EDWARDS PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

JUNE 2008

STRATHFIELD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PO Box 120
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135
tel: (02) 9748 9999
fax: (02) 9764 1034.
email: council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au.

with assistance from

Parkland Environmental Planners
PO Box 41
HARBORD NSW 2096
tel: (02) 9938 1925
mobile: 0411 191866
fax: (02) 9981 7001
email: shoypep@ozemail.com.au

This plan was adopted at the meeting of Strathfield Council on May 6 2008 following minor amendments to the draft Plan of Management and following Council’s resolution 84/08.
Executive Summary

Introduction

This Plan of Management has been prepared to guide Strathfield Council, as owner of Community land, in the future management of Edwards Park, Strathfield.

This Plan of Management satisfies the requirements for content and process in preparing a Plan of Management under the Local Government Act 1993.

Review of the previous Plan of Management

This Plan of Management reviews, updates and replaces the section of Neighbourhood Parks and Playgrounds relating to Edwards Park and prepared in 1997.

The Draft Plan of Management will be placed on public exhibition for community comment in 2008.

The Plan of Management recommends the development of community facilities and management actions to meet current needs and future demands of park users, and highlighting the Park’s local and district significance.

Significance

Edwards Park is significant because it:

- Edwards Park is a popular neighbourhood park
- is a central feature of one of Sydney's significant post-war NSW Government housing developments in the late 1940’s – 1950’s
- Offers visitors unique opportunities ranging from passive recreation, to family picnics and children’s play.
- Offers educational and community services from the High St Library
- The park, with its buildings for community use, mature landscape, children’s playground and BBQ facility, plays an important role as a neighbourhood park.
- The Park is also classified an item of heritage significance on Strathfield Council’s draft Local Environment Plan (LEP 105)
## Current status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Edwards Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>High St/ Macarthur Ave/Noble Ave, Strathfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent landuses</td>
<td>Residential – detached dwellings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land parcels</td>
<td>Community land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lot 442 DP 708250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (ha)</td>
<td>0.75 hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Strathfield Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Strathfield Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community land categorisation</td>
<td>Park and General Community use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>6(a) Open Space – Recreation Existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchment</td>
<td>Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical characteristics</td>
<td>Mature trees, children’s play areas, picnic and barbecue areas, Branch Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora and fauna</td>
<td>Eucalypts, Plane trees and native mass planted beds No fauna surveys have been undertaken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual elements</td>
<td>Mature plantings in a pleasantly landscaped layout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, bus. Entry points off High St and Macarthur Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets and conditions</td>
<td>Children’s play equipment – poor (limited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary Grove – good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Branch Library- poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lighting – good (limited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paths –good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picnic and barbecue areas – good but limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seating - good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent changes</td>
<td>Improvements to landscape and Rotary Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing uses</td>
<td>Sport: Unstructured play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picnics and barbecues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Informal games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Rubbish removal, lawn maintenance, garden and tree maintenance, building maintenance, inspecting &amp; repairing play equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easements</td>
<td>None known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses and leases</td>
<td>No existing licences, or leases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basis for Management

Edwards Park is Community land owned by Strathfield Council, so the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* apply. Under the Act the land is categorised as park and general community use. Other key relevant legislation includes the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance and LEPs under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Other legislation such as the Companion Animals Act and Disability Discrimination Act apply to management of the Park.

The local planning framework is governed by Council’s Management Plan, the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance, draft LEPs, and various Development Control Plans. Council’s strategic plans such as the Management Plan and the Strathfield Vision 2020 also influence planning and management of the Park.

Community values of the Park are related to:

- Recreation and social opportunity.
- Environmental awareness.
- Image and visual quality.
- Children’s play opportunity
- Passive areas for relaxation
- Community involvement.

The vision for the Park is:

*Edwards Park will continue to be a passive play area and a popular neighbourhood park with an enhanced range of community uses. It will continue to offer a range of informal recreation and social opportunities catering for all ages in a pleasantly landscaped and relatively undeveloped setting.*

The future roles of the park are:

- “The Community Park”
  - Play
  - Community meeting places
  - Built/landscape heritage
  - Visual relief
  - Unstructured recreation
  - Green space
Issues
A number of issues were identified through preparation of this Plan of Management:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community facility</td>
<td>Branch library has ended its serviceable life and may soon represent a safety issue. It is recommended the existing branch library is replaced with a new community facility complex as shown on page VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Opportunity</td>
<td>Maintenance, quality and range of children’s play equipment, seating, opportunities for unstructured play, picnic facilities, car parking and quality of the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Awareness</td>
<td>Shade, renewable energy and resources, water use, use of natives in plantings, transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable transport linkages</td>
<td>Pedestrian paths, desire lines, equal access, road safety, cycle linkages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community involvement</td>
<td>Safety and security, lighting, continuing Adopt-a-park program with Rotary Club of Strathfield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image and visual quality</td>
<td>Park layout, rubbish, vandalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Council managed facility and open space areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These issues are addressed in the Action Plan.

Actions

Key future actions and changes to the Park include:

- Demolish the Branch library & replace with a new community facility.
- Create a community facility place by based on the concept plan as shown Figure 0.1 to cater for a wider range of users
- Improve play opportunities
- Improved pedestrian / cycle access and sustainable linkages.
- Improve general lighting in the park and at park entrances
- Improve level of landscape maintenance
- Prepare a park masterplan
- Installation of signage
- Retain and protect unstructured play areas.

This Plan of Management has been prepared with a series of Action Plans linked to the values, strategies, actions, priorities, responsibilities, and costs. Performance measurements are outlined, which will be incorporated into budgets and work programs.

Short-term or urgent actions are to:

- Demolish and replace the existing building and provide a high quality building for multipurpose use.
- Relocate and upgrade the children’s play area.
- Remove non significant vegetation for new buildings and to provide better park access.
- Increase the visual amenity through new landscape design.
Figure 0.1  Community Facility Complex Concept Plan for Edwards Park
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Acknowledgements

Council particularly wish to thank the following people who contributed towards the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Strathfield Council

Rob Bourke       Director Operations  
Geoff Swinney    A/Manager Parks    
Bernadette Murray Natural Resources Officer and Project Manager  
Andrew Wright    Recreation Planner  
Melanie Sallis   Landscape Architect  
Patrick Wong     Director Technical Services  
Cathy Jones      Policy & Projects Officer

Consultants
Arena Design Architects, Colin Brown  
Parkland Environmental Planners, Sandy Hoy
# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 What is a Plan of Management?

Council is required under the Local Government Act 1993 to prepare a Plan of Management for Community land. The purpose of a Plan of Management is to identify the needs of an area, propose actions and to guide Council as owner of Community land in future management of Edwards Park. The purpose of the Edwards Park Plan of Management is to enable Council to redevelop the Branch Library facility to achieve broad social outcomes in keeping with the vision and needs of Strathfield South residents.

The Plan of Management is responsible for identifying actions and changes to an area, it does not need to be specific in detail but identify significant change.

## 1.2 Background to this Plan of Management

There are over 60 parks in Strathfield. These parks are considered valuable for their open space, recreational and social opportunities, particularly as Strathfield’s residential and multi dwellings increase. Strathfield’s parks attract residents from the entire Strathfield local government area and beyond, and are important in defining the image of Strathfield.

A Plan of Management was last reviewed and prepared for Edwards Park as part of the Generic Parks Plan of Management in 1997. Since that time, changes have occurred in the planning and management of the park.

Physical and usage changes in the park include:

- Demand for new uses and increased visitors.
- Improvements, such as garden plantings, Rotary Grove, playground maintenance, facility maintenance and picnic area maintenance.

Recent management and policy changes include:

- Preparation of Council’s policy documents that inform the planning and management of parks, such as the Strathfield Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Study (2006), and the Strathfield Vision 2020 (2005).
- A greater emphasis on approaches that are now at the forefront of parks management, such as adapting water use in parks according to water restrictions, Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), better managing the carrying capacity of sporting fields, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Strathfield Council is reviewing and updating the strategies and actions in the current Plans of Management to bring them up to date, and to plan for the future of the Edwards Park. A separate Plan of Management for Edwards Park in order to meet the needs of the local community, optimise the utilisation of the park and to improve the quality of the park and park facilities.
This Plan of Management recommends the Branch library be demolished and rebuilt, providing a range of services to the community as well as providing access to existing services. All management actions are aimed to meet current and future demands of park users and the local government area.

1.3 Land to which this Plan of Management applies

This Plan of Management applies to Edwards Park, which is approximately 0.75 hectares in area.

Land within the Park is owned by Strathfield Council. Consequently, this Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Refer to Figure 1.1 for a plan of the park.

Key features of Edwards Park include:

- gazebo shelter and BBQ area for picnics.
- branch Library
- children’s playground.
- ‘Rotary Grove’ garden.
- Formal circular seating courtyard.
- Informal turfed areas for picnics, passive recreation and unstructured play.

1.4 Objectives of this Plan of Management

Objectives of this Plan of Management for Edwards Park are to:

- establish a sound and balanced approach to the management of Edwards Park, while providing a flexible framework within which Council can respond to current needs and opportunities, as well as to future directions and pressures as demands on the Park change.
- establish a framework to guide day-to-day and long-term decision-making regarding the use and management of the park.
☐ identify important features of the land and any buildings or improvements.

☐ meet legislative requirements for the preparation of Plans of Management for community land.


☐ cater for the diverse needs of the local community in an efficient and effective way.

☐ reflect the values and expectations of the local Strathfield community for future use and enjoyment of the Park.

☐ integrate and accommodate the needs of Council (as managers), residents (as neighbours and users), and current and future users of the park.

☐ outline how Council will manage the land.

☐ incorporate ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and other management principles.

☐ review, update and develop new detailed management strategies and actions.

☐ address and outline actions to resolve ongoing management issues.

☐ outline planned future projects.

☐ outline a consistent approach to facilitate carrying out proposed improvements.

☐ present a concept plan that illustrates the actions required to implement proposed physical changes and improvements to the Park.

☐ specify how the land and buildings may be used.
1.5 Process of preparing this Plan of Management

The process of preparing this Plan of Management, consultations with consultants, the community, and documents produced at each stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSULTATIONS</th>
<th>STUDY TASKS</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Council Staff</td>
<td>INCEPTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site inspections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review background reports, plans,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997 Plan of Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 Strathfield Recreation Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 South Strathfield Social, Leisure and Recreation Study</td>
<td>PREPARE DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>Draft Plan of Management Report to Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Recreation, Cultural facilities and Community Needs Study</td>
<td>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Community Facilities Plan of Management</td>
<td>PUBLIC EXHIBITION</td>
<td>Written submissions to Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Library user surveys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review by Council staff March 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to stakeholders and community groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices placed in local newspapers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents and plans on display at Council’s administration centre and libraries, and Council’s website</td>
<td>PREPARE FINAL PLAN OF MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>Plan of Management for Edwards Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Council staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution by Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPLEMENTATION
1.5.1 Local Government Act

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that draft Plans of Management are placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, with a further 14 days allowed for written comments.

