



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary meeting business paper

date of meeting: 13 February 2007

location: council chambers

time: 5:00 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING

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INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Item: 26 **IS - Wilberforce Park Landscape Plan - (79354, 95495)**

Previous Item: 44, Ordinary (12 October 2004)

REPORT:

Recognising the historical importance of Wilberforce Park, Council adopted a Conservation Management Plan for the park on 12 October 2004. The Conservation Policy contained within the Plan stated the need for a number of actions to be undertaken to meet the objectives of conserving the integrity of Wilberforce Park as a key component of the Macquarie planned town of Wilberforce, whilst meeting current needs of the community.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the recommended actions within the Conservation Policy for Wilberforce Park, a Landscape Architect was engaged to provide a design for the Park to guide future development. This Landscape Plan is consistent with the Conservation Management Plan 2004.

Throughout the development of the Conservation Management Plan and the Landscape Plan, community input and comment has been sought. Meetings have been held so that community members could provide input prior to the development of the plans and each of the plans were placed on Public Exhibition for comment.

The Draft Landscape Plan for Wilberforce Park was advertised for public comment in November 2006. Five respondents have provided comment. Comments have been inserted into a table (see Attachment 1), along with notations relevant to that item from the Conservation Management Plan and community meetings.

Every effort has been made to represent comments into the attached table. General statements that were not in relation to the landscape design have not been included.

In consideration of the comments received, it is proposed that the Landscape Plan be amended to reflect the following:

- install a normal timber post fence, rather than arriss rail, to reflect historic references of the fence style;
- remove 2 proposed trees south of the War Memorial;
- replace the pavers in the corners of the War Memorial to 300x300 exposed aggregate in different colours.
- consider using Wollemi Pine in the design, subject to suitability.

Conformance to Strategic Plan

The proposal is deemed to conform with the objectives set out in Council's Strategic Plan i.e:

"Objective: Sustainable and liveable communities that respect, preserve and manage the heritage, cultural and natural assets of the City"

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Funding

Future improvements will be funded by the Park Improvement Program, Section 94 funds and grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Wilberforce Park Landscape Plan be amended as outlined in the report and be adopted by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Table of Comments - Wilberforce Park

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AT - 1 Table of Comments - Wilberforce Park

Issue	Recommendations from the Conservation Management Plan	Community Input into the development of the Conservation Management Plan	Community Input in the development of the Landscape Plan	Landscape Consultants response to issue	Community Comment on the draft Landscape Management Plan	Staff comment
Fence	Fence the whole perimeter of the Park with a timber arriiss top rail and post fence.	The Park should be re-fenced as much to stop vehicular access as to recover a sense of address within the town plan	One community member remembers playing on the fence as a boy and it was not arriiss top rail. It was a wooden post and mesh fence. Support for a fence. People will see it as a park and not a vacant bit of land. The fence is a community priority to keep trail bikes and 4WDs.	Has included an arriiss top rail fence as specified in the plan but considers an ordinary top rail to be appropriate	"The proposed timber and wire fence is totally inappropriate" One resident believes the timber fence is very expensive. They are also concerned about white ants.	Preference is a post and rail fence.
Avenue of Trees	Supplement the existing avenue and reinstate the former avenue (of trees) using preferably, Stone Pines and Bunya Pines. Other pines such as Maritime Pine, Aleppo Pine or Hoop Pine may be suitable.	Tree replacement program/maintenance program required.	Instead of planting gum trees with messy bark shed, consider Iron barks, these are traditional to the area and lot sizes wouldn't allow people to grow them in back yards. Need to grow them in public places. Local houses are built of Ironbark slabs.	Agreed, has suggested reinstatement of avenue of trees, including Hoop Pine, Stone Pine, Aleppo Pine, River She Oak, Red Gum and Narrow leaf Ironbark.	"Why plant 100 trees or any trees in these dry conditions?" Believe that the currently landscape would be destroyed by planting more trees. They will take away from the present openness and spoil the views. Too many trees would take away the grass area. Suggestion the trees can be replaced with the same species.	If planting gums, better to plant locally indigenous plants - i.e Iron bark. Good interpretive opportunity also. Uncertain about large size and aesthetics of River Oaks. Trees will be watered in until established. There is no proposal to remove the Bunya Pines, however they

