visual and aesthetic interest/ poor tree selection using only native Ironbarks	Plant more European trees, shrubs and manicured hedges (i.e. enhance privacy, block noise and traffic smells, add rich greens to match Windsor's colonial identity).
Provide clear park identification with perimeter fencing incl. grand entrance	Use timber and sandstone (should be sympathetic with colonial heritage)
Grassed areas are patchy/ poor cover and uncomfortable to sit on	Need to improve quality of turf overall
Need more trees in the park	Plant more trees and maintain
Need understorey shrubs to attract birds and improve park qualities	Plant more shrubs around existing trees to enhance visual and environmental values
TREE MANAGEMENT	
Management of park trees and shrubs	Need to review maintenance and address longer term management issues (incl. restrictions on vehicle access)
Poor maintenance of existing trees (incl. branch pruning/ removals) and need more trees	Improve tree care, annual risk assessment and maintenance. Tree planting/ rows or avenues taking care to protect vistas
TOURISM & EVENTS MANAGEMENT	

ISSUES	DISCUSSION
Promote tourism/ attractions in the park	Improve signage and provide more trees, litter bins and seating
Park attractions/ concerts and events	Promote opportunities for evening concerts/ music and events in the park Continue to promote broad range of uses (incl. sports, picnics, walkers, joggers, dog walkers, weddings and school gatherings/ formals)
CWA BUILDING	
CWA hall appears to be under-utilised	Needs to be incorporated within the park. Provide a kiosk/ cafe
CWA cottage provides facilities for members and the broader community (hire)	Need to maintain these opportunities and protect heritage values
CWA building and grounds are unattractive/ broader public use	Improve/ upgrade building and grounds with view to increase public accessibility
DOG ISSUES	
Dog faeces issues – lot of people walk their dog in the park	Provide bins for disposal of dog faeces
Dog issues/ faeces and emptying bins	Dogs must be kept on leads and faeces must be removed by owners.
Dog faeces in the park	Address dog issues.

Appendix IV – McQuade Park Tree Species List

The following scheduled trees, recorded in McQuade Park between 18/10/2011 and 5/04/2012 by Noel Ruting, are arranged into the following categories:

1. Local native and exotic species of local heritage significance (including possible old growth and cultural planting/ significant trees (c.1880s-1940);
2. Cultivated trees of the post-war period to recent (1940s-current – including Bicentennial plantations).

Notes:

* Species identified as being neutral to intrusive in this historic cultural landscape (i.e. inclusion in a replacement program is not recommended).

Species identified as having cultural significance but are considered exotic weed species and need to be managed to restrict spread of weed propagules. Further infill or replacement planting with these species is not recommended.

Botanic Name

Common Name

Local native/ exotic species of local heritage significance (1880s-1940)

<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i>	Bunya Pine
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> #	Camphor Laurel
<i>Eucalyptus beyeriana</i>	Beyer's Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leaved Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i>	Broad-leaved Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus maidenii</i>	Maiden's Gum
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Melia azedarach</i> var. <i>australasica</i>	White Cedar
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood Poplar
<i>Populus nigra</i> var. ' <i>Italica</i> '	Lombardy Poplar
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washington Palm

Cultivated trees of post-war period to recent (1940s-current)

<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> *	Bottlebrush
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> *	Weeping Bottlebrush
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> *	Lemon-scented Gum
<i>Corymbia gummifera</i> *	Red Bloodwood
<i>Corymbia maculata</i> *	Spotted Gum
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> *	Blackbutt
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> *	Sydney Blue Gum
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> 'Rosea' *	Red Flowering Ironbark
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crepe myrtle
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak
<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>	Norfolk Island Hibiscus
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> *	Sweet Gum
<i>Malus</i> sp.	Crab Apple
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> *	Broad-leaved Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Prickly-leaved Paperbark
<i>Nerium oleander</i> *	Oleander
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Frisia' *	Golden Robinia
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallowwood
<i>Schinus areira</i>	Pepper Tree
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> *	Turpentine
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	Elm