1.6 What is included in this Plan of Management?

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Structure of this Plan of Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>What does it include?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Description of Edwards Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Planning context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Values, roles and objectives for Edwards Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Planning Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Implementation and review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appendices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements of the Local Government Act for the contents of a Plan of Management, and where they can be found in this Plan, are listed in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Contents of a Plan of Management for community land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement of the Local Government Act</th>
<th>How this plan satisfies the Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A description of the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management</td>
<td>Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A description of the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management.</td>
<td>Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorisation of community land</td>
<td>Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core objectives for management of the land.</td>
<td>Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used.</td>
<td>Sections 3, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.</td>
<td>Sections 3, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A description of the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.</td>
<td>Section 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land.</td>
<td>Section 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance targets.</td>
<td>Section 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A means for assessing achievement of objectives and performance targets.</td>
<td>Section 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 DESCRIPTION OF EDWARDS PARK

2.1 Location and context

Edwards Park is located in the suburb of Strathfield. Edwards Park is a neighborhood park, surrounded by detached residential dwellings. High St is to the north and Noble Ave to the south and east and Macarthur Ave to the west.

The Cooks River parks are to the north-west, including Chain of Ponds and Freshwater Park as well as revegetated areas in Strathfield Golf Course. South Strathfield Bowling and Community Club is the only Council owned community facility in the area. Strathfield Park is the closest significant park to Edwards Park, located directly to the north of the park.

Figure 2.1 shows the location of Edwards Park.
2.2 Significance of Edwards Park

Edwards Park is one of the 60 parks and reserves in the Strathfield local government area. Figure 2.2 shows the hierarchy of parks in the local government area.

Edwards Park is significant because it:

- was designated a public recreation ground and open space to residents post WWI and WWII
- offers visitors a unique and diverse number of opportunities ranging from an unstructured field to areas for family picnics and children’s play as well as providing a local community meeting place.
- location of the Branch library
- is a popular neighbourhood park and suitable venue for community functions.
- contains informal recreation settings combining picnic and barbecue facilities with children’s play settings.
- is increasingly becoming a highly visited park.
- listed a heritage item on the draft LEP 105 for its historic significance.
Figure 2.2  Hierarchy of open space in Strathfield

**COOKS RIVER OPEN SPACE**
- Freshwater Park
- Thew Reserve
- Chain of Ponds
- Ford Park
- Prentice Reserve
- Maria Reserve
- Southend Tennis Facility
- Palmer Reserve
- Elliott Reserve
- St Annes Reserve
- Fitzgerald Reserve
- Dean Reserve

**SIGNIFICANT AREA OPEN SPACE**
- Strathfield Park
- Airey Park
- Mason Park
- Bressington Park

**Neighbourhood Parks**
- Allen Reserve
- Austin Park
- Boden Reserve
- Centenary Playground
- Coronation Reserve
- Davey Square
- Drew St Playground
- **Edwards Park**
  - Fitzgerald Park
  - Frank Zions Reserve
  - Freshwater Park
  - Henley Reserve
  - Inveresk Park
  - Ismay Reserve
  - Kessell Square
  - Laker Reserve
  - Lowes Gardens
  - Marlene Reserve
  - Mt Royal Reserve
  - Pemberton Reserve
  - Powells Creek Reserve
  - Pilgrim Park
  - Shortland Place
  - Slater Reserve
  - Todman Reserve Wallis Reserve
  - Wentworth Reserve

**Community Facilities**
- Community centres
- Strathfield South Community Club
- Libraries
- Central library – Rochester st
- Branch library – High st
- Golf Clubs
- Strathfield private Golf Course
- Hudson Park Golf Course
- Tennis Facilities
- **Southend Tennis Centre**
- Sportsgrounds
- Hudson Park Oval
- Begnell Field
- Bark Huts Reserve
- Cooke Park
- Child Care Centres
- Kurralee
- Strathfield Sessional Pre-school
- SOCCS & Homebush Early Childhood Health Centre (Strathfield Children’s Centre)
- HOOSH (25 Broughton Rd)
  - Scout Halls
  - Ismay Reserve Hall
  - Melville Reserve Hall

**Environmental Area**
- Cox’s Creek Reserve
- Mason Park Wetlands
- Inveresk Park
- Maria Reserve

NB: Some parks are included in several categories
2.3 Land ownership and management

2.3.1 Introduction

Strathfield Municipal Council owns and manages the Community Land known as Edwards Park as shown in Figure 2.3 and detailed in Table 2.1. Edwards Park is 0.75 hectares in area. The park is broken up into two community land categorisations, General Community Use and Park. The General Community Use area makes up approximately 40% of the park and the Park space the remaining 60% as shown in Fig 2.3.

Figure 2.3 Categories of land in Edwards Park
Table 2.1 Ownership and management of Edwards Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing features</th>
<th>Lot 442 DP 708250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mature Trees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotunda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Strathfield Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Strathfield Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>6(a) Recreation Open Space –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (ha)</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Purpose</td>
<td>General Community use and Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leases</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easement</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.3 Community land

Edwards Park is comprised of a single parcel of land owned in fee simple by Strathfield Council, which is classified as community land under the Local Government Act 1993. All land classified as community land must be managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

2.3.4 Leases and licences in Edwards Park

The Branch library is owned and operated by Strathfield Municipal Council. It is not subject to lease or license agreements. The BBQ and picnic areas are provided free of charge for general public use.

2.4 History and cultural heritage

2.4.1 Indigenous history

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) was once inhabited by the Wangal clan of the Darug tribe, who spoke the coastal Eora dialect of the Darug language.

The Strathfield LGA area once supported eucalypt forests with an understorey of native grasses, as well as areas of dense scrub.

There are no known remaining relics of Aboriginal occupation in Strathfield, nor any burial sites discovered. It is believed that this is mainly due to the geology of the area as there are no large flat areas of sandstone, or rock shelters.
2.4.2 Non-indigenous history

**Historical events**

Edwards Park is a popular neighbourhood park that was a central feature of one of Sydney’s significant post-war NSW Government housing developments in the late 1940's. The park, with its buildings for community use, mature landscape, children’s playground and BBQ facility, plays an important role as a neighbourhood park.

The objective of the park’s initial design was provision of a children’s playground. The addition of the Branch Library in 1956 consolidated Edwards Park as an important community facility. In the 1990s, a more formalised garden plan was implemented and facilities such as BBQ's were added.

The history of Strathfield is documented in various books and reports (refer to the reference list A summary of historical events is in Table 2.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>The site was dedicated by the NSW Government Housing Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>The park was dedicated to Strathfield Council in 1955 by the Housing Commission of NSW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Branch library constructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>Landscape design upgraded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 Physical characteristics

2.5.1 Climate

Edwards Park is located between two meteorological stations at Sydney Observatory Hill and Parramatta. Sydney has a more temperate climate than Parramatta, with temperatures higher in summer and colder in winter in Parramatta. Rainfall and average wind speeds are higher closer to the coast in Sydney compared to Parramatta.

Taking an approximate average of Sydney and Parramatta meteorological data, Edwards Park would experience:

- mean daily maximum summer temperature of 27°C.
- mean daily minimum temperature in winter of 7-8°C.
- mean annual rainfall of approximately 1,100 mm.
- 10-11 wet days per month.
- mean wind speed at 9am of 9-10 km/hour.

The mature tree plantings, Rotary grove and understorey will provide a variety of sheltered spaces within the park. Such planting has created a diverse range of microclimates with shaded areas, open sunny spaces and areas protected from winds.
2.5.2 Landform, soils and drainage

Landform and topography

The area surrounding Edwards Park is flat with a slight slope from the South of the park to the north of the park. The park generally slopes from Noble Ave/Macarthur Ave down to High St.

Geology and soils

Strathfield is on the eastern slopes of the Sydney Cumberland Plain, which stretches westward from Richmond in the north to Picton in the south. The area is characterised by gently undulating topography with reactive clay soils from the Wianamatta Shale typical of the inner west and southern suburbs of Sydney. The shale soils are shallower in the upper reaches of the Cooks River near Edwards Park and tend to be poor limiting the original agricultural uses of the area. (Benson et al 1999)

Hydrology and drainage

The Strathfield LGA lies at the meeting of the Sydney Harbour Catchment to the north and the Cooks River catchment to the south. Edwards Park is located within the Upper Cooks River Catchment and near the bottom of a valley between Strathfield Park and Liverpool Rd and lies in the original region of a small watercourse.

2.5.3 Flora and fauna

Flora

The original vegetation in the area would have been Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest, now known as Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (CRCIF). This vegetation community is naturally associated with the Cooks River Valley and in Edwards Park is near the border of Turpentine Ironbark Forest that grew on the ridge of Liverpool Rd. This vegetation community is listed an Endangered Ecological Community under the Threatened Species Act 1995. Main tree species of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest from Strathfield area includes *Eucalyptus fibrosa*, Broad-leaved Ironbark, *Melaleuca decora*, *Melaleuca stypheloides* & *Melaleuca nodosa*, Paperbarks, *Acacia pubescens* and *Acacia ulicifolia*, (Benson et al 1999 p.67).

Older trees plantings and significant vegetation in the park include Red Ironbark *Eucalyptus sideroxylon ‘rosea’* and Grass Trees *Xanthorea concava*. The park also includes a number of liquidambers as part of the parks early 19th century planting scheme.

Most recently the park has undergone planting upgrades undertaken by Council. The plantings included mainly medium sized natives. These large areas of plantings have established the series of sheltered and visually separated park spaces that characterise the current park. Some of the plant species used such as Wattles and Grevilleas are relatively short lived, and are showing signs of senescence.

Strathfield Rotary Club regularly pays tributes to it’s members through planting trees along the northern and western borders of the park. This area is known as ‘Rotary Grove’, due to difficult soil conditions these plantings have been of limited success, species planted include:

- Platanus hybridia
Fauna

No fauna surveys have been carried out in the Park, so comprehensive information on fauna is not available.

2.6 Visual assessment

Edwards Park is a picturesque green park, characterised by groupings of large native trees and open grassed areas, and formal circular courtyard seating. The planting screens the branch library and provides a soft framework for the play, picnic areas and other park uses.

2.7 Access and circulation

Refer to Figure 2.4 for access routes to and circulation within the Park.

2.7.1 Access to the Park

The Park is easily accessible by foot, bicycle, private and authorised vehicles.

Entry points to the Park for pedestrians and cyclists are via High St, Macarthur Ave and Noble Ave. The park street frontages are along four sides of the park, which enhance easy access and movement through park. Bike racks are available near the library entrance.

The park is not on a designated bike route, but it is in close proximity to the Cooks River cycle trail, connecting Prentice Reserve and High St.

Homebush Road is the nearest cross street. Bus route 480 services the Park along Homebush Road, which is a short walk to the east. Buses on this route operate between the Park and Strathfield railway station. Other bus routes, such as routes 483 and 407, operate to within 500 metres of the Park. Information on public transport including timetables and bus routes is available on trip planner at www.131500.info.

Parking is available including a dedicated disabled parking space.
Figure 2.4  Access and circulation and key built structures
2.7.2 Circulation within the Park

A pedestrian path bisects the park, connecting High St, Noble Ave and Macarthur Ave. The main path links the High St Library facility, play areas, open space, circular courtyard and picnic rotunda area, and Noble St parking area.

No vehicle parking is available in the park. Off-street parking is available in marked spaces off Noble Ave. On-street parking is available on High street, Noble Ave and Macarthur Ave and is plentiful.