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					Also suggested that a couple of Wollemi Pines should be planted. RSL asked that 4 proposed trees immediately around the memorial be deleted from the plan. Resident would not like to see all the Bunya Pines taken out. A second resident is concerned by the number of trees to be planted and how they will be sustained in the present drought and poor soil.	will not be replaced as their cones may be a safety concern. Wollemi Pines may have a high water requirement, however can be investigated. One of the proposed trees for removal is an existing Bunya Pine, the other is required to balance the design.
Removal of incorrectly placed facilities	Relocate the picnic table currently placed in the line of the eastern avenue and remove or transplant more recent planting that intrude on this alignment. Remove bins, tables etc which are in inappropriate locations				Agreed, Landscape Plan shows removal of these items.	
Paths	Reinstate the known, early paths in the park. Use preferably, a path of consolidated crushed dolerite. If a more heavy-duty surface is				Landscape Plan shows reinstatement of the main path. But to retain the secondary path as an informal grass track	Fixed edging is necessary to retain the gravel. It will not be obvious.

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	required, concrete with specially selected aggregate... or asphalt could be used.			lined by an avenue of trees. Surface of main path to consist of decomposed granite gravel (gold).	will". The current surface detracts from the green of the park. It looks more like a road.	The proposed surface is gold colour - more natural looking than grey/black.
Entrances	Design pathway entrances to the park to a standard suitable for wheelchair access.			Top entrance to be exposed aggregate concrete. (Other entrances not suitable grade for wheelchair access).	The park still retains its rural character. "Please let it stay that way. No concrete and bitumen".	Hard surfaces are required in heavy traffic areas to prevent wear and tear and to better ensure the safety of patrons.
War Memorial	Consider re-paving around the War Memorial with larger scale pavers and integrating better with the main axial pathway.		Surface needs to be smooth enough to do a slow march without falling over. RSL was to be invited to comment	Exposed aggregate concrete edged in 400x400 unit paving (dark tone).	"The war memorial should be left untouched" RSL have asked that the four corners of the memorial be 300x300 of different coloured aggregate.	The war memorial is in disrepair and needs maintenance works done. Support RSL request.
Lines of trees	Consider replanting lines of conifers ... to interpret the earlier design and provide more shade. Install a sign with the Park's name.		Suggestion that locals be involved in tree planting - strengthen commitment to maintaining them.	Sho-oak, Aleppo Pine to replace trees in the rows of conifers.		Happy to involve the community in planting the trees.
Signage				Signs to be installed at Entrances	"A sign if going to be used should be one telling the history of Wilberforce Park".	
Interpretation	Consider including a brief statement of the park's historical significance (within signage). It was noted that recovering and enhancing the significance of the park is the most effective	Value of the place needs to be recognised - its importance as a Macquarie-instigated park within the original town plan. Interpretation of the park's significance		A sandstone cairn with etched bronze signs to depict historical information and photos, to be installed at top entrance. Recovery of the		

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Passive recreation	means of interpreting its history.	needed	avenues of trees and other works will enhance the significance of the park.	<p>A children's playground and bicycle track have been incorporated into the design. Track to be of concrete with a pattern applied to the surface.</p> <p>Planting near playground is not appropriate. In wet conditions, fallen leaves will be slippery.</p> <p>"Soft surfacing in children's play areas is a requirement... these days. Surely the surface for the bike track should be something softer than concrete.</p>	Soft fall is not a suitable surface for a bike track.
Parking	<p>Parking is recommended to be angled or rear to the kerb on the Macquarie Road side, with islands of endemic grasses. There should be no concrete kerb and gutters constructed</p>	<p>More structured organization of parking to Macquarie Road.</p>	<p>Concern that there will be a reduction in number of car parking spaces informally available.</p> <p>Agreed that it is best to retain parking on the church and housing side of Macquarie Road.</p>	<p>Parallel parking provided (20 spaces), with islands of native grasses. See staff comment.</p> <p>Car parking in Macquarie Road should be front to kerb not parallel.</p> <p>Another submission has questioned that only 20 car spaces will be sufficient to cater for the Church fete.</p>	<p>Due to the width of the road reserve it is not possible to install angled parking without denying parking on the church side of Macquarie Road.</p> <p>Encroachment into the park is contrary to the CMP. See below.</p> <p>It is not Council's responsibility to provide parking for people attending the St Johns fete. The proposed parking is for those visiting the park and can be used by people attending</p>

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					the church and neighbouring properties. Parking is currently not permissible within the park and it is not proposed to allow parking within the park in the future, as it is incompatible with passive recreational use and conservation needs.
Park excision	There should be no subdivision of the park or excisions from or alienation of parts of the park	The fence surrounding the park will be placed on the property boundary.			Parallel parking is the preferred option so as not to encroach into the park. See notes above.
Lighting	Install lighting in strategic locations in the Park to assist in providing security at night	Fairly extensive lighting would be required to make any impact. It would also be a target for vandals. Not needed, waste of \$.	Need for lighting	Believe that lighting would deter drink and drug taking. They would like lights such as that at Old Sackville Road. A second person would like lights also - An example is that at Old Sackville road.	Lighting may encourage vandalism. It may also encourage people to loiter. Potentially becoming a nuisance to neighbours.
Protection of root zones	Raise mower height around the root zones of trees to avoid damage to the root systems.	Mulch to be placed beneath existing trees to protect roots from mowing.		Concern that contents of mulch around the Bunya Pines and Stone Pines may destroy them.	Difficult to raise mower height of slasher. Mulch is recommended to prevent root damage and reduce traffic movement. The benefits outweigh any disadvantages.

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Amenities	The need for a toilet block was highlighted			2 residents suggested the need for a toilet block.	Not recommended. The previous toilet block was heavily vandalised. The main users of the Park are local people.
Dog off leash area		<p>Concern that dog owners would not like to be restricted to one area.</p> <p>Some feel it is a dangerous precedent to let dogs off leash. We have strong leash laws that people don't abide by now.</p> <p>If you denote one space they will use the whole park.</p> <p>It's not Balmain, people have back yards.</p> <p>There is no policing.</p> <p>People don't think signage will have an impact.</p> <p>Question if it is suitable to fence off an area with open frame mesh similar to what was there previously.</p> <p>Concern about lack of water in park.</p>	<p>The area to the north of the eastern avenue of trees is suggested to be an off leash area for dogs.</p> <p>(signage to be installed to designate area, no fencing)</p>	<p>Concern about what will stop a dog from covering the whole park.</p>	<p>Dogs are currently let off the leash within the Park, and this is considered inappropriate due to the children's play area and passive nature of park. Community concerns supported.</p> <p>The fact that people are currently using the park as an off leash area suggests that there is a need for an official off leash area.</p> <p>A fence would unbalance the design.</p> <p>Dogs in the park would be required to be on a leash.</p>
Water facilities			Plants chosen are hardy and will enquire		

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Memorial plants			Would need a tap near picnic shelter.	little watering. All new planting will include good soil preparation and appropriate selection of species.		We would make contact with people about the memorial plantings so that they would know in advance that they will be replaced and plaques assigned to new plants.
Outdoor meeting area			Agreement that memorial plants are in poor condition. The general comment was that people would understand that plants aren't surviving well. She oaks are fast growing and would be a good replacement. Keen to explore concept of outdoor meeting area. Don't have this in Wilberforce. Old cricket net area might be suitable. No place for community to gather eg Carols in the park.	Removal of memorial plantings as plants are not doing well - inappropriate species selection.	"What use is the amphitheatre? Concerts are not a feature in this park. If there is one then chairs and blankets are fine."	An amphitheatre is supported.
Nomination for heritage listing	Nominate Wilberforce Park for State heritage Register listing.	Noted the importance of the history of the park.	Should Park be on State Heritage Register?			Nomination supported.

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