The Park is not entirely accessible for people with disabilities. Amenities for people with disabilities and easy access paths from carparks to some picnic facilities in the park could be improved.

2.8 Built facilities and park furniture

Edwards Park is a multi-purpose reserve incorporating facilities and features for informal recreation. Around 60% of the park is open space. There is limited scope for provision of additional active recreation facilities and none are warranted. The remaining 40% of the park features the library, play equipment and picnic and seating areas.

Figure 2.4 shows the type and location of built structures in Edwards Park.

No major improvements and or changes to structures in Edwards Park have occurred since the previous Plan of Management was prepared.

Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that a Plan of Management that applies to just one area of community land must describe the condition and use of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management. Table 2.3 outlines the condition and use of the land, buildings and other improvements within Edwards Park.
Table 2.3  Condition and use of land, buildings and improvements in Edwards Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Major Facilities</th>
<th>Associated Facilities</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High St Entrance</td>
<td>Branch Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal recreation areas</td>
<td>Children’s playgrounds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Children’s play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbecues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Barbecues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picnic tables and shelters</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Picnics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary Grove</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seating</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian paths</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Walking,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The condition of the key built structures in Edwards Park – Branch library and picnic shelter - are outlined in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4  Condition of key built structures in Edwards Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch Library</th>
<th>Picnic shelter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asset rating</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>53 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Metal Deck Roof (butterfly shape)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central box gutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Double Brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wooden Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paving to link the to the main concrete pedestrian path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study and reading space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access toilet - unisex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strathfield Council asset rating (updated).
Table 2.5 Description of playground in Edwards Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>Attractive, well vegetated. Range of attractive spaces and views to other facilities in the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access for people with disabilities</td>
<td>The picnic shelter and playground is accessible to people in wheelchairs but is not specific to their needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play equipment</td>
<td>The play equipment provides for children from the age of 4 -12. The equipment can be improved and upgraded to provide a wider range of use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Vegetated barrier from Macarthur Ave from playground. Fencing is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating</td>
<td>Seats nearby in circular courtyard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strathfield Playgrounds Management Strategy 2002

All utility connections (electricity, telephone, sewage, drainage) connections are available in the Park.

2.9 Use of the Park

2.9.1 Introduction

Edwards Park is a multi-purpose reserve incorporating facilities and features for learning and informal recreation. Users of Edwards Park participate in a variety of informal sporting, recreation and social activities.

Levels of usage in Edwards Park are low and can be improved upon building upgrade and design, landscape and designated informal areas. The park is a valuable asset and can become a better focal point for the community in the future. In addition, the park is used by local residents, the general community and in Adopt a Park plantings days by the Strathfield Rotary Club.

2.9.2 Informal activities

Informal uses of the Park include:

- picnics and barbecues, using picnic shelters, tables, barbecues and grassed areas.
- children’s play and informal games in the playground, Park and grassed areas.
- walking for pleasure and exercise, walking the dog, and jogging.
- relaxation and unstructured recreation activities.
- fitness.
2.9.2 Community Activities

Community Activities have been an integral part of the park for the majority of its life however the activities are extremely limited in their range and appeal, the current uses include:

- Library activities,
- Council programs based in the Library.
- Adopt a Park
- General community use

2.9.2 Future Activities

To increase the range of community activities available, Council may modify or alter the existing activities and uses of the park and library, to cater to the needs of the community. To do this Council must sacrifice part of the traditional library service such as a permanent collection. New functions may include:

- Basic library functions such as book order, catalogue etc.
- Electronic library resources.
- Web & electronic resources
- Multipurpose community rooms.
- Children’s activities and care functions such as playgroups, out of school hours services etc
- Services for older persons and persons with limited access.
- Equal Access facilities for people with disabilities.
- Café or similar commercial venture.

2.9.4 Prohibited uses

Prohibited activities in the Park include off-leash dog exercise and model aeroplane flying.

2.10 Maintenance

Edwards Park is maintained primarily by Council. However, tasks such as cleaning of the library and maintenance of the building facilities will be outsourced.

Maintenance tasks undertaken in Edwards Park include:

- removing rubbish.
- lawn maintenance (mowing, edging, line trimming, herbicide application).
- garden and tree maintenance (weeding, dead plant removal, pruning, herbicide application).
- checking gardens.
3 PLANNING CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction


3.2 Legislation applying to Edwards Park

3.2.1 Local Government Act 1993

Requirements of a Plan of Management

Edwards Park is owned by Strathfield Council, and is classified as community land under the Local Government Act 1993 as amended. Community land must be managed according to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999. Community land:

- must have a Plan of Management prepared for it, which sets out guidelines for use and management of the land. Until a Plan of Management is adopted, the nature and use of the land must not change.
- must be kept for the use of the general community, and must not be sold.
- cannot be leased or licensed for a period of more than 21 years.

Categorisation

Background

Edwards Park is classified under the Local Government Act as Community land.

Under Section 36 (4) of the Local Government Act 1993, Edwards Park is categorised as follows:

- General Community Use (approx 40%),
- Park (approx 60%).

The land within Edwards Park applying to each category is shown in Figure 3.1.

The basis for categorising land within Edwards Park is according to the guidelines set out by the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999. The Local Government Act 1993 establishes core objectives for all categories of community land. Council must manage the community land according to these core objectives. Any additional Council objectives must comply with the core objectives established within the Act. The significance of the
prescribed core objectives is to ensure that any activities or uses of the land are consistent with the core objectives for that category of land.

Figure 3.1  Land Categorisation
Table 3.2 Definitions of and core objectives for categories of community land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Core objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| General Community Use | As the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for community activities, community facilities and passive play. | □ 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:  
  o in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and  
  o 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). |
| Park | Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others. | □ encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.  
□ provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.  
□ improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. |

3.2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA Act) establishes the statutory planning framework for environmental and landuse planning in NSW through State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). The EPA Act also sets out processes for approving development applications for structures and works on public and private land in the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance.

3.2.3 Companion Animals Act 1998

The Companion Animals Act 1998 aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Act, dogs in public places must be on a lead under the effective control of a competent person, except in a declared off-leash area. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children’s play areas, food preparation / consumption areas, and recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by the local authority. If a dog defecates in a public place, the dog owner must remove and dispose of it in a rubbish receptacle.

3.2.4 Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 is a Commonwealth Act that aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including access to premises. The Act also aims to promote recognition and acceptance in the community that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.
The Act covers a range of areas including sport and recreation, and access to premises. The Act requires that people be able to access any building which the public is entitled to enter or use through the primary entrance used by the general public. It further requires that people should have access to any services and facilities provided in those buildings.

The NSW *Anti-Discrimination Act 1997* also makes it unlawful to discriminate on the ground of disability.

### 3.2.5 Other relevant legislation

Other legislation that may address specific issues in the management of the Park is listed below.

**Table 3.3 Other relevant legislation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Responsible agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air, water and noise pollution</td>
<td><em>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</em></td>
<td>Department of Environment and Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strathfield Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.3 Local planning context

3.3.1 Planning framework

Strathfield Council’s planning framework guides this Plan of Management as follows:

- Council’s Management Plan, which sets overall objectives and performance targets for activities, budgets and other issues relating to open space and recreation management.
- Planning instruments, particularly the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance, and various Development Control Plans govern uses of and development of facilities within the Park.
- Policy documents, such as the Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Study.

The hierarchy of these planning documents is shown in Figure 3.2.

---

**Figure 3.2 Planning Hierarchy**

- **Vision**
  - Strathfield Vision 2020
  - Management Plan
    - Plans of Management
      - Social Plan
        - Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Study
      - Generic
    - Geographic Areas
      - Significant Areas
    - Development Control Plans
      - Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance

---
3.3.2 Strathfield Vision 2020

Strathfield Council developed a long term plan for the future of the Municipality - Strathfield Vision 2020. The Strathfield Vision 2020 has been developed to provide a preferred vision of the Strathfield community by the year 2020.

“Our vision 2020 for Strathfield is our Council collaborating with our community to ensure a balance between the unique values of Strathfield and the varying pressures of our location within Australia’s largest city.”

3.3.3 Strathfield Council Management Plan

Council’s Management Plan contains a strategic overview of Council’s proposed activities, budgets and other issues relating to community and the environment over the next three years.

This Plan of Management is consistent with the vision formulated by Strathfield Council in its current Management Plan for the whole of the Strathfield. Council’s vision as set out in the Management Plan is:

“Our vision for Strathfield is an urban village easily accessible within Australia’s largest city where our community is engaged with Council in shaping our sustainable future. We are a place that is rich in cultural and natural diversity. We value and benefit from the unique opportunities for learning, recreation, employment and quality of life in Strathfield.”

The vision for the Municipality translates into action via Council’s five principal activity areas and their associated programs.

Table 3.4 Principal activity areas and programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Areas</th>
<th>Desired outcomes</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable environment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Our waterways, air and landscapes are clean and healthy, there are no net losses of biodiversity and biodiversity values are increased.</td>
<td>Design and renew Council streets, stormwater system, landscapes and civic spaces to protect the environment. Integrate sustainable urban design principles throughout the Council planning framework to protect the terrestrial, aquatic and atmospheric environment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Reduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkscape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Conservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our attractive parks and natural areas continue to be a feature of Strathfield.</td>
<td>Enhance the open space network by identifying and pursuing opportunities to link open space. Develop and implement sustainability initiatives to ensure the long term viability and quality of parks.</td>
<td>Community satisfaction with Parkscape. Number of parks using harvested rainwater / stormwater per irrigated park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.4  Principal activity areas and programs (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Areas</th>
<th>Desired outcomes</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community building</td>
<td>We are a leading Council in the provision of community facilities.</td>
<td>Develop and implement the recreational, cultural and community facilities strategy.</td>
<td>% of available time community facilities are booked. Satisfaction with community facilities in Strathfield.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.4 Local planning instruments

*Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance*

Uses of and development of facilities within Edwards Park are governed by the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance, under which Edwards Park is zoned 6(a) Open Space – Recreation Existing. Uses and developments permitted in this zone, subject to conditions imposed by Council, include:

- parks, children’s playgrounds, and gardens.
- events, refreshment rooms, and car parks.
- pavilions, seats, shelter sheds, kiosks, toilets and other buildings for the convenience of the public.
- improvement and embellishment of public reserves under its care, control and management.
- community facilities for wider services

*Draft Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2003*

The draft Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2003 has been adopted by Strathfield Council, and is intended to replace the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance when it is gazetted. Edwards Park is zoned 6(a) Local Open Space (Existing) 6A in the draft LEP.

The objectives of the 6(A) zone are to:

- provide and maintain land for active and passive recreational purposes.
- increase the provision, diversity and quality of public open space and recreational land within the Strathfield Council area to meet the needs of the local community.
- enable development of land within the zone for recreational purposes.
- identify land within the zone for recreational purposes.
- permit subdivision provided it is broadly compatible with existing patterns and other objectives of this zone.
- enable the development of land for other purposes only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed use will not adversely affect the long-term usefulness of the land for recreation in accordance with the plan of management for the land.
Within this Zone, uses and development for the following purposes will be permitted with consent:

- Child care facility.
- Community facility.
- Kiosk.
- Public building.
- Recreation area.
- Recreation facility.
- Refreshment room.
- Utility installation.

Clause 40 of the draft LEP states that consent must not be granted to the carrying out of development on land within zone 6(A) unless the consent authority has considered:

a) The need for the proposed development on that land.
b) The impact of the proposed development on the locality and the likely future use of the land.
c) The need to retain the land for its existing or likely future use.
d) Whether the proposed development will significantly diminish public use and access to public open space.

Clause 43 of the draft LEP states that despite any other provision in the LEP, development may not be carried out on land within Zone 6(A) until such time as any associated plan of management adopted by the Council under the Local Government Act 1993 also permits the development to be carried out.

Council will refer to this Plan of Management as well as the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance or Strathfield Local Environmental Plan, and other relevant legislation in assessing development applications relating to the Park.

The Park is also classified an item of heritage significance on Strathfield Council’s draft LEP.

### 3.3.5 Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Study

The vision driving the Recreation, Cultural Facilities and Community Needs Strategy is:

“Strathfield Municipal Council will facilitate opportunities for residents to participate in a diverse range of sporting, recreation, community and cultural activities through the equitable and accessible provision of appropriate facilities and open space, as well as through support for community infrastructure (i.e. Clubs and community groups) that deliver suitable programs and services for residents of all ages, skill levels, cultures and abilities.”
The following principles underpin the strategy:

- Council will aim to provide and/or facilitate a diverse range of accessible open space settings, recreation and cultural facilities, services and opportunities across the municipality.
- Council implement a planned approach to the delivery of recreation and community services that respond to identified community needs.
- Recreation and community services, infrastructure and opportunities will be provided equitably having due regard to geographic needs, sustainability and Council’s capacity to deliver as well as the age, gender, skill level, cultural background and ability of potential users.
- Council will encourage and facilitate community participation in recreational and cultural activities in recognition of the health, well-being and social benefits that they provide.
- Open space settings, recreation and community facilities and services will provide safe and supportive environments for participants.
- Council will promote and support public recreation and community facilities that maximise shared usage opportunities and overall design flexibility in order to adapt to possible long-term changes in community needs.
- Council will adopt a collaborative approach with community groups, government agencies and the private sector to form appropriate partnerships that facilitate the provision of recreation and community facilities and services for the Strathfield community.

Key objectives of the strategy that support achievement and delivery of the vision are to:

- provide a diversity of recreation and community facilities and opportunities.
- provide facilities and infrastructure that can support high levels of community use.
- encourage and support community involvement in sustainable club management and development.
- facilitate diverse recreation programs, cultural inclusion and participation opportunities (either directly by Council or external providers).
- provide effective management, support and resources.

### 3.3.6 Community Facilities Plan of Management

The Community Facilities Plan of Management sets out principles and strategies for use and management of community facilities in Strathfield, including sportsgrounds, bowling clubs, child care centres, and scout halls.

### 3.3.7 Greenweb principles

This refers to recommendations advocated by Sydney’s Regional Organisations of Councils which encourages new areas of vegetation corridors and the enhancement of existing bushland corridors. The purpose of Greenweb is to link existing green areas throughout Sydney. Strathfield Council requires that Greenweb principles are taken into account when considering new developments on community land.
3.3.8 Ecologically Sustainable Development

Council’s charter includes directions to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions, and to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible in a manner which is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

The emphasis of ESD is to consider the future of our environment, and the resources which are required for continued human sustainability. Objectives for sustainability defined in national and state strategies for ESD are to:

- maintain intergenerational equity to ensure economic wellbeing that safeguards the welfare of future generations.
- enhance the individual and community wellbeing within and between generations.
- conserve and protect biological diversity and essential ecological processes and life support systems.

Council is also currently preparing its Local Agenda 21 strategy which will incorporate the principles of sustainable development and provide a context for all Council operations.

Council’s Water Savings Action Plan (2006) reflects Council’s commitment to reduce its use of water on facilities such as parks, sportsgrounds and other open areas, while maintaining safe, quality public areas for the community to enjoy. Site-specific initiatives to reduce Council’s water use in public areas include water efficient taps and toilets, rainwater harvesting in tanks, and improved re-use of stormwater, such as at Mason Park.
4 VALUES, ROLES AND OBJECTIVES FOR EDWARDS PARK

4.1 Introduction

The legislative and State, regional and local planning context applying to Edwards Park was outlined in Section 3. This section defines the specific roles and objectives for Edwards Park, based on community values and management directions of Strathfield Council.

The needs and requirements of Strathfield, residents (as neighbours and users of the Park), and current and future visitors (as users of the Park) are reflected in management of the Park.

4.2 Community values

4.2.1 The local community

The estimated population of the Strathfield local government area in 2006 was 31,983 people. The Strathfield population is characterised by:

- older children and young adults and their parents. The key age groups are 5-14 years (13.1%), 15-24 years (16.9%), 25-54 years (43.8%)
- high proportion of couples with children households (53.8%).
- higher educational levels than the Sydney average.
- family incomes comparable to the Sydney average. The median weekly family income is $1,181, compared with $1,171 in Australia.
- high employment levels, predominantly office-based professional occupations (29.7%)
- levels of home ownership (29.2%)
- 41.5% of the population were born in Australia; The other remaining were from China 7.8%, Republic of Korea 7.1%, India 5.3%, Sri Lanka 4.4% and Hong Kong 2.2%.
- households living in separate houses (51% of dwellings) and 42.7% apartments, flats and units
- high population living in an increasing density of residential dwellings.
- high proportion of vehicle ownership.
4.2.2 Valued aspects of parks in Strathfield

A survey of Strathfield residents (Stratcorp Consulting, 2007) found:

- the most popular activities undertaken in Strathfield’s parks, including Edwards Park, are:
  - meeting friends.
  - playing informal sport.
  - supervising children on playground.
  - walking / jogging for exercise.
  - sitting and relaxing.
  - playing organised sport.
  - watching sport.
  - walking the dog.
  - family outing.

- “Large open space areas / places to run around” and “well maintained” are the aspects of Strathfield’s parks that are most liked.

- Over 80% of respondents are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the quality of parks and open space areas in Strathfield local government area.

- “Maintenance of lawns, paths and gardens”, “cleanliness”, and “feeling of personal safety” received most ratings classified as ‘good’.

- relatively poor ratings were given for public toilets and car parking.

- 58% of respondents said there was no need for any improvements to existing recreation, community or cultural facilities and services. Improvements suggested however were, provision of more community facilities, upgrades to existing facilities.

- 79% of respondents said there were no new recreation, community or cultural facilities and services that may be needed in the Strathfield area. Suggestions for new recreation, community or cultural facilities and services were for cafes/restaurants, a gymnasium, and a community centre.

4.2.3 Values of Edwards Park

The Strathfield community and park users value various aspects of Edwards Park for different reasons.

Using values as the basis of the Plan of Management ensures that this plan will be valid longer than one based on simply addressing issues. Issues-driven Plans of Management can quickly become out of date. Values change at a much slower pace than issues do. Values may remain constant for up to a generation, therefore once values are documented, issues can easily be dealt with as they arise consistent with the values. New issues that arise over time very often cannot be dealt with easily unless a new Plan of Management is prepared.

The community of Strathfield places a high value on parks, and they are an integral part of the area in which they live. Community values are reflected in various Council documents, including the Management Plan and the Strathfield Vision 2020.

By understanding the reasons why the community values Edwards Park, the role that the community expects the park to play in the future may be determined. As this Plan of Management is based on protecting and enhancing the community's values, desired outcomes, management strategies and actions have been developed that are consistent with these values.
The community values relating to Edwards Park are explained in Table 4.1. The table also shows the level of significance of each identified value. The level of significance relates to the 'community' that would value that particular attribute of the park, and is denoted by Local, District and Regional.

**Table 4.1 Community values of Edwards Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Social opportunity</td>
<td>Edwards Park provides for a range of organised and casual social and leisure opportunities that cater for the expressed needs of people of all ages. The layout of the park accommodates settings for sports, children’s play, picnics and barbecues and unstructured play. The branch library provides further opportunity to increase the services to a wider range of the community and provide a hub or meeting place.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmenta l awareness</td>
<td>Edwards Park offers the opportunity to raise awareness of environmental issues in Strathfield to varying degrees through ecologically sustainable development and management practices, maintenance of plantings that serve as wildlife habitat, and as an outdoor classroom. Access to sustainable transport and walking and cycle links form one of the most important areas for change in the park.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image and visual quality</td>
<td>Edwards Park has a highly valued peaceful and ambient atmosphere. It has a quality mature visual landscape that is an open, green, semi-natural contrast to surrounding residential properties and major roads. Trees, shrubs, grass and landscaping are appreciated because they create a visually pleasing environment, provide shade, attract birds, and screen adjoining homes. As such, Edwards Park contributes to the clean, established and green image of Strathfield. The park is generally well maintained and clean, which contributes to its pleasant appearance.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Play Opportunity</td>
<td>Play opportunities abound in the park with enough green space to play a game of football or just run around, interesting vegetation to play hide and seek or use your imagination and a formal playground to encourage development of physical skills in a fun atmosphere.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive Areas for Relaxation</td>
<td>Edwards park is highly valued as a place to relax, rest and unwind. The park presents plenty of opportunities to sit or lay down and read a book, listen to the birds or have a nap due to the informal well vegetated landscape design.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community involvement</td>
<td>Edwards Park is an important public place that provides a venue and facilities for social contact and interaction through both informal activities for friends and family, and through organised community events such as adopt a park.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 Vision and objectives for the Park

The management of Edwards Park is based on a vision statement that is shared and endorsed Strathfield Council and the wider community. The vision for the park is intended to inspire Council by providing a long-term ideal and focus for all future decisions affecting the Park.

Council’s corporate goals, community and user values, and the desired outcomes of the community culminate in a vision for the future direction of Edwards Park:

**Edwards Park will continue to be a passive play area and a popular neighbourhood park with an enhanced range of community uses. It will continue to offer a range of informal recreation and social opportunities catering for all ages in a pleasantly landscaped and relatively undeveloped setting.**

4.4 Future roles of Edwards Park

Following on from the values and vision defined above, the roles of Edwards Park are the ways in which the park achieves the goals for Strathfield’s open space system as a whole. The desired roles of Edwards Park form the basis for making decisions about the future management of the park. The major roles of Edwards Park are presented below.

The future roles of the park are:

“The Community Park”

- Play.
- Community meeting places
- Built/landscape heritage
- Visual relief
- Unstructured recreation
- Green space
- Information services and provision of library services

4.5 Management principles

Following on from the values and roles of the park, it is important to establish some management principles and objectives against which recommendations for uses and development of the Park will be made. As owner of the Park, Strathfield Council intends to manage Edwards Park to:

- preserve the Park as a local community resource,
- preserve the aspects of the Park that are particularly valued,
EDWARDS PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

- improve existing facilities within the park, rather than develop new ones,
- limit additional developments that do not relate to the park’s roles,
- minimise major changes to existing uses and the function and character of the Park to a minimum,
- continue to provide high quality and well-maintained park facilities,
- provide opportunities for informal recreation and social interaction,
- minimise intensification of uses that have impacts on park users and the local community,
- ensure future uses are compatible with existing activities and the carrying capacity of facilities and settings,
- link the park and community facility with existing cycle links, The Bay to Bay Trail along the Cooks River is an important regional recreation corridor, which is in close proximity to Edwards Park,
- ensure the principles of ecologically sustainable development are considered in every area of improvement to the park,
- encourage the use of ecologically sustainable development, water sensitive urban design and other management approaches to minimise the use of non-renewable resources,
- improve play areas for children
- ensure safety of park visitors,
- discourage noisy activities at night,
- provide access to a range of appropriate open space and recreational facilities in order to meet the changing needs of the community,
- manage and maintain open space and facilities to the highest possible standards in an efficient and cost-effective manner,
- involve the community in establishing their needs and in management and maintenance of the park where appropriate.

The following sections of this document outline specific strategies and actions to address management issues consistent with the goals and objectives for the park outlined above, and consistent with community values.

STRATHFIELD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 33
5  ACTION PLANS

5.1  Introduction

These and other actions required to resolve management issues (consistent with the community's values for the park) are presented in the following tables. Table headings are explained as follows:

Background – explanation of the issue, including options to address the issue.

Strategy – reflects the value of the park, and provides direction for the action.

Action - specific task or action required to address issues, consistent with the strategy.

Cost - capital costs of each action.

Priority - importance or urgency of the action.

Responsibility – section within Council, or another organisation responsible for implementing the action.

Responsibilities within Council for implementing actions are:

ALL  Council
CS   Corporate Services
GMO  General Manager’s Office
O    Operations
TS   Technical Services

Performance target – the desired outcome in implementing and achieving the action.

Monitoring method - how Council intends to measure its performance in implementing and achieving the action over time.
## 5.2 Action Plan

### 5.2.1 Play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Recreation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Structure</td>
<td>Edwards Park currently has a mix of unstructured open space and structured open space such as playgrounds, buildings and paved or formal areas.</td>
<td>Protect the current balance of unstructured open space and structured open space.</td>
<td>Ensure the balance between undeveloped/unstructured and developed park areas is maintained at the current 40:60 split.</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>60:40 unstructured to structured split is maintained.</td>
<td>Review during development and improvement plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic facilities</td>
<td>More picnic facilities may be needed in the park, due to demand created by the new community facility.</td>
<td>Provide more picnic facilities within the park, if demand exists.</td>
<td>Determine the desired increase in the provision of picnic facilities.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>More picnic facilities provided.</td>
<td>Inspection and park user surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>The park currently contains only basic lighting.</td>
<td>Lighting levels around the entrances and path to the proposed community centre require a greater standard of lighting to ensure safe passage of users at night and early evening. The remaining park areas require only basic lighting.</td>
<td>Ensure adequate lighting design for community facility paths, courtyards and entrances. Minimise blind spots and dark areas adjacent to paths.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Positive feedback from community.</td>
<td>Liaise with night users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure that the remaining park areas are not over lit to prevent adverse impact on neighbouring properties.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minimising energy use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use state of the art energy saving lamps and designs with all new lighting applications.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum energy use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s play</td>
<td>Children’s play</td>
<td>The existing play equipment is adequate for a local park. Council’s Playground Management Strategy recommends the playground be upgraded to a major local park, however this needs to be further investigated. The proposed community facilities will also require relocation of the existing play area. This site has been classified as a major local park because of the location with the library and predicted increase in medium density housing immediately to the south. The priority of the upgrade is rated as low in the strategy however the proposed community facility would increase the priority to high.</td>
<td>Continue to provide safe children’s play equipment for all age groups, based on user needs. Install innovative and interesting equipment suitable for a major local park.</td>
<td>Review play areas in the landscape masterplan. Ensure they do not encroach on passive play areas. Consider an accessible imaginative play item for young/disabled children (e.g. a train or boat or similar) □ Improved capacity □ shade over seating/play area □ a hard court space for ball games.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Review completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and range of play</td>
<td>Quality and range of play</td>
<td>Continue to provide safe children’s play equipment for all age groups, based on user needs. Install innovative and interesting equipment suitable for a major local park.</td>
<td>Review play areas in the landscape masterplan. Ensure they do not encroach on passive play areas. Consider an accessible imaginative play item for young/disabled children (e.g. a train or boat or similar) □ Improved capacity □ shade over seating/play area □ a hard court space for ball games.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Review completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and range of play (cont.)</td>
<td>Quality and range of play (cont.)</td>
<td>Redesign the playground space as a small / medium-sized space for a range of ages and access requirements but focusing on using a landscaped setting for imaginative play.</td>
<td>Redesign the playground space as a small / medium-sized space for a range of ages and access requirements but focusing on using a landscaped setting for imaginative play.</td>
<td>Utilise a small copse (forest) with interesting climbing trees densely planted but with clean lower trunks for views in. Provide a range of agility items for 4 to 7 years and 7 to 10 years with one interesting focal point. Provide wheelchair access into the play area, to shade and seating and to some play activities.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Relocation of play equipment. Inspection. Positive feedback from park users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and range of play (cont.)</td>
<td>Quality and range of play (cont.)</td>
<td>Redesign the playground space as a small / medium-sized space for a range of ages and access requirements but focusing on using a landscaped setting for imaginative play.</td>
<td>Redesign the playground space as a small / medium-sized space for a range of ages and access requirements but focusing on using a landscaped setting for imaginative play.</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Relocation of play equipment. Inspection. Positive feedback from park users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and range of play (cont.)</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Relocation of play equipment. Inspection. Positive feedback from park users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Performance target</td>
<td>Monitoring method</td>
</tr>
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<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of playgrounds</td>
<td>Council has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for children. This responsibility extends to play equipment, softfall and environmental hazards.</td>
<td>Ensure that all play equipment and softfall complies with all relevant standards.</td>
<td>Remove all children's play equipment and softfall that does not meet relevant standards.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Play equip. and softfall complies with Australian Standards.</td>
<td>Risk assessment and equipment inspection reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure play areas are kept free of rubbish and hazardous items.</td>
<td>Inspect the children's play areas regularly for environmental hazards.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Clean and safe play areas.</td>
<td>Inspection Observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of playgrounds (cont.)</td>
<td>There is a lack of shade over the current playground.</td>
<td>Provide adequate shade over all children's play areas using a sustainable approach.</td>
<td>Investigate options for shading the new playground. This may include natural methods (trees).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Provision of shade over the play areas or an increase in shade area.</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating for carers</td>
<td>Children's play is often supervised by adults. There are limited facilities in the park for people supervising children playing in the playgrounds.</td>
<td>Provide adequate shaded seating to facilitate the adult supervision of children's play.</td>
<td>Install additional seats with shelter near the children's playgrounds.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Seats with shelter installed.</td>
<td>Inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Provide food and drink facilities close to play area for adult supervision.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for unstructured play</td>
<td>Provision of areas for unstructured and informal play for children is important.</td>
<td>Encourage use of open space in the park for unstructured/informal play.</td>
<td>Maintain open space in unstructured recreation areas to cater for informal children's play and recreation.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Unstructured areas of the park are utilised for children's play.</td>
<td>User surveys and inspections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Play (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other recreation issues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>Dogs are exercised in the park and often leave waste in the park that is not dispensed of correctly.</td>
<td>Ensure that dogs are exercised in the park in compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998. Ensure the park is kept free of faecal matter. Ensure that opportunities for dog waste disposal areas are available in the park.</td>
<td>Erect signage to remind park users of their responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act, 1998.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Sign erected. No dogs exercised off the leash. No conflicts between dogs and other park users.</td>
<td>Reports to Council. Observations. Feedback from park users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Signage is outdated.</td>
<td>Ensure park information on signs is up to date.</td>
<td>Replace park rules signs at entrances.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Signage installed.</td>
<td>Inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Current maintenance levels are inadequate and need to be improved.</td>
<td>Improve current maintenance levels.</td>
<td>Ensure garden beds are adequately maintained.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Positive feedback from community.</td>
<td>Regular contact with user groups.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5.2.2 Community Meeting Place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Branch Library Building</strong></td>
<td>Council reports that the existing branch library building has reached the end of its serviceable life and does not meet many modern standards.</td>
<td>Monitor the safety of the building. Close the building and demolish as soon as practicable.</td>
<td>Conduct risk assessments and manage individual safety issues as they arise. Close the building should any part fail that cannot be easily rectified. Demolish the existing library building.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Normal operation of Library. Safety of stakeholders. Building demolished</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of the building</td>
<td>Council plans to demolish the existing library building and replace it with a new community facility.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library function</td>
<td>The current library collection is old and stagnant and the library is underutilised but still valued by many parts of the local community.</td>
<td>Maintain basic yet modern Library functions at Edwards Park.</td>
<td>Retain a library function such as a catalogue, small seasonal themed collection, book pickup service and modern online resources within Edwards Park.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed Community Facility</strong></td>
<td>Council has endorsed a proposal to replace the existing branch library with a new community facility complex.</td>
<td>Replace the community branch library with a new community facility.</td>
<td>Design and construct the community facility based on the concept displayed in Appendix B.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Complex Constructed</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct a new community facility.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Funding is available for improvements to the community facility in Edwards Park from bodies such as the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) and are listed on the federal government website <a href="http://www.grantslink.gov.au">www.grantslink.gov.au</a>.</td>
<td>Maximise funding of improvements to Community Facility from sources outside Council.</td>
<td>Investigate and pursue funding opportunities.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Grant and sponsorship funding received.</td>
<td>Annual report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Ensure the facility is designed and fitted out with modern equipment in meeting areas such as projectors and AV equipment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Equipment provided</td>
<td>User feedback</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Accessibility and multiple use

Community Facilities must be widely accessible to a range of user groups and designed for multiple use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Community Facilities must be widely accessible to a range of user groups and designed for multiple use.</td>
<td>Ensure all the new facilities are designed to cater for multiple uses.</td>
<td>Consider in the design stage all possible uses and ensure the layout, finishes and design is flexible and can be easily changed or modified to meet the needs of different user groups. Consider the needs of the elderly, disabled, children, youth and community groups.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O CS</td>
<td>Multiple User groups from all sections of the community use the building.</td>
<td>Number of different user types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets</td>
<td>There is a need for accessible and clean toilets to service park users and community facility users.</td>
<td>Ensure the toilets are clean.</td>
<td>Upgrade toilet facilities and consider vandal resistance. Replace equal access toilet from old library into new facility.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Clean, accessible amenities.</td>
<td>Regular monitoring and cleaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Performance target</td>
<td>Monitoring method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car parking</td>
<td>Car parking will be required for the proposed facilities.</td>
<td>Maximise car parking without encroaching on park lands.</td>
<td>Design car parking to minimise encroachment on parkland.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Adequate car parking with minimal affect on residential streets.</td>
<td>Inspection. Reports from residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen / Cafe</td>
<td>There may be a commercial opportunity to operate the kiosk / cafe in summer that could also provide benefits to park users.</td>
<td>Facilitate a food and beverage outlet to serve park users.</td>
<td>Investigate the feasibility of licensing a small part of the community facility throughout the summer season.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Providing additional services to the park users</td>
<td>Feedback and increased revenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Advertise for expressions of interest to operate the food and beverage outlet.</td>
<td>Expression of interest received.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Expression of interest received.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Publicise the opening times of the food and beverage outlet.</td>
<td>Kiosk opening times widely publicised.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Patronage of kiosk.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Minimising energy use.</td>
<td>Install energy saving designs and appliances.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Minimum energy use.</td>
<td>Energy audits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minimise water wastage.</td>
<td>Ensure the proposal uses state of the art water saving devices and appliance.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Minimise potable water use.</td>
<td>Water audits &amp; benchmarking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect Rainwater</td>
<td></td>
<td>Collect rainwater from hard surfaces for reuse by flushing toilets, cleaning and park / garden irrigation.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Minimise potable water use.</td>
<td>Water audits &amp; benchmarking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)</td>
<td>Ensure the building meets the principles of WSUD and minimises stormwater entering the Cooks River.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Reduction in stormwater discharged from site.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect Solar Energy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Use solar hot water heaters and investigate financial viability of photo voltaic panels.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Maximum reliance on natural energy.</td>
<td>Report energy savings in SOE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.3 Sustainable Transport / Linkages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equal access</td>
<td>Access and movement within the park can be difficult for less mobile users of the park.</td>
<td>Ensure pathways and entry points to and within the park meet the needs of wheelchair users and others with special needs (the aged, adults with children in prams and strollers).</td>
<td>Ensure wheelchair access is available from the car park and road crossings, and that such access is maintained.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Pathways provided and upgraded where necessary</td>
<td>Inspection. User surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian paths</td>
<td>The network of formal pathways throughout the park provides reasonable access to the park facilities. This could be improved and enhanced with the proposed community facility.</td>
<td>Strengthen linkages around, through and within the park.</td>
<td>Review pathways and access points in the detail design of the proposed community facility.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Installation of pathways &amp; additional access routes.</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycleways / bike access</td>
<td>The most sustainable method of transport is cycling. The Cooks River Cycleway is located to the west of the park with an entry at the intersection of High St &amp; Wallis Ave. The Cooks River cycleway can be linked to Edwards Park with signage.</td>
<td>Encourage sustainable transport to the park through provision of cycling infrastructure.</td>
<td>Create a cycle path linking the Cooks River Cycleway to the park and Homebush Rd. Provide clear and easy signposting of the track. Provide bike storage / racks at the park and facilities.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Installation of cycle ways &amp; additional infrastructure.</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sustainable Transport / Linkages (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>The local roads currently provide sufficient parking space for the existing park and library facility however if patronage is increased significantly further parking may be required.</td>
<td>Encourage patrons to use sustainable transport methods while providing adequate parking.</td>
<td>Limit car parking spaces to the minimum requirement to ensure that local residents are not encouraged to drive by an oversupply of easy spaces, encourage other transport methods through the other recommendations in this section.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Ensure adequate parking is provided.</td>
<td>Traffic survey study. Observation of vehicle overflow into surrounding streets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Road safety | Residents must cross roads to gain access to the park and facilities. This poses particular dangers for young children and the elderly. | Develop safe pedestrian access to the park from adjoining roads. | Liaise with Council’s Traffic Committee and RTA to:  
- Monitor traffic speeds along High St.  
- Consider traffic calming measures.  
- Install pedestrian crossings at Noble and Macarthur Avenue. | High     | O               | Monitor warrants, pedestrians usage at different intervals.             | Monitor usage, need and demand                                                   |
|             |                                                                             | Implement agreed road safety measures.                                    |                                                                        | High     | O               | Road safety measures implemented. Easier access to the park.                    | Reports from police and residents.                                              |
### 5.2.4 Community involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Respon-sibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety and security</td>
<td>Safety and security is a common concern in the current community and mostly revolves around perceptions of danger or insecurity.</td>
<td>Improve the public perceptions of safety.</td>
<td>Adopt ‘Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design’ and ‘Safer by Design’ principles in the landscape master plan / proposed community facility design.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>High public perception of safety.</td>
<td>Monitor activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Community</td>
<td>Change and development of public space creates concerns for local residents and members of the community.</td>
<td>Consult the community in all aspects of change in Edwards Park.</td>
<td>Ensure that the community is provided the opportunity to comment</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Community consultation</td>
<td>Community surveys and feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-a-Park program</td>
<td>The Adopt-a-Park program involves local school students &amp; community groups in managing the park. Edwards Park is adopted by the Rotary Club of Strathfield who established Rotary Grove in the park.</td>
<td>Continue to promote the Adopt-a-Park program to local schools, community groups and individuals not currently involved in the program.</td>
<td>Continue to encourage ownership of, and responsibility for, the park by supporting the Adopt-a-Park program with schools and other interested organisations and individuals.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Ongoing and regular activities in the park under the ‘Adopt-a-Park’ program.</td>
<td>Number of activities held in park each year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5.2.5 Image and visual quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance target</th>
<th>Monitoring method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park layout</td>
<td>The current planted areas and layout, entry signage, access to and through the park, safety and surveillance, and any additional recreation facilities need review. A new landscape master plan should address planting zones, garden themes, replacement plantings.</td>
<td>Ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to park improvements.</td>
<td>Prepare a landscape master plan for the park based on input from park users and local residents.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Landscape master plan prepared.</td>
<td>Community feedback on landscape concept plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to and through the park, additional recreation facilities and activities, safety and security.</td>
<td>Ensure that all new buildings and facilities proposed for the northern section of the park do not unnecessarily encroach or detract from the open space and informal areas of the park.</td>
<td>Buildings to consist of single storey designs that don’t unnecessarily restrict visibility into the park. Buildings to be open of the park (be part of the park) without fence or constraint and limited to the section of General Community use.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Costs of park upgrade investigated and included in capital works budgets.</td>
<td>Review of costs and capital works budgets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantings</td>
<td>Some native planting shrubs showing senescence with shorter lived species.</td>
<td>Renew planting areas over time.</td>
<td>Remove old / poor quality short lived plants when needed, and replant area with suitable species.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Installation of new native plantings, particularly trees.</td>
<td>Aesthetics of Park Maintained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>The park’s amenity and facilities are not always appreciated by all sections of the community. The costs of vandalism, such as graffiti, are high.</td>
<td>Ensure all new facilities in the park are vandal-resistant.</td>
<td>Select vandal-resistant facilities and furniture to be placed in the park.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>GMO</td>
<td>Reduced incidence of vandalism.</td>
<td>Inspection and monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

6.1 Permitted future uses and developments

6.1.1 Introduction

It is not possible to forecast every activity, development or structure that may occur in Edwards Park in the future. New activities, developments and structures may be proposed in response to an application for use of the Park, or because funding or another opportunity becomes available, or to address a need or management issue that may not be evident when preparing this Plan of Management.

Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of new activities, developments and structures in the Park are outlined below.

Community land

Purposes for which community land, and any such buildings or improvements on the land, will be permitted to be used or developed in future, whether by lease, licence or otherwise, are:

- activities and developments permitted under the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance.
- purposes consistent with the core objectives for the relevant category of the land under the Local Government Act, 1993 (refer to Table 3.1).
- purposes which meet the requirements of Sections 46 and 47 of the Local Government Act, 1993 in terms of leases and licences.

Any commercial uses must support or complement the activities permitted above. Exclusive use of any area of community land is not desirable, as the park should be available for use by anyone in the community. An exception is a use where the exclusion of the public is desirable for security and public safety, such as for a works depot or materials storage area.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, uses and developments within land categorised as community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of the relevant category.

Leases and licences over community land must follow the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 for leases, licences and other estates.

Land zoned for recreation

The Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance sets out in general terms what types of developments are permissible within the 6(a) Open Space – Recreation Existing zone. All proposed uses, development and building works in this Plan of Management need to be permissible under the applicable Local Environmental Plan, and assessed if required through a Development and Building Application process consistent with the Environment Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. This Plan of Management would be an important supporting document for the required development and building applications for the proposed works.
Any Development Applications, proposed works and major management issues will be advertised to residents for information and to invite comment.

### 6.1.3 Permitted activities

Activities that are permitted within Edwards Park should be consistent with:

- the objectives for management of the Park (**Sections 3 and 4**).
- relevant legislation (**Section 3.1**), particularly the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Crown Lands Act 1989*.
- the core objectives for categorisation of community land (**Section 3**).
- the zoning under the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance (**Section 3**).
- community values of the Park (**Section 3**).
- community objectives for the Park (**Section 3**).
- the future roles of the Park (**Section 3**).
- additional guidelines for assessing future uses and developments (**Section 6**).

Permissible activities generally include those permissible under Council ordinance, and those that do not interfere with the use and enjoyment of the parkland by other park users, or unduly disturb local residents. Noisy and dangerous activities (particularly at night) should be discouraged. The community facility may require a formal review of future leasing and licensing in the future. Examples of permissible activities in and development of Edwards Park are listed in **Table 6.1**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of purposes for which the land and any such buildings or improvements will be permitted to be used</th>
<th>Examples of purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbecues</td>
<td>Access for people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush regeneration</td>
<td>Amenities – staff, public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrations – weddings, family gatherings, parties</td>
<td>Barbecues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceremonies</td>
<td>Bicycle track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s play</td>
<td>Buildings for park management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community use</td>
<td>Childrens’ play equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community events</td>
<td>Community buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts (music, theatre etc.)</td>
<td>Drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate functions and promotions</td>
<td>Entertainment structures (rides, slides etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>Exempt development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering a public address or speech</td>
<td>Food and beverage outlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in a trade or business</td>
<td>Hardstand for event structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education</td>
<td>Irrigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festivals</td>
<td>Landscaping / gardening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filming for cinema or television</td>
<td>Park furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>Pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>Picnic shelters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat creation</td>
<td>Public utilities and works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal ball games</td>
<td>Sculpture / public art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markets and/or temporary stalls, including food stalls</td>
<td>Seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor cinema</td>
<td>Sculpture / public art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive recreation</td>
<td>Underground pipes, conduits and other connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal training</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnics</td>
<td>Vehicle parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing musical instruments/sing for fee/reward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running / jogging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events/promotions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.1.4 Scale and intensity of future uses and development

Edwards Park is generally intended to be used for informal and passive recreation and social and cultural events.

Purposes for which any further development of Edwards Park will be permitted (under lease, licence or otherwise) are outlined in this Plan of Management, consistent with the public purpose and categorisation of community land, any approved Development Application, and any provision of an applicable development control plan for exempt and complying development.

Maintain the current range of facilities and activities available in the park, according to the current ratio of the park.

Guidelines for future developments and improvements permitted on community land within Edwards Park are to:

- maintain the current proportion of the land allocated to relevant categories (refer to Section 3.3).
- utilise the park design and layout more efficiently
- increase the level of usage through provision of better facilities.

In Edwards Park, the focus should be on improving facilities to accommodate demand.

The scale and intensity of future uses and development is dependent on:

- the nature of the approved future uses.
- the Landscape Masterplan for the park.
- the carrying capacity of the parkland and its facilities.
- approved Development Applications.

The scale and intensity of any permitted development should be consistent with the approved masterplan for the park. Physical impacts of activities and uses should be regularly monitored.

All proposed development and building works consistent with the values, desired outcomes, strategies and actions in this Plan of Management (excluding activities associated with landscaping, gardening or bushfire hazard reduction, which are permitted without development consent under the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance and the Section 117 Direction of the Director of Urban Affairs and Planning) would be subject to normal development and building applications in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance. This Plan of Management would form an important part of the required Development and Building Applications for the proposed works.

Any proposed use of the Park that requires consent from Council will be subject to a Development Application or Activity Approval with appropriate conditions imposed.
All uses would be subject to Council’s standard conditions, approval processes and booking fees where necessary. A temporary licence in the form of a Park Hire Approval would need to be issued by Council as part of the approval process prior to the park being used for these activities.

Facilities and structures require regular inspections and maintenance to keep them in a functional condition and to protect the safety of users.

**Performances and events**

In assessing the suitability of Edwards Park as a venue for particular performances and events, Strathfield Council will apply the following criteria that the event should:

- not result in physical damage to the park.
- be available to all sectors of the community.
- not result in a significant impact on adjoining residents or other users of the park.

Organisers of the event should be responsible for cleaning up the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

**Commercial activities**

Commercial activities may operate with Council permission,

Commercial activities may be approved provided they:

- enhance social opportunities.
- do not unduly impact on other park users.
- do not unduly impact on the natural values of the Reserve.
- pose no threat to public safety.

Proposals for commercial activities should be considered on their specific merits. Conditions should apply in each case to ensure the above requirements are met.

### 6.2 Leases and licences

#### 6.2.1 What are leases and licences?

A lease will be typically required where exclusive use or control of all or part of Edwards Park is desirable for effective management. A lease may also be required due to the scale of investment in facilities, the necessity for security measures, or where the relationship between a major user and facilities in the Park justify such security of tenure.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the Park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.
The definition of "estate", under Section 21 of the Interpretation Act, 1987, includes other rights over land, such as easements, including "interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance, whether at law or in equity".

Leases and licences can be established by the Council for public or private purposes, providing they are consistent with the major objectives of this Plan of Management, and that the residential and environmental amenity of surrounding areas is maintained.

Leases and licences for the use of the subject land for activities need to be permissible under the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Lands Act 1989, the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance, this Plan of Management, and pursuant to Development Consent if required.

6.2.2 Existing leases and licences

No leases or licenses currently apply to Edwards Park.

6.2.3 Future leases and licences

General

Any future leases and licences or renewal of existing licences for Strathfield facilities and parks must be authorised by Strathfield Council’s Community Facilities Plan of Management or park specific Plan of Management, and consistent with the guidelines of this plan.

In considering whether to grant any lease or licence, the Trust (for Crown land) and Council should take into account the consistency of the proposal with the values and objectives of this Plan of Management, particularly regarding:

- whether the use/activity is in the public interest.
- whether the use/activity is consistent with the public purpose of Crown land and/or the categorisation of community land.
- whether the use/activity would not cause any significant detrimental impact on the reserve or on the local community.
- the impact of the lease/licence on the public/private space of the reserve.
- the impact on maintaining the reserve as one cohesive open space.
- compatibility with zoning and other Council requirements.
- provision of benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land.
- responsibility of the lessee/licensee for ensuring the area is maintained to a standard which is acceptable to Council.
- the need to define the times the land or facility will be available for use by the lessee/licensee.
- any fixed or temporary outdoor lighting of areas to be allowed only between the hours identified in the lease/licence.

Any leases and licenses granted over Edwards Park should be in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and Council’s Community Facilities Plan of Management.
Further considerations that may affect leases and licences are:

- fees can be charged as part of a lease or licence and can be commercially based.
- the lessee or licensee should take out public risk insurance and produce notices of the policy as required on renewal.
- use of the premises by the lessee or licensee is restricted to only those activities authorised in the lease or licence.
- any alteration, transfer or sub-letting etc should not be permitted without Council’s consent.
- ownership of improvements should be dealt with in the lease or licence.
- a lease (5 years or more) should be registered on the land title.
- a licence can be terminated by either party.

Leasing and licensing will be in accordance with Council’s objectives and principles as outlined in its Management Plan. Depending on the nature of the proposed lease or licence, Council would develop specific objectives and requirements tailored to the proposed use.

**Leases and licences on community land**

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that any lease or licence of community land be authorised by a Plan of Management. Leases and licences formalise the use of community land by groups and organisations. Activities must be compatible with the zoning of the land and provide benefits, services, or facilities for users of the land.

To comply with the Local Government Act, this Plan of Management must clearly specify what leases, licences and other estates are authorised within significant parks in Strathfield. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interest of the Council, protect the public, and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 46 of the Local Government Act, Council may lease or licence community land in a Plan of Management for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

Occupation of community land by leases, licences and other estates that apply to Edwards Park are set out in Sections 46 and 47 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. In respect of community land in general, a lease, licence or other estate may only be granted within Edwards Park for:

- provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities.
- a purpose expressly authorised in this Plan of Management, for purposes including:
  - the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs of within the local community and of the wider public in relation to public recreation; the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare of development of persons (these purposes include, but are not limited to, maternity welfare centres, infant welfare centres, kindergartens, nurseries, child care centres, family day care centres, restaurants or refreshment kiosks); and the provision of public roads.
  - purposes which are consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land.
— for short-term casual purposes, including the playing of a musical instrument or singing for a fee or reward, engaging in a trade or business, delivering a public address, commercial photographic sessions, picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings, filming for cinema or television, and the agistment of stock. However, the use or occupation of community land for these short-term casual purposes is permitted only if the activity does not involve erecting a permanent building or structure.

— for the purpose of providing underground pipes, conduits or other connections to connect premises adjoining the community land to a Council facility or other public utility provider located on the land.

**Lease and licence periods**

The maximum period for leases and licences on community land allowable under the Local Government Act is 21 years (including any period for which the lease or licence could be renewed by the exercise of an option) for purposes consistent with the categorisation and core objectives of the particular area of community land. Community land may only be leased or licensed if public notice is given according to the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Under Section 47, Council may grant a lease, licence or other estate exceeding 5 years if it gives public notice of the proposal to the owner, the public and all stakeholders, and invites and considers public submissions. If an objection to the proposal is made, Council may not grant a lease, licence or other estate without consent of the Minister for Local Government.

For proposed leases, licences and other estates of 5 years or less, Council must publicly advertise the proposal in the same way as for leases, licences and other estates over 5 years. Final approval of the lease rests with Council, but the Minister for Local Government has the discretion to call in a proposed lease and determine the matter in place of Council. However, some short-term and other types of leases, licences and other estates, such as providing underground pipes and connections, are exempt from the need to advertise.

**Sub-leasing**

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, sub-letting of the land must be in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Local Government Act.

Under Section 47C, land within the parks subject to a lease cannot be sub-let for a purpose other than:

- the purpose for which the land was to be used under the lease.
- refreshment kiosks, dances and private parties in the case where land is leased to a sporting club.

**Commercial uses**

Small-scale commercial uses that support the use of the park for passive recreation, educational, and cultural and social activities, such as bicycle hire and food/beverage outlets, are authorised by this Plan.
Short-term casual hire

All short-term casual hire will be in accordance with Section 24 and 25 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. To be considered as casual hire, activities must not:

- involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.
- continue for more than three consecutive days.
- continue to recur for a period of more than 12 months in the case of uses occurring more than once. Each occurrence must be no more than 3 consecutive days, not including Saturday and Sunday.

Fees for short term, casual bookings will be in accordance with the fees and charges as published in Strathfield Council’s Management Plan.

Temporary structures

The Local Government and Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Transfer of Functions) Act 2001 transfers approvals formerly required under Section 68 of the Local Government Act to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. These transferred approvals include installing temporary structures on land. Consequently casual use hire of the park may require a Development Application if the proposal includes the erection of temporary structures such as tents, booths, stage areas and mobile structures.

Emergency purposes

Community land may be used for emergency purposes, including training, when the need arises.

Leases and licences by tender

Section 46A of the Act requires that Plans of Management must specify purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted only by tender. A lease or licence for a term exceeding 5 years may be granted only by tender, unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation. However, Council may apply a tender process in respect to granting any particular lease, licence or estate.

Leases and licences applying to significant parks in Strathfield for which tenders must be called are for:

- commercial activities
- a period of five years or more
- advertising.

Private purposes

Section 46 of the Local Government Act 1993 generally prevents Councils from granting leases, licences or other estates over community land for private purposes. However, the Act does enable short-term casual licences to be issued by Councils for purposes prescribed by the Regulation. The purpose of the lease, licence or other estate must still be consistent with the core objectives for the relevant category of community land.
**Exclusive occupation**

The exclusive occupation or use of Edwards Park is only permitted for the purposes of:

- a lease, licence or other estate to which Sections 47 and 47A of the Act applies.
- a sub-lease or other title derived from the holder of such a lease, licence or other estate.

However, exclusive occupation or use of part of Edwards Park is permitted:

- for a senior citizens centre or home, or community care facility.
- if the exclusive occupation or use was lawfully in existence or lawfully undertaken immediately before 8 December 1998.

**6.3 Funding sources**

**6.3.1 Introduction**

There are a number of approaches that Council can take in funding the implementation of this Plan of Management. Strathfield Council, as land owner, is likely to fund most of the proposed improvements to the Park.

**6.3.3 Council funding**

**General**

The implementation of this Plan of Management is achieved through its linkage with Council’s Management Plan, operational budgets, and capital works programs. Funding is integral to implementing the Plan.

Funding arrangements for Edwards Park need to address recurrent costs of management and maintenance, together with capital costs for new facilities or upgrading works. Council currently funds management and maintenance costs through its annual budget allocation, and uses capital funds and Section 94 funding for capital and non-recurrent works.

Funding for construction of new facilities is generally through the annual budgeting process, but special projects may be partly funded through State government grant allocations, which may involve matching funding from Council.

Staging of works will need to occur because Council cannot meet the cost of every single item of work proposed at one time, due to other financial commitments throughout the municipality. Actions listed in the Action Plans have been prioritised, which will assist in preparing forward open space work programs and annual budgets. This Plan will therefore provide direction for future works in the Park.

**Section 94A contributions**

Council currently enters into planning agreements, or levies contributions or works in kind from developers towards the cost of upgrading facilities, including parks, to meet the needs of new development.
Council’s Section 94 Contributions Plan (2001) specifies that contributions are levied for implementing the masterplan for Edwards Park.

**Partnerships**

There is an opportunity to develop further partnerships with residents, not for profit organisations and interested people in relation to park improvements, services and ongoing management, such as through the Adopt-a-Park program.

**Rental income**

Income potentially can be generated from future uses of the Park, through leasing and licensing agreements, and from applicants for approved functions and events.

**Rationalisation and disposal**

Revenue for park projects and improvements may be raised from sales of assets, such as surplus or inappropriate land elsewhere in Strathfield.

**6.3.4 Grants**

A number of Commonwealth and State government grants are available to assist with capital works in the Park. While not exhaustive, the following list gives an indication of the range of available grant programs through which improvements to the Park consistent with its size, catchment and intended uses could be funded.

Table 6.2 Potential sources of grant funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commonwealth</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Water Grants</td>
<td>Dept. of Environment and Water Resources; Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</td>
<td>Projects related to water saving and efficiency, water recycling, and water treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Art Program</td>
<td>Ministry for the Arts</td>
<td>Grants of up to $4,000 are available to assist in the commissioning of concept proposals by artists. Matching grants of up to $20,000 are available for commissioning public art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia Council for the Arts</td>
<td>Australia Council</td>
<td>Community cultural development, visual arts / crafts, theatre, dance, music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Assistance Program</td>
<td>Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>Community-oriented sporting and / or recreational facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Trust: Integrated Environmental Program</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Conservation</td>
<td>Environmental restoration and rehabilitation to prevent or reduce pollution, waste or other environmental degradation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Cycleway Network</td>
<td>Roads and Traffic Authority</td>
<td>The RTA matches Council funding for regional cycleway routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme</td>
<td>NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing</td>
<td>Encourages larger registered clubs in NSW to contribute to the provision of front-line services and community projects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.5 Implementation of this Plan of Management

Once Council adopts the Plan of Management, it will formally set the guidelines in which the park is managed and improved over five years from time of adoption. Implementation of the Plan will be monitored annually with the preparation of annual performance standards and capital works programs. Performance standards and works programs for administration, maintenance and upgrading works are revised each year to meet allocated budgets and works priorities determined in Council’s Management Plan.

Funding for management of the park will be sought from a range of government, Council, corporate and community sources on an ongoing basis.

6.6 Review of this Plan of Management

A full review of the Plan of Management should be carried out after five years, and updated if necessary to reflect changes in government legislation and policy, Ministerial directions, expectations and requirements of the community, issues that arise, and to recognise completed actions. Review of this Plan of Management should also take into account the changing priorities in strategic and operational plans prepared by Strathfield Council.

The Action Plan tables have a shorter life, and therefore require more frequent reviews and updating. The Action Plan tables should be reviewed and revised yearly in accordance with Council’s budgets, Capital Works Program and changing priorities.
REFERENCES


Strathfield Recreation Plan (1999)


South Strathfield Social, Leisure and Recreation Study (2003)


Strathfield Council Community Facilities Plan of Management (2005)


Appendix A

Edwards Park History

Written by Cathy Jones 2008

Edwards Park, High Street, Strathfield is owned by Strathfield Council and was dedicated to Council in 1955 for open space and public recreation by the NSW Government. The site on which the park is built is the centre of a large residential NSW Government housing development of the 1940s and 1950s. The development area measured about 22 acres, and is bounded by Homebush Road, Liverpool Road, Rickard Road and the Sydney Water Supply Pipe Line (Humphries Reserve).

Edwards Park is located within Lots 10 and 11 of the ‘Redmire Estate’ (deposited plan no.35) which was subdivided and offered for sale in 1867. The Redmire Estate is the later name of the original land grant to James Wilshire in 1808. Most of the land on which the suburbs of Strathfield and Strathfield South are built is located on the Redmire Estate. Following subdivision and sale of individual lots of the Redmire Estate, residential development gradually commenced in Strathfield and Strathfield South.

Despite residential development dating from the late 1800s in areas close to Edwards Park, such as Liverpool Road and Homebush Road, the site of Edwards Park and surrounding streets remained undeveloped. By the 1920s, ownership of this land passed to Ebenezer Ford (d.1932). Ford was a prominent resident of Strathfield and Enfield. He was a builder by profession and was extensively involved in land and property development in Enfield, owning most of the Broadway (Enfield) shopping centre and responsible for development of estates such as the Mintaro Estate. Ford served as an Alderman on Enfield Council for over 20 years and Mayor for 12 years and Ford Park and Ford Street are named after him. Ford was the grandfather of solicitor Harvey Ford, Mayor of Strathfield (1965-66).

The land owned by Ford was commonly known as the ‘Ford Estate South Strathfield’. In 1929, Ford submitted a plan of subdivision which was approved by Strathfield Council. The subdivision plan laid out roads such as High Street (between Homebush Road and Amaroo Avenue), Mintaro Avenue (between Homebush Road and Amaroo Avenue), Amaroo Avenue, Macarthur Avenue and Noble Avenue. Based on the success of his prior residential developments, Ford would have anticipated a successful enterprise and proceeded with construction of the roads. Roads were constructed in accordance with Council’s specifications involving widths of sixty six feet (66ft) and road materials of ballast with bituminous surface. Concrete kerbing and guttering were also built with Strathfield Council contributing 25% of the cost. Ford’s plan did not include roads south of High Street such as the Noble Avenue and Macarthur Avenue extensions, which surround Edwards Park. These road extensions were constructed later, when the subdivision was redesigned.

Though the roads were built, Ford’s plan to sell the residential lots did not eventuate. Demand for land and building activity plunged in the early 1930s due to the economic depression with virtually no building activity in Sydney recorded between 1931 and 1935. Additionally, the death of Ford in 1932 would have placed plans on-hold pending resolution of his estate. The Great Depression followed by World War II, lead to a virtual cessation of building activity in NSW. Building activity and demand for land did not substantially improve until the end of World War II in 1945 and by this time, Sydney experienced a severe crisis in
available housing and building supplies. The NSW Government estimated in 1946 that 80,000 homes were not built because of the depression and another 80,000 were not built due to the WWII. It was estimated by the end of WWII that Sydney had a shortfall of 90,000 houses and return of ex-servicemen would exacerbate the demand for housing.

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) was committed to government intervention in the provision of housing to ensure access to affordable homes for low income earners especially former servicemen. In 1941, the NSW McKell-led Labor Government introduced the Housing Act, which enabled the establishment of the NSW Housing Commission. McKell stated that the aim was provide ‘good, cheap house, either for rent or purchase for people earning around the basic wage’. Plans to directly intervene into the housing system were made possible by the first Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement in 1945. The agreement involved federal loans to the States at low rates of interest to build dwellings for low income earners. Provision of housing in response to demand was a key initiative of Labor Governments in post-War Sydney. For instance, during the 1947 NSW state election, the Premier James McGirr (a local resident of Strathfield) regularly promised that the Labor Government would provide 90,000 homes in following three years.

After the enabling of the 1941 Housing Act, the NSW Government identified sites suitable for development of new housing throughout Sydney. Despite significant protests from Strathfield Council concerning the fact that State planning powers could override Council’s planning controls, the undeveloped Ford Estate was compulsory acquired from the trustees of Ebenezer’s Ford Estate and resumed by the NSW Government for housing in September 1945. Ownership of the land was vested in the Housing Commission of NSW. The Housing Commission developed a new subdivision plan registered as deposited plan no. 941, which involved the redesign of 108 allotments, with 3 lots left in abeyance. The lots in abeyance were assessed by the Department to ‘lack natural drainage’ and eventually were allocated for park and recreation purpose. It was estimated that the new estate would provide accommodation for over 400 people, housed in single storey separate dwellings and gardens with either two or three bedrooms. Allocation of Commission Housing were targeted on the basis of need, with ex-servicemen receiving at least half of all dwellings built.

Unlike other similar housing commission developments of the same period, such as Dundas and Villawood, the Strathfield South development was of higher quality benefiting from superior infrastructure such as concreted roads, kerbing and guttering and connected sewerage. Many metropolitan suburbs in Sydney were not connected to sewerage until the 1970s, dependent on septic tanks and night soil collectors. By 1956, the Housing Commission had constructed over 23,000 dwellings in Sydney and suburbs, which accounted for one-fifth of all houses and flats in NSW. Though the initial strategy for housing involved long-term rental agreements, Government policy altered from the 1950s with emphasis on home ownership. By 1976, over 40% of former Housing Commission homes were in private ownership. Many of the homes in the Strathfield South Housing development have passed into private ownership.

The Housing Commission of NSW dedicated the site for Edwards Park to Strathfield Council for the purpose of public recreation. This dedication appeared in the NSW Government Gazette No. 31 (14 March 1955) titled ‘Dedication of Edwards Park’. The reserve is located on Lot 44, Housing Commission Layout Plan 941.

Strathfield Council named the new park after William Edwards, who died in 1954. Edwards had served as an Alderman, Deputy Mayor and Parks Committee Vice-Chairman of Strathfield Council. In a letter from the Town Clerk to Mrs Edwards of 76 Albyn Rd, Strathfield, Mr Edwards is described as:
'Mr Edwards, a former member of this Council and Deputy Mayor, was Vice-Chairman of its Parks Committee and during the whole of the time he held office he evinced a keen and intelligent interest in all matters relating to Parks, Reserves, Gardens and particularly Children's Playgrounds.

The Council proposes to establish a children's playground in the area with all necessary equipment. It feels that in so naming this Park, it is placing on record its appreciation of the public services rendered by one who enjoyed the respect and affection of all with whom he came in contact.'

The Council resolution to name the park states:

'That this land, which was recently dedicated to the public by the Housing Commission of NSW, be named Edwards Park in honour, and to the memory, of the late William Edwards, a former member of this Council and Deputy Mayor'

Work commenced in Edwards Park in April 1955 to level the site and to build a children's playground in the southern end of the park.

The Strathfield South Branch Library was erected in 1956 in the northern end of Edwards Park (facing High St). The building was designed by architects D T Morrow and Gordon, who were responsible for other Council buildings such as the former Baby Health Centre, 50-52 Redmyre Road Strathfield. The Library was dedicated as the ‘Sydney Black Memorial Library’, named for a local resident active in community organisations. The Library was opened by Alderman William Dunlop, Mayor of Strathfield. The High Street Library became Strathfield’s Central Library in 1967 until the opening of the new Strathfield Library at 65 Rochester Street Homebush in 1976. At this stage, the High Street Library again became a branch library.

On 24 February 1958, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother visited Australia and her itinerary included visitations to recent Government Housing projects including Dundas Valley, Villawood and Strathfield South. Her visit to Strathfield South included a drive through the streets of the housing development and past the new High Street Library and Edwards Park waving to local schoolchildren who lined the streets. To commemorate this visit, Strathfield Council laid out new gardens outside the Branch Library and erected flagpoles in Edwards Park.

The initial objective of the park’s design was to provide open space and a children’s playground. By the 1990s, a more formalised garden plan was implemented and facilities such as Shelters and BBQ’s were added.

Edwards Park is part of the Adopt a Park program. The park was adopted by the Rotary Club of Strathfield, working in collaboration with Strathfield Council to enhance and beautify the park.

Edwards Park is a heritage item on Strathfield Council’s draft Local Environmental Plan 105. It is assessed as an item of historic and cultural heritage significance. The statement of heritage significance states:

‘Historically significant as part of the Strathfield South Housing Commission estate of the mid-1950s, and illustrates the provision made for recreation in public housing estates in the mid-1950s, including the provision of play equipment for children. Evocative of the ‘baby boom’ and housing shortages of the 1950s.’
References

Ebenezer Ford Obituary, *Sydney Morning Herald*, p17, 17 August 1932

Jones, Cathy (2004), *Parks, Reserves & Memorials of Strathfield Municipality*, 2004

Kemp & Johnson (2004), ‘*Edwards Park*’ *Heritage Inventory Sheet*, 2004

NSW Government Gazette No. 94, 14 September 1945


Wilkinson, John (2005), *Affordable Housing in NSW*, NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service
Appendix B

Community Facility Complex Concept Plan for Edwards